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CURRENT EVENTS **OF NATIONAL AND** *INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE*

APRIL 2023 EDITION



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NATIONAL EVENTS

Asia's first woman loco pilot, Surekha Yadav will operate Vande Bharat

Asia's first female locomotive pilot, Surekha Yadav is now operating the Vande Bharat Express. She operated Vande Bharat Express from Solapur to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminal (CSMT) in Maharashtra.

- ◆ She hails from Stara, Maharashtra, and become the country's first female train driver in 1988.
 - ◆ She had won many awards at the state and national levels so far for her achievements.
 - ◆ Union Minister of Railway: Ashwini Vaishnaw
-

Ministry of Jal Shakti to Identify 75 Water Heritage Sites

The Ministry of Jal Shakti had constituted a Committee to identify 75 Water Heritage Structure (WHS) in reference to 75 years of India's Independence.

There is no provision under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 to declare a site as a "Water Heritage Site" under Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). However, the Ministry of Jal Shakti had constituted a Committee to identify 75 Water Heritage Structure (WHS) in reference to 75 years of India's Independence.

A total of 421 nominations were received through States/UTs, Central Agencies, NGOs and general public and out of which Committee has recommended 75 water heritage structures, which includes 5 Water Heritage Structure from Gujarat and 4 Water Heritage Structure from Andhra Pradesh respectively. In this connection, "Jal-Itihas" sub-portal under India-WRIS portal, showcasing the 75 WHS, was launched (<https://indiawris.gov.in/wris/>) on 5th January, 2023 at the 1st All India State Ministers Conference on Water at Bhopal. State/UT wise details of these WHS are at Annexure. At present there is no central fund allocated/dispensed for maintenance of these sites.

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A total of 421 nominations were received and out of which, Committee has recommended 75 water heritage structures.

It includes 5 WHS from Gujarat and 4 WHS from Andhra Pradesh.

At present, there is no central fund allocated/disbursed for the maintenance of these sites.

17th Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award 2023 announced

17th Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award: 27 Indians living overseas have been chosen by the Indian government for the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards (PBSA), for outstanding achievements both in India and abroad. The award is the highest honour conferred upon Indians living abroad, including Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) or organisations/institutions established and run by them.



The jury that selected the recipients comprised VicePresident Jagdeep Dhankhar as its chairman and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar as its Vice-Chair, among other distinguished dignitaries from different fields.

The awards will be conferred upon the recipients by President Droupadi Murmu during the 17th edition of the PBSA, which is scheduled to be held from 8-10 January in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

Theme of 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award As per the Ministry of External Affairs, the theme for Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2023 will be “Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's Progress in Amrit Kaal”. This theme highlights the importance of the Indian diaspora in contributing to India's progress.

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About the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman

The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman (Overseas Indian Honour/Award) is the highest Indian award for Nonresident Indian and Overseas Citizen of India or an organisation or institution established and run by NonResident Indians or Persons of Indian Origin, constituted by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Government of India in conjunction with the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (NonResident Indian Day), to honour exceptional and meritorious contribution in their chosen field/profession. The award is given by the President of India. Since 2016, the Government of India has doubled the number of awardees each year to 30 after a decision to grant the award once every two years.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas or NRI Day 2023

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas or NRI Day is formally observed on 9 January to celebrate the day when Mahatma Gandhi returned from South Africa to Mumbai, India. The day is celebrated to acknowledge the contribution of the nonresident Indian community in helping in the development of the country. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2023 has conducted in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, from 8-10 January, 2023. It is important to note that this is the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, or NRI Day.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2023: Theme

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the official theme of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2023 is "Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's Progress in Amrit Kaal." The theme focuses on the importance of the Indian diaspora in the development of the country. It is important to note that every year a new theme is chosen to celebrate the day.

India's Kuno National Park why was in the news

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi on September 17, released a coalition of cheetahs into the Kuno National Park, in Madhya Pradesh.

Eight Cheetahs — five of which are female — were flown from Windhoek, Namibia to Gwalior, followed by a helicopter ride to the grasslands of Kuno Palpur.

The cheetah are radio-collared and their movements will be tracked. Each animal has their dedicated tracking team. There is also a team of wildlife scientists, biologists and Laurie Marker, a renowned zoologist and founder of the Cheetah Conservation Fund which has worked on restoring the species in Africa.

The introduction of the cheetah in India is being done under Project Cheetah

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which, according to the Environment Ministry, is the first time a large carnivorous species has been moved across continents for establishing a new population.

“Decades ago, the age-old link of biodiversity that was broken and became extinct, today we have a chance to restore it.” said Mr. Modi

In 2012, the Supreme Court stayed the Environment Ministry project to bring African cheetahs to Kuno.

