



Current Affairs Supplement

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National

Government Plans to Sell up to 3% Stake in Coal India

- The Indian government has announced its intention to sell up to a 3% stake in **Coal India Ltd** through the offer for sale (OFS) route, according to a recent regulatory filing.
- The OFS will be open for both retail and non-retail investors on June 1 and 2, offering an opportunity to participate in the sale of shares in the renowned coal producer.

India's GDP Growth Accelerates to 6.1% in Q4 2022-23, Propelling Economy to \$3.3 Trillion

- **India's economy** showcased significant growth in the January-March quarter of 2022-23, with a GDP growth rate of 6.1%.
- This surge, primarily driven by improved performance in agriculture, manufacturing, mining, and construction sectors, contributed to an annual growth rate of 7.2%.
- The robust growth propelled the Indian economy to reach \$3.3 trillion and sets the stage for achieving the ambitious \$5 trillion target in the coming years.

Ayushman Bharat PradhanMantri Jan ArogyaYojana: Revolutionizing Healthcare Access in India

- The **Ayushman Bharat PradhanMantri Jan ArogyaYojana (AB PM-JAY)** has achieved a significant milestone with 5 crore hospital admissions, totaling 61,501 crore rupees.
- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** stated that so far, more than 23 crore beneficiaries have been verified and issued **Ayushman Cards**, which enable them to receive free treatment at the network of **PM-JAY** empaneled hospitals.
- This network comprises 28,351 hospitals, including 12,824 private hospitals, across the country.



Telangana Formation Day 2023: Date, Formation, and History

- **Telangana Formation Day**, observed annually on **June 2nd** since 2014, is a state public holiday in Telangana, India. It marks the commemoration of the formation of the state of Telangana.
- The day is celebrated with various activities such as parades, cultural programs, and speeches. It is also an occasion to honor the sacrifices made by those who fought for the establishment of Telangana.



Key Points

- Telangana Capital: Hyderabad;
- Telangana Chief minister: K. Chandrashekar Rao;

- Telangana Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan.

Meghalaya Forms Expert Panel to Review Reservation Formula; Opposition Leader Ends Hunger Strike

- The **Meghalaya government** has responded to the demands of the Voice of the People's Party (VPP) and announced the formation of an expert committee to review the **state's reservation policy**.
- This move comes in the wake of an indefinite hunger strike led by VPP MLA Ardent Basaiawmoit, who has now called off his protest following the government's decision.
- The expert committee will comprise individuals well-versed in constitutional law, economics, sociology, demographic studies, and related fields. Let's delve deeper into the details of this significant development.

GST Revenue Collection for May Up 12% YoY at Rs 1.57 Lakh Crore

- The **Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue** collection for May has witnessed a significant increase, marking the 15th consecutive month that the monthly collection has exceeded the Rs 1.4-lakh-crore milestone.
- Despite a slight dip from April's record-breaking collection of Rs 1.87 lakh crore, the Ministry of Finance announced that the **GST revenue** for May stood at Rs 1.57 lakh crore.

UPI Transactions Reach Record High of Rs 14.3 Trillion in May 2023

- **Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions** in India soared to unprecedented levels in May 2023, with a total transaction value of Rs 14.3 trillion and a volume of 9.41 billion.
- This represents a 2% increase in value and a 6% increase in volume compared to the previous month of April.
- The surge in UPI transactions comes at a time when the Indian government is actively promoting digital payments and aims to bring various tax collections under the digital payment ecosystem.

Shashi Tharoor released a book titled "Ringside" written by Dr. Vijay Darda

- Renowned author and Congress MP **Dr. Shashi Tharoor** released the book **"Ringside"** written by Lokmat Media Group Editorial Board Chairman and former MP **Dr. Vijay Darda**.
- "Ringside" is a compilation of Dr Darda's weekly articles published between 2011 and 2016 in Lokmat Media Group newspapers and other leading national and regional dailies.



Coromandel Express Derails and Collides with Two Other Trains in Odisha

- A devastating train accident occurred in **Odisha**, resulting in a tragic triple train crash involving Coromandel Express and two other trains. The incident claimed the lives of at least 233 people and left approximately 900 injured.
- The details surrounding the cause of the Coromandel Express derailment and subsequent collisions are still under investigation. The state government has declared a day of mourning, and rescue operations are underway to aid the victims and their families.



RBI Launches '100 Days 100 Pays' Campaign to Settle Unclaimed Deposits

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has recently initiated the '100 Days 100 Pays' campaign, aimed at tracing and settling the top 100 unclaimed deposits of every bank in every district within a span of 100 days.
- This campaign is part of the RBI's ongoing efforts to reduce the quantum of unclaimed deposits in the banking system and ensure their rightful return to owners or claimants. With the launch of this campaign, the RBI hopes to bring attention to the issue of unclaimed deposits and facilitate their resolution.

PM-Kisan Scheme: Empowering Indian Farmers for a Resilient Agriculture Sector

- At Pathikonda in Kurnool district, **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy**, the Chief Minister of **Andhra Pradesh**, provided financial aid to farmers for the fifth consecutive year through the **YSR RythuBharosa-PM Kisan program**.
- In this year's initial installment, CM Jagan distributed a total of Rs 3,923.21 crore to 52,30,939 farmers. Consequently, each farmer received Rs 5,500 directly into their bank accounts from the **YSRCP** state government, in addition to an extra Rs 2,000 from the Centre as a component of the **PM Kisan Yojana**.



Dubai Emerges as India's Top Choice for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

- According to the latest **fDi Markets Report** and the Dubai FDI Monitor, **Dubai** has secured its position as the leading destination for foreign direct investment (FDI) from India in the calendar year 2022.
- India ranked among the top five source countries for announced FDI projects and estimated FDI capital in Dubai, solidifying the emirate's appeal to Indian investors. This article examines the key findings and highlights the sectors and trends contributing to this growing partnership.

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

- **Shalini Singh** made history as she completed the mountaineering course in the Himalayan area of Uttarakhand as the country's first female **NCC cadet**. Shalini Singh, a 20-year-old NCC cadet from Lucknow, has become the first female cadet in India to complete the advanced mountaineering course.
- She scaled a 15,400-foot peak in the Dring Valley in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand as part of the course.

What is Railway kavach system?

- A significant step towards improving train operation safety in India has been taken by **Ministry of Railways** with the development of **Kavach**, an indigenous **Automatic Train Protection System**.
- The **Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO)** collaborated with three Indian vendors to create Kavach, which assists locomotive pilots in avoiding **Signal Passing At Danger (SPAD)** and over speeding, while also aiding train operation during adverse weather conditions such as dense fog.
- By automatically applying brakes when necessary, Kavach ensures better control of train speed and prevents potential accidents.

Ahmednagar Renamed Ahilyadevi Nagar: A Move to Empower the Dhangar Community

- The **Maharashtra government** has recently announced the renaming of Ahmednagar district to **Ahilyadevi Nagar** in honor of the 18th-century warrior-queen Ahilyadevi Holkar.
- This decision is seen as a significant step to appease and empower the Dhangar community, which holds considerable numerical strength in Maharashtra's population.
- The move is part of a larger strategy by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to diversify its support base and reduce the dominance of the Maratha community in the state's politics.

**Government Sets Up 3-Member Panel to Probe Manipur Violence**

- The Indian government has established a commission of inquiry, led by former Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court, Ajai Lamba, to investigate the recent series of violent incidents in **Manipur**.
- With more than 80 lives lost, the violence and riots have targeted members of various communities. The commission aims to delve into the causes, spread, and administrative response to these tragic events.

**Sedition Law in India: Retaining, Reforming, or Repealing?**

- The 22nd **Law Commission's** recent report on Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) has recommended retaining the sedition law while proposing amendments and procedural safeguards to prevent its misuse.
- **Sedition laws** originated in 17th century England and were introduced in India through the IPC in 1870.

Railways Expend Over Rs 1 Lakh Crore on Safety Measures between 2017-2018 and 2021-22

- The **Indian Railways** has invested more than Rs 1 lakh crore in safety measures between the fiscal years 2017-2018 and 2021-22, with a significant focus on track renewal. This information comes in response



to claims made by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, who criticized the government over a recent train accident in **Balasore, Odisha**.

- The government is set to address a report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, which Kharge cited to question the allocation of funds for track renewal. However, official data reveals a steady growth in expenditure on safety-related works, countering the claims of reduced funding.

Understanding Green GDP: Balancing Economic Growth with Environmental Sustainability

- As the world grapples with the challenges posed by climate change and environmental degradation, the concept of **Green GDP** has gained significant attention.
- Green GDP is an economic indicator that takes into account the environmental costs and benefits associated with economic activities, providing a more comprehensive measure of a nation's economic growth.

PM Modi Launches Two Schemes for Wetland and Mangrove Conservation on World Environment Day

- On **World Environment Day**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched two schemes, namely AmritDharohar and MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes).
- These schemes are aimed at reviving and conserving India's wetlands and mangroves, contributing to the campaign for a green future and green economy.

Cyclone Biparjoy is the first cyclone to form in the Arabian Sea this season

- **Cyclone Biparjoy** is a low-pressure area that is currently forming over the Southeast Arabian Sea. It is expected to intensify into a depression in the next 48 hours and may reach cyclonic storm intensity in the subsequent 72 hours.
- The track of the cyclone is not yet clear, but it is likely to move towards the West Coast of India. Cyclone Biparjoy is the first cyclone to form in the Arabian Sea this season. The monsoon season in India typically begins in June and lasts until September.



Tata Group Signs \$1.6 Billion EV Battery Plant Deal in Gujarat

- India's **Tata Group**, a leading multinational conglomerate, has entered into an outline deal to construct a lithium-ion cell factory in **Gujarat, India**.
- With an investment of approximately 130 billion rupees (\$1.58 billion), the plant aims to bolster the country's electric vehicle (EV) supply chain and reduce its dependence on battery imports.



- The initiative aligns with India's goal of achieving 100% electric vehicle adoption and curbing carbon emissions by 50% by 2030.

India Conducts Asia's First Demonstration of Performance-Based Navigation for Helicopters

- India recently achieved a significant milestone in the field of aviation as it conducted Asia's first demonstration of performance-based navigation for helicopters.
- The successful flight from Juhu to Pune showcased the utilization of **GAGAN satellite technology**, a joint development by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Airports Authority of India (AAI).
- This groundbreaking achievement highlights India's innovation and expertise in the aviation sector.



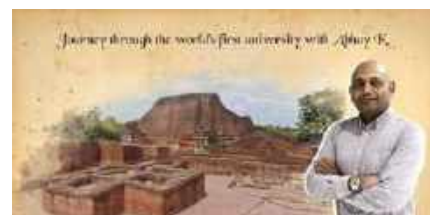
NyayaVikas Program: Revolutionizing Social Justice in India

- The **NyayaVikas Portal** provides stakeholders with convenient access to information regarding funding, documentation, project monitoring, and approval. It offers four efficient methods for logging into the portal, empowering users with seamless accessibility.
- **NyayaVikas** is a program initiated by the **Department of Justice** in 1993-94, aiming to develop infrastructure facilities for districts and subordinate judiciary.
- The program involves providing central assistance to state governments and UT administrations for constructing court halls and residential units for judicial officers and judges in district and subordinate courts.



