



Civil Service India
Your IAS Guide

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

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NATIONAL

ARTS AND CULTURE

ENVIRONMENT

INDIAN POLITY

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



EDITOR's NOTE

Dear students, Current affairs news and analysis is an essential part of the overall preparation strategy to crack important competitive exam. Since, questions related to currents affairs are compulsorily asked, whether it is for UPSC, IAS, Banking, SSC and other Government Recruitment Exams you can stay up-to-date with the Current Affairs in India and around the globe. The best way to cover this is to get them in E magazine format, as it offers a more comprehensive experience to you including text, images as well as it also avoids the time consuming printing process and delivery.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

CERT-In Issues Guidelines On Information Security Practices



To bridge the technical and policy gaps in cybersecurity of government organisations, the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has released guidelines on information security practices for all government entities. A recent report by the Cyber security watchdog CERTin states that India witnessed a 53% increase in ransomware attacks in 2022.

All government organisations must also formulate a cyber security policy, assign roles and responsibilities of CISO, and put in place a dedicated and functional cyber security team, according to Cert-In.

These guidelines apply to all Ministries, Departments, Secretariats, and Offices specified in the First Schedule to the Government of India (allocation of business) Rules, 1961, along with their attached and subordinate offices. They also include all government institutions, public sector

enterprises, and other government agencies under their administrative purview.

India's digital landscape has witnessed tremendous growth. India has formulated policies aimed at ensuring safe & trusted and secure cyber space for its users.

Over 80 crore Indians (**Digital Nagriks**) are actively utilizing the Internet and cyberspace. This makes India one of the largest connected nations in the world.

Citizens are increasingly relying on the Internet to cater to their daily requirements, including aspects such as business, education, finance, and availing digital government services.

Recognising the significance of a secure and trustworthy digital environment, the Government of India has formulated policies aimed at ensuring safe & trusted and secure cyber space for its users. It remains fully aware of the growing cyber threats and attacks present in today's digital world.

They also include all government institutions, public sector enterprises, and other government agencies under their administrative purview.

The Government has taken several initiatives to ensure safe & trusted and secure cyber space. These guidelines are a roadmap for the Government entities and industry to reduce cyber risk, protect citizen data and continue to improve the cyber security ecosystem in the country. They will serve as a fundamental document for audit teams, including internal, external, and third-party auditors, to assess an organisation's security posture against the specified cybersecurity requirements.

The guidelines include various security domains such as network security, identity and access management, application security, data security, third-party outsourcing, hardening procedures, security monitoring, incident management, and security auditing.

Apart from adhering to the best practices in the field they also include guidelines prepared by the **National Informatics Centre** for **Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs)** and employees of **Central Government Ministries/Departments** to enhance cyber security and **cyber hygiene**.

Lightweight and Portable Payment System



Catastrophic events such as **natural calamities** and **war** have the potential to render existing **conventional payment systems** temporarily unavailable by disrupting the underlying information and communication infrastructure.

Against this backdrop the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is developing a lightweight and portable payment system designed to operate during exigencies such as natural calamities or war.

The proposed lightweight payment system, known as **Lightweight Payment**

and Settlements System Settlement (LPSS) is being called by the RBI a **“bunker”** equivalent of digital payments.

The infrastructure for this system will be independent of the technologies that underlie the existing systems of payments such as **UPI, NEFT, and RTGS**.

Lightweight and portable payment system is independent of conventional technologies and wired networks that underlie existing payment systems such as **UPI** (Unified Payments Interface), **NEFT** (National Electronic Funds Transfer), and **RTGS** (Real Time Gross Settlement).

Existing conventional payment systems like RTGS, NEFT and UPI are designed to handle large volumes while ensuring sustained availability. These systems are dependent on complex wired networks backed by advanced IT infrastructure.

What is NEFT

National Electronic Funds Transfer or NEFT is a nationwide payments system that allows transfer of funds from one bank's account to another.

What is RTGS

RTGS stands for Real Time Gross Settlement. It refers to a funds transfer system that allows the transfer of funds from one bank account to another in real-time and on a gross settlement basis.

Objective of the lightweight payment system

One of the key objectives of the lightweight payment system is to instill public confidence in digital payments and financial market infrastructure, even during extreme conditions.

SemiconIndia 2023



Semicon conferences are organised in different geographies world-wide by SEMI and called **Semicon Europa**, West & East in USA, Taiwan, Korea, Japan etc. where semiconductor industry is established, with the aim to maximise outreach of the technological advancements in the semiconductor domain as well as the policies of various countries to strengthen their semiconductor ecosystem.

Government of India announced **USD 10 billion Semicon India Programme** with an aim to develop **Semiconductors** and **Display** manufacturing ecosystem in India. With an intent to create awareness and showcase India as a potential hub for Semiconductor Design, Manufacturing, R&D and Manpower Development, **SemiconIndia Conference 2022** was organised in **Bengaluru** from April 29 to May 01, 2022.

Building on the success of **SemiconIndia 2022**, **India Semiconductor Mission**, an independent business division of the Digital India Corporation organised its flagship **SemiconIndia 2023** at the Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar from July 28 – July 30, 2023.

The event is aimed at catalyzing India's Semiconductor ecosystem.

Union Minister of State, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and Electronics and Information Technology **Rajeev Chandrasekhar** said, "Through the **Semicon India** exhibition, young Indians and people associated with technology can learn a lot. In India's techade journey semiconductors and electronics sector will have a huge role to play. In the history of independent India this is the first time that such an effort has met with such success in just 15 months. Our country over the past 70 years either ignored this opportunity or were unsuccessful. Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi's** vision of this ecosystem comprises of design innovation, research, talent, packaging and fabs and we are trying to bring in their associated supply chain — further catalysing the semiconductor ecosystem in India."

SemiconIndia 2023 showcased various capabilities of India as a vibrant and sustainable manufacturing destination for global corporations. Top leadership from Industry, Governments, Academia, and R&D institutions shall be leveraging this platform to reflect and usher on key aspects including Ease of Doing Business, building trusted value chains, growth drivers, innovation and startups, and talent pipeline. Spread over a period of three days, the event included following sessions covering various aspects of development of a robust, resilient, sustainable semiconductor ecosystem in India.

AMD to set up largest design center in Bengaluru



US chipmaker Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) has announced its plan to invest approximately **\$400 million** in India over the next five years. The semiconductor giant AMD plans to build new campus in **Bangalore** with largest **R&D facility** in the world. **Mark Papermaster, Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, AMD**, announced the investment plans during the second edition of SemiconIndia 2023 in Gandhinagar. SemiconIndia 2023 was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Investment is expected to create largest AMD design center with addition of approximately 3,000 engineering roles and new Bangalore campus opening before end of 2023, AMD said at **SemiconIndia 2023** in Gujarat. This investment by AMD will include a new AMD campus in Bengaluru that will serve as the company's largest design center, as well as the addition of approximately **3,000 new engineering roles** by the end of 2028. The new Bangalore campus is expected to open before end of **2023**.

Commencing its operations in India way back in 2001 when AMD established its first site in New Delhi, the company today has more than 6500 employees in India. And this new

500,000-square-foot **Bengaluru** campus will increase the AMD office footprint to 10 total locations across these cities: **Bangalore, Delhi, Gurgaon, Hyderabad and Mumbai**.

AMD has been an active part of the semiconductor ecosystem in India since 2001 when the company's first site was established in New Delhi. The new AMD campus will increase the AMD office footprint to 10 total locations across these cities: Bangalore, Delhi, Gurgaon, Hyderabad and Mumbai.

Key takeaways

- AMD plans to invest \$400 million over the next five years to expand operations in India.
- AMD to build new India campus in Bangalore, largest R&D facility in the world

ECONOMIC

India coal production rises 8.4%



The Ministry of Coal has achieved substantial surge in overall coal production with a growth of 8.40% in Q1 of FY 2023-24.

The cumulative coal production has witnessed a significant increase, reaching 222.93 million tonne (MT) as compared to 205.65 MT in Q1 of FY 2022-23.

Coal India Limited (CIL) has recorded an impressive growth of 9.85%, with production reaching 175.35MT in FY 2023-24 as compared to 159.63 MT during the same period the previous year.

Captive mines /others also attained a growth of 4.74 % touching 30.48 MT in FY 23-24 as compared to 29.10 MT in FY 22-23 during the same period. These accomplishments have contributed to the overall positive momentum in the sector.

Simultaneously, cumulative coal dispatch has shown an upward trend, reaching 239.69 MT (Provisional) in Q1 of FY 2023-24, as compared to 224.08 MT in Q1 of FY 2022-23 with a growth of 6.97%. Coal India Limited (CIL) registered 186.21 MT production in Q1 of FY 2023-24 as compared to 176.81 MT in Q1 of FY 2022-23 with a growth of 5.32%.

At the same time, SCCL, & captive/others have recorded 18.07 MT and 35.41 MT in Q1 of FY 2023-24 as compared to 17.30 MT and 29.97 MT in Q1 of FY 2022-23, with a growth of 4.45% and 18.16% respectively. These figures highlight the efficiency of the coal supply chain in ensuring smooth distribution across the country.

Furthermore, the upturn in offtake has resulted in a comfortable coal stock position. The total coal stock as on 30th June 2023 has recorded remarkable growth reaching at 107.15 MT (provisional) as compared to 77.86 MT as on 30th June 2022, reflecting a growth of 37.62%. This growth indicates the

continued efforts to meet rising demand of coal.

Key Takeaways

- Coal India Ltd production goes up by 9.85% to 175.35 MT
- Coal Dispatch increases by 6.97% in Q1
- Achieving 37.62% growth Coal Stock Position reaches 107.15 MT.

India's overall exports in June 2023 estimated at US\$ 60.09 Billion



India's **overall exports** (Merchandise and Services combined) in June 2023 is estimated to be USD 60.09 Billion, exhibiting a negative growth of (-) 13.16 per cent over June 2022. Overall imports in June 2023 is estimated to be USD 68.98 Billion, exhibiting a negative growth of (-) 13.91 per cent over June 2022.

Trade deficit improved by 28.26% during April to June 2023 to US\$ 22.59 Billion from US\$ 31.49 Billion in April to June 2022

Merchandise Trade Deficit also improves by 7.9% at USD 57.6 Billion April-June 2023 as compared to USD 62.6 Billion in April-June 2022

Electronic Goods export witnessed impressive growth of 45.4 % and 47.1% in June 2023 and April-June 2023 respectively over corresponding period last year

Iron Ore exports show significant increase of 1664.3% in June 2023 as compared to June 2022, and 35 % during April-June 2023 over April-June 2022

Agricultural exports register robust growth; Spices by 18.2% while exports of Fruits and Vegetables by 14.1% Oil Seeds by 25.1%, Oil Meals by 33.2% in April-June 2023 over April-June 2022

Drugs and pharma export registered 5.13% and 5.10% growth in both June 2023 and April to June 2023 respectively as compared to same period last year

Handicrafts excluding Hand Made Carpet export registered growth of 5.14% in June 2023 as compared to June 2022

Nine States Attain Enhanced Coal Production During 2022-23



India has witnessed the highest ever coal production in the Year 2022-23.

The all India coal production in the year 2022-23 was 893.19 Million Tonne (MT) (Provisional) in comparison to 778.21 MT in the year 2021-22 with a growth of about 14.77%.

Rise in the production of coal has been reported in the States of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh & West Bengal in the year 2022-23 in comparison to the previous year.

Fall in the production of coal has been reported in the State of Jammu & Kashmir in the year 2022-23 in comparison to the previous year.

Most of the requirement of coal in the country is met through indigenous production / supply. The focus of the Government is on increasing the domestic production of coal and to eliminate non-essential import of coal in the country.

Increase in domestic production of coal will eliminate non-essential import of coal and can reduce dependence on imported coal in the country.

The **Ministry of Coal** has achieved a remarkable feat with a substantial surge in overall coal production during the month of **May'23**, reaching 76.26 Million Tons (MT), surpassing the figures of the month **May'22 of 71.21 MT**, representing an increase of 7.10%.

NATIONAL

Subansiri Dam Project



90% of the total work of the Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project has already been completed. The **Subansiri Lower Dam** is an under construction **gravity dam** on the **Subansiri River** in **North Eastern India**. It is located **2.3 km** (1.4 mi) upstream of **Subansiri River** in **Arunachal Pradesh**.

With capacity **2000 MW** (8x250 MW) the dam is officially named **Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project (SLHEP)**.

SLHEP is being executed by Indian public sector hydropower company **NHPC Ltd.** Once completed, SLHEP will be the **largest hydroelectric project** in India. On completion, the Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project will generate approximately 7,500 million kilowatt-hours of power annually, in a 90%-dependable year.

NHPC Limited commenced construction work of Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project in January 2005 after obtaining forest clearance on October 12, 2004. However, due to agitations and protests by local stakeholders, the project construction work was stalled from December 2011 to October 2019. The project construction

resumed from October 15, 2019, after the clearance by National Green Tribunal.

What is a gravity dam ?

➤ A gravity dam is a dam constructed from concrete or stone masonry and designed to hold back water by using only the weight of the material and its resistance against the foundation to oppose the horizontal pressure of water pushing against it.

Key Takeaways

➤ Arunachal Pradesh is often called as the powerhouse of the country and is home to 34 per cent (50,328 megawatts) of India's 148,701 MW hydropower potential.

PM Kisan 14th installment: Government Releases PM Kisan 14th installment

The **14th installment of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi** was released. The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is a **Central Sector Scheme**. According to the official Twitter Handle of the PM KISAN scheme, the government will release the 14th installment and interact with farmers on July 27, 2023 in Sikar, Rajasthan.

Under the Scheme, an amount of Rs. **6000/-** is transferred annually in **three** equal installments of Rs.**2000/-** directly into the Aadhaar seeded bank accounts of the farmers.

The scheme aims at providing financial assistance to cultivable **landholding** farmer families across the country, subject to

certain exclusion criteria, to enable them to take care of expenses related to agriculture and allied activities as well as domestic needs.

Under the PM-KISAN Scheme, the responsibility to identify the beneficiaries and upload their correct and verified data on PM-KISAN portal lies with the respective State/UT Government.

Thereafter, these data go through various levels of verification and validation including Aadhaar/PFMS/Income Tax database. Subsequent to such verification and validation, the benefit of the Scheme is passed on to eligible beneficiaries directly into their Aadhaar seeded bank accounts through DBT.

Under the PM-KISAN Scheme, more than 2.42 lakh crores has been disbursed to more than 11 crore beneficiary farmer families through various installments.

About PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi is an initiative by the government of India that give farmers up to Rs. 6,000 per year as minimum income support. The initiative was announced in 2019.
- The scheme is applicable only for landholding farmers. The number of farmers whose land details are seeded on the PM-KISAN Portal is more than 9.53 crore.

Value of Defence Production Crosses Rs1 lakh Crore Mark



The **value of defence production** in the financial year (FY) **2022-23** has crossed the figure of one lakh crore rupees for the first time, Union Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt on Friday informed the Lok Sabha.

In the last few years, the government has taken several policy initiatives and brought in reforms to encourage indigenous design, development and manufacture of defence equipment by Indian Industry including MSMEs and start-ups, thereby promoting ease of doing business in defence manufacturing & technology in the country.

Government promotes participation of MSMEs/start-ups for development of defence technology under various schemes like Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), Technology Development Fund (TDF), Make procedure under Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020.

The DAP 2020 provides special provisions to encourage MSMEs and Start-ups. Moreover, Public Procurement Policy for MSEs Order, 2012 has been implemented at DPSUs under which the price preference is given to MSME bidders under certain conditions. Further, DPSUs and services have uploaded more than 30,000 defence items on 'Srijan portal

for indigenisation' and offered them to Industry including MSMEs to become partners in indigenisation process.

Further, Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) was launched in April, 2018 to foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace by engaging Industries including MSMEs/start-ups. iDEX provides grants/funding and other support to carry out R&D activities for futuristic technologies.

The industries including the MSMEs and start-ups have given an enthusiastic response to iDEX for defence innovation works including design, development and manufacturing of Defence equipment. iDEX has given boost to defence industrial manufacturing ecosystem by promoting formation of Start-ups by individual innovators, and supporting sustenance to existing Start-ups/MSMEs. This has also led to the generation of employment opportunities.

Moreover, to bring MSMEs into the defence supply chain and thereby boost the self-reliance in defence sector in the country and also to contribute towards defence exports, Ministry of Defence has made a scheme of promotion of MSMEs in defence. Under this scheme, workshops/seminars are organised in collaboration with Industry Associations and other stakeholders from different parts of the country.