In 2017, the National Tiger Conservation Authority revived the proposal and appealed to the Supreme Court to “clarify its order”. The Supreme Court in 2020 removed its bar on importing the cheetah and allowed it in on an experimental basis and this paved the way for the first batch of cheetahs.

Kuno National Park is situated almost in the centre of Kuno Wildlife Division of **Sheopur district of MP** and it is a part of the Central Indian Vindhyan Hills. Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary was established in 1981 with an initial area of about 344.68 km² (133.08 sq mi). In 2018, it was given the status of a national park. It is part of the Khathiar-Gir dry deciduous forests ecoregion. In the 1990s, it was selected as a possible site to implement the Asiatic Lion Reintroduction Project, which aimed at establishing a second lion population in India. Between 1998 and 2003, about 1,650 inhabitants of 24 villages were resettled to sites outside the protected area. Most of the inhabitants were **Saharia tribal** people. The villages were also home to Jatav, Brahmin, Gujjar, Kushwaha and Yadav people.

Droupadi Murmu is the new President of India

Droupadi Murmu is the new President of India. She defeated the opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha in the election, the result of which was announced on Thursday (July 21). Murmu, 64, is the first Adivasi and second woman to become the nation’s First Citizen and the Supreme Commander of India’s Armed Forces.



Droupadi Murmu (a president of India)

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Here are five things about the new incumbent of Rashtrapati Bhavan, who takes office in the historic 75th year of the nation's Independence.

Murmu won an election to the Rairangpur Nagar Panchayat in 1997, and served as councillor. She was elected to two terms in the Odisha Assembly in 2000 and 2004, and served as a Minister from 2000 to 2004 in Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's BJD-BJP coalition government.

She held the portfolio of Commerce and Transport and, subsequently, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry in the state government. As Transport Minister of Odisha, she was credited with having set up transport offices in all 58 subdivisions of the state. Murmu also served as vice-president of the BJP's Scheduled Tribes Morcha.

Murmu was sworn in as the first woman Governor of Jharkhand in 2015.

In November 2016, the BJP government of the state led by Chief Minister Raghubar Das passed amendments to two centuries-old land laws – the Chhotanagpur Tenancy (CNT) Act and the Santhal Pargana Tenancy (SPT) Act – that would have ensured easy transfer of land for industrial use. After widespread protests by Adivasis who believed that the move would limit their rights over land, Murmu returned the Bills in June 2017, and asked the government to clarify how the amendments would benefit tribals.

The refusal to give her assent to controversial Bills passed by the government of the party to which she had herself belonged, won Murmu admiration and respect.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled 'Statue of Equality'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated to the nation 216-feet tall 'Statue of Equality' in Hyderabad to commemorate the 11th-century Bhakti saint Ramanujacharya. The statue has been conceptualised by Chinna Jeeyar Swami of Sri Ramanujacharya Ashram. The inauguration of the statue is a part of the 12-day Sri Ramanuja Sahasrabdi Samaroham, the ongoing 1000th birth anniversary celebrations of the Bhakti saint. A 3D presentation on the life and teachings of the saint will also be showcased during the event.

Structure of the Statue:

The statue is made of 'panchaloha', a combination of five metals- gold, silver, copper, brass, and zinc. It is among one of the tallest metallic statues in sitting positions in the world.

The 216-feet tall 'Statue of Equality' statue is mounted on a 54-feet high base building, called 'Bhadra Vedi'.

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The floors of the building are dedicated to a Vedic digital library and research centre, ancient Indian texts, a theatre, an educational gallery detailing works of Sri Ramanujacharya.

Divya Desams

The monument will be surrounded by 108 'Divya Desams' of Sri Vaishnavism tradition (model temples) like Tirumala, Srirangam, Kanchi, Ahobhilam, Bhadrinath, Mukthinath, Ayodhya, Brindavan, Kumbhakonam and others. The idols of deities and structures were constructed in the shape at the existing temples. The idols were also painted.

The base building, which was 16.5 mts tall, had a meditation hall where a 54 inch statue of Ramanujacharyulu made of 120 kg gold, representing the years he lived, will be inaugurated by President Ramnath Kovind by performing the first puja on February 13. The inner sanctum deity was meant for daily worship by people.

Latest Constitutional amendments

- **103rd amendment (12 January 2019)** : A maximum of 10% Reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWSs) of citizens of classes other than the classes mentioned in clauses (4) and (5) of Article 15, i.e. Classes other than socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Inserted Clause under Article 15 as well as Inserted Clause under Article 16.
- **104th amendment (25 January 2020)** : To extend the reservation of seats for SCs and STs in the Lok Sabha and states assemblies from Seventy years to Eighty years. Removed the reserved seats for the Anglo-Indian community in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies.
- **105th amendment (10 August 2021)** : Amended Article 338B, 342A and 366. To restore states' power to make their own OBC lists. Annuling Supreme Court judgement of 11 May 2021.