Acclaimed writer Abhay K's new book on Nalanda to be published by Penguin

- Poet-diplomat **Abhay K's book 'Nalanda'**, the acquisition of which has been announced by Penguin Random House India, delves into the history of the ancient seat of learning in Bihar.
- The award-winning poet and writer Abhay K's new book, titled Nalanda is his highly anticipated book which is set to take readers on an enlightening journey through time and history. The book is scheduled to release in October next year in 2024 from the Vintage imprint.



HarperCollins India to publish BK Shivani 's The Power of One Thought

- HarperCollins India is delighted to bring the perfect thought booster, an empowering book which is an essential guide to unleashing the power of the mind, where it all begins from, to

make that dream life happen, BK Shivani's **The Power of One Thought: Master Your Mind, Master Your Life.**

AIIMS Nagpur Achieves NABH Accreditation: Setting a Benchmark in Healthcare Quality

- **AIIMS Nagpur**, one of the premier medical institutions in India, has achieved a significant milestone by obtaining the prestigious accreditation from the **National Board for Hospitals (NABH)**. This recognition makes AIIMS Nagpur the first among all AIIMS institutions in the country to receive this accolade.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr Mansukh Mandaviya applauded this remarkable achievement, acknowledging the institution's commitment to delivering quality healthcare services.
- The NABH accreditation is widely regarded as the gold standard for quality and patient safety in the healthcare sector, reaffirming AIIMS Nagpur's dedication to continuous improvement and adherence to the highest quality benchmarks.



India's 1st International Cruise Vessel MV Empress Flagged Off

- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, **Sarbananda Sonowal** has flagged off the maiden International Cruise Vessel “**MV Empress**”, India's first international cruise vessel – from Chennai to Sri Lanka in Chennai.
- This marks the beginning of the international cruise tourism terminal at Chennai, built at a cost of Rs 17.21 crores, heralding a new age of cruise tourism and maritime trade in the country.



India emerged as the World's 2nd largest producer of crude steel

- Union Minister of Steel and Civil Aviation, **Sh. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia** has stated that India has moved from 4th largest producer of crude steel to the **second largest producer of crude steel from 2014-15 to 2022-23** standing just behind China which is the largest exporter of crude steel in the world.
- India has reported a hike of 42% in Crude steel production from 88.98 MT (Metric ton) in 2014-15 to 126.26 MT in 2022-23.



Competition Commission of India: Upholding Fair Competition in the Market

- In an era of globalization and liberalization, ensuring fair competition is crucial for the growth and development of any economy. The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** is the statutory body responsible for enforcing competition laws and promoting fair market practices in India.
- Established in 2003, the CCI acts as a watchdog to prevent anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominant market positions, and regulate mergers and acquisitions. This article provides an overview of the CCI, its role, and the current Chairperson, Sangeeta Verma, who is currently serving in an acting capacity.



Tata Retains Title of India's Most Valuable Brand, Taj Strongest Brand for 2nd Year in a Row: Brand Finance Report

- The **Tata Group** has once again secured its position as India's most valuable brand, achieving a brand value of \$26.4 billion. This significant milestone marks the first time an Indian brand has surpassed the \$25 billion mark, placing Tata in the top 100 of the Brand Finance Global 500 2023 rankings.
- Additionally, the Taj Group, a luxury hotel giant, emerged as India's strongest brand for the second consecutive year, with a brand value of \$374 million.

Karnataka announces free bus travel 'Shakti' scheme for women

- The **Karnataka government** has advised the women to apply for **Shakti smart cards** to avail the free travel in state run buses, starting from June 11.
- The government has already issued a set of guidelines on the '**Shakti**' scheme, which is one of the major poll promises by the Congress party in Karnataka.
- According to the transport department of Karnataka, women can apply for Shakti smart cards through sevasindhu.karnataka.gov.in from June 11.



Dr. Mandaviya unveils 5th State Food Safety Index on World Food Safety Day

- **Kerala** has been announced as the top-performing state in the **fifth State Food Safety Index** by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, according to an official statement. **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** Unveiled the fifth State Food Safety Index.
- The ranking analyses six different aspects of food safety to assess the performance of Indian states and union territories, and **Kerala** topped the list among larger states.
- **Goa** came out on top among smaller states, while **Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, and Chandigarh** ranked first, second, and third, respectively, among the union territories.



CSE Report Shows Telangana Ranks 1st for Overall Environmental Performance

- The **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)**, a non-profit organization, released its annual compendium of data, 'State of India's Environment 2023: In Figures', on the eve of **World Environment Day**.
- The report includes statistics on various aspects of the environment, including climate and extreme weather, health, food and nutrition, migration and displacement, agriculture, energy, waste, water, and biodiversity.



Mumbai Tops the List as India's Costliest City for Expatriates

- According to Mercer's Cost of Living survey, **Mumbai** has been identified as the most expensive city for expatriates in India. The survey analyzed 227 cities across five continents to determine the cost of living for expats.
- Following **Mumbai**, **New Delhi** and **Bengaluru** ranked second and third respectively on the list.

India's Internet Economy Poised for \$1 Trillion Growth by 2030

- **India's internet economy** is projected to reach **\$1 trillion by 2030**, showing substantial growth from \$175 billion in 2022, as per a joint report by **Google, Temasek, and Bain & Company**.
- The report highlights that the expansion of the digital sphere is propelled by increased digital consumption in sectors like e-commerce, online travel, food delivery, and ride-hailing.

MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan launches 'MukhyamantriLadliBehna Scheme'

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched the **LadliBehnaYojana 2023**, with the first installment of **Rs 1,000** deposited into the accounts of beneficiary women in Jabalpur.
- CM Chouhan assured the women that the scheme was not limited to Rs 1,000 and that he intended to gradually increase the amount as funds became available, with plans to raise the support to **Rs 1,200, Rs 1,500, Rs 1,700, and Rs 2,000 per month**.



G20 SAI Summit Starts in Goa

- The **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** of India, **Shri Girish Chandra Murmu**, holds the position of Chair of the **Supreme Audit Institutions-20 (SAI20)** Engagement Group during **India's G20 Presidency**.
- The SAI20 Summit is scheduled to take place in Goa from 12th to 14th June 2023, and will be attended by delegates from SAI20 member SAIs of G20 countries, Guest SAIs, Invited SAIs, International Organizations, Engagement Groups, and other invitees. Sixteen countries will be participating in-person.



Udhampur-Doda Parliamentary Constituency is among the most developed constituencies

- **Udhampur-Doda Parliamentary Constituency** stands out as one of the most developed constituencies among the 550 Parliamentary Constituencies **in India**.
- With its remarkable progress and comprehensive growth, the constituency serves as a shining example of development.

India tops digital payments rankings globally, shows MyGovIndia data

- **India** has emerged as the global leader in digital payments for the year 2022, surpassing other nations in terms of both value and volume of transactions.
- The data from the government's citizen engagement platform, MyGovIndia, reveals India's dominant position in the **digital payment** landscape, showcasing the country's robust payment ecosystem and widespread adoption of digital modes.

RBI not to regulate social media influencers

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced that it currently has no plans to introduce separate regulations for **social media influencers** in the financial markets, stating that the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** already has measures in place to address the issue.

PradhanMantriMatruVandanaYojana: Empowering Motherhood

- The new initiative of celebrating the '**PradhanMantriMatruVandanaYojana**' as the '**God Bharai**' ceremony in **Dausa, Rajasthan** has received praise from the Prime Minister, **ShriNarendraModi**.
- According to a tweet thread by **Smt Jaskaur Meena**, a Member of Parliament from Dausa, Rajasthan, the '**Pradhan Mantri Matru VandanaYojana**' scheme is celebrated as the '**God Bharai**' ceremony in Dausa. During this ceremony, all pregnant women come together and receive a 'Poshan Kit' for the well-being of their babies.
- **SmtJaskaurMeena** also mentioned that in the year 2022-23, around 3.5 lakh women in Rajasthan alone have benefited from this scheme.

**India Makes Debut at Annecy International Animation Festival, Showcasing AVGC Expertise**

- India's **Animation, Gaming, Visual Effects, and Comics (AVGC)** sector is set to make a remarkable impression on the global stage as the country participates for the first time at the prestigious Annecy International Animation Festival (AIAF) in **France**.
- Led by Apurva Chandra, Secretary of Information and Broadcasting, an Indian delegation comprising eminent personalities from the animation industry has been actively



showcasing India's prowess in creating animation and VFX content for global audiences at the AIAF.

Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society replaces Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society

- At a special meeting presided over by Defence Minister ShriRajnath Singh, who is Vice-President of the **Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society**, it was resolved to change the society's name to Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society.
- The decision was influenced by the completion of the PradhanmantriSangrahalaya, a museum dedicated to all the Prime Ministers of India, which opened to the public on 21 April 2022 on Teen Murti Premises in New Delhi.



India's overall exports in May 2023 stands at US\$ 60.29 Billion

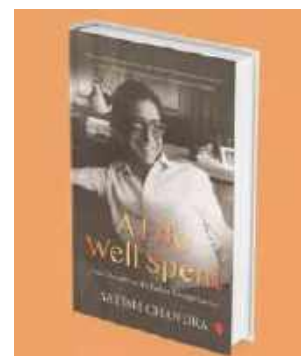
- **India's overall exports** in May 2023 stood at US\$60.29 billion, comprising both merchandise and services. While there was a decline in exports compared to the same period last year, several sectors demonstrated positive growth.
- The trade deficit for April-May 2023 also improved significantly, indicating a positive trend in India's trade performance.

SBI Presents Record-breaking Dividend Cheque of Rs 5,740 Crore to Finance Minister

- **State Bank of India (SBI)**, the country's largest public sector bank, has presented a dividend cheque of Rs 5,740 crore to Finance Minister NirmalaSitharaman for the financial year 2022-23.
- The dividend payment was made by SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara, in the presence of Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi. This dividend amount marks the highest-ever dividend given by SBI to the Government of India for a financial year.

A Life Well Spent — Four Decades in the Indian Foreign Service by Ambassador Satish Chandra

- **Ambassador Satish Chandra**, an Indian diplomat, has penned a book titled '**A Life Well Spent – Four Decades in the Indian Foreign Service**,' chronicling his extensive career in the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) from 1965 to 2005.
- The book delves into his journey from being an IFS probationer to assuming the role of Deputy National Security Advisor, providing valuable perspectives on Indian diplomacy and tracing the development of the National Security Council (NSC) framework.
- Published in May 2023 by Rupa Publications, this insightful work offers readers a deeper understanding of Ambassador Satish Chandra's experiences and the evolution of Indian foreign policy.



Guwahati railway station gets FSSAI 'Eat Right Station' tag

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has awarded the **Eat Right Station certification to Guwahati Railway Station** for its provision of high-quality and nutritious food to passengers.
- This makes it the first station under the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) to receive this status, valid for two years starting from June 2.
- The Eat Right India scheme, initiated by FSSAI, aims to transform the country's food system towards safe, healthy, and sustainable food for all passengers.

UP prisons to be known as "Reform Homes"

- The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, **Yogi Adityanath**, made a significant decision to reform the prison system in the state in June of 2023.
- During a high-level meeting where he reviewed the conditions of the current prisons, Adityanath issued crucial guidelines that emphasised the importance of prisoner rehabilitation.

Karnataka Government GruhaJyothi Scheme

- The **Karnataka Government** recently launched its **GruhaJyothi Scheme**, aimed at providing affordable housing to the poor and middle-class families of the state.
- The scheme is a part of the state's ambitious **"Housing for All"** plan and aims to provide housing to nearly 4.5 lakh families in the next five years.

Centre forms expert committee to suggest reforms to arbitration law

- The Indian government, through the Department of Legal Affairs, has taken a significant step towards improving the arbitration process by forming an expert committee. Led by former law secretary **T K Vishwanathan**, the committee aims to recommend reforms to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act of 1996.
- With a focus on reducing court intervention, enhancing cost-effectiveness, and ensuring timely resolution, the committee is expected to submit its recommendations within 30 days.

**Madhya Pradesh Tops National Water Awards in Best State Category**

- Vice President **Jagdeep Dhankhar** presented the fourth National Water Awards in New Delhi on Saturday, recognizing and encouraging the commendable efforts made by individuals, organizations, districts, and states in water conservation.
- The awards, announced by the Jal Shakti Ministry, aim to create awareness about the significance of water and inspire the adoption of best water use practices. **Madhya Pradesh** emerged as the top-performing state in the Best State category, demonstrating its commitment to water conservation.

**Akashvani and Doordarshan top trusted electronic media in India**

- **DD India and All India Radio** have been acknowledged as the most dependable electronic media entities in the nation in accordance with the **2023 issue of the Reuters Institute's Digital News Report**.
- The report indicates that although overall news trust has decreased by 3 percentage points, public broadcasters and print brands have managed to preserve a comparatively higher level of credibility among the public.

146th JagannathPuriRathYatra 2023 begins in Gujarat

- The **146th RathYatra of Lord Jagannath** commenced in the city of **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**, with tight security measures in place. A large number of devotees gathered along the 18-kilometer procession route to catch a glimpse of the deity.
- This year, the Gujarat Police employed advanced 3D mapping technology to monitor the entire route and utilized anti-drone technology to prevent the unauthorized use of drones during the event.



IndiGo Places Record-Breaking Order for 500 Airbus A320 Family Aircraft

- Indian low-cost carrier **IndiGo** has made aviation history at the Paris Air Show 2023 by securing a monumental deal with **Airbus**.
- The airline has placed an order for 500 Airbus A320 family aircraft, marking the largest-ever single aircraft purchase by any airline from Airbus.

GruhaJyothi Scheme 2023, Benefits and Eligibility

- The **Karnataka Government** recently launched its **GruhaJyothi Scheme**, aimed at providing affordable housing to the poor and middle-class families of the state.
- The scheme is a part of the state's ambitious **"Housing for All"** plan and aims to provide housing to nearly 4.5 lakh families in the next five years.
- Under the GruhaJyothi Scheme, the Karnataka Government will provide financial assistance of up to Rs. 2.5 lakh to eligible beneficiaries for the construction of their own houses. The government will also provide subsidies on the interest rate for loans taken for the construction of the house.



PM Modi Leads Historic Yoga Session at UNHQ to Celebrate 9th International Day of Yoga

- Prime Minister **NarendraModi** led a unique yoga session at the United Nations Headquarters on Wednesday, marking the **9th International Day of Yoga**.
- The historic celebration saw the participation of top UN officials, envoys from around the world, and prominent individuals.



- The event showcased India's commitment to nurturing traditions that unite and embrace diversity, with a call to eliminate contradictions and obstacles through the practice of yoga.

The Longest Day of the Year: Exploring the Significance of June 21st

- Every year, the 21st of June marks the summer solstice in the Northern Hemisphere, known as the longest day of the year.
- On this special day, the sun reaches its highest point in the sky, casting its rays over the Earth for an extended duration.

Karnataka's Anna Bhagya Scheme

- The 'Anna Bhagya' scheme in **Karnataka**, which guarantees 10 kg of rice to **Below Poverty Line (BPL)** cardholders, has hit a roadblock due to a shortage of rice.
- Despite approaching neighboring states for procurement, the Karnataka government is struggling to secure an adequate rice supply to implement the scheme.
- The shortfall in rice availability poses a significant challenge to Chief Minister **Siddaramaiah's** efforts to provide free rice to BPL families.



SwaminathanJanakiraman named as new RBI deputy governor

- **Government of India** has appointed **SwaminathanJanakiraman** as a **Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- As per an official notification, Janakiraman's appointment is for a period of three years starting from the date of joining, or until any further orders are issued. He will be succeeding Mahesh Kumar Jain, whose tenure concludes on June 22nd.

Reliance Emerges as Most Valuable Private Company in India; Adani Group's Combined Value Falls by 52%

- The recently released **Hurun India's '2022 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500'** list highlights the changes in the valuation of India's top 500 companies.
- According to the report, Reliance Industries Limited, led by MukeshAmbani, has claimed the title of the most valuable private sector company in India. Meanwhile, the Adani Group has witnessed a significant decline in its combined value. Let's delve into the details and explore the key findings of the report.

Tata Power becomes most attractive employer brand; Amazon follows: Report

- According to the latest **Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2023**, Tata Power Company has emerged as India's most attractive employer brand, followed closely by Amazon and Tata Steel.
- This marks a significant rise for Tata Power, which was ranked ninth in the previous year's report.
- Additionally, the report highlights the preferences and expectations of the Indian workforce when choosing an employer, with work-life balance, good reputation, and attractive salary and benefits being the key drivers.



GoI approved Micron's \$2.7 bn semiconductor packaging plant

- **The Indian cabinet** has given its approval to US chipmaker **Micron Technology's** plan to invest **\$2.7 billion** to set up a semiconductor testing and packaging unit in Gujarat. The cabinet approval comes ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United States.
- The government will provide production-linked incentives worth **Rs 11,000 crore (\$1.34 billion)** for the semiconductor plant. The report said Micron Technology's plans come as the White House presses US chip companies to invest in India with talks ongoing about possible further investments.
- The Biden administration wants the US companies to decrease the risks of doing business in China while better integrating the United States economy with that of India, the report added citing US officials.



India moves up 8 places to 127 in WEF Global Gender Gap Report

- The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** recently released the annual **Gender Gap Report for 2023**, which measures the gender disparity in various aspects of society. India has shown progress by moving up eight places to rank 127 out of 146 countries in terms of gender parity.
- India's progress in terms of gender parity is notable. Compared to the previous year, India has improved by 1.4 percentage points and eight positions, now ranking 127th out of 146 countries. In the 2022 edition, India was ranked 135th. The country has closed 64.3% of the overall gender gap.



NTPC Receives "Most Preferred Workplace of 2023-24" Award from Team Marksmen

- NTPC Ltd., India's largest power generator, has been recognized by Team Marksmen as the **"Most Preferred Workplace of 2023-24."**



- This esteemed award acknowledges NTPC's outstanding performance in several key areas, highlighting the organization's commitment to organizational purpose, employee centricity, growth, recognition and rewards, intrapreneurial culture, work-life balance, diversity, equality and inclusion, safety, and trust.

Journalist A.K. Bhattacharya authored a new book titled "India's Finance Ministers"

- Veteran Journalist **Ashok Kumar Bhattacharya (AK Bhattacharya)** has authored a new book titled "**India's Finance Ministers: From Independence to Emergency (1947-1977)**" which highlights the role of India's finance ministers who shaped India's economy in the first 30 years (from 1947 to 1977) after Independence. The book is published by Penguin Business an imprint of Penguin Random House.

The Significance of PM Modi's Visit to Al-Hakim Mosque in Egypt: Dawoodi Bohra Muslim Community

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the **Al-Hakim Mosque in Cairo, Egypt** holds great significance, particularly for the Dawoodi Muslim community in India.
- The mosque, which dates back to the 11th century, is named after Al-Hakim bi-Amr Allah, the 16th Fatimid caliph.
- PM Modi's association with the Dawoodi Bohra Muslim community, known for their contributions in Gujarat, adds to the importance of this visit.
- This article explores the historical background of the Al-Hakim Mosque and the Dawoodi Bohra Muslim population in India, shedding light on why this visit is noteworthy.



Assam's First Underwater Tunnel To Come Up Under Brahmaputra

- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma recently announced the construction of Assam's first-ever underwater tunnel, connecting **Numaligarh** and **Gohpur**.
- This groundbreaking project, estimated to cost Rs 6,000 crores, will be the first rail-road tunnel under the **Brahmaputra River** in northeast India.
- The tenders for the project are scheduled to open next month, marking a significant milestone in the region's transportation infrastructure.



Times Asia Rankings 2023: IISc Tops Among Indian Universities

- In the recently released **Asia University Rankings 2023** by Times Higher Education (THE), the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has emerged as the leading university in India. The rankings highlight the performance and reputation of universities across Asia.
- India has made a notable presence in the rankings, with a total of 18 universities featured among the top 200 in Asia. These institutions showcase the growing prominence of Indian higher education on the global stage.



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

- In a significant step towards embracing sustainable transportation, India is poised to launch its **first-ever hydrogen-powered train**. Hydrogen trains, which rely on fuel cells to convert hydrogen and oxygen into electricity, offer a clean and environmentally friendly alternative to traditional diesel trains.
- This groundbreaking initiative marks a promising stride in India's efforts to reduce carbon emissions and combat pollution.

**QS World University Rankings 2024: MIT Tops for 12th Year, Indian Universities Make Gains**

- The **QS World University Rankings 2024** have been released, showcasing the top universities globally. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) retains its position at the pinnacle of the rankings for the 12th consecutive year.
- Notable changes in the rankings include the University of Oxford surpassing Stanford University to secure the third spot.
- The methodology for the rankings has been updated, incorporating new metrics such as Sustainability, Employment Outcomes, and International Research Network.

**India ranked 67th on Energy Transition Index, Sweden on top: WEF**

- India has secured the **67th** position in the **World Economic Forum's (WEF)** energy transition index, making it the only major economy to witness an acceleration across all dimensions.
- The report, developed in collaboration with **Accenture**, highlights India's significant improvements in achieving a secure and sustainable energy transition, reducing energy and carbon intensity, increasing renewable energy deployment and attaining universal access to electricity.

**Amarnath Yatra 2023: Jammu-Kashmir LG Flags off First Batch of Pilgrims**

- The annual **Amarnath Yatra 2023** commenced on Friday, June 30, as the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, flagged off the first group of pilgrims.
- With over 3,400 devotees in the inaugural batch, the pilgrimage to the cave shrine of Lord Shiva in the southern Himalayas of Kashmir started with enthusiasm and under strict security arrangements.