Nyaya Bandhu program



Under Section 12 of the **Legal Services Authority Act 1987**, applicants who are marginalized or disadvantaged including **ST, SC, victims of trafficking or begging, women or children, PWDs**, and other eligible categories, are entitled to get free legal aid & advice through Department of Justice's **Nyaya Bandhu program**.

Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) was introduced in the year **2017** with the primary goal of establishing a framework for the provision of pro bono legal services across the country. Nyaya Bandhu's primary initiative is to establish a framework for dispensation of pro bono legal services across the country. Under Nyaya Bandhu, practising advocates, interested to volunteer their time and services, are connected, via mobile technology, with eligible marginalised beneficiaries.

Nyaya Bandhu Mobile application (Android/IOS) has been developed and also onboarded on the UMANG platform in collaboration with technical partner CSC e-Governance Pvt. Ltd.

Nyaya Bandhu (Android Application for legal support)

- Under **Nyaya Bandhu**, practising advocates interested to volunteer their time and services are linked with eligible marginalised beneficiaries via mobile technology.
- In collaboration with technical partner CSC e-Governance Pvt. Ltd., the Nyaya Bandhu Mobile application (Android/iOS) was developed.
- This application provides assistance to those groups who are covered under section 12 of the Legal Service Authority Act 1987 which includes members of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribes, victims of trafficking in human beings or beggars, women or children, PWDs, and other eligible categories.

Government introduces Ayush Visa



With a view to promoting India as a destination for traditional medical treatments, **Ministry of Home Affairs** has notified the creation of a new category of Ayush (AY) visa for foreign nationals for

treatment under Ayush systems/Indian systems of medicine.

The visa is aimed at facilitating travel for foreigners seeking treatment under Ayush systems/traditional systems of medicine, including therapeutic care, wellness, and yoga.

A new chapter i.e. chapter 11A – Ayush Visa has been incorporated after Chapter 11 - Medical visa of the Visa Manual, which deals with treatment under the Indian systems of medicine and accordingly necessary amendments has been made in various chapters of the Visa Manual, 2019.

According to Union Minister of Ayush and Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal, “The creation of new category of Ayush (AY) visa for foreign nationals seeking treatment under Ayush systems/Indian systems of medicine is a significant step.

It will boost Medical Value Travel in India.

It is pertinent to mention that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced a creation of a special Ayush Visa category for facilitating foreign nationals travel to India seeking Ayush therapy, at Global Ayush Investment and Innovation Summit (GAIIS) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat in April 2022.

Introduction of Ayush Visa category is part of India’s roadmap for the Heal in India initiative of the government, which is intended at promoting India as a medical value travel destination. Ministry of Ayush and the ministry of Health & Family Welfare are working together to develop a one stop Heal in India portal to promote India as a Medical tourism destination of the world.

Global Wellness economy

Medical Value Travel has seen significant growth in India in recent years. According to the report 'The Global Wellness Economy: Looking beyond COVID' by the Global Wellness Institute (GWI), the **Global Wellness economy** will grow at 9.9% annually.

Ayush based healthcare & Wellness economy

Ayush based healthcare & Wellness economy is estimated to grow to **\$70 billion by 2025**.

Ministry of Ayush has been working on many fronts to promote Ayush system of treatment national and globally. Recently, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC)**, Ministry of Tourism, GoI was signed to work together for the promotion of **Medical Value Travel in Ayurveda** and other traditional systems of medicine.

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)



To make Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), a clean cooking fuel, available to the rural and deprived poor households, Government launched Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana in May 2016, to provide deposit free LPG

connections to adult women of poor households.

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was launched on 01.05.2016 to release deposit free LPG connection in the name of adult woman member of poor households across the country.

The target to release **8 crore** connections was achieved in September, 2019.

To cover the remaining poor households, PMUY phase-2 (Ujjwala 2.0) was launched in August 2021 with a target to release 1 crore additional PMUY connections, which was achieved in January 2022.

Subsequently, the Government decided to release 60 lakh more LPG connections under Ujjwala 2.0 and as on 01.01.2023, the target of 1.60 crore Ujjwala 2.0 connections has already been achieved.

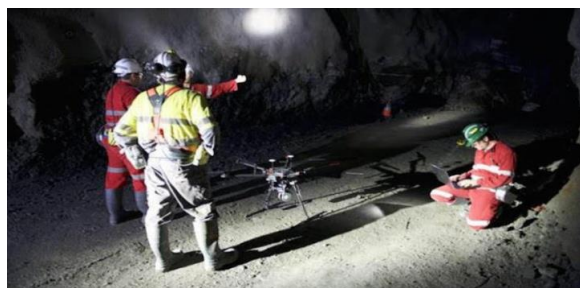
Under Ujjwala 2.0, a special provision has been made for migrant families who can use a self-declaration instead of Proof of Address and Ration Card to apply for a PMUY connection.

A total of 5.43 lakh LPG connections have been released to migrant households under Ujjwala2.0.

As on 01.07.2023, there are about 9.59 crore PMUY beneficiaries, out of which 8.41 crore have taken at least one refill during 2022-23.

LPG consumption of PMUY beneficiaries is monitored on regular basis. Consumption of domestic LPG by households depends on several factors like food habits, household size, cooking habits, price, availability of alternate fuels etc.

Overall Mineral Production Increases by 6.4% in May, 2023



The Ministry of Mines says India's overall mineral production increased by 6.4 per cent in May 2023 over the last year and cumulative growth touched 5.8 per cent from April to May 2022-23.

The index of mineral production of the mining and quarrying sector for the month of May stood at 128.1.

The production level of important minerals in May 2023 was coal 762 lakh, lignite 35 lakh, petroleum (crude) 25 lakh, iron ore 253 lakh, limestone 387 lakh tonnes each, natural gas (utilised) 2838 million cu. m and gold 97 kg.

The ministry added that important minerals showing positive growth during May 2023 over May 2022 included manganese ore (40.4 per cent), magnesite (28.2 per cent), copper conc. (24.4 per cent), chromite (16.3 per cent), iron ore (13.6 per cent), limestone (10.1 per cent), lead conc. (9.7 per cent), coal (7 per cent), bauxite (4.8 per cent) and zinc conc. (2.9 per cent).

DGCA signs MoU with EU Aviation Safety Agency



The **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) India** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)** for cooperation in **Unmanned Aircraft Systems** and **Innovative Air Mobility**.

This MoU will focus on **collaboration on unmanned aircraft** and **innovative air mobility** between the two civil aviation authorities.

This collaboration would include cooperation between **DGCA** and **EASA** in the areas of development of certification standards and environmental standards and related requirements for the certification and use of unmanned aircraft systems and innovative air mobility operations which includes licensing of personnel, training, air traffic management and infrastructure, including Unmanned Aircraft System Traffic Management (UTM) standards and services.

The **MoU** will also ensure regular information sharing between the two authorities on the technological developments and research in this area and also their respective strategies for outreach to relevant stakeholders. Further, the MoU will result in collaboration in conducting

conferences, workshops, training programmers by DGCA and EASA in this area.

The signing of this MoU is expected to result in harmonized standards and accelerated growth of Indian unmanned aviation sector.

During **EU-India Aviation Summit** held in New Delhi on 20th April 2023, DGCA had signed a letter of intent (LoI) on Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Innovative Air Mobility with the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

Key Takeaways

- MoU will focus on collaboration on unmanned aircraft & innovative air mobility between India & European Union
- MoU is expected to result in harmonized standards & accelerated growth of Indian unmanned aviation sector

First IIT Global Campus To Come Up In Tanzania



The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has announced that India has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with Tanzania to establish the first IIT branch abroad, in **Zanzibar-Tanzania**.

The Tanzania campus is expected to open in **October 2023**, with 50 undergraduate and 20 master's students in its first batch.

The agreement was signed between India's **Ministry of Education, IIT Madras** and Tanzania's **Ministry of Education and Vocational Training-Zanzibar**.

This agreement was inked in the presence of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Zanzibar's President Hussein Ali Mwinyi during his four-day visit to Tanzania in July.

The campus, named IIT Madras at Zanzibar, is the first ever IIT campus to be set up outside India.

IIT Madras is expected to launch four undergraduate and five postgraduate programmes from the Zanzibar campus.

While IIT Madras will design academic programmes, curricula and student selection criteria, the capital and operating expenditure will be met by the government of Zanzibar-Tanzania for the new campus. Students graduating from this camps will be awarded IIT Madras degrees.