100 Years of Chauri Chaura Incident

Recently, the Prime Minister paid tribute to the heroes of freedom struggle on completion of the hundred years of Chauri Chaura incident.

Chauri Chaura is a town in Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh.

On 4th February, 1922, this town witnessed a violent incident - a large crowd of

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peasants set fire to a police station that killed 22 policemen. Due to this incident, Mahatma Gandhi called off the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22).

What is the Background of the Incident?

On 1st August, 1920, Gandhiji had launched the Non-Cooperation Movement against the government.

It involved using swadeshi and boycott of foreign goods, especially machine made cloth, and legal, educational and administrative institutions, "refusing to assist a ruler who misrules".

In the winter of 1921-22, volunteers of the Congress and the Khilafat Movement were organized into a national volunteer corps.

Khilafat Movement was a pan-Islamic force in India that arose in 1919 in an effort to salvage the Ottoman caliph as a symbol of unity among the Muslim community in India during the British raj.

The Congress supported the movement and Mahatma Gandhi sought to conjoin it to the Non-Cooperation Movement.

What was the incidence of Chauri Chaura and the Aftermath reactions?

Chauri Chaura Incident:

On 4th February, volunteers congregated in the town, and after the meeting, proceeded in a procession to the local police station, and to picket the nearby Mundera bazaar.

The police fired into the crowd killing some people and injuring many volunteers.

In retaliation, the crowd proceeded to set the police station on fire.

Some of the policemen who tried to escape were caught and battered to death. A lot of police property, including weapons, was destroyed.

Reaction of the British:

The British Raj prosecuted the accused aggressively.

A sessions court quickly sentenced 172 of the 225 accused to death. However, ultimately, only 19 of those convicted were hanged.

Reaction of Mahatma Gandhi:

He condemned the crime of the policemen's killing. The volunteer groups in nearby villages were disbanded, and a Chauri Chaura Support Fund was set up to demonstrate "genuine sympathy" and seek atonement.

Gandhi decided to stop the Non-Cooperation Movement, which he saw as having been tainted by unforgivable violence.

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He bent the Congress Working Committee to his will, and on 12th February, 1922, the satyagraha (movement) was formally suspended.

Gandhi on his part, justified himself on grounds of his unshakeable faith in non-violence.

Lakshadweep declared first UT to become 100% organic

Lakshadweep after Sikkim has become the first Union Territory to become 100% organic as all the farming in the region is carried out without the use of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers.

The step to opt for organic farming was taken to provide access to safer food choices as well as for making agriculture a more environment-friendly activity. Secretary, agriculture, Lakshadweep, OP Mishra stated that UT can benefit much from marketing organic products such as coconut milk and desiccated coconut.

As per the Agriculture Ministry, only after going through the evidence and certificates provided by the administration of Lakshadweep, competent authority approved the proposal and declared the entire territory of UT as organic. Earlier in 2016, Sikkim was declared as the first organic farming state in India.

What is organic farming?

It is a system of farm design and management that creates an ecosystem of agriculture production without the use of any form of synthetic external inputs like pesticides, chemical fertilizers, genetically modified organisms, or synthetic hormones.

Highlights

- The entire group of islands has been declared as an organic agriculture area under the government's Participatory Guarantee System. It is a process of certifying organic products.
 - One-third area of the island has certified as organic since 2012 but the agriculture department was working rigorously to bring 100% area under the organic certification.
 - The success of acquiring a certification of being 100% organic was achieved with the help of the central government's Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana and the financial assistance earmarked for the UT under the scheme.
 - With more than 12,000 coconut farmers and around 100 million coconuts produced in the region as well as the value-added products made out of them will definitely help in attaining the premium status and price in the market.
-

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- The entire Lakshadweep was certified on the eve of its 55- formation day on November 1.

Cropping pattern in Lakshadweep island:

- The only major crop on the islands is coconut and in terms of production, there are eight lakh coconut trees in the entire region that produce 11 lakh coconut in a year.
 - There are horticulture crops as well such as spinach, brinjal, pumpkin, drumstick, chilies, snake gourd, watermelon, ladyfinger, papaya. However, these crops are grown in a very small quantity.
 - In Lakshadweep, agriculture is limited only to the specific area around habitations. While the land use in the region is dominated by plantation crops such as arecanut and coconut.
 - Apart from coconut, the other important crops grown are pulses and rice but only under rainfed conditions.
-
-

India to host G20 Summit in 2023

The grouping leaders of G20 announced on November 22, 2020 that India will now host the Group of 20 Summit in 2023, a year later than what was decided earlier. India was set to host the summit in 2022 which was also coinciding with the 75th anniversary of Indian independence.