**HDFC Set to Join Ranks of World's Most Valuable Banks Following Merger**

- In a historic milestone for India's banking industry, homegrown company HDFC will soon be counted among the world's most valuable banks. Following the completion of a merger with Housing Development Finance Corp., HDFC has secured the fourth position in terms of equity market capitalization.
- This achievement places HDFC in direct competition with leading American and Chinese lenders, including JPMorgan Chase & Co., Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd., and Bank of America Corp. With a valuation of approximately \$172 billion, the new entity is poised to redefine the global banking landscape.

DoT announces '5G & Beyond Hackathon 2023'

- **The Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** in India has been actively organizing hackathons to encourage the development of **5G** products and solutions. These initiatives have resulted in the creation of innovative solutions across various technological verticals.
- In line with its commitment to promoting technological advancements, the DoT has announced the commencement of applications for the '5G & Beyond Hackathon 2023' from June 28, 2023. This hackathon aims to identify cutting-edge ideas with a focus on India and transform them into practical and effective 5G and beyond products and solutions.



International

WMO gets Celeste Saulo as its 1st female Secretary-General

- **Celeste Saulo** of **Argentina** has been appointed as the **first female Secretary-General** of the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**.
- Saulo won a landslide vote at the UN Climate and weather agency's Congress in Geneva. Saulo has served as the director of Argentina's National Meteorological Service since 2014.

Germany's Economic Downturn: Fourth Largest Global Economy Slips into Recession

- **Germany**, the fourth largest economy in the world, is currently facing a recession due to a **decline in the Euro** and an unexpected contraction in the economy during the first three months of 2023.
- This contraction, marking the second consecutive quarter of **decline**, meets one definition of a **recession**.



Ukraine's Nova Kakhovka Dam Disaster: Key Points on the Strategically Important Reservoir

- In recent events, the **Nova Kakhovka Dam** in Ukraine has suffered a catastrophic blow, leading to concerns of devastating flooding. Ukraine's military command has accused Russia of causing the explosion, given the dam's strategic significance.

5 new countries elected as non-permanent members of the UNSC

- Five countries have been elected as non-permanent members of the **UN Security Council** following a vote in the General Assembly. **Algeria, Guyana, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone and Slovenia** will join the premier body for maintaining international peace and security, starting in January, serving for a two-year period.
- They were among six countries vying for five non-permanent seats around the Council's horseshoe-shaped table that will become vacant at the end of the year.



Key Points

- UN Security Council Founded: 24 October 1945;
- UN Security Council Headquarters: New York, New York, United States;
- UN Security Council Head: AntónioGuterres.

El Niño's Potential Impact on Global Weather Patterns in 2023-2024

- As the world enters an **El Niño** phase—a natural climate phenomenon characterized by warmer waters in the Pacific—countries are bracing themselves for extreme weather events.
- The El Niño pattern fuels **tropical cyclones** in the Pacific, increases rainfall and flood risks in parts of the Americas and other regions, and can have far-reaching implications.
- This year's El Niño is of particular concern due to its potential interaction with climate change, which could result in record-high temperatures and intensified extreme weather events.

**US and UK Forge 'Atlantic Declaration' to Boost Economic Ties**

- The **United States and the United Kingdom** have recently unveiled a groundbreaking strategic pact known as the “**Atlantic Declaration.**”
- This agreement reaffirms their longstanding “special relationship” and outlines a joint effort to tackle challenges posed by Russia, China, and economic instability. Rather than pursuing a post-Brexit free-trade agreement, the two nations have opted to develop a new green economy through extensive industrial subsidies.
- The Atlantic Declaration focuses on fostering industry collaboration in defense and renewable energy sectors to effectively respond to China's growing competition. In addition, it acknowledges the need to address the threats of authoritarian states, disruptive technologies, non-state actors, and transnational issues like climate change. This article explores the key terms and implications of the Atlantic Declaration.

**INS****Trishul celebrates Gandhi's 'Satyagraha' in Durban**

- The **INS Trishul**, a leading battleship of the Indian Navy, sailed to Durban port in South Africa to observe the 130th anniversary of an event that happened on 7 June 1893 at the **Pietermaritzburg railway station**.
- The event marked the eviction of Mahatma Gandhi from a train, which further prompted his fight against discrimination.

China Unveils World's Most Powerful Hypersonic Wind Tunnel for Advancing Aerospace Ambitions

- China has achieved a major milestone in its pursuit of **hypersonic technology** with the completion of the world's most powerful wind tunnel. Known as the JF-22, this groundbreaking facility is set to play a pivotal role in China's hypersonic ambitions, enabling the country to make significant strides in the development of hypersonic vehicles.
- The JF-22 wind tunnel, located in Beijing's Huairou district, boasts impressive capabilities, including the ability to simulate hypersonic flight conditions at speeds up to Mach 30.



Kilauea volcano erupts on Hawaii's Big Island

- The **US Geological Survey (USGS)** has downgraded the safety alert for **Kilauea volcano** in Hawaii, following a new eruption. The alert level has been reduced from **"WARNING"** to **"WATCH"** as effusion rates have declined and no infrastructure is threatened.
- The previous warning has been lowered to a watch, as high effusion rates have decreased and no infrastructure is considered to be under threat. Aviation warnings have shifted from red to orange also.

**SIPRI's Findings on Nuclear Arsenals: China's Expansion, India and Pakistan's Growth, and Global Trends**

- The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) recently released its annual Yearbook, providing valuable insights into the state of global nuclear arsenals.
- SIPRI's assessment reveals that China has significantly increased its nuclear arsenal in contrast to its official position of maintaining the minimum necessary for national security.

Community Spirit Index: Indian City Is Ranked Second Most Unfriendly City In the World

- In the recent ranking by the **Community Spirit Index**, 53 cities from different countries have been given ranks based on how friendly and unfriendly their residents are.
- For this purpose, 6 metrics have been considered. Toronto and Sydney are named the world's top friendliest countries in the index while India's capital New Delhi and Mumbai are among the most unfriendly cities in the world.

**Forbes' Global 2000 List: Reliance Rises by Eight Positions to Attain 45th Rank**

- **Forbes' latest Global 2000** list has ranked Billionaire **Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Limited** as the highest-ranking Indian company, climbing from the 53rd to the 45th spot this year.
- Several other Indian companies featured on the list, including Axis Bank at 423, **NTPC** at 433, Larsen & Toubro at 449, Bharti Airtel at 478, Kotak Mahindra Bank at 502, Indian Oil Corporation at 540, Infosys at 554, Bank of Baroda at 586, Coal India at 591, Tata Steel at 592, Hindalco at 660, and **Vedanta** at 687.

New Zealand Slips into Recession as GDP Falls 0.1% in March Quarter

- **New Zealand's economy** has slipped into a recession, as the first-quarter Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fell by 0.1 percent. This decline follows a revised 0.7 percent drop in GDP in the fourth quarter of 2022, meeting the technical definition of a recession.
- The country's economic downturn can be attributed to a combination of factors, including measures taken by the central bank to combat inflation and the adverse effects of natural disasters.

**First Hindu-American summit in US: All you need to know**

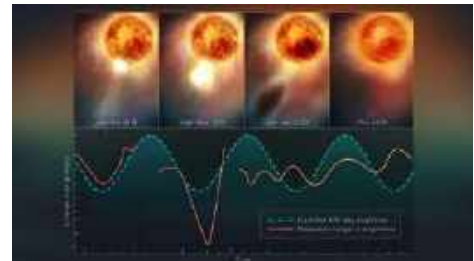
- The inaugural **Hindu-American Summit** for political engagement, organised by a group of **Indian Americans**, was scheduled to take place at the **US Capitol Hill** on June 14.
- The summit's primary objective is to bring attention and support for the concerns and issues faced by the **Hindu community**, which has been underrepresented in politics.

First Hindu-American summit in US: All you need to know

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What is Betelgeuse, the bright red giant star?

- The bright red star Betelgeuse, called '**Thiruvathirai**' or '**Ardra**' in Indian astronomy, is easily spotted in the constellation Orion.
- Recent studies on the **colossal red giant star Betelgeuse** suggest that it is approaching the late stages of its life, specifically the carbon-burning phase, and there is a possibility that it will explode as a supernova within the next few decades. Stars are created from dense clouds of gas and dust known as nebulae.
- Through the process of nuclear fusion, they convert hydrogen into helium, producing energy and emitting light.
- As a star depletes its hydrogen fuel, it undergoes expansion and transforms into a red giant. During this phase, helium is fused into heavier elements such as carbon and oxygen.



UNGA adopts draft resolution introduced by India

- The **UNGA** (United Nations General Assembly) has adopted by consensus a draft resolution piloted by **India** to establish a memorial wall in the UN headquarters to honour fallen **peacekeepers**.
- India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj introduced the draft resolution titled 'Memorial wall for fallen United Nations peacekeepers' in the UN General Assembly Hall and it was adopted by consensus.



UNESCO: U.S. to Rejoin in July

- **UNESCO** has announced that the **United States will rejoin the agency in July**, four years after leaving due to allegations of bias against Israel.
- The move to rejoin will require a vote by member states, but is expected to pass easily. UNESCO promotes educational, scientific and cultural causes, and designates World Heritage Sites globally.

Japan raises age of consent from 13 to 16 after over a century

- Japan's parliament has raised the age of consent from 13 to 16, a limit which had remained unchanged for more than a century and was among the world's lowest consent age.
- Lawmakers also broadened the definition of rape from "forcible sexual intercourse" to "non-consensual sexual intercourse".
- The expanded definition includes acts committed using drugging and intoxication. It also criminalized the grooming of minors.
- Sexual intercourse with someone below age 16 will be considered as rape.



PM Modi's USA Visit: From Yoga Day to USA Congress Address

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**'s upcoming visit to the United States from June 21 to June 24 is one of the most important diplomatic visits of 2023, highlighting the significance of India's geopolitical role.
- The packed schedule of PM Modi's visit includes various engagements in New York and Washington, where he will meet with world leaders, address the US Congress, and interact with the Indian diaspora.

Nusrat Chowdhury confirmed the first Muslim woman federal judge in US history

- **Nusrat Chowdhury**, a civil rights lawyer, has been confirmed by the **Senate as the first Muslim female federal judge in US history**. She will assume her lifetime appointment in Brooklyn federal court in New York after a 50-49 vote on Thursday along party lines.
- The confirmation drew praise from the American Civil Liberties Union, where she is the legal director of the ACLU of Illinois. Prior to that post, she served from 2008 to 2020 at the national ACLU office, including seven years as deputy director of the ACLU Racial Justice Programme.



Finland parliament elects Petteri Orpo as country's new PM

- **Petteri Orpo**, the leader of the conservative party in **Finland**, has been elected as the country's prime minister by the parliament. Orpo will lead a coalition government comprising four parties, including the far-right Finns Party, which intends to implement strict measures on immigration.
- With 107 members in favour, 81 opposed, and 11 absent, the parliament expressed its support for Orpo, who emerged victorious in the April elections. His victory initiated negotiations for a coalition government, which have been ongoing since then.



Estonia legalizes same-sex marriage, a first for Central Europe

- **Estonia**'s parliament passed a law legalising same-sex marriage, making it the first central European nation to do so.
- While much of western Europe has already legalised same-sex marriage, it remains prohibited in many former communist central European countries that were once part of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact.



Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2023: Bengaluru Startup Ecosystem Ranks 20th

- The recently released **Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2023** (GSER 2023) by Startup Genome provides a comprehensive analysis of startup ecosystems worldwide.
- With data from millions of startups across various ecosystems, the report offers valuable insights into the global startup landscape.
- Bengaluru, known as India's Silicon Valley, has secured the 20th position on the list, climbing two spots from the previous year.



Pakistan's Economic Crisis Deepens with Dollar Crunch Halting Food Imports

- **Pakistan** is currently facing a severe economic crisis characterized by a shortage of dollars, leading to a complete halt in the import of essential food and beverages.
- The situation has resulted in thousands of stranded containers at ports, incurring fines and additional charges for traders.
- The lack of sufficient foreign exchange, which the Pakistan State Bank (PSB) has been unable to provide, has further exacerbated the country's economic challenges.

PM Modi's US Visit: Key Highlights

- **Grand Arrival and Engaging with the Indian Diaspora:** PM Modi's visit to the US began with a grand arrival at Lotte New York Palace hotel, where he was greeted with chants of 'Bharat Mata ki Jai.'
- He also interacted with the Indian diaspora, graciously giving autographs to representatives.

PM Modi and President Biden Exchange Unique Gifts During White House Visit

- During Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** visit to the United States and his meeting with President **Joe Biden** at the White House, both leaders exchanged unique and thoughtful gifts as a symbol of friendship and diplomacy.
- These gifts not only represented the cultural heritage of India and the United States but also showcased the personal connection between the two leaders.

China Blocks Proposal to Declare 26/11 Attacks Accused Sajid Mir as a Global Terrorist

- **China** has once again blocked a proposal put forward by India and the United States at the United Nations Security Council to designate Sajid Mir, a Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist, as a global terrorist.
- Sajid Mir is wanted for his involvement in the notorious 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks. This move by China has raised concerns and further strained international efforts to combat terrorism effectively.



Oman Creates History as First Foreign Government to Promote Country through Yoga

- In a pioneering initiative, the Indian Embassy in the **Sultanate of Oman** has introduced an innovative video called ‘**Soulful Yoga, Serene Oman**’ on the eve of the **International Day of Yoga 2023**.
- The video showcases yoga enthusiasts from different countries performing beautiful yoga poses against stunning backdrops such as mountains, beaches, and sand dunes in and around Muscat.

GE Aerospace Signs MoU with HAL to Produce Fighter Jet Engines for IAF: Marking a New Era for India-US Defence Ties

- In a significant development during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s state visit to the United States, **General Electric (GE)** Aerospace has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**, a state-run Indian aerospace company. The MoU paves the way for the joint production of fighter jet engines for the Indian Air Force (IAF) and signifies a new era in the India-US partnership.
- This agreement holds immense strategic importance, as while many countries manufacture their own fighter aircraft, only a select few possess the advanced technology required to produce jet engines.



UK net debt passes 100% of GDP for first time since 1961

- The **United Kingdom’s** public sector net debt has surpassed 100% of its GDP in May, a level not seen since 1961, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS).
- The rising debt, excluding state-controlled banks, reached £2.567 trillion (\$3.28 trillion), representing 100.1% of GDP. Government borrowing in May, though slightly lower than in April, exceeded expectations and remained at a high level, while inflation remained steady, defying predictions of a decline.

Vienna Retains Title as Most Livable City: Global Liveability Index 2023 Report

- According to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)'s **Global Liveability Index 2023 report**, Vienna, Austria has once again claimed the top spot as the best city to live in worldwide.
- The report attributes Vienna's success to its exceptional combination of stability, rich culture and entertainment, reliable infrastructure, exemplary education, and health services. The city has consistently held this position in recent years, with the only interruption being caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.



Global Competitiveness Index 2023: Denmark, Ireland, and Switzerland Lead the Way

- The **2023 Global Competitiveness Index**, published by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD), has named Denmark, Ireland, and Switzerland as the top three most competitive economies among 64 nations surveyed.
- The report highlights the unique approaches taken by these countries to achieve competitiveness and emphasizes the importance of long-term value creation.
- In this article, we will delve into the rankings, key findings, and notable advancements and challenges faced by various countries.



Canada launches 'digital nomad strategy' for foreign workers

- **Canada** has taken a proactive approach to address its shortage of skilled workers, particularly in the tech industry.
- During Collision's tech conference in Toronto, the country's immigration minister announced the launch of a digital nomad strategy aimed at attracting talented individuals from around the world.

Defence

Defence exports of India up by 23 times since 2014

- **India's defense exports** have achieved a record-breaking milestone, skyrocketing from 686 crore rupees in 2013-14 to nearly 16 thousand crore rupees in 2022-23.
- This impressive growth of 23 times demonstrates India's advancement in the **global defense manufacturing industry**.



India Successfully Flight-Tests New-Generation Ballistic Missile 'Agni Prime'

- In a significant achievement for India's defense capabilities, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the maiden pre-induction night launch of the new-generation ballistic missile 'Agni Prime.'
- The test, held at the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha, showcased the missile's exceptional accuracy and reliability, meeting all objectives set for the trial.



Germany prepares to host "Air Defender 2023" NATO's biggest ever air exercise

- **Germany** is preparing to host the **biggest air deployment exercise in NATO's history**, a show of force intended to impress allies and potential adversaries such as Russia. The **Air Defender 23 exercise** starting next week will see 10,000 participants and 250 aircraft from 25 nations respond to a simulated attack on a NATO member country.
- The United States alone is sending 2,000 U.S. Air National Guard personnel and about 100 aircraft to take part in the training maneuvers.



Key Points

- NATO current Head: Jens Stoltenberg;
- NATO Founded: 4 April 1949, Washington, D.C., United States;
- NATO Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium.

First edition of India, France and UAE Maritime Partnership Exercise takes off

- The **first** edition of India, France, and United Arab Emirates (UAE) **Maritime Partnership Exercise** commenced on 7th June 2023 in the **Gulf of Oman**, featuring the participation of **INS Tarkash**, French Ship Surcouf, French Rafale aircraft and UAE Navy Maritime Patrol Aircraft.
- The exercise witnessed a wide spectrum of naval operations such as Surface Warfare, involving tactical firing and Drills for Missile engagements on surface targets, Helicopter Cross Deck Landing Operations, Advanced Air Defence Exercises and Boarding operations.



Twin CBG operation: INS Vikramaditya, Vikrant lead Navy's mega ops in Arabian Sea

- The **Indian Navy** carried out a massive operation in the Arabian Sea involving more than 35 aircraft as part of a **Carrier Battle Group (CBG)**.
- This was one of the most significant demonstrations of the Navy's operational capabilities to date, and comes at a time when there are increasing Chinese forays into the **Indian Ocean**.



Indo-Maldives Joint Military Exercise "Ekuverin" Commences at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand

- The 12th edition of the joint military exercise "**Ex Ekuverin**" between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force has commenced at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand.
- This bilateral annual exercise, which bears the meaning of "Friends" in the Maldivian language, aims to enhance interoperability in Counter Insurgency/Counter Terrorism Operations under the UN mandate. Additionally, it provides an opportunity for both forces to carry out joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief operations.



'Sanshodhak' 4th warship of Indian Navy launched

- The fourth ship of the **Survey Vessels (Large) (SVL) Project**, named '**Sanshodhak**' meaning 'Researcher', was launched at Kattupalli, Chennai by L and T/ GRSE for the **Indian Navy**.
- The Ship was launched to the chanting of invocation from Atharva Veda and the chief guest of the Launch Ceremony was **VAdmAdhirArora**, Chief Hydrographer to Government of India.



India's Defence Ministry Approves 'Predator Drone' Deal Ahead of PM Modi's US Visit

- In anticipation of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**'s upcoming visit to the **United States**, the Defence Ministry of India has granted approval for the acquisition of 'Predator (MQ-9 Reaper) drones' from America.
- The deal, which was approved during a meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) on June 15, is estimated to be worth around USD 3 billion.
- The final decision on the procurement will be made by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS). The announcement of the mega procurement deal is expected to take place after discussions between Prime Minister Modi and President Joe Biden at the White House.



Indian Navy Launches "JulleyLadakh" Outreach Program

- **The Indian Navy** recently launched an outreach program called "**JulleyLadakh**" (**Hello Ladakh**) to increase awareness about the Navy and engage with the youth and civil society in the pristine state of Ladakh.
- Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh, the Vice Chief of Naval Staff, flagged off a 5000 km Motorcycle Expedition on June 15, 2023, from the National War Memorial as part of this initiative.



Appointments or Resign/Retired

AmarenduPrakash takes charge as SAIL chairman

- **AmarenduPrakash** has taken charge as the new **Chairman and Managing Director of Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL)** from May 31. He was previously the Director (In-charge) of SAIL's Bokaro steel plan.
- Prakash was previously involved in driving business transformation and financial turnaround of SAIL, which resulted in bringing back the company from a three year streak of losses, from FY16 to FY18, to being back in the black in FY19.



Key Points

- SAIL Founded: 24 January 1973;
- SAIL Headquarters: New Delhi;
- SAIL CEO: Soma Mondal (1 Jan 2021–).

Dennis Francis elected 78th UNGA president

- The 193 UN Member States, elected a veteran diplomat from Trinidad and Tobago, **Dennis Francis** as the President of the **78th session of the UN General Assembly**.
- Francis, who has had a nearly 40-year-career, will take the helm of the UN's main policy-making body, starting in September.
- He was elected by acclamation during a ceremony in the iconic General Assembly Hall at UN Headquarters in New York. The General Assembly consists of all 193 UN Member States, all of which have an equal vote.

UAE's Abdulla Al Mandous wins Presidency of World Meteorological Organization

- A meteorologist of United Arab Emirates (UAE) **Dr Abdulla Al Mandous** has been elected as the new President of the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** for a four-year term from 2023 to 2027.
- The WMO is an authoritative body within the UN system that focuses on weather, climate, hydrological, and related environmental fields. He will succeed **Prof Gerhard Adrian** from the German Meteorological Service, who served as WMO President since June 2019.

NirmalaLakshman named as new Chairperson of The Hindu Group

- **Ms.NirmalaLakshman** has been appointed Chairperson of the Board of Directors of **The Hindu Group Publishing Private Limited (THGPPL)** for a term of three years.
- She succeeds Ms.MaliniParthasarathy, who stepped down as Chairperson at the Board's meeting, June 5, 2023 upon nearing the completion of her three-year term.

Janardan Prasad appointed new Director-General of Geological Survey of India

- **Janardan Prasad** has been appointed as the new Director General of the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)**. Prasad has taken charge of the 174-year-old institution, succeeding Dr S Raju who has been the Director General since 2020.

- The **Geological Survey of India (GSI)**, an attached office to the Ministry of Mines, has its headquarters in the city, with six regional offices in Lucknow, Jaipur, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Shillong, and Kolkata.

DG AtulVerma gets three-month extension by Competition Commission

- The Government has officially announced that **AtulVerma's** tenure as the Director General of the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has been extended for a period of three months.
- The **Director General office** is the designated investigation arm of the fair trade regulator. The extension of AtulVerma's deputation as **Director General** has been approved by the competent authority beyond the previous expiry date of May 31.



Competition Commission of India

DG ATUL VERMA GETS 3-MONTH EXTENSION BY CCI

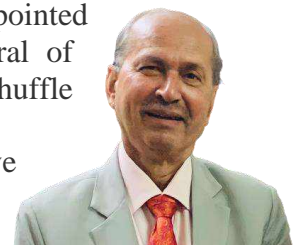
IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers appointed as Chair-elect of IATA's Board of Governors

- **IndiGo** announced that its CEO, **Pieter Elbers**, has been elected as the chair-elect of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Board of Governors. He will succeed present Chair, **Yvonne Manzi Makolo**, the CEO of Rwandair with effect from June 2024.
- Pieter Elbers' appointment comes at a significant time for the Indian aviation industry, which is experiencing unprecedented growth and development.



AmitAgrawal appointed UIDAI CEO, Subodh Kumar Singh named DG NTA

- Senior IAS officers **AmitAgrawal** and **Subodh Kumar Singh** have been appointed as **CEO Unique Identification Authority of India** and director general of the **National Testing Agency**, respectively, as part of a bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre.
- Both Agrawal (1993 batch) and Singh (1997 batch) are Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers of the Chhattisgarh cadre. Agrawal, additional secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, has been appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Unique Identification Authority in the rank and pay of additional secretary to the Government of India.



Epson India signs RashmikaMandanna as brand ambassador

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

Reliance Tira set to sign Suhana Khan, KiaraAdvani& more as brand ambassadors

- **Reliance Retail's** beauty retail venture, **Tira**, is making strategic moves to enhance its presence in the booming beauty retail industry in India.

- With a focus on an omni-channel retail strategy and a range of products across different price segments, Tira is set to launch a nationwide marketing campaign.
- As part of this initiative, the company has signed popular Bollywood actresses **Suhana Khan, Kiara Advani, and Kareena Kapoor Khan** as its first brand ambassadors. This move aims to leverage their star power and capture the attention of consumers across the country.

UK Appoints Jane Marriott As First Woman Envoy To Pakistan

- The **United Kingdom** has announced the appointment of senior diplomat **Jane Marriott** as the next British High Commissioner to Pakistan, making her the **first female British envoy to Islamabad**. Prior to this appointment, Jane Marriott, 47, was the high commissioner to Kenya since September 2019. She would be replacing Dr Christian Turner, who left Pakistan in January after serving as the envoy since December 2019.
- Ms Marriott brings a wealth of thematic and regional experience to her new role having joined the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) in 2001, following roles in the Cabinet Office and Home Office.



IPS officer Ravi Sinha selected as new chief of RAW

- **Ravi Sinha**, a senior IPS officer, has been appointed as the new chief of India's external intelligence agency, **the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)**.
- Sinha will take over from Samant Kumar Goel, who is completing his four-year term on June 30. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Sinha's appointment as Secretary of RAW for a period of two years.

Hasmukh Adhia appointed Chairman, GIFT City

- **Hasmukh Adhia**, a senior retired bureaucrat and former Union Finance Secretary & Revenue Secretary, has been named as the **Chairman of GIFT City Ltd.**
- This organization is responsible for the development of Gujarat International Finance-Tec City, India's first smart city located in Gandhinagar.
- Hasmukh Adhia takes over the role of Chairman from Sudhir Mankad, the former chief secretary of Gujarat.

Kyriakos Mitsotakis sworn in as Greek Prime Minister

- **Kyriakos Mitsotakis**, leader of the centre-right **New Democracy party**, has been sworn in as the **prime minister of Greece** for a second term following a resounding election victory.
- Mitsotakis has outlined his plans to rebuild Greece's credit rating, create jobs, raise wages, and boost state revenues. His party secured 158 seats in the 300-seat parliament, surpassing the leftist Syriza party, which governed Greece from 2015-2019 during the country's economic crisis.



Mastercard CEO Michael Miebach Joins USISPF Board Of Directors

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



Indian-Origin Satellite Industry Expert AartiHolla-Maini Appointed as Director of UNOOSA

- **AartiHolla-Maini**, a highly accomplished expert in the satellite industry of Indian origin, has been selected by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as the **Director** of the **United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)** in Vienna.
- Her appointment follows the tenure of Simonetta Di Pippo from Italy. The primary objective of UNOOSA is to promote global collaboration in the peaceful exploration and utilization of outer space, as well as the effective application of space science and technology to foster sustainable economic and social progress.



RohitJawa appoints as MD and CEO of Hindustan Unilever

- **RohitJawa** took charges as the **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer** of FMCG major **Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL)**. Jawa has replaced **Sanjiv Mehta** who retired on Monday after the company's annual general meeting.
- Mehta handed over the baton to Jawa, who was appointed as an Additional Director and CEO-Designate from April 1, from the close of business hours on June 26. Mehta was at the helm for almost a decade and was with the company for more than 30 years.



Deloitte appoints former SoftBank India head Manoj Kohli as senior advisor

- **Deloitte** has hired **Manoj Kohli**, an experienced professional, as a senior advisor. With a remarkable career spanning 44 years and encompassing 30 countries, Kohli held significant positions such as the Country Head of Softbank India.
- During his tenure, he played a crucial role in expanding the firm's presence in the Indian digital start-up market. Prior to that, he served as the CEO and Managing Director of



BharatiAirtel, where he successfully drove the company's growth and market dominance in India's telecommunications industry.

IPS officer Ajay Bhatnagar appoints as Special Director in the CBI

- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the proposals of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) for the appointments of these IPS officers in the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**. **Ajay Bhatnagar** (IPS) has been appointed as Special Director in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Bhatnagar is a 1989-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Jharkhand cadre.
- He is currently serving as Additional Director in the CentalGovt investigating agency. According to a DoPT order, he has been appointed to the post till the date of his superannuation on November 20, 2024.



TS Singh Deo appointed Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister

- **TS Singh Deo** was appointed **Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister** by Congress chief **MallikarjunKharge**. Singh Deo's appointment was announced in a review meeting held to discuss the upcoming Chhattisgarh Assembly elections at the Congress headquarters in Delhi.
- In 2018, when the Congress returned to power in Chhattisgarh after 15 years, a war of supremacy had broken out between BhupeshBaghel and TS Singh Deo, over the chief minister's chair. Later, it was decided that the CM post would be fixed for Baghel for two-and-a-half years and for Deo for the remaining half.



Honours/ Awards

President Droupadi Murmu Honoured with Suriname's highest civilian award

- President **Droupadi Murmu** became the first Indian to be honoured with the **Grand Order of the Chain of the Yellow Star**, the highest civilian award in Suriname.
- She was presented with this award by Chandrikapersad Santokhi, the President of the Republic of Suriname.
- President Murmu dedicated the award to the future generations of the Indian-Surinamese community.



Why "Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park" in news?

- For year **2023 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) award, Michel Batisse Award**, will be received by Director of Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park Jagdish S Bakan, for his efforts in Biosphere Reserve Management. He will also present his case study during award ceremony in Paris, France on June 14.

Indian film 'When Climate Change Turns Violent' wins WHO award

- A documentary titled '**When Climate Change Turns Violent**' has won a special prize in the '**Health for All**' category at the 4th Annual Health for All Film Festival held at the World Health Organization headquarters in Geneva.
- The documentary has been directed by Vandita Saharia of Rajasthan. She was the only Indian among the winners.



Paterson Joseph won the RSL Christopher Bland Prize 2023

- Actor-author **Paterson Joseph** has won the **RSL Christopher Bland Prize 2023** for his debut novel 'The Secret Diaries of Charles Ignatius Sancho'.
- This is the **5th** year of this award.

Child rights advocate Lalitha Natarajan wins 2023 Iqbal Masih Award

- Chennai-based lawyer and activist **Lalitha Natarajan** has won US Department of Labor's **2023 Iqbal Masih Award** for the Elimination of Child Labour. Natarajan was presented the award by Consul General Judith Ravin at a ceremony in the US Consulate General in Chennai on May 30.
- As a leader in the fight to end exploitative child labor in southern India, Natarajan identifies child victims of trafficking, specifically bonded labor, assisting in their reintegration into society, the US consulate in Chennai.



RBI Chief Shaktikanta Das Named 'Governor Of The Year' At London's Central Banking Awards

- **Shaktikanta Das**, the Governor of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, was honored with the esteemed Governor of the Year Award for 2023. In his remarks, Das highlighted the evolving role of central banks in the monetary and financial systems, emphasizing that they are now tasked with significant responsibilities that go beyond their traditional mandates.
- The award was presented by Central Banking, a prominent organization that thoroughly covers and examines matters concerning central banks and financial regulators globally, during its summer meetings held in London.

Telangana's 5 structures chosen for the Green Apple Awards

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



RamachandraGuha's book wins Elizabeth Longford Prize

- Historian and writer **RamchandraGuha's** book **Rebels Against the Raj: Western Fighters for India's Freedom** has won the **Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography 2023**.
- Guha has been awarded £5,000 (₹5 lakhs approximately) and a bound copy of Elizabeth Longford's memoir. The jury was chaired by Roy Foster.
- The judging committee also included Antonia Fraser and Flora Fraser (daughter and granddaughter of Longford respectively), Richard Davenport-Hines and RanaMitter.



Expansion of Grammy Awards: Introducing Three New Categories

- The Grammy Awards will introduce three new categories, according to The Hollywood Reporter. These additions include **Best African Music Performance, Best Pop Dance Recording, and Best Alternative Jazz Album**.
- The creation of the Best African Music Performance category recognizes the growing global popularity of African artists such as Burna Boy, Wizkid, and Tems, who have achieved great success on the charts.
- This category aims to highlight the influence of the Afrobeats genre and celebrate the diverse musical expressions from across the African continent.



- Various subgenres like Afrobeats, Afro-fusion, Afro pop, Bongo Flava, Ethio jazz, Kizomba, High Life, Fuji, Ndombolo, Mapouka, Ghanaian drill, Afro-house, and South African hip-hop will be eligible for consideration.

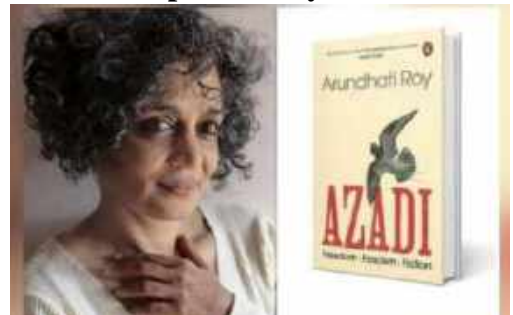
Gita Press, Gorakhpur awarded Gandhi Peace Prize for 2021

- The Gandhi Peace Prize for 2021 will be conferred on Gita Press, Gorakhpur, in recognition of its “outstanding contribution towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violent and other Gandhian methods”, the ministry of culture announced.
- The decision to confer the award on Gita Press was taken by a jury headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Arundhati Roy wins 45th European Essay Prize for 'Azadi'

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



Salman Rushdie wins prestigious German peace prize 202

- The Peace Prize of the German Book Trade for 2023 has been awarded to British-American author Salman Rushdie, “for his indomitable spirit, for his affirmation of life and for enriching our world with his love of storytelling.”
- Rushdie was born on June 19, 1947, in Bombay (now Mumbai), Ahmed Salman Rushdie's name is best known worldwide for his 1988 novel The Satanic Verses, which caused widespread uproar in the Muslim world for its story inspired by the life of Islamic Prophet Muhammad.
- It also prompted Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to declare a fatwa against the author.



IOC awards Olympic Order to WHO Director-General Tedros Ghebreyesus

- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** awarded **Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus**, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), with the Olympic Order.
- This recognition was given to Dr. Tedros for his inspiring efforts in making the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 happen, even amidst the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The presentation of the Olympic Order took place at the Olympic House and was done by the President of the IOC, Thomas Bach.



Eminent poet Acharya Gopi to be conferred with first Prof. Jayashankar Award

- **Acharya N. Gopi**, a renowned poet, literary critic, and recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award, has been chosen as the recipient of the **Prof. Kothapalli Jayashankar Award**. This prestigious award is presented by Bharat Jagruthi, a cultural organization and an extended arm of Bharat Rashtra Samithi.
- The award ceremony will take place at the Telangana Saraswatha Parishath in Abids on June 21. Bharat Jagruthi stated that the award was established earlier this year to honor literary figures annually.



PM Narendra Modi receives Egypt's highest honour 'Order of the Nile'

- During his official visit to Egypt, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was bestowed with the highest state honor of Egypt, known as the **'Order of the Nile.'**
- This recognition marks the 13th international award received by Prime Minister Modi.
- The prestigious award was presented to him by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, making it a significant moment as Prime Minister Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Egypt since 1997.



Priya A.S. received Sahitya Akademi Award 2023 for children's literature

- **Priya A S**, a talented writer, has been honored with the prestigious **Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2023** in the Malayalam language for her novel **"Perumazhayathe Kunjithalukal"** (The Children Who Never Withered).
- This recognition adds to her previous achievement of winning the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award for Children's Literature in 2020 for the same novel.



World Bank President Ajay Banga Named In 2023 List Of Great Immigrants

- **Ajay Banga**, the President of the World Bank, has been recognised on the Carnegie Corporation of New York's annual "**Great Immigrants**" list. He is lauded for his contributions and efforts in enriching America and its democracy.
- With over 30 years of experience in key positions, 63-year-old Banga is expected to usher in transformative policies at the World Bank to combat poverty and address climate change, opening opportunities for people around the globe.



Boxing champion Mary Kom named Global Indian Icon at UK-India Awards

- Sporting legend and India's first-ever Olympic medallist in women's boxing, **Mary Kom**, has been honoured with the **Global Indian Icon of the Year award** at the annual UK-India Awards in Windsor, south-eastern England. **Filmmaker ShekharKapur**, directing Oscar-nominated 'Elizabeth: The Golden Age' received a **Lifetime Achievement Award** for his contribution to the field of cinema across both nations at the awards, organised by India Global Forum (IGF) as part of UK-India Week.
- The Nehru Centre in London, the cultural wing of the Indian High Commission, won the UK-India Award for Significant Contribution to UK-India Relations.



Sports

India Defeat Pakistan To Become Hockey Junior Asia Cup Champions

- **The Indian junior men's hockey team** maintained its continental supremacy by beating arch-rivals **Pakistan 2-1** to become Asia Cup champions in **Salalah, Oman**. AngadBir Singh struck in the 13th minute and Araijeet Singh Hundal in the 20th for India, while Pakistan managed to pull one back with Abdul Basharat scoring in the 37th minute.
- This was India's fourth title having been crowned champions on three previous occasions in 2004, 2008 and 2015. Meanwhile, Pakistan has won the tournament in 1987, 1992 and 1996.

Max Verstappen wins Spanish Grand Prix 2023

- **Max Verstappen** emerged victorious at the **Spanish Grand Prix**, clinching the pole position and extending his lead in the Formula One championship by 53 points.
- Red Bull's dominance continued as they celebrated their seventh consecutive triumph of the season.
- Lewis Hamilton, a seven-time world champion, secured the second spot for Mercedes but trailed a substantial 24.090 seconds behind Verstappen.



Serbia and USA win FIBA 3x3 World Cup 2023

- **Serbia's men and the United States women** won the **FIBA 3x3 World Cup 2023**, which took place in **Vienna, Austria**. In the men's category, Serbia extended their historic World Cup heroics, capturing their sixth title in just 8 editions after defeating USA (21-19) in the final.
- The "Maestro" DejanMajstorovic had a game-high 7 points in the thriller against the US. Latvia defeated Brazil 22-12 to claim the bronze medal. The duo of KarlisLasmanis and NaurisMiezis combined for 13 points in the game before AgnisČavars scored the two to hand Latvia the victory.



ZlatanIbrahimovic announces his retirement from football

- AC Milan striker **ZlatanIbrahimovic** announces his retirement from football after they played season's final game against Hellas Verona. The Swedish player decided to conclude a trophy-laden career in which he featured for clubs such as Malmo, Ajax, Juventus, Inter, Barcelona, PSG, Manchester United and the LA Galaxy.
- ZlatanIbrahimovic has also bagged several league titles in Netherlands, Spain, France and Italy in 24 years of professionally playing the game.



3rd Khelo India University Games Concludes in Varanasi

- The third edition of the **Khelo India University Games** concluded at the IIT BHU campus in Varanasi.
- The closing ceremony was attended by **Anurag Singh Thakur**, the Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister, **Nishith Pramanik**, the Union Minister of State for Sports, and **Yogi Adityanath**, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.



Sunil Kumar wins decathlon gold at Asian U20 Athletics Championship

- India's **Sunil Kumar** scored 7003 points and clinched gold in men's decathlon at the **Asian U20 Athletics Championships in Yecheon, South Korea**.
- Apart from Sunil's heroics, Pooja clinched women's high jump silver after finishing with a 1.82m jump while Bushra Khan, secured silver in women's 3000m race. In the women's 4x100m relay, India secured bronze with a time of 45.36s.



French Open 2023: Novak Djokovic beats Casper Ruud

- Novak Djokovic** won his men's-record **23rd Grand Slam title** with a victory over **Casper Ruud** in French Open Final. Djokovic broke a tie with rival Rafael Nadal for the most major singles trophies in the history of men's tennis.
- The Serb moves into the outright lead of men's majors ahead of Rafael Nadal. He also becomes the first man to win all four majors at least three times. By winning his 23rd Slam title at the French Open beating Norwegian world No. 4 Casper Ruud 7-6(1), 6-3, 7-5 in the final.
- Djokovic broke away from Rafael Nadal in the men's pecking order. Joining Serena Williams on the most Slam count by any player in the Open Era, he also became the first man to win all the Majors at least thrice.



Asia Cup 2023 Dates and Venues Announced after ACC Accepts Hybrid Model

- The highly anticipated **Asia Cup 2023** is set to ignite the cricketing world as arch-rivals India and Pakistan resume their epic rivalry ahead of the ICC World Cup 2023.
- The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) has accepted the hybrid model, and the tournament will be jointly hosted by Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- With a total of 13 thrilling One Day International (ODI) matches scheduled, the Asia Cup promises to be a captivating cricketing spectacle.



Mascot launched for 37th edition of Indian National Games

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



India lifted the Intercontinental Cup after beating Lebanon

- India** lifted the **Intercontinental Cup** as it tamed a young Lebanon side by two second-half goals at the Kalinga Stadium. India beat Lebanon 2-0 in the Intercontinental Cup final at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar to win the title.
- Sunil Chhetri's 46th minute goal broke the deadlock before Lallianzuala Chhangte made it 2-0 in the 66th minute as India beat Lebanon for the first time since 1977.



Indonesia Open 2023: Satwiksairaj & Chirag as men's doubles champions

- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty emerged as men's doubles champions in the Indonesia Open after beating Malaysian world champion duo of 'Aaron Chia' and 'Soh Wooi Yik' by 21-17 & 21-18 respectively.
- The 2023 Indonesia Open took place at the Istora Gelora Bung Karno in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 13 to 18 June.

Egypt retains World Squash Championship

- Egypt** have been crowned the SDAT (Sports Development Authority of **Tamil Nadu**) WSF (World Squash Federation) Squash World Cup Champions after beating **Malaysia**.
- The championship was held from 13 to 17 June in Express Avenue Mall in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Eight countries including India participated in the tournament – Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Egypt, South Africa, Australia, and Colombia.
- Egypt beat Malaysia 2-1 in the final.



Bhavani Devi became the first Indian to win Asian Fencing Championship Medal

- In a remarkable achievement, **C.A. Bhavani Devi**, an Olympian from **Chennai**, made history by securing India's first-ever medal at the Asian fencing championships held in Wuxi, **China**.



- Bhavani's outstanding performance and determination earned her a well-deserved **bronze** medal in this prestigious event.

Cristiano Ronaldo sets Guinness World Record to make 200 International Caps

- **Cristiano Ronaldo** has received a **Guinness World Record** after reaching **200 international caps for Portugal**. The legendary forward is making his 200th appearance for A Selecao das Quinas in their Euro 2024 qualifier against Iceland.
- The 38-year-old has broken another record and is the most-capped player in international football.
- Cristiano Ronaldo's achievement has been recognized by the Guinness Book of Records. The Portugal captain was presented with a certificate for his accomplishment before his nation's clash against Iceland.



Gautam Adani Launches 'Jeetenge Hum' With 1983 Heroes Ahead Of Cricket World Cup 2023

- **The Adani Group** celebrated its Foundation Day, honoring the Indian cricket team that won the 1983 World Cup.
- The event, dubbed "Adani Day," took place on the 61st birthday of the group's founder, Gautam Adani.
- The Adani Group launched the "**Jeetenge Hum**" campaign during the event, with the goal of rallying support for Team India and boosting morale ahead of the upcoming ICC ODI Cricket World Cup 2023.



Jhulan Goswami, Heather Knight, Eoin Morgan join MCC World Cricket Committee

- The **MCC World Cricket Committee (WCC)** has expanded its ranks by welcoming three new members: English players **Heather Knight** and **Eoin Morgan**, as well as legendary Indian cricketer **Jhulan Goswami**. At the same time, former England captain Alastair Cook has stepped down from the Committee to focus on his playing career.
- With these new additions, the WCC now consists of 14 members, comprising current and former international cricket players, umpires, and officials from around the world. The WCC operates autonomously and serves as an influential organization within the cricketing community.



Obituaries

Noted Sanskrit scholar VedKumariGhai passes away

- Sanskrit scholar **VedKumariGhai** passed away at the age of 91. She was born in Jammu City, Jammu and Kashmir, in 1931. She did her MA and PhD in Sanskrit from the University of Jammu.
- She also studied at the Banaras Hindu University and the University of Oxford. Ghai was a prolific scholar and author of several books on Sanskrit literature.
- She started her career as a professor of Sanskrit at Government College for Women, Parade, Jammu.

Veteran actress SulochanaLatkar passes away at 94

- Veteran actress **SulochanaLatkar** has passed away at the age of 94. She has been a part of 300 films, including Hindi and Marathi.
- Some of her popular films include AbDilliDurNahin, Sujata, Aaye Din BaharKe, Dil Deke Dekho, Aasha, and Majboor, NaiRoshni, Aayi Milan Ki Bela, Gora Aur Kala, Devar, Bandini amongst others.



Award-winning DD anchor GitanjaliAiyar passes away

- **GitanjaliAiyar**, one of India's first English female news presenters on national broadcaster Doordarshan, passed away. Aiyar is survived by a son and daughter PallaviAiyar, who is also an award-winning journalist.
- After completing graduation from Kolkata's Loreto College, she had joined Doordarshan in 1971 and was awarded the best anchor four times. She also won the Indira Gandhi Priyadarshini Award for Outstanding Women in 1989.

Kerala's first 'Ashoka Chakra' winner HavildarAlbyD'Cruz passes away

- **AlbyD'Cruz**, one of Kerala's proud Defence personnel who always maintained a low profile despite being the first Keralaite to be conferred the Ashoka Chakra, passed away.
- It was way back in 1962, he received the Asoka Chakra (Class III) from the country's first president Rajendra Prasad. Since 1967, this award has been called 'Shaurya Chakra'.



Cormac McCarthy, Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist no more, dies at 89

- **Cormac McCarthy**, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of such acclaimed novels as "The Road" and "No Country for Old Men," passed away. McCarthy was born in Providence, Rhode Island, in 1933.



- He began writing fiction in the early 1960s, and his first novel, “The Orchard Keeper,” was published in 1965. He went on to publish more than 20 novels, including “Blood Meridian,” “All the Pretty Horses,” and “Suttree.”

Rajya Sabha MP Hardwar Dubey passes away

- The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) senior leader and Rajya Sabha member from Uttar Pradesh **Hardwar Dubey** passed away. He was a sitting MP elected to the Rajya Sabha in November 2020.
- The late Dubey, 74, was also elected as a member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly from Agra Cantonment assembly segment in 1990s and served as a minister in the Kalyan Singh ministry in 1991.
- The late Dubey, who was closely associated with the Sanghparivaar and its affiliate Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) was made state spokesperson and vice-president of the BJP in 2011 and 2013 respectively, before being elevated as a Rajya Sabha member.



American Co-Inventor of Lithium-Ion Batteries, John Bannister Goodenough, Passes Away

- Renowned American scientist **John Bannister Goodenough**, the co-inventor of Lithium-ion batteries and a co-winner of the **2019 Nobel Prize in Chemistry**, has sadly passed away. Goodenough was just a month shy of his 101st birthday.
- His British-American counterpart, Stan Whittingham, shared the Nobel prize with Goodenough for their groundbreaking work. Whittingham initially discovered that lithium could be stored in titanium sulphide sheets, and Goodenough perfected the concept by incorporating a cobalt-based cathode, resulting in a product that has become an integral part of people's lives today.



Important Days with theme

Global Day of Parents 2023: Date, Significance and History

- **The Global Day of Parents** is a special observance that recognizes the critical role parents play in the lives of their children and the well-being of society as a whole. Celebrated on **June 1st** each year, this day serves as an opportunity to honour and appreciate the dedication, love, and sacrifices of parents worldwide.
- The day emphasizes the importance of parental guidance in shaping the lives of children and promoting their overall well-being. It serves as an opportunity to appreciate parents' efforts and to raise awareness about the challenges they face in fulfilling their responsibilities.



World Milk Day 2023: Know Date, Theme, Significance and History

- **World Milk Day**, observed every year on **1st June**, was created in the year 2001 by **Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations (UN)** to promote the consumption and benefits of milk around the world.
- The goal of this day is to provide us with a chance to raise awareness of and support in any manner possible initiatives related to the dairy industry.
- According to worldmilkday.org, the theme of World Milk Day 2023 is “**Showcasing how dairy is reducing its environmental footprint, while also providing nutritious foods and livelihoods.**”

Key Points

- Food and Agriculture Organisation Headquarters: Rome, Italy;
- Food and Agriculture Organisation Founded: 16 October 1945;
- Food and Agriculture Organisation Director-General: QuDongyu.

World Bicycle Day 2023: Date, Theme, Significance and History

- **World Bicycle Day** is an annual event celebrated on **June 3rd**. It was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2018 to recognize the bicycle as a simple, affordable, reliable, clean and environmentally fit sustainable means of transport.
- The selection of this date is significant as it commemorates the anniversary of the invention of the bicycle by **Karl von Drais in 1817**. The theme for this year's World Bicycle Day is “**Riding Together for a Sustainable Future.**”

World Environment Day 2023: History, Theme, Poster, Significance And Slogan

- **World Environment Day** is celebrated on **June 5** every year to raise awareness and encourage action for the protection of our planet. It was first



established by the **United Nations General Assembly** in 1972, and since then, over **150 countries** participate in various activities to celebrate this day.

- World Environment Day is an important day to raise awareness and encourage action for the protection of our planet. The 50th anniversary of World Environment Day will be hosted by **Côte D'Ivoire**, with the theme of **“solutions to plastic pollution”**.

World Oceans Day 2023: Date, Theme, Significance and History

- **World Oceans Day**, observed annually on **June 8th**, serves as a global reminder of the crucial role oceans play in sustaining life on Earth. Recognized by the United Nations, this day promotes ocean awareness and encourages people worldwide to take action towards protecting our marine environments.
- By amplifying the significance of the world's oceans, we hope to inspire individuals, communities, and governments to work together for a more sustainable future. Every year, the World Oceans Day is celebrated under a specific theme. This year, the theme of World Oceans day 2023 is **“Planet Ocean: The Tides are Changing.”**



World Food Safety Day 2023: Theme, Poster, Significance and History

- **World Food Safety day** is celebrated on **June 7** annually across the globe to highlight the importance of maintaining food standards. The day was aimed at inspiring the UN member nations to prioritise food safety standards and work collaboratively to protect consumers from foodborne diseases.
- The theme of this year's World Food Safety Day 2023 is **“Food standards save lives.”** Most people depend on the information in the packaging of consumable items to know whether their food is safe. These food safety standards guide farmers and those who process food.



World Blood Donor Day 2023: Date, Theme, Significance and History

- **World Blood Donor Day** is observed annually on **June 14** to express gratitude towards selfless voluntary blood donors and celebrate the essence of life and humanity.
- This occasion serves as a significant platform to appreciate and acknowledge voluntary blood donors worldwide for their generous contribution of blood, while also emphasizing the importance of ensuring universal access to safe blood transfusion.
- The slogan or theme of the **World Blood Donor Day 2023** is **“Give blood, give plasma, share life, share often.”**

Global Wind Day 2023: Date, Significance and History

- **Global Wind Day**, also known as World Wind Day, is a global event celebrated annually on **June 15th**. It serves as an opportunity to explore the potential of wind energy, its capacity to transform our energy systems, reduce carbon emissions in our economies, and stimulate job creation and economic growth.
- This day encourages us to delve into the power of wind and the immense possibilities it offers to reshape our energy landscape.



International Father's Day 2023: Date, History, Significance and Quotes

- **Father's Day** is a celebration of fathers and fatherhood. It is celebrated on the **third Sunday of June** in many countries around the world, including the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.
- The day is a time to honour fathers, grandfathers, and other male role models who have made a significant impact in the lives of their children. **This year Father's Day held on 18th June.**



International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict

- International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict is a United Nations observance on **June 19** to raise awareness of the need to put an end to conflict-related sexual violence.
- The theme of this year is **“Bridging the gender digital divide to prevent, address and respond to conflict-related sexual violence”**.

World Refugee Day 2023: Date, Theme, Significance and History

- **World Refugee Day** is an internationally recognized day established by the United Nations to pay tribute to refugees worldwide. It is observed annually on **June 20th** and serves as a platform to acknowledge the bravery and determination of individuals who have been compelled to flee their homeland due to conflicts or persecution.
- This significant day encourages the cultivation of empathy and comprehension towards the predicament of refugees and acknowledges their remarkable strength in reconstructing their lives.



International Yoga Day 2023: Theme, History, and Poster

- **International Yoga Day** is celebrated every year on **June 21st** to promote the numerous benefits of practicing yoga. The chosen date coincides with the summer solstice, the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.
- This day serves as a platform to raise awareness about the holistic approach to well-being that yoga offers. It highlights the importance of finding balance in our fast-paced, modern lives and encourages physical, mental, and spiritual harmony. Yoga fosters mindfulness, stress reduction, and overall health and vitality.

World Music Day 2023: Date, Theme, History, Importance

- **World Music Day**, also referred to as Fête de la Musique, is a yearly commemoration held on **June 21st** that advocates for the influence of music and its universal ability to connect people.
- The occasion encourages musicians from diverse genres to showcase their talents in public areas, fostering a lively and inclusive ambiance for individuals worldwide to appreciate music.
- On this unique day, musicians and music enthusiasts from all corners of the globe unite to perform and revel in a wide array of musical genres.

**World Drug Day 2023: Date, Theme, Significance and History**

- Every year on **June 26th**, the **International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**, also known as **World Drug Day**, is observed to promote global efforts in eliminating drug abuse.
- The focus of this year's campaign is to increase awareness regarding the significance of treating individuals who engage in drug use with empathy and respect.
- This year World Drug Day's theme is **"People first: Stop stigma and discrimination, strengthen prevention"**.

**National Statistics Day 2023: Date, Theme, Significance and History**

- **National Statistics Day** is commemorated annually on **June 29** to honor the significant contributions made by **Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis** in the fields of statistics and economic planning.
- Often hailed as the **'father of Indian statistics'**, Professor Mahalanobis is renowned for developing the Mahalanobis distance, a statistical measure utilized to determine the disparity between a point and a distribution.

**International Day of Parliamentarism 2023: Date, Theme, Significance and History**

- Every year, **June 30th** marks the celebration of the **International Day of Parliamentarism**, a day dedicated to commemorating the formation of the **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)**.
- The IPU was established with the noble objective of promoting democratic governance, fostering accountability, and encouraging collaboration among national parliaments.
- This year, the International Day of Parliamentarism will mark its 134th anniversary. According to the website, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) recently launched the campaign



‘Parliaments for the Planet.’ The theme for this year’s celebration is **‘Parliaments for the Planet.’**

National Doctor’s Day 2023: Date, Significance and History

- Every year on July 1st, India observes **National Doctor’s Day** to pay tribute to the esteemed **Dr.Bidhan Chandra Roy**, who was not only a renowned doctor but also a distinguished politician, a freedom fighter, and a champion of education.
- While soldiers protect borders, doctors are regarded as soldiers who combat diseases and save the lives of countless individuals. They play a vital role in society, and it is crucial to acknowledge their selfless dedication and commemorate this day as a means of honoring their sacrifices.