Apart from Tanzania, two more global campuses of IIT Delhi and IIT Kharagpur are set to come up in **Abu Dhabi** and **Kuala Lumpur**.

The setting up of campus of IIT Madras in Zanzibar is also in line with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**

National Education Policy recommends that "high performing Indian universities will be encouraged to set up campuses in other countries".

Zanzibar is an archipelago off the coast of east Africa that united with Tanganyika in 1964 to form the United Republic of Tanzania. It is a semi-autonomous region of Tanzania.

Key Takeaways

- IIT Tanzania will be a branch of IIT Madras.
- It is reflective of the longstanding friendship between India and Tanzania and a reminder of the focus India places on building people to people ties across Africa and the Global South.

ART AND CULTURE

National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal in Gujarat



The **Navy and Indian Coast Guard** has signed an **MoU** with **Indian Port Rail & Ropeway Corporation Ltd (IPRCL)** to set up a picture gallery at National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) being constructed at the historic Indus Valley civilization site in Gujarat's Lothal.

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is developing the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) that will showcase India's rich and diverse maritime heritage.

Lothal is an important Indus Valley site in Gujarat. Archaeological excavations have discovered the oldest man-made dockyard, over 5000 years old, in Lothal.

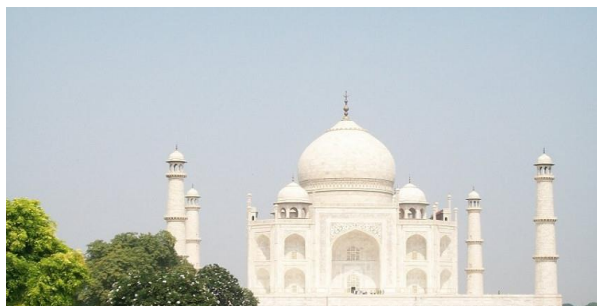
The foundation stone for the NMHC project was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March 2019. The project is part of the Sagarmala Programme of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

Comprising of a maritime museum, lighthouse museum, maritime theme parks, amusement park centres, etc., NMHC will showcase the maritime heritage of the country from ancient to modern times by adopting an edutainment approach using the latest technology to spread awareness about India's maritime heritage.

Key Takeaways

- **Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** is building a '**National Maritime Heritage Complex**' (NMHC) at the **Indus Valley civilization** region of **Lothal** in **Gujarat**.
- The Government of India is building the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at the historic Indus Valley civilization region of **Lothal** (Gujarat) under the aegis of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- The marinetime complex will have a special gallery depicting heritage and history of Navy and Coast Guard. The Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy will contribute in this project.

India Has 40 Sites In The UNESCO World Heritage List



India has **40 sites in the UNESCO World Heritage List**, according to a reply given by Minister of Culture, Tourism and Development of North-Eastern Region G Kishan Reddy in Lok Sabha.

“Currently, India has 40 Sites in the UNESCO World Heritage List and 52 sites (including 6 added in year 2022) in the UNESCO Tentative List,” Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) G Kishan Reddy said in a reply in the Lok Sabha.

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) follows its own guidelines for the conservation of Centrally protected monuments as per the National Conservation Policy, 2014.

There are **3,696** Centrally protected monuments/sites under the jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Conservation of monuments/sites is taken up as per the requirement and availability of resources, the Minister said.

Inclusion of any property in **Tentative List** is a prerequisite condition for onward inclusion in the World Heritage List. Augmentation of Tentative List is a continuous process.

As per UNESCO Operational Guidelines, 2021, only one property, either cultural or natural, can be nominated for the inscription process annually. Additionally, inclusion of any site requires fulfilment of Criteria, meeting the condition of authenticity and integrity and providing justification of Outstanding Universal Value, the Minister said.

- **Dholavira** is the first Indus Valley Civilisation site in India to be bestowed the coveted title by **UNESCO**.
- **Dholavira** is the latest addition to the list of 40 UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India.

3rd G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) Meeting held in Hampi



The Third G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) met in Hampi, Karnataka from **9th -12th July**.

Ministry of Culture had organised the First G20 Culture Group (CWG) meet in **Khajuraho**, Madhya Pradesh from **22nd to 25th February 2023**. The **2nd G20 Culture Working Group (CWG)** meeting was held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, in **May**.

The Third G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) Meeting was attended by delegates from G20 members, guest nations, and several international organizations.

Four priority areas

The 4 priority areas outlined by the Culture Working Group (CWG):

- Protection and Restitution of Cultural Property
- Harnessing Living Heritage for a Sustainable Future
- Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries and Creative Economy
- Leveraging Digital Technologies for the Protection and Promotion of Culture.

During the Third G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) Meeting delegates are being taken on excursion to heritage sites like the Vijaya Vittala Temple, the Royal Enclosure, and the Yeduru Basavanna complex of the Hampi Group of Monuments, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Culture Working Group under India' G20 Presidency sets a Guinness World Record for the 'Largest Display of Lambani Items

As part of the 3rd Culture Working Group Meeting of G20 in Hampi, under its 'Culture Unites All' campaign, the Culture Working Group, Ministry of Culture has set a Guinness World Record for the 'Largest Display of Lambani Items'.

Over 450 Lambani women artisans and cultural practitioners associated with Sandur Kushala Kala Kendra Kendra (SKKK) came together to create these items using GI-tagged Sandur Lambani embroidery having 1755 patchworks. Over the years, SKKK has gained national and international recognition for the Lambani craft, earning

the prestigious UNESCO Seal of Excellence for Handicrafts in South Asia in 2004 and 2012. SKKK obtained the GI (Geographical Indication) tag for the craft 'Sandur Lambani hand embroidery' in the year 2008.

Lambani embroidery

Lambani embroidery is a vibrant and intricate form of textile embellishment characterized by colourful threads, mirror work, and a rich array of stitch patterns. It is practised in several villages of Karnataka such as Sandur, Keri Tanda, Mariyammahalli, Kadirampur, Sitaram Tanda, Bijapur, and Kamalapur. This rich embroidery tradition, predominantly upheld by the skilled women of the Lambani community, serves as a vital source of livelihood and sustenance, intertwining living practices with economic empowerment.

Key Takeaways

- India assumed the G20 presidency on 1 December 2022

INDIAN POLITY

Political Parties now able to file financial accounts online



The Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched a web

portal (<https://iems.eci.gov.in/>) for political parties to file financial statements online. Every political party needs to submit their financial statements as per the Representation of People Act, 1951.

Every political party is bound to disclose its financial accounts, transactions, and donations under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

The political parties not wishing to file the financial report through online mode will have to convey the reasons for not filing online to the Commission in writing and may continue to file its reports in hard copy along with CDs/Pen drive in the prescribed formats.

The Election Commission of India (ECI), in turn, publish all such reports online, along with a letter of justification sent by the party for not filing financial statements online.

The measure has been enabled with the launch of a new web-portal (<https://iems.eci.gov.in/>) to facilitate the online filing of Contribution Report, Audited Annual Account and Election Expenditure Statement by the Political Parties.

The online availability of the data is expected to enhance the level of compliance and transparency.

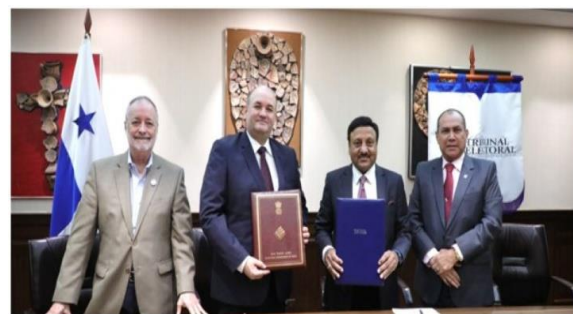
These financial statements are required to be submitted by political parties to the Election Commission/Chief Electoral Officers of States/Union Territories.

The on-line portal has a facility for sending reminders in the form of messages on the registered mobile number and registered emails of the authorised representatives of

the political party so that the dates of compliances are not missed.

A comprehensive guiding manual with graphical representations, and FAQs have also been sent to the political parties explaining the online module and the process of filing reports online. To give further guidance on the on-line filing, the ECI would also organise a hands-on training programme for the designated person(s) from various political parties.

India & Panama sign MoU on Electoral Cooperation



The Election Commission of India (ECI) and Electoral Tribunal (ET) of Panama have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding in Panama City** to establish the institutional framework for their ongoing cooperation in the field of election management and administration.

A three member ECI delegation led by Chief Election Commissioner of India **Rajiv Kumar** held interactions with Presiding Magistrate, Electoral Tribunal of Panama Alfredo Juncá Wendehake on strengthening collaboration and knowledge exchange between the two **Election Management Bodies (EMBs)**.

The MoU reflects the ECI's ongoing commitment to engage with electoral bodies across the globe and strengthen the democratic processes worldwide.

ECI has been expanding its links and cooperation with foreign Election Management Bodies (EMBs) through its 'International Cooperation Programme'.

Having signed MoUs with **Mexico, Brazil and Chile** in the past years, this is the **fourth** MoU signed by ECI with an EMB in the **Latin Americas** region

ECI has signed an overall 31 MoUs with EMBs and international organisations across the world.

Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB)

The Election Commission of India and the Electoral Tribunal of Panama are members of the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB). The Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) is the largest association of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) worldwide with 119 EMBs as Members & 20 Regional Associations/Organisations as Associate Members.

Key Takeaways

- ECI expands electoral collaboration
- After MoU with Brazil-Chile-Mexico, Panama is the fourth Latin American Nation to sign MoU with ECI.

Svamitva Yojana



Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) is implementing **Central Sector Scheme SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas)** with the aim to provide the '**Record of Rights**' to village household owners possessing houses in inhabited areas in villages. Legal ownership rights (Property cards/Title deeds) are issued by mapping of land parcels using drone technology. About **6.62** lakh villages across the country will be surveyed in this scheme from **2021 to 2025**, using varied technology including drones to collect property data.

The initial phase of the scheme was implemented during 2020-21 in select villages of **Maharashtra, Karnataka, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan.**

Under this scheme mapping of land parcels using drone technology is done by the Survey of India (**SoI**).

States need to sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SoI for implementation of the scheme. So far 31 States/Union Territories (UTs) have signed MoU with SoI.

Benefits of SVAMITVA Scheme:

- The scheme is intended to reduce property disputes by providing accurate land records while boosting financial liquidity.
- The scheme aims to streamline planning and revenue collection, as well as ensuring residents are informed of property rights in rural areas.

Key takeaways

SVAMITVA is a Central Sector Scheme

- SVAMITVA scheme is a collaborative effort of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, State Panchayati Raj Departments, State Revenue Departments and Survey of India(Sol).

SPORTS

India Win SAFF Championship 2023



Hosts India has won the SAFF Championship 2023 title after beating Kuwait 5-4 in a thrilling penalty shootout at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru on 4th July. Sunil Chhetri was the Indian football team

captain. The Indian men's football team won their **ninth** SAFF Championship 2023 in 14 editions. This was India's second silverware on the trot after clinching the Intercontinental Cup last month. India is **100th** in the latest FIFA rankings.

The Indian football team beat Kuwait 5-4 in a penalty shootout after the regulation time ended 1-1 and neither team could score in the extra time.

Kuwait's captain **Hajjeia** missed the decisive spotkick in sudden death which was applied when the scoreline remained 4-4 after five rounds of penalty kicks.

En route to the final, the Indian football team beat Lebanon in the semi-finals after finishing the group stage with wins over Pakistan and Nepal while drawing against Kuwait. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated the Indian Football Team on winning SAFF Championship 2023.

The Prime Minister tweeted:

"India crowned champions, yet again! The Blue Tigers reign supreme at the SAFF Championship 2023! Congrats to our players. The Indian Team's remarkable journey, powered by the determination and tenacity of these athletes, will continue to inspire upcoming sportspersons."

Key Takeaways

- India has clinched the SAFF Championships title for the ninth time after beating Kuwait 5-4 in a penalty shootout.

India is 100th in the latest FIFA rankings.

Lakshya Sen beats All England Open champ Li Shi Feng to win Canada Open



21-year-old **Lakshya Sen**, 19th in the badminton rankings, beat **Li Shi Feng**, the reigning **All England** champion, to clinch Canada Open.

This was also Lakshya Sen's second **BWF Super 500** title after the India Open in January last year.

PV Sindhu was eliminated after losing to eventual champion **Akane**

Yamaguchi of **Japan** in the women's singles semi-finals on Saturday.

Indians have now won **five BWF World Tour** titles this year. **Priyanshu Rajawat** claimed the Orleans Masters in April, **HS Prannoy** bagged the Malaysia Masters in May and **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy** and **Chirag Shetty** won the Swiss Open in March and the Indonesia Open in June.

Canada Open

Canada Open in badminton is an international open held in Canada since 1957. From 2023 onwards, Canada Open will be a Super 500 tournament.

Key Takeaways

- Lakshya Sen won the men's singles title at the Canada Open 2023

- Lakshya defeated All England champion Li Shi Feng in the final
- Lakshya's victory in Canada Open marks his second BWF World Tour title
- The Lakshya Sen became the Commonwealth Games champion in August 2022.
- Lakshya Sen was bestowed with Arjuna Award for badminton in November 2022.

Trophy for Hero Asian Champions Trophy 2023 Unveiled



Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports and Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur unveiled the coveted trophy for **Hero Asian Champions Trophy, Chennai 2023** at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi today. Union Minister also launched 'Pass the Ball Trophy Tour' campaign on the occasion.

Hero Asian Champions Trophy, Chennai 2023 will begin from August 3rd, 2023 where **India, Korea, Malaysia, Japan, Pakistan**, and **China** will vie for the Title.

On the occasion Anurag Singh Thakur said the trophy tour is important because it

creates excitement, it creates awareness, it invites young players to see the trophy and one day dream to be a part of team India. He also said that India will create history by winning the Asian Champions trophy for the fourth time.

The trophy will travel across multiple cities in India including Delhi, Chandigarh, Guwahati, Patna, Bhubaneswar, Ranchi, Bangalore, Trivandrum and host city Chennai, before visiting districts throughout the state of Tamil Nadu. The 'Pass the Ball Trophy Tour' campaign aims to create an electrifying atmosphere to build anticipation among hockey fans and drive support for the Indian Men's Hockey Team.

The Asian Champions Trophy is produced by acclaimed trophy designer Sanjay Sharma. The tournament will be held from 3rd August to 12 August 2023 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu with India, Korea, Malaysia, Japan, Pakistan, and China competing for the title.

Alcaraz beats Djokovic in thriller for his first Wimbledon Title



World No.1 **Carlos Alcaraz** overcame reigning champion **Novak Djokovic** in a thrilling five-set men's final on Sunday to win his **first Wimbledon title**.

The 20-year-old **Spaniard** becomes the third-youngest Wimbledon champion in the

Open Era and adds a second major title to his record after winning the US Open last year.

Key Takeaways

- Carlos Alcaraz defeated Novak Djokovic in a five-set thriller to win his maiden Wimbledon title. The Spaniard bagged the game 1-6, 7-6 (8/6), 6-1, 3-6, 6-4.
- Carlos Alcaraz beats Novak Djokovic 1-6 7-6 (8-6) 6-1 3-6 6-4 to win men's singles
- First Wimbledon title for Alcaraz - and his second Grand Slam
- Djokovic beaten on Centre Court for first time since 2013
- Alcaraz will retain world number one ranking

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Destruction OF 1,44,000 Kgs Of Seized Drugs



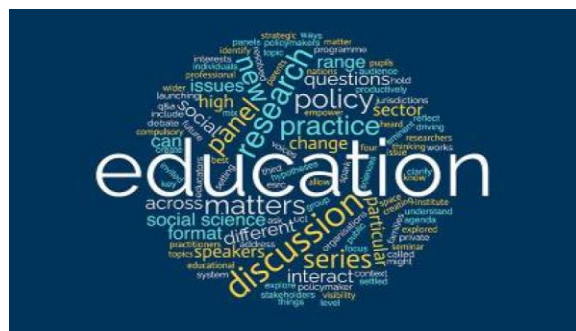
A National Conference on Drug Trafficking and National Security was held in New

1,44,000 kgs of narcotics of worth Rs. 2,378 Crore were destroyed in different parts of the country by Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in coordination with Anti Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) of all states, which is a record for single day.

According to Union Home Minister Amit Shah the target is to create an India where not even a single youth is addicted to drugs.

Drug trafficking and their usage not only ruins the future generations, but also affects national security.

Visitors Conference 2023 Concludes



More than 150 heads of higher educational institutions (HEIs) such as IITs, NITs, IISERs, NIPERs, and Central Universities were

Five different groups also deliberated on such broad themes as international cooperation in education as part of G20 efforts, diversity and inclusivity in nation's premier HEIs, and plans of action for Amrit Kaal.

Stressing the effective implementation of UPI and Digital India schemes, the president pointed out that today 46 per cent of all digital transactions in the world are made in India.

The President also stressed the need for sensitivity and awareness for students' mental and physical health.

More than 150 Heads of Educational Institutions such as IITs, NITs, IISERs, NIPER, Central Universities among others attended the Visitor's Conference

Initiatives under NEP, like NCrf and NRF will become a benchmark for the world, especially the Global South.

India To Host Asean Countries Conference On Traditional Medicines



India-ASEAN conference was held at New Delhi after almost a decade, ten **ASEAN** countries including Cambodia, Vietnam will participate

The Ministry of Ayush with support from the Ministry of External Affairs, Indian Mission to ASEAN and the ASEAN Secretariat hosted the Conference on Traditional Medicines for ASEAN Countries on 20th July 2023.

The Conference on Traditional Medicines aims to strengthen the platform between India and ASEAN Countries to share their best practices and draw a roadmap for future cooperation in the field of Traditional Medicines.

Addressing the Media at the Curtain Raiser event today, Union Minister for Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal said, “The multi-dimensional relationship between India and ASEAN stands on a strong foundation of shared geographical, historical, and civilizational links which is far older that goes back to more than two millennia.”

He continued, “Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi at the 12th ASEAN India Summit at Myanmar in November 2014 enunciated ‘Act East Policy’, giving a new

momentum to the strategic partnership. The India ASEAN conference on Traditional Medicine being held after almost a decade is a major step towards deepening cooperation of India with ASEAN.”

Today the Ministry is engaged with many top class International organizations from UK, USA, Japan, Brazil, Germany as well as National organizations like CSIR, DST, DBT, IITs etc. to undertake high quality research on Ayush systems in various Non Communicable disease conditions like Diabetes Mellitus, Cancer, Mental Health as well as infectious diseases like Covid.

The ASEAN conference provided a platform to share the research outcomes of various projects implemented by the Ministry of Ayush. Similarly, ASEAN countries will also share their experiences.”

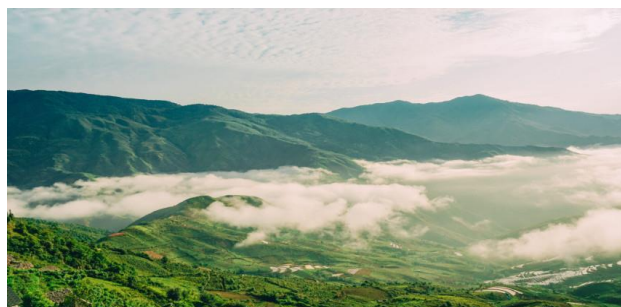
Further highlighting the goals of the conference, the Union Minister added, “The Conference will also provide a platform to share the recent developments in regulatory framework in ASEAN member states for promoting Traditional Medicine.”

The Ministry of Ayush has already established robust International Co-operation in Ayush to boost export of Ayush Products and services and has also successfully signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) on ‘Cooperation in the field of Traditional Medicines’, ‘Setting up of Ayush Chairs in Foreign Universities/Institutes and for undertaking ‘Collaborative Research’ at various levels. This has resulted in Ayush gaining a strong recognition in not only ASEAN but other countries also.

A total of 75 participants - International delegates from 8 ASEAN countries and 2

International delegates through virtual mode brainstormed and shared their ideas on Traditional Medicines during this one day conference which was held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

JICA, MoRTH Develop Guidelines to Enhance Mountainous Road Infrastructure in India



The **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH)**, with the technical assistance of **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**, has developed five guidelines aimed at enhancing mountainous road infrastructure in India. These guidelines are designed to ensure high-quality and sustainable road projects in hilly regions which will improve road networks and promote economic growth.

These guidelines were published by **Indian Road Congress (IRC)** and released on 7th July 2023 by the Union Minister for Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Nitin Gadkari during the inaugural function of 225th Mid Term Council Meeting at Raipur, Chhattisgarh in the presence of Minister of PWD, Chhattisgarh, MoRTH's Director General (Road Development) & Special Secretary and other dignitaries.

The guidelines provide technical specifications and best practices for road construction in mountainous regions,

covering the following topics:

- **Planning of Hilly Roads**
- **Slope Protection and Embankment with Advanced Technology**
- **Tunnel on Arterial Roads in Hilly Area**
- **Mountain Bridge with Advance Technology**
- **Operation and Maintenance of Mountainous Highways**

Recognizing the critical role that well-maintained roads play in facilitating trade, connectivity and social development, MoRTH and JICA had agreed to implement "Capacity Development Project on Highways in Mountainous Regions" from 2016 to 2021.

Curtain Raiser of Global Maritime India Summit 2023



The **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** has come with the **third edition** of its most prestigious 'Global India Maritime Summit' this year.

Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) in the presence of Shripad Y. Naik, Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Shantanu Thakur, Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways officially launched the Curtain Raiser of Global Maritime India Summit 2023 event on **July 18, 2023** at St. Regis, Mumbai, Maharashtra.

The objective of the event

- To create an international forum for key decision makers and industry leaders
- To provide opportunity platform for start-ups, researchers and incubators
- To showcase the latest technology and emerging trends in the maritime sector
- To recognize and celebrate achievers in the maritime sector
- To create a platform to access skilled manpower through industry academia interaction.

This most awaited event brought together government officials, influential stakeholders, renowned experts, and visionaries from the maritime domain. This exclusive pre-event provided a glimpse into the grandeur and significance of the main summit, highlighting India's strength in the maritime sector and setting the stage for fruitful collaborations and new investments opportunities.

As a significant highlight of the Curtain Raiser Event, the official brochure for the Maritime India Summit was unveiled.

The brochure served as an essential guide for summit attendees, providing a comprehensive overview of the summit's agenda, speakers, exhibitors, and key initiatives.

The Curtain Raiser Event also marked the official launch of the Global Maritime India Summit's dedicated website. The website will serve as a central hub for participants and stakeholders, offering easy access to vital resources and updates.

Organized by the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways**, the Curtain Raiser Event serves as a precursor to the main summit and provided an exclusive opportunity to gain valuable industry insights, and witness significant launches.

The Global Summit event is scheduled on **17-19th October 2023** in which more than 30 countries are expected to participate. The event will focus upon new investments opportunities along with collaborations for knowledge and technology, enhancing trade between nations and to promote Ease-of-Doing-Business

Third Edition of Global Maritime India Summit 2023

- Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is organising the **Third Edition of Global Maritime India Summit 2023 from 17th to 19th October 2023 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.**
- The summit will bring together Maritime stakeholders to collaborate on various investment opportunities and exchange ideas to bring the sector forward .
- The summit will focus on various aspects of the Maritime Sector, promote best practices & facilitate interaction & collaboration

among global maritime industries, policy makers, investors & other stakeholders.

Nelson Mandela Day



Nelson Mandela International Day or **Mandela Day** is an annual international day in honour of global icon **Nelson Mandela**

Mandela Day is celebrated each year on 18 July, Mandela's birthday. Nelson Mandela was the former President of South Africa and anti-apartheid activist.

The Nelson Mandela International Day is celebrated every year on **18th July**. It is a way to recognize the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela and to honour his contributions to the culture of peace and freedom.

National Museum, South African High Commission and Vivekananda International Foundation organise exhibition **"India's Historical Journey with Africa: Marching Ahead Together"**

This year, the **Vivekananda International Foundation**, in partnership with **National Museum** and **South African High Commission** commemorated the birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela with a special exhibition.

The main objectives of the present exhibition is to commemorate Mandela Day

in honour of Mandela's values and for his commitment to the service of humanity and to create awareness of the India-Africa connection, from past to present.

The exhibition also enables the exploration of different facets of India-Africa diplomacy and people-to-people connection and promote and strengthen this historical bonding and generate interest among the common public to learn more about India and Africa. The exhibition would remain on view until **30th July 2023 from 10 am – 6.00 pm**. National Museum remains closed on Mondays and National Holidays.

Nelson Mandela International Day 2023 Theme:

The theme of International Nelson Mandela Day for the year 2023 is: **"The Legacy Lives on Through You: Climate, Food and Solidarity"**. This theme is a call to action to take steps to address climate change and food insecurity and to show solidarity with those who are most affected by these issues. The theme for Nelson Mandela Day for 2023 is: **'It's in your hands'**, and is aiming to raise awareness of how food is impacted by climate change and calling on people taking part to plant trees and food in their communities.

Nelson Mandela

- Nelson Mandela has gone down in history as one of the most famous world leaders ever.
- White people, who were a small proportion of the population in South Africa, were in charge of everything in South Africa. White and black people in South Africa were not allowed to do things together and

had to live separate lives under a system called **apartheid**.

- Nelson Mandela wanted South African apartheid to end and protested against it.
- Apartheid in South Africa ended a year later in 1991,
- In 1993, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize .
- Nelson Mandela became the first black president of South Africa in the country's first democratic elections in 1994,
- Mandela is remembered by many for promoting a message of forgiveness and equality.

Key Takeaways

- **Tuesday 18** July is Nelson Mandela Day
- The day recognizes the South African leader's historic achievements on the anniversary of the global icon's birth.
- Created in **2009** by the United Nations, the day is a celebration of the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela.
- In 2014, the UN General Assembly established the **Nelson Mandela Prize**, a quinquennial award recognising the achievements of those who dedicated their lives to the service of humanity

Regional Office of Universal Postal Union (UPU) Inaugurated in New Delhi



Minister of State for Communication Devusinh Chauhan and Director General, **Universal Postal Union (UPU)** Masahiko Metoki inaugurated the Regional Office of UPU in New Delhi.

The Regional Office will undertake UPU's technical assistance activities in South Asia region by entering into a host country agreement by Department of Posts, India.

The Regional Office of UPU in India will serve as a vital platform for exchanging ideas, experiences and expertise, thereby accelerating the modernisation and transformation of the postal sector. It will act as a hub for promoting collaboration among UPU member countries in the Asia Pacific region, encouraging innovation and facilitating knowledge sharing to enhance postal services.

India also announced contribution of USD 2,00,000 over a period of four years towards the UPU's Development and Technical Assistance activities through Asia Pacific

Postal Union. This financial contribution aims to support capacity building, infrastructure development, and other essential activities to strengthen the postal sector in the region.

Establishment of the UPU Regional Office in India is a significant step towards India's commitment for South-South cooperation and its active role in global postal development.

It will also create opportunities for joint initiatives and capacity building programmes that will enhance the quality of postal services, cross-border e-commerce and contribute to economic development and social well-being.

About UPU

- UPU is a **UN agency** in charge of the world's postal policies,
- The Universal Postal Union is the postal sector's primary forum for international cooperation.
- **Established in 1874**, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) is the second oldest international organization worldwide.
- The headquarters of Universal Postal Union is in the Swiss capital **Berne**.
- In **1948** the UPU became a specialized agency of the United Nations.

4th ETWG Meeting Under India's G20 Presidency



The **4th Energy Transitions Working Group (ETWG) Meeting** under India's **G20 Presidency** was held in **Goa** from July 19, 2023.

The 4th Energy Transitions Working Group Meeting (ETWG) under India's G20 Presidency is being held in Goa from July 19th to 22nd, 2023. 100 delegates from G20 member countries, special invitee countries, and several International Organisations are participating in the two-day meeting.

The discussions in the 4th ETWG meeting in Goa will continue to build on the first three meetings in **Bengaluru, Gandhinagar, and Mumbai** respectively, to identify and promote best practices, policies, and innovative approaches that support a just and inclusive energy transition.

On the sidelines of the main event, the **14th Clean Energy Ministerial** and **8th Mission Innovation Meeting (CEM14/MI-8)** too commenced on Day 1 with great enthusiasm and active participation from more than 34 member countries.

The theme of CEM14/MI-8 is '**Advancing Clean Energy Together.**'

The 3rd the Energy Transitions Working Group Meeting (ETWG) was held in Mumbai from 15th to 17th May, 2023. The three-day meeting saw over 100 delegates representing G20 member countries, special invitee countries and International Organisations such as International Energy Agency (IEA), Word Bank and World Energy Council India engaging in discussions and deliberation on Priority Areas.

The first meeting of ETWG was held in Bengaluru in Karnataka, in February, 2023 and the second ETWG deliberation was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 2nd to 4th April, 2023. The discussions and deliberations in Mumbai continued to build on the first two ETWG meetings to identify and promote best practices, policies, and innovative approaches that can support a just and inclusive energy transition.

The six priority areas, outlined under India's Presidency, include

- (i) Energy transition through addressing technology gaps
- (ii) Low-cost financing for energy transition
- (iii) Energy security and diversified supply chains
- (iv) Energy efficiency, industrial low carbon transitions and responsible consumption,
- (v) Fuels for Future (3F)
- (vi) Universal access to clean energy and just, affordable, and inclusive energy transition pathway.

Scheme of Polytechnics (Current Affairs)



Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is implementing the **Scheme of Polytechnics** through **Directorate General of Training (DGT)**.

Under this scheme, **Community Development Through Polytechnics (CDTP)** is one of the components wherein non-formal, short-term, employment-oriented skill development programmes are provided through Polytechnics to various sections of the community, particularly the rural, unorganized & disadvantaged sections of the society, to enable them to obtain gainful self / wage employment.

The government has revised the guidelines of **CDTP in 2022-23** to include the provision of its implementation through **National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs)** and **Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)** and to extend the coverage to **Aspirational and Border Area Districts**.

The government has also increased the recurring grant up to **Rs. 19.72 lakhs** from the existing **Rs. 17.00 lakhs** per polytechnic per annum under this component. The revised guidelines is available at website dgt.gov.in.

The **CDTP component** is implemented by the **State government** and **Union Territory Administrations** through selected Polytechnics in accordance with guidelines issued by the Central government.

Under the guidelines, the identified institution should target the poor and deprived sections of society in both urban and rural areas specifically women, SCs/STs, OBCs, minorities, school dropouts, street children, physically handicapped, economically weaker sections of the society and other under-privileged persons.

No fee is charged from the trainees under this component and there is no restriction on the age, sex and qualification of the trainees.

Indian Coast Guard rescues NIO research vessel with 36 onboard off Karwar coast



The **Indian Coast Guard** has successfully rescued **36** crew members, including **eight** scientists, on board a research ship - **RV Sindhu Sadhana** of the **National Institute of Oceanography (NIO)** - in the Arabian Sea off Karwar Coast in Karnataka on July 27, 2023.

The research vessel had suffered engine failure and was drifting at a speed of 03 knots. It was approximately **20** nautical miles away from the land when the distress signal was received.

The situation was critical as the state-of-the-art research vessel of NIO was carrying valuable scientific equipment and research data.

Moreover, the proximity of the ship to the ecologically sensitive Karwar coastline posed an imminent threat of grounding, which could have resulted in a major oil spill and devastating pollution to the pristine marine environment.

Upon receiving the distress call, the Indian Coast Guard immediately swung into action and activated a high-priority rescue operation, dispatching their highly advanced Ship with a skilled team to the area. Recognizing the potential magnitude of the disaster, the Indian Coast Guard got activated to safeguard the Ship so as to protect the fragile ecosystem and save the vessel from running aground.

Despite challenging weather conditions and the vessel's considerable distance from the coastline and size of the ship, the Indian Coast Guard team took the vessel under tow to safely bring it to Goa, thereby executing a seamless rescue operation. The crew members onboard the NIO ship are safe and sound.

Participation Of Females In The MSMEs



To encourage entrepreneurship among women, the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** implements various schemes.

The Ministry implements **Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)** is a major credit-linked subsidy programme aimed at generating self-employment opportunities through establishment of micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector by helping traditional artisans and rural/urban unemployed youth.

For women entrepreneurs, higher subsidy is given. Under the Mahila Coir Yojana, the Ministry provides stipendiary training for women artisans in the coir industry and encourage them to set up their own micro enterprises by availing the benefits of PMEGP.

The Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro, and Small Enterprises (**CGTMSE**) provides guarantee cover to collateral and/or third party guarantee free credit facilities extended by eligible Member Lending Institutions to Micro and Small Enterprises. CGTMSE has increased the

extent of guarantee coverage of credit to 85% for women entrepreneurs.

As an additional concession to Women Entrepreneurs, CGTMSE has reduced the Annual Guarantee Fee by 10%. Through an amendment to the Public Procurement Policy, the Government has mandated that all Central Ministries/ Departments and Central Public Sector Undertakings should procure at least 3% of their annual procurement from women owned micro and small enterprises.

The Ministry also implements several other schemes for promotion and development of MSMEs, including women owned MSMEs, namely, Micro and Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP), Tool Rooms & Technology Centres, Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI), Procurement and Marketing Support (PMS) Scheme, Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP).

The **Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)** initiated by **NITI Aayog** facilitates last mile dissemination of all information required by an existing or prospective entrepreneur, including Government and Non- Government initiatives. WEP aims to address the information asymmetry and helps nurture women entrepreneurship.

For all entrepreneurs including women, **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** nurtures innovation among the youth of the country through **Atal Tinkering Labs, Atal Incubation Centers** and **Atal Community Innovation Centers**. AIM is a flagship initiative of the Government of India.

The Government also launched Startup India initiative in 2016 with an aim to build a stronger ecosystem for nurturing India's startup culture that would further drive our economic growth, support entrepreneurship, and enable large-scale employment opportunities. It, inter alia, assists in strengthening women entrepreneurship, through policies and initiatives, and creation of enabling networks.

The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Livelihoods Mission and Start up Village Entrepreneurship Programme of the Ministry of Rural Development aim to help women Self Help Group members in setting up micro units.

The percentage of women-owned MSMEs registered on the Udyam Aadhaar portal and Udyam Registration portal during the period 18.09.2015 to 30.06.2020 and 01.07.2020 till 27.07.2023 in the country and in Assam is given in Annexure.

ENVIRONMENT

National Green Tribunal (NGT)



Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel who had taken over **National Green Tribunal** as **Chairperson** on **06.07.2018** com

pleted his tenure of 5 years on **06.07.2023**. During his period of 5 years, Justice Goel had brought in several innovative and people friendly methods for providing justice in the area of environment.

The Central Government has appointed Justice **Sheo Kumar Singh-I**, Judicial Member of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), to act as the Chairperson of the NGT until the date on which a new Chairperson is appointed.

The **National Green Tribunal** was established in 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010. It was established for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

National Green Tribunal is a **specialized body** equipped with the necessary expertise to handle environmental disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues. The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice. National Green Tribunal was established by Government of India under National Green Tribunal Act, 2010. The main objective of National Green Tribunal is efficacious and expeditious handling cases related to environmental protection, forest conservation, natural resource preservation, pollution compensation, and environmental restitution.

Since inception National Green Tribunal has been taking up cases relating to environment such as Air pollution, Noise

pollution, Water pollution, Industrial pollution, waste disposal etc.

Composition of National Green Tribunal

- With Headquarters in Delhi, NGT consists of chairperson who should have been retired as Supreme Court judge.
- The Judicial members of the tribunal should have been retired as Judge of the High Courts.
- National Green Tribunal bench consists of ten Judicial Members and ten Expert Members.
- Any person having a professional qualification with 15 years minimum experience in the subjects of forest conservation and environment and similar areas can qualify for expert member.

Places

The principal National Green Tribunal bench is located in Delhi, with other benches sitting in Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai)

India Betting Big on Green Hydrogen



A three-day International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH-2023) was held during 5th – 7th July 2023 to highlight India's

significant investment in green hydrogen and its transformative impact on the country's energy landscape.

The conference was organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, in partnership with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Office of Principal Scientific Advisor to Government of India and the Confederation of Indian Industry.

ICGH 2023 provides a platform for fostering partnerships to realize a vision of a clean and green planet.

India is betting big on making a transition towards renewable energy and reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

The objective of ICGH 2023 was to learn from the experiences of other countries leading the development and deployment of green hydrogen.



Key Takeaways

- According to the National Green Hydrogen Mission, by 2030 India hopes to develop green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT per annum.

- Government will partner with the industry in developing cutting-edge technology for green hydrogen ecosystem.
- India's National Green Hydrogen Mission is a Mission launched by the Government of India to help achieve India's target of Net Zero by the year 2070.
- ICGH 2023 will enable us to better plan implementation of National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- 42% of power generation capacity of India today is based on non-fossil-fuels and that we will overachieve the target of 50% capacity from non-fossil fuels by 2030.
- As per the International Energy Agency, the world demand for hydrogen is expected to grow by 600% by the year 2050.
- With a demand of 6 million tons per annum, India is one of the biggest consumers of green hydrogen in the world.
- Oil India Limited has started a pilot plant in Jorhat in Assam which produces 10 kg of green hydrogen per day.

Centre Formulates In-Principle Approval To Set Up 21 New Greenfield Airports



The Indian Government has granted 'In-Principle' approval for the establishment of **21** new greenfield airports under the **Greenfield Airports (GFA) Policy, 2008**.

These airports are planned to be set up in states like Goa, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Sikkim, Kerala, and Arunachal Pradesh.

According to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, out of the 21 new airports, **Mopa (Goa), Navi Mumbai** (Maharashtra), **Noida-Jewar** (Uttar Pradesh), **Bhogapuram** (Andhra Pradesh), **Karaikal** (Puducherry), **Dholera** and **Hirasar** (Gujarat) are the seven green international airports.

Other 14 airports are namely, **Shirdi** and **Sindhudurg** in Maharashtra, **Kalaburagi**, **Vijayapura**, **Hassan** and **Shivamogga** in Karnataka, **Dabra (Gwalior)** in Madhya Pradesh, **Kushinagar** in Uttar Pradesh, **Dagadarthi**, **Orvakal (Kurnool)** in Andhra Pradesh, **Durgapur (Andal)** in West Bengal, **Pakyong** in Sikkim, **Kannur** in Kerala and **Hollongi** (Itanagar) in **Arunachal Pradesh** across the country.

11 Greenfield airports have been operationalised. The airports at **Durgapur, Shirdi, Kannur, Pakyong, Kalaburagi, Orvakal (Kurnool), Sindhudurg, Kushinagar, Itanagar, Mopa and Shivamogga** have been operationalised.

What are Greenfield Airports?

A greenfield airport is an aviation facility with greenfield project characteristics. They are built from scratch on previously undeveloped or empty land. The term "greenfield" emphasises their environmentally friendly characteristics, as they aim to minimise the impact on nature during the construction and commissioning processes.

Introduction of Greenfield Airports in India

The Greenfield Airports (GFA) Policy was formulated by the government in 2008. This policy aims to provide detailed guidelines, procedures, and steps for the establishment of Greenfield airports throughout the country.

G20 Environment and Climate Ministers' Meet in Chennai



4th Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) and Environment and Climate Ministers

meeting under India's G20 Presidency concluded in Chennai.

The 4th Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) and Environment and Climate Ministers' meeting brought around 300 delegates from G20 member countries, invitee countries, and several International Organisations, with a focus on finalising the Ministerial Outcome and the Presidency Documents. **225 delegates**, including 41 Ministers from G20 member and guest countries participated in the G20 Environment and Climate Ministers' Meeting Over the last 3 ECSWG meetings as well as virtual sessions held during the months of May, June and July, collaborative and inclusive discussions have taken place on the 3 broad thematic areas identified by the Indian Presidency:

- Arresting land degradation, enriching biodiversity and accelerating ecosystem restoration
- Promoting a sustainable and climate resilient blue economy
- Resource efficiency and circular economy

Key Takeaways

- India has set a target of attaining 'Net Zero' by 2070"
- "70 percent of the world's tigers are found in India today as a result of Project Tiger"
- Under the Mission Amrit Sarovar which is a unique water conservation initiative where more than 63,000 water bodies have been developed in just about one year.

INTERNATIONAL

INS Sahyadri and INS Kolkata in Jakarta



Two frontline Indian Naval ships **INS Sahyadri** and **INS Kolkata** arrived in Indonesia's **Jakarta** on **17 July 2023** to participate in the **Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX)** with the Indonesian Navy. The ships were accorded a warm welcome by the Indonesian Navy.

During the port call, personnel from Indian and Indonesian navies will engage in a wide range of professional interactions, joint yoga sessions, sports fixtures and cross-deck visits, aimed at strengthening mutual cooperation and understanding between the two navies.

Upon completion of the operational turnaround, the two ships will also participate in a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) at sea with the Indonesian Navy towards further bolstering the high degree of interoperability that already exists between the two navies.

INS Sahyadri is the third indigenously designed and built **Project-17 class stealth frigate** and **INS Kolkata** is the first indigenously designed and built stealth destroyer of the **Project-15A class**. Both the ships have been built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd, Mumbai.

Key Takeaways

- India and Indonesia's relations are growing stronger with time.
- Recently, Indo-Indonesia concluded its bilateral Exercise **Samudra Shakti-23** in the **South China Sea**.

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