The declaration of G20 Riyadh Summit Leaders which was issued at the conclusion of two-day's conference of the top 20 economies of the world thanked Saudi Arabia for successfully hosting Riyadh Summit as well as for its contribution to G20 process. The declaration by the leaders added that we look forward for our next meetings in Italy in 2021, Indonesia in 2022, India in 2023 and Brazil in 2024.

PM Modi among other two dozen leaders had participated in one of the most prominent summits. The focus of 2020s summit, which mostly took place virtually was the Coronavirus pandemic.

India hosting summit in 2023 instead of 2022:

On now India hosting the summit in 2023 instead of 2022, sources informed that the order of rotating the presidency has been decided among the member of states on the basis of mutual convenience and consultations.

It was also informed that India looks forward in taking forward the G20 agenda in 2023 after the presidencies of Italy and Indonesia.

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G20 leaders committed to address COVID-19 pandemic:

The leaders of G20 in the declaration, vowed on addressing the vulnerabilities that have been revealed by the ongoing crisis and assured to take the necessary steps to work and recover stronger to ensure that future generations are much safer than we have been.

The leaders also informed that they have been taking exceptional and immediate measures for addressing the pandemic and its intertwined social, health and economic impacts.

The declaration further continued that the leaders meeting for the second time under Saudi Presidency stand united in conviction that solidarity, coordinated global action, and multilateral cooperation are more necessary in today's time than ever to overcome the ongoing challenges.

The leaders also reflected their commitment in leading the world in shaping sustainable, strong, balanced and inclusive post-COVID-19 era.

G20 leaders support Anti-Money Laundering (AML)/Counter-Terrorist Financing (CTF):

The leaders of G20 also extended support to the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing policy responses detailed in the paper of Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) on COVID-19 pandemic.

The leaders also reaffirmed support to FATF, as a global standard-setting body for combating and preventing money laundering, proliferation financing and terrorist financing.



INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

WHITE HELMETS : AN IMPARTIAL HUMANITARIAN NGO

The White Helmets, officially known as Syria Civil Defence (SCD), is a volunteer organisation that operates in parts of rebel-controlled Syria and in Turkey. SCD is officially an impartial humanitarian NGO, with no affiliation to any political or military actor and a commitment to render services to anyone in need. Like all NGOs operating in opposition-controlled areas, SCD negotiates humanitarian access with organisations such as local councils, provincial councils, and armed groups, with relationships varying widely from governorate to governorate. The majority of their activity in Syria consists of urban search and rescue in response to bombing, medical evacuation, evacuation of civilians from danger areas, and essential service delivery. 159 White Helmets have been killed since the organisation's inception. The organisation has been the target of a disinformation campaign by supporters of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and Russia-sponsored media organisations such as Russia Today (RT), with claims of close ties with terrorist activities.

SCD's stated mission is "to save the greatest number of lives in the shortest possible time and to minimize further injury to people and damage to property." Their work covers the 15 civil defence tasks as laid out in international humanitarian law (IHL); the bulk of their activity in Syria consists of urban search and rescue in response to bombing, medical evacuation, evacuation of civilians from danger areas, and essential service delivery.

The *most prominent role of SCD* was rescuing civilians from airstrikes with barrel bombs, improvised explosive devices dropped by SAAF helicopters. Following a request from Bashar al-Assad for support, Russia intervened in the Syrian Civil War on 30 September 2015. Much of the work of SCD has been responding to aerial bombardments by the Russian Air Force attack aircraft.

As well as providing rescue services, SCD undertakes repair works such as securing damaged buildings and reconnecting electrical and water services, clearing roads, teaching children about unexploded ordnance hazards, as well as firefighting and winter storm relief. Sometimes described as the most dangerous job in the world, SCD operations involve risk from a wide variety of war-zone threats. By late 2016,

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159 White Helmets had been killed since the organisation's inception.

SCD is not affiliated with the International Civil Defence Organisation, nor is it connected to the Syria Civil Defence forces which have been a member of the ICDO since 1972. However, as the Syrian government's civil defence organisation does not operate in rebel-held areas, and bombardment of civilian populations in Syria is overwhelmingly perpetrated against opposition-held areas by Syrian government forces, SCD is engaged in the civil defence tasks. As of 2015, SCD had an annual budget of \$30 million provided by a mix of state donors and public fundraising. Volunteers who work full-time receive a \$150 monthly stipend.

It has a co-ordination office on the Turkish-Syrian border in Gaziantep and a training centre in Turkey. There are about 100 female White Helmets.

According to investigative journalists and analysts, SCD became a target of a systematic information warfare campaign by the Russian government, the Syrian government, and their supporters, who have accused the organisation of taking sides in the Syrian Civil War, carrying arