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UPSC, State PSCs, NDA/NA
CDS, SSC (CGL, MTS,
CHSL, Constable)
and other National & State
Level Competitive Exams

Elections in Five States • Israel-Hamas War
UN COP28 • G20 Summit 2023
ICC Cricket World Cup 2023
Nobel Prizes 2023 • Asian Games 2023
Chandrayaan 3 Mission
Important Reports and Indices

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NATIONAL Affairs

The year 2023 proved to be a year of mixed response for India. Many national level schemes were started during the year, in which the name of 'PM Vishwakarma' scheme comes first.

In the year 2023, India successfully hosted the 18th G20 Summit, which proved that India is capable of organizing any major conference.

Amidst all this, the new Parliament building was also inaugurated in the year 2023, which can be called a milestone in the Indian polity.



CURRENT Affairs

'Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam' Inaugurated

- Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, inaugurated the Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram in Vijayawada on December 11, 2023.
- The festival promises a 3-day classical music extravaganza featuring performances by renowned musicians, an exhibition and sale of regional cuisine and handlooms.
- Minister Sitharaman proposed that the Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam become an annual event, extending its reach to other prominent towns.

SC Verdict on Article 370

- Supreme Court upheld the abrogation of Article 370 on December 11, 2023, emphasizing that Jammu and Kashmir did not retain sovereignty after joining the Union of India.
- The Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, declared Article 370, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, a temporary provision of the Indian Constitution.
- The ruling was a response to the 2019 move by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The five-judge bench delivered three concurring opinions, affirming that Jammu and Kashmir no longer holds special status in the Indian Union.

'Viksit Bharat @2047: Voice of Youth' Initiative

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is set to launch the 'Viksit Bharat @2047: Voice of Youth' initiative on December 11, 2023 via video conferencing.
- This visionary initiative aims to actively engage the youth of India in shaping the nation's plans, priorities, and goals.
- The core vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 is to transform India into a developed nation by 2047, marking the 100th year of its independence.
- This initiative provides a platform for the youth to actively contribute ideas and suggestions towards realizing the vision of a developed India by 2047.

Infinity Forum 2.0 Held

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 2nd Edition of the flagship Financial Technology event - Infinity Forum 2.0 on December 6, 2023.
- The event is hosted by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, GIFT City, under the aegis of the Union Government.
- The 2nd edition of the Forum will be centered on the theme 'GIFT-IFSC: Nerve Centre for New Age Global Financial Services'.
- It will also witness participation and insightful discussions by several luminaries from the financial sector in India and across the globe.

'GRAM MANCHITRA' APP LAUNCHED

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj introduced the Geographic Information System (GIS) application known as "Gram Manchitra" on December 5, 2023.

This innovative application leverages geo-spatial technology to empower Gram Panchayats in their planning endeavors.

"Gram Manchitra" serves as a unified Geo Spatial platform, providing a comprehensive view of developmental works across various sectors.

It enables Gram Panchayats to visualize and plan for projects effectively, offering a decision support system for the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GDPD).

National 'Best Tourism Village & Best Rural Homestay' Competition 2024

- Union Tourism Ministry has launched National Best Tourism Village Competition and the National Best Rural Homestay Competition 2024 on December 3, 2023.
- Its aim is to strengthen the promotion and development of Rural Tourism in the country. It has initiated the implementation of the National strategies in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management.

- The earlier version of the National Best Tourism Village Competition 2023 recognized 35 villages all over the country in Gold, Silver, and Bronze categories.

Amplifi 2.0 Launched

- India's Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched Amplifi 2.0 on December 1, 2023.
- It is a platform centralizing city data for informed urban policy-making and development.
- Amplifi refers to Assessment and Monitoring Platform for Liveable, Inclusive and Future-ready urban India.
- This endeavor aims to facilitate data-driven policy-making, empower academics, researchers, and engage stakeholders in the urban development process.

First-Ever Auction of Critical Mineral Blocks Launched

- Union Minister for Mines Pralhad Joshi has launched the first-ever tranche auction of critical mineral blocks at a function in New Delhi on November 30, 2023.
- 20 blocks of critical and strategic minerals are being auctioned in the first tranche and the blocks include Graphite, Lithium, Molybdenum, Nickel, Copper and Potash.
- The blocks are located in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.
- It is a landmark initiative that will boost India's economy, enhance national security and support its transition to clean energy.

PM Virtually Interacted with Beneficiaries of Central Government's Schemes

- PM Narendra Modi virtually interacted with beneficiaries of central government's welfare schemes under the outreach programme Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra on November 30, 2023.
- The aim of the Yatra is to attain saturation of flagship schemes by ensuring that the benefits of these schemes reach all the targeted beneficiaries in a time bound manner.

- During the programme, the Prime Minister also launched the 10,000th Jan Aushadi Kendra at AIIMS, Deoghar.
- Prime Minister also launched the programme to increase the number of Jan Aushadi Kendras in the country from 10 thousand to 25 thousand.

Safety Notice Issued on Purchase of Acid on e-commerce Platforms

- The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has issued safety notice to alert consumers against the purchase of acid on e-commerce platforms.
- The CCPA, being the watchdog of consumer interest in India, has come across the sale of highly corrosive acids on e-commerce platforms.
- According to Consumer Affairs Ministry, the availability of hazardous acids in such an easily accessible manner can be dangerous and unsafe for consumers and the public at large.
- E-commerce platforms have been asked to implement appropriate mechanisms to prevent the sale of acid in violation of mandatory requirements.

Centenary Year Celebrations of Kaivalyadham Inaugurated

- President Draupadi Murmu inaugurated the centenary year celebrations of Kaivalyadham in Lonavala, Maharashtra on November 29, 2023.
- The theme of this conference was 'Integration of Yoga in School Education System-Exploring the Idea'.
- Kaivalyadham was established in the year 1924 by Swami Kavalayananda.
- Kaivalyadham is the first yoga institute that actively conducts scientific research to demonstrate the benefits and uses of yoga.

PM Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan Approved

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the PM Narendra Modi has approved Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN) on November 29, 2023.

- It has approved with total outlay of ₹ 24104 crore (Central Share: ₹ 15336 crore and State Share: ₹ 8768 crore) to focus on 11 critical interventions through 9-line Ministries.
- This scheme has been named 'PM-Janman' and under this, focus will be on 11 important areas through 9 ministries including the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- This campaign will be run especially for Vulnerable Tribal Groups (VGTG).

Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centers Renamed

- The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has changed the name of Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres on November 27, 2023.



- The new name of these centers is 'Ayushman Arogya Mandir'.
- The tag line of this centre has also been changed to 'Aarogyam Param Dhanam'.
- Ayushman Bharat Scheme was implemented in the year 2018.

President Droupadi Murmu Visited Odisha

- President Droupadi Murmu arrived in Bhubaneswar on November 26, 2023 on a two-day visit to her home state Odisha.
- The President was given a warm welcome by Governor Raghuraj Das and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the Biju Patnaik International Airport.
- She is scheduled to grace the 'Boita Bandana' (worshiping boats) ceremony organised by the Paradip Port Authority at Paradip next day.
- The ceremony is held annually across Odisha to celebrate the glorious journey of the state's maritime heritage.

54th IFFI in Collaboration with UNICEF Screens 5 Films

- The 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in collaboration with UNICEF screened five films that deal with child rights on November 26, 2023.
- Out of five films, two are from India, while three are from Iran and Sri Lanka.
- These films reflect on the dynamic forces that shape childhood and examines its socio-economic contexts.
- This year, UNICEF and National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), the organizer of IFFI, have partnered to focus attention of the film industry and audiences on child rights.

President Unveiled Dr. BR Ambedkar's Statue

- President Droupadi Murmu on November 26, 2023 unveiled the statue of Dr. BR Ambedkar on the premises of the Supreme Court on the occasion of Constitution Day.
- The unveiling of the 7-foot-tall statue was followed by a plantation of saplings which was done by both President Murmu and CJI Chandrachud.
- Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal paid their tributes to the 'Father of the Indian Constitution' with folded hands.
- The event drew the attendance of numerous judges from the Supreme Court, emphasizing the significance of commemorating Constitution Day.

Hamfest India 2023 Inaugurated

- Hamfest India 2023 was inaugurated by Devusinh Chauhan, the Minister of State for Communications, at Vigyan Bhawan, Ahmedabad, Gujarat on November 25, 2023.
- It serves as a comprehensive platform for amateur radio enthusiasts, bringing together technical workshops, a trade show, flea market and various activities tailored for HAMs.
- The event fosters connection among HAMs, offering opportunities for face-to-face meetings and providing

latest communication techniques and technological advancements.

- Hamfest India 2023 holds historical significance as the largest gathering of Indian HAMs, dating back to its inception in 1991.

MoU between Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and ISKCON

- MoU was signed between the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and the ISKCON under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan on November 23, 2023.
- The initiative aims to synergize efforts in curbing drug usage, especially among the youth which aligns with Prime Minister Modi's vision of a substance-free India.
- Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan was launched on August 15, 2020 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- Its aim is to create awareness about the ill effects of substance abuse among the youth, with a special focus on higher education institutes, university campuses and schools.

NITI Aayog Launched Rapid Innovation and Startup Expansion

- The Atal Innovation Mission under NITI Aayog launched a new accelerator programme called Rapid Innovation and Startup Expansion (RISE) in New Delhi on November 21, 2023.
- The programme will support startups and small to mid-sized enterprises (SMEs) working on circular economy technologies and solutions in India and Australia.
- The applications for the programme are now open till 7 January next year (2024) on rise accelerator dot org.
- There is no charge for startups to participate in the programme, which will be delivered virtually.

e-Registration Portal for Sari Walkathon Launched

- The Ministry of Textiles launched an e-registration portal for the Sari Walkathon in New Delhi on November 21, 2023.

- Union Minister of State for Textile Darshana Jardosh launched the portal which aimed to promote the handloom sari culture of India.
- The walkathon will be organized at the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority on the 10th of December this year (2023).
- Participants can enroll for the sari walkathon with this e-portal in which registration will be OTP-based.

DIGITAL ADVERTISE- MENT POLICY, 2023 APPROVED

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has approved a path-breaking Digital Advertisement Policy, 2023 on November 10, 2023.

It aims to enable and empower the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) which is the advertising wing of the GoI to undertake campaigns in the Digital Media Space.

This policy marks a pivotal moment in CBC's mission to disseminate information and create awareness regarding various schemes, programmes and policies of the Government of India.

The Policy will enable CBC to empanel agencies and organisations in the OTT and Video on Demand Space.

CITIIS 2.0 Challenge Launched

- Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched City Investments to Innovate, Integrate, and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0) challenge in New Delhi on November 16, 2023.
- CITIIS 2.0 aims to advance climate action through the promotion of a circular economy with a focus on integrated waste management.
- Addressing the event, Mr. Puri informed that this program has a demonstrative effect which will lay the basis for the commercialization of the technology.
- In the 1st phase, 1000 new EVs, 100 km of non-motorized transport corridors, 750 acres of green open spaces, 1400 affordable housing units and 350 education facilities introduced.

Constitution Quiz & Online Reading of Preamble

- The Government of India has invited citizens on November 20, 2023 to participate in the Constitution Quiz and Online Reading of the Preamble to commemorate Samvidhan Diwas-Constitution Day.
- The quiz and reading will take place on November 26 (Samvidhan Diwas) to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India.
- The Ministry has operationalized two web portals to ensure maximum participation of people and the Preamble can be read in all the 22 official languages of India.
- People of the nation can participate and avail certificates by visiting the websites readpreamble.nic.in and constitutionquiz.nic.in.

NITI Aayog Appointed Four Distinguished Fellows

- NITI Aayog added four new Distinguished Fellows to its ranks for a period of one year on Nov. 16, 2023.
- These are Prof. Anoop Singh, Dr. OP Agarwal, Dr. Ajai Chowdhry and Sh. V. Lakshmikumaran.
- Dr. Anoop Singh is a distinguished member of the fifteenth Finance Commission and Dr. OP Agrawal, a 1979 batch IAS officer, is a seasoned expert in urban transport
- Padma Bhushan (2011) awardee Dr. Ajai Chowdhry is a co-founder of HCL and Sh. V. Lakshmikumaran is a legal expert with 35 years of experience.

PM-PVTG Mission Launched

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the PM- Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) Development Mission on November 15, 2023.
- The PM-PVTG Development Mission aims to address the critical needs of the 75 PVTG communities residing in over 22000 remote villages across 18 States and Union Territories.
- It will provide basic facilities like road and telecom connectivity, electricity, housing, clean water, sanitation, education, healthcare, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Two-day Visit of Prime Minister to Jharkhand

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached Ranchi on November 14, 2023 for his two-day visit to Jharkhand.
- He was welcomed by Governor CP. Radhakrishnan and Chief Minister Hemant Soren at Birsa Munda airport.
- Prime Minister Modi is set to make history by becoming the first Prime Minister to visit Ulihatu Village, the birthplace of Bhagwan Birsa Munda.
- PM paid floral tributes to the life-size statue of Bhagwan Birsa Munda on his 148th birth anniversary at Bhagwan Birsa Munda Memorial Park-cum-Freedom Fighter Museum, Ranchi.

Supreme Court Welcomed Three New Judges

- The Supreme Court of India has expanded its judicial strength by welcomed three new judges on November 14, 2023.
- The induction of three judges has taken the Supreme Court's judicial strength to its sanctioned capacity of 34.
- This is crucial for ensuring that the court has the necessary manpower to handle the multitude of cases that come its way.
- Delhi High Court Chief Justice Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, Rajasthan and Gauhati Chief Justices Augustine George Masih and Sandeep Mehta were sworn in Supreme Court.

PM Modi Celebrated Diwali with Security Forces at Lepcha

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrated Diwali with security forces in Lepcha, Himachal Pradesh on November 12, 2023.
- PM interacted with Army jawans in Lepcha and extended greetings to the people of the country.
- Keeping in with his tradition of spending Diwali with armed forces, the Prime Minister spent this Diwali with the forces in Lepcha.
- Last year, Prime Minister had celebrated Diwali with Armed Forces in Kargil.

Govt. Advised Against Calls Threatening

- Department of Telecommunications issued a public advisory on malicious calls on November 10, 2023.
- The Government has advised everyone not to share any personal information if receiving calls threatening disconnection.
- According to Government, the Department does not communicate disconnection warnings through phone calls and any such call should be treated as suspicious.
- The Department of Telecommunications is the nodal agency for formulating policies and regulatory frameworks for the telecommunications sector in the country.

Mitti Cafe in Supreme Court Inaugurated

- CJI DY Chandrachud inaugurated 'Mitti Cafe,' a distinctive establishment within the Supreme Court premises on November 9, 2023.



- This cafe stands out for being entirely managed by individuals with disabilities, encompassing those who are visually impaired, have cerebral palsy, and are paraplegic.
- The Chief Justice expressed his hope that the legal community, including lawyers, would rally behind this initiative, emphasizing the importance of support for the differently-abled.
- The cafe's management team comprises of individuals with diverse abilities, breaking down barriers and setting an inspiring example.

New Soochna Bhavan Inaugurated at Chennai

- Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Dr. L. Murugan inaugurated the new Soochna Bhavan at Chennai on November 10, 2023.

- The campus will house Press Information Bureau, CBC, Registrar of Newspapers of India and the Publication Division along with the Engineering offices of ADG Prasar Bharati.
- According to the Minister, DD Podhigai will be re-launched by the name of DD Tamil on Pongal, which falls on January 14th next year.
- The Minister announced that Doordarshan has been provided with state-of-the-art technological facilities.

Women for Water, Water for Women Campaign Launched

- Women for Water, Water for Women campaign commenced under the scheme Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) on November 8, 2023.
- Under the campaign, women will be given first-hand knowledge about water treatment processes through visits to Water Treatment Plants in their respective cities.
- This campaign is an initiative of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in partnership with the National Urban Livelihood Mission and Odisha Urban Academy.
- The campaign is aimed to provide a platform for inclusion of women in water governance.

India's Largest Cold Oil Production Facility in Gujarat

- Bharat Botanics on November 6, 2023 announced the opening of its cutting-edge wood-pressed Cold Oil processing facility in Gondal, Rajkot (Gujarat).
- Bharat Botanics is among rare profit-making startups, and the idea to have their production facility was due to the high-quality standards they set for their products.
- Bharat Botanics offers a wide range of natural products, including a variety of wood-pressed oils, such as Coconut (Kopra) Oil, Mustard (Rai) Oil, Castor Oil, Sunflower Oil and many more.
- Bharat Botanics is India's leading wood-pressed edible oil (B2C) brand, known for its pure, chemical-free, and natural oils.

'APAAR ID' Scheme will Implement Across the Country

- It was announced on November 6, 2023, that under 'APAAR ID' scheme, a unique ID will be provided to the students studying across the country.
- Automated Permanent Academic Accounts Registry (APAAR ID) scheme is a scheme of the Union Ministry of Education.
- 'APAAR ID' will have 12 digits and it can be used for government jobs and interviews.
- This scheme will be started under the National Education Policy 2020.

Government Banned Mahadev App

- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on November 5, 2023 blocked 22 illegal betting apps and websites including Mahadev Book and Reddyannaprestopro.
- The Ministry took the step on the recommendation of the Enforcement Directorate (ED).
- The ED recommended to the Centre for restricting illegal betting app after investigation and subsequent raids on Mahadev Book in Chhattisgarh.
- The owners of Mahadev app are currently in custody and have been arrested under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) for alleged money laundering.

World Food India 2023 Inaugurated

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurated the 2nd edition of 'World Food India 2023' in New Delhi on November 3, 2023.
- The event aims to showcase India as the 'Food Hub of the World' and celebrate 2023 as the International Year of Millets.
- To strengthen Self Help Groups, the Prime Minister distributed seed capital assistance to over one lakh SHG members in this event.
- This support will help the SHGs to get better value in the market through better packaging and quality manufacturing.

Digital Life Certificate Campaign 2.0 Launched

- The Government has launched nationwide Digital Life Certificate Campaign 2.0 to enhance the ease of living of Central Government pensioners on November 2, 2023.
- The campaign is being run till November 30, 2023 in 100 cities in all States and Union Territories of the country.
- The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare informed that the submission of Digital Life Certificates using biometric devices was commenced in 2014.
- The department is engaged with the Ministry of Electronics & IT and UIDAI to develop a Face Authentication technology system for Life Certificate from Android-based smartphone.

PM MODI LAUNCHED 'MERA YUVA BHARAT' PLATFORM

PM Narendra Modi launched 'Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)' platform for youth of the country on October 31, 2023 at Kartavya Path on the National Unity Day.

This momentous initiative aims to empower and uplift the country's youth.

Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) serves as a 'Phygital Platform,' seamlessly blending physical and digital elements.

It includes physical activities complemented by digital connectivity, creating an engaging and comprehensive experience.

Vice President Visited to Visakhapatnam

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar arrived at INS Dega on a maiden visit to Visakhapatnam on October 29, 2023.
- The Vice President reviewed a ceremonial Guard of Honour before proceeding to Andhra Medical College to preside over the Centenary Celebrations.
- The Vice President was also taken by boat for harbour familiarisation and was briefed on the facilities at the Naval Dockyard.

ECI Provided Home Voting Facility to Senior Citizens

- The ECI on October 28, 2023 announced to provide home voting facility to senior citizens, aged 80 and above, and Persons with 40% disabilities.
- It aims is to cast their vote from home using the home voting facility or the postal ballot facility (optional facility of postal ballot to the Absentee Voters).
- Absentee Voter includes a person who is employed in essential services, senior citizens (above 80 year) and Persons with Disability PwD (with benchmark or above disability).
- In the 2019 General Elections, the ECI allowed the disabled and people over 80 years of age to cast their vote through postal ballot.

SARAS Ajeevika Mela Inaugurated

- Minister of State Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti inaugurated the SARAS Ajeevika Mela showcasing the best of crafts by rural Self Help Group (SHG) Women at Gurugram on October 27, 2023.
- This is the second edition of Sarasa Ajeevika Mela and it is an initiative to support livelihood enhancement initiatives.
- The 2-week-long Mela will witness over 800 SHG women from across the country showcasing their handicraft and handloom products, along with regional culinary delight.
- Mela organised by the Ministry of Rural Development, National Institute of Rural Development, and Panchayati Raj.

IOC Produced Specialized 'Reference' Petrol and Diesel

- The Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has achieved a significant milestone by producing specialized 'reference' petrol and diesel for the first time in India on October 25, 2023.
- These fuels are crucial for calibrating and testing vehicles by automobile manufacturers and testing agency.
- Reference fuels used for vehicle testing must meet higher-grade specifications compared to regular or

premium petrol and diesel available at fuel stations.

- These specifications include the Cetane number, viscosity, Sulphur and water content, hydrogen purity, and acid number, all of which are governed by government regulations.

Proper Transport Facilities for Senior Citizens

- Election Commission of India (ECI) has directed to provide proper transport facilities for 80 PLUS senior citizens and Persons with Disabilities (PwD) electors on October 23, 2023.
- ECI issued the guideline in view of assembly elections in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Telangana.
- In 5 state assembly elections, out of total electors, around 1.5 are above 80 years of age while PwD electors are over one percent.
- The commission has directed that such senior citizens and PwD electors will be assisted by volunteers appointed by District Election Officers.

Compensation Mandatory for Sewer Deaths and Disabilities

In a significant move, the Supreme Court of India has taken a strong stance on the issue of sewer deaths in the country on October 20, 2023.

The court has ruled that government authorities must pay compensation to the families of those who lose their lives while cleaning sewers.

The compensation amount has been set at ₹ 30 lakh for the kin of the deceased and ₹ 20 lakh for those who suffer permanent disabilities due to sewer cleaning.

Additionally, if a cleaner sustains other disabilities, they will be entitled to receive up to ₹ 10 lakh in compensation.

Operation Chakra 2 Launched

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in India has launched a major crackdown on cyber criminals, conducting searches in 76 locations across the country on October 19, 2023.
- This operation, known as 'Operation Chakra-2', was initiated after the

registration of five separate cases of cyber-enabled financial fraud, including a ₹ 100-crore crypto scam.

- The CBI is collaborating with various international law enforcement agencies to follow leads related to the cases.
- Operation Chakra-1 was conducted by the CBI nearly a year ago in coordination with INTERPOL, the FBI, and police forces of multiple countries.

15th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme Inaugurated

- The 15th Tribal Youth Exchange Program was inaugurated at Mumbai University, Mumbai on October 28, 2023.



- 220 participants are participating in this programme that will be held till the 2nd of November.
- The participants have come from tribal districts like Gumla, Khunti, Latehar, Seraikela-Kharsawan districts of Jharkhand and Jamui, Lakhisarai district of Bihar state etc.
- Participants will also visit the National Museum of Indian Cinema, Gateway of India, Marine Drive, Juhu Beach, and other famous places.

'Airline Pilots' Licenses Validity Periods Increased

- The Union Civil Aviation Ministry has amended the Aircraft Rules 1937 on October 18, 2023 to increase the validity of airline pilots' licenses to 10 years.
- This increased validity will apply to both airline transport pilots and commercial pilots.
- Earlier in the year 2014, the validity of pilots' license was increased from 2 years to 5 years.
- Apart from this, now the Central Government can take action against the person displaying 'artificial lights'

like flash lights, kite lights and laser lights around the airport (within 5 km).

MSP for Rabi Crops in 2024-25 Increased

- The Indian government, under PM Narendra Modi, has approved higher Minimum Support Prices (MSP) on October 18, 2023 for Rabi crops in the 2024-25 season.
- This decision aims to ensure fair prices for farmers and encourage crop diversification.
- Minimum Support Prices are the guaranteed prices that the government offers to farmers for their crops.
- These prices act as a safety net, ensuring that farmers receive a reasonable income for their produce.

Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 Inaugurated

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the third edition of the Global Maritime India Summit (GMIS) 2023 on October 17, 2023 in Mumbai via video conferencing.
- During the event, he dedicated 21 projects worth ₹ 23000 crore to the nation and unveiled the Amrit Kaal Vision 2047—a strategic blueprint for the Indian maritime blue economy.
- These initiatives aim to enhance port facilities, promote sustainable practices, and encourage international collaboration in the maritime sector.
- PM laid the foundation stone of the Tuna-Tekra all-weather deep-draft terminal, to be built at a cost of more than ₹ 4500 crore at Deendayal Port Authority in Gujarat.

India Skills 2023-24 Launched

- Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan officially launched India Skills 2023-24 and honored the winners of World Skills 2022 at Kaushal Bhawan, New Delhi on October 17, 2023.
- India Skills serves as a stepping stone to the renowned World Skills competition.
- This national competition offers participants a chance to showcase their talents on the global stage, with the next World Skills event set to take place in Paris.

- World Skills, the world's largest skill competition, is organized by World Skills International, encompassing 86-member countries.

APAAR ID Launched

- The Ministry of Education and Government of India has initiated the APAAR ID on October 15, 2023, known as the "One Nation One Student ID Card."
- This groundbreaking program aims to digitally centralize academic data, including degrees, scholarships, rewards, and other credits for students.
- The APAAR ID is a significant step towards a more organized and accessible academic experience for students in India.
- By registering and downloading with APAAR ID, person can unlock various benefits and conveniently store their academic records.

Intelligent Complaint Monitoring System 2.0 Inaugurated

- The new version of Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System 2.0 system was inaugurated by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Science and Technology on October 12, 2023.
- This is the new grievance redressal system of the Central Government.
- This system has been developed by IIT Kanpur and it is enabled by Artificial Intelligence capability.
- It is a Public Grievance Portal and Automated Analysis System in the Tree Dashboard Portal of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances.

India Launched 'Operation Ajay'

- India has launched Operation Ajay on October 11, 2023 to facilitate the return from Israel of its citizens who wish to return.
- In a social media post External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar informed, special charter flights and other arrangements being put in place of Israel-Hamas conflict zone.

- He also informed that the Government is fully committed to the safety and well-being of Indian nationals abroad.

- India has set up a 24-hour Control Room in New Delhi to monitor the situation and provide assistance to its nationals in view of the ongoing developments in Israel and Palestine.

Exercise 'Bharat NCX 2023' Launched

- Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India Ajay Kumar Sood inaugurated the 'Bharat NCX 2023' on October 10, 2023.
- The second edition of the National Cyber Security Exercise 2023 'Bharat NCX 2023' will be conducted as a hybrid exercise over a period of twelve days till October 20, 2023.
- The exercise aims to train senior management and technical personnel of Public and Private agencies on contemporary cyber threats and handling cyber incidents and response.
- The programme is being conducted by the National Security Council Secretariat in strategic partnership with Rashtriya Raksha University.

GI tag for Yak Churpi, Khamti Rice and Tangsa Cloth

- Yak Chhurpi, Khamti rice and Tangsa cloth, are products of Arunachal Pradesh, were approved by GI tag has been provided on October 9, 2023.
- Yak Chhurpi which has received GI recognition or tag is made from the milk of Arunachali Yak.
- Khamti rice is a type of rice from Arunachal Pradesh that contains insoluble fiber.
- Tangsa cloth is made by the Tangsa tribe.

Dates for Assembly Elections in 5 States Announced

- The Election Commission announced the poll schedule for Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana on October 9, 2023.
- The Assembly Elections in these five states will be held between November 7 to 30, 2023.
- There are 679 assembly seats in these five states with 16 crore electors and around 60 lakh first-time voters who will participate in these polls.
- The Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar announced that there will be 17 thousand 734 model polling stations in these states.

PM MODI LAUNCHED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN JODHPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 5, 2023 laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation multiple development projects worth 5000 crore rupees across various sectors at Jodhpur in Rajasthan.

The projects unveiled include the foundation stone for a 350 bedded 'Trauma Centre and Critical Care Hospital Block' at AIIMS in Jodhpur, and seven Critical Care Blocks under Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission to be developed across the state.

PM Modi also laid the foundation stone for the development of the state-of-the-art

New Terminal Building at Jodhpur Airport to be built at a cost of ₹ 480 crore.

He dedicated to the nation IIT Jodhpur campus, and upgradation of the infrastructure at Central University of Rajasthan.

He also laid the foundation stone of multiple road development projects and dedicated two other rail projects.

Prime Minister Modi flagged off two new train services in Rajasthan including a new train - Runicha Express - connecting Jaisalmer to Delhi and a new heritage train connecting Marwar Junction to Khambli Ghat.

India Re-elected as President of 'AIBD'

- India has been elected as President of Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) General Conference (GC) for the 3rd successive term to lead the prestigious international organization on October 6, 2023.
- India had already served two terms as President, AIBD GC from 2018-21 and 2021-23.
- AIBD, established in 1977 under the auspices of UNESCO, is a unique regional intergovernmental organisation, currently has 92 member organisations from across 44 countries, including 26 Government Members (countries) represented by 48 broadcasting authorities and broadcasters.
- India is one of the founding members of AIBD and Prasar Bharati is the representative body of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Govt. of India at the AIBD.

PM Modi Inaugurated Development Projects in Jabalpur

- PM Narendra Modi on October 5, 2023 laid the foundation stone and inaugurated various development projects worth more than 12600 crore rupees in Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh).
- He also performed the bhoomi puja of Veerangana Rani Durgavati smarak. He also released a postal stamp in the memory of Rani Durgavati.
- He inaugurated more than 1000 houses constructed under Light House Project in Indore under PMAY-Urban.
- The PM laid foundation stone of multiple Jal Jeevan Mission projects in Mandla, Jabalpur and Dindori districts and dedicated Jal Jeevan Mission project in Seoni district.
- He also dedicated rail projects worth more than ₹ 1850 crore, and Vijapur-Auraiyan-Phulpur Pipeline Project.
- The PM also laid foundation stone of Nagpur Jabalpur section (317 km) of Mumbai Nagpur Jharsuguda Pipeline Project and also dedicated to nation a new bottling plant in Jabalpur.

Constitution of the 'National Turmeric Board'

- The Government of India on October 4, 2023 notified the constitution of the National Turmeric Board.
- The National Turmeric Board will focus on the development and growth of turmeric and turmeric products in the country.
- The National Turmeric Board will provide leadership on turmeric related matters, augment the efforts, and facilitate greater coordination with Spices Board and other Government agencies in development and growth of the turmeric sector.
- The Board shall have a Chairperson to be appointed by the Central Government, members from the Ministry of AYUSH, Departments of Pharmaceuticals, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Commerce & Industry of the Union Government, senior State Government representatives from three states (on rotation basis), select national/state institutions involved in research, representatives of turmeric farmers and exporters, and have a Secretary to be appointed by the Department of Commerce.

PM Launched Development Projects in Chhattisgarh

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 3, 2023 laid the foundation stone of development projects worth more than 26000 crore rupees in Jagdalpur, the divisional headquarters of tribal Bastar division in Chhattisgarh.



- The Prime Minister also dedicated to the nation the NMDC's greenfield Steel Plant established at Nagarnar in Bastar. Built at a cost of about 24000 crore rupees, the integrated steel plant will produce high-quality steel.

- The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone for the upgradation of Jagdalpur Railway Station and also dedicated to the nation the new rail line between Antagarh and Taroki and the double rail line project between Jagdalpur and Dantewada.
- He also flagged off the train service between Taroki and Raipur. These projects will improve rail connectivity in this tribal area and give impetus to the economic development of the area.

PM Dedicated Development Projects in Telangana

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation multiple development projects worth more than ₹ 8000 crores in important sectors like power, rail and health in Nizamabad, Telangana on October 3, 2023.
- The projects include the dedication of 800 MW Unit of phase 1 of Telangana Super Thermal Power Project of NTPC, rail projects including the new Railway Line connecting Manoharabad and Siddipet; and the electrification project between Dharmabad-Manoharabad and Mahabubnagar-Kurnool.
- He laid the foundation stone of 20 Critical Care Blocks (CCBs) across the state under Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission.
- PM Modi also flagged off Siddipet-Secunderabad-Siddipet train service.

Sports Training Centre for Divyangjan Inaugurated

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the country's first high-tech sports training centre for Divyangjan in Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh) on October 2, 2023.
- The centre is named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee as "Atal Bihari Training Centre for Divyang Sports".
- This initiative aims to provide equal opportunities in sports, enhance talent, and encourage participation in various sports disciplines. Divyangjan from all over the country can practice and train in the Atal Bihari Training Centre for Divyang Sports.

Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav and Technology & Bharatiya Bhasha Summit Organised

- Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan launched the Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav and inaugurated the two-day Technology & Bharatiya Bhasha Summit on September 30, 2023 at New Delhi.
- The summit aims to facilitate a seamless transition from the current education ecosystem to one rooted in Bharatiya languages, in line with the NEP-2020 vision and to set the course for a technologically enriched future for Bharatiya languages in education.
- An exhibition was also set up to showcase Bharatiya Bhasha technology products, and their applications by the industries, government organizations and start-ups.
- The summit, organized as part of the Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav, encompasses three pivotal thematic sessions : (i) Technology FOR Bharatiya Languages; (ii) Technology IN Bharatiya Languages; and (iii) Technology THROUGH Bharatiya Languages.

India's First 5G Training Labs and 5G Health Applications Launched in N-E States

- The Minister for Development of North East Region, Tourism, and Culture, G. Kishan Reddy, launched India's first 5G training labs and 5G applications in health sector in all the eight North Eastern States on September 29, 2023.
- The project is centrally funded through North East Council (NEC) and being implemented by Assam Electronic Development Corporation (AMTRON), a PSU of Assam government.
- The Minister lauded the initiative as step towards establishing a vibrant 5G digital ecosystem in the North East region.
- The 5G couples with technological advancements will take Ashtalakshmi States on the path of development in the digital age.

Unified Registration Portal for GOBARDhan Introduced

- The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti introduced a Unified Registration Portal for GOBARDhan (gobardhan.co.in) on September 25, 2023.
- The portal has been introduced to streamline the registration of Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) and biogas plants nationwide.
- Over 1163 biogas plants and 426 CBG plants registered on the portal, eligible for assistance under the Market Development Assistance (MDA) scheme of the Department of Fertilizers.
- The MDA scheme has been launched with a robust budget of ₹ 1451.82 crore spanning three years (FY 2023-24 to FY 2025-26) to promote production and take-up of organic fertilizers generated from GOBARDhan plants inter alia, promoting sustainable/ organic agricultural practices throughout the country.
- Its objective is to drive the widespread adoption of organic manure, ushering in savings for rural households by cutting down reliance on chemical fertilizers/urea.

India to Host 17th ICCC in 2027

- India will host the International Congress on the Chemistry of Cement (ICCC) in the year 2027 in New Delhi.

- The Commerce and Industry Ministry announced that India won the bid to hold this event on a presentation from the National Council for Cement and Building Materials along with IIT Delhi.
- India defeated Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates to win the bid.
- The ICCC is regarded as the largest and the most prestigious event in the area of Cement and Concrete.

New Infrastructure of Tezu Airport Inaugurated

- Minister for Civil Aviation and Steel, Jyotiraditya Scindia, inaugurated the newly developed infrastructure of Tezu Airport in Arunachal Pradesh on September 24, 2023.
- Tezu Airport is a domestic airport located in the town of Tezu which operates through a single runway.
- The airport is developed on 212 acres of land, and capable of handling operations for ATR 72 type of aircraft.
- AAI undertook the development and upgradation work to operationalize Tezu Airport at the request of the State Government.
- Tezu airport was operationalized in 2018 under the RCS UDAN scheme of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- The airport is currently connected to Dibrugarh, Imphal & Guwahati through regular scheduled flights by Alliance Air & Flybig Airline.

NEW 'RASHTRIYA VIGYAN PURASKAR' ANNOUNCED

The Union government has introduced a new set of National Awards in the field of Science, Technology, and Innovation. It was informed on September 21, 2023.

The award is named as 'Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP)'. It shall be one of the highest recognitions in the field of science, technology, and innovation in India.

The objective of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar is to recognize the notable and inspiring contribution made by the scientists, technologists, and innovators individually or in teams in various fields of science, technology and technology-led innovation.

The awards shall be given in following four categories :

- Vigyan Ratna (VR)
- Vigyan Shri (VS)
- Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (VY-SSB)
- Vigyan Team (VT)

The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar shall be given in the 13 domains, namely Physics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Mathematics & Computer Science, Earth Science, Medicine, Engineering Sciences, Agricultural Science, Environmental Science, Technology & Innovation, Atomic Energy, Space Science and Technology, and Others.

NMC Achieved WFME Recognition Status

- The National Medical Commission (NMC), India on September 20, 2023 achieved the remarkable feat of being granted the coveted World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) Recognition Status for a remarkable tenure of 10 years.
- This recognition is a testament to NMC's unwavering commitment to the highest standards in medical education and accreditation.
- As part of this recognition, all the 706 existing medical colleges in India will become WFME accredited and the new medical colleges that will be set up in the coming 10 years will automatically become WFME accredited.
- The recognition will further enhance the quality and standards of medical education in India by aligning them with the global best practices and benchmarks.

New Initiatives Launched for Farmers

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman & Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar unveiled initiatives focused on agri-credit (KCC & MISS) and crop insurance (PMFBY/RWBCIS) on September 19, 2023.
- The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare launched three initiatives, namely the Kisan Rin Portal (KRP), KCC Ghar Ghar Abhiyaan, an ambitious campaign aiming to extend the benefits of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme to every farmer across the nation and a manual on Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS).
- These initiatives aim to revolutionise agriculture, enhance financial inclusion, optimise data utilisation, and improve the lives of farmers across the nation.

NHAI Arm to Develop Logistics Park in Bengaluru

- National Highways Logistics Management Ltd. (NHLML), an NHAI subsidiary, has signed an agreement for the development of Multi Modal

Logistics Park (MMLP) in Bengaluru at an estimated cost of ₹ 1770 crore on September 19, 2023.

- The MMLP, to be developed in three phases, will be built on an area of 400 acres at Muddalinganahalli in Bengaluru rural district.
- The project -- to be developed under the public private partnership model -- is poised to become the first and largest MMLP to be implemented in the country under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.
- The agreement has been signed between Bengaluru MMLP Pvt. Ltd., a government Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), and concessionaire SPV M/s PATH Bengaluru Logistics Park Pvt. Ltd.
- A government SPV was incorporated between NHLML, Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd and Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board.

PM Launched India International Convention and Expo Centre

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the Phase 1 of the India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC), known as Yashobhoomi, in Dwarka (New Delhi) on September 17, 2023.



- Earlier, he had inaugurated the extension of the Delhi Airport Metro Express line, which will now connect Dwarka Sector 21 to a newly established metro station called Yashobhoomi Dwarka Sector 25.
- Built across a total project area of over 8.9 lakh square metres and total built up area of more than 1.8 lakh square metres, the IICC boasts of one of the world's largest MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) facilities, and the largest LED media facade in the country.

- It is the second convention centre with world-class infrastructure for exhibitions and conferences after the Bharat Mandapam.

Approval to 23 New Sainik Schools

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved setting up of 23 new sainik schools under partnership mode on September 16, 2023.
- The Government of India has approved the initiative of setting up of 100 new Sainik Schools in partnership with NGOs/Private Schools/State Governments in a graded manner class-wise, starting from Class 6th onwards.
- Under this initiative, Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) has been signed by Sainik Schools Society with 19 New Sainik Schools located all over the country.
- This initiative has increased the tally of new Sainik Schools under partnership mode functioning under the aegis of Sainik School Society to 42 apart from the existing 33 Sainik Schools already functioning under the erstwhile pattern.

Unified Portal for Agricultural Statistics Launched

- NITI Aayog member Prof. Ramesh Chand officially launched the Unified Portal for Agricultural Statistics (UPAg Portal- www.upag.gov.in) on September 15, 2023.
- It is a groundbreaking move to address the complex governance challenges India's agriculture sector is facing.
- This innovative platform, designed to streamline and enhance data management in the agricultural domain, marks a significant step towards a more efficient and responsive agricultural policy framework.
- Key features of UPAg Portal are :
 1. Data Standardization
 2. Data Analysis
 3. Granular Production Estimates
 4. Commodity Profile Reports
 5. Plug and Play

Supreme Court is Now on NJDG Portal

- Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud on September 15, 2023 announced that the Supreme Court is now 'onboard' the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) portal.
- The NJDG portal is a national repository of data relating to cases instituted, pending and disposed of by courts across the country.
- The CJI described the onboarding of the Supreme Court data on NJDG portal under the court's 'open data policy' as a step to bring transparency and accountability in the judicial domain.
- One can now access case-related information, statistics such as institution, pendency and disposal of cases, case types and year-wise break-up of the SC at the click of a button.

President Launched Ayushman Bhav Campaign

- The President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu launched the Ayushman Bhav campaign on September 13, 2023.
- She launched the campaign of the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry through video conferencing from Raj Bhawan in Gandhinagar (Gujarat).
- The Ayushman Bhav campaign is a comprehensive nationwide healthcare initiative that aims to provide saturation coverage of healthcare services, reaching every village and town in the country.

First Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights in New Delhi

- President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the first Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights in New Delhi on September 12, 2023.
- Eminent scientists, farmers, and resource persons from 59 countries participated in the programme.
- They deliberated upon the pivotal issues related to Farmers Rights as enshrined in Article 9 of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Reservation for Govt. School Students in Medical Education

- The Union Home Ministry on September 6, 2023 approved a proposal from Puducherry to introduce a 10% horizontal reservation for students graduating from government higher secondary schools in undergraduate medical education.
- Reservation policy has been put into immediate effect and is set to benefit students who have successfully cleared the NEET examination and have completed their education from government schools starting from std. 1.
- This landmark decision is expected to have far-reaching implications for the field of medical education, ensuring that opportunities are more accessible to all.

COMMITTEE FORMED ON 'ONE NATION ONE ELECTION'

The Union government on September 1, 2023 set up an 8-member committee to work on 'One Nation One Election' legislation.

The committee has former President of India Ram Nath Kovind as Chairman and seven other members which includes Home Minister Amit Shah, Senior Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Ghulam Nabi Azad, NK Singh, Subhash C. Kashyap, Harish Salve and Sanjay Kothari.

The committee has been formed to not only explore viability of bringing a legislation soon in this regard but also reach out to other political parties for a consensus and smooth passage of the legislation.

The committee will examine and recommend specific amendments to the Constitution, the Representation of the People Act and any other laws and rules which would require amendments for the purpose of holding simultaneous elections.

Tele-Law 2.0 Launched

- Union Law & Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal unveiled Tele Law 2.0 initiative on August 25, 2023.
- This version entails the fusion of Tele-Law Services with Nyaya Bandhu pro bono legal services, a merger to further enhance citizen accessibility to legal aid.

- Tele-Law operates within the framework of the Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA) scheme, which has already facilitated over 50 lakh legal consultations.
- The primary goal of the Tele-Law program is to positively impact the lives of one crore (ten million) beneficiaries by achieving this milestone well before the year 2026.

Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan-2023 Released

- Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav released the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan-2023 in Bhopal on August 24, 2023.
- The cities were put in three categories on the basis of their population for the purpose of the survey.
- In million-plus population category, Indore (Madhya Pradesh) ranked first as the city with cleanest air, followed by Agra (Uttar Pradesh) and Thane (Maharashtra).
- In the second category (for cities with 300,000 to 1 million population), Amravati (Maharashtra) secured first rank followed by Moradabad (Uttar Pradesh) and Guntur (Andhra Pradesh).
- In the third category (less than 300,000 population), Parwanoo (Himachal Pradesh) secured the first rank, followed by Kala Amb (Himachal Pradesh) and Angul (Odisha).

India's First 3D-Printed Post Office Inaugurated

- Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on August 18, 2023 inaugurated India's first 3D-printed post office in Bengaluru.
- The inauguration ceremony of the 1100 sq ft post office was held in Bengaluru's Cambridge Layout near Ulsoor Bazaar.
- The post office was built with a robotic printer using 3D-printing technology that deposits concrete layer-by-layer in accordance with a computerised 3D model drawing input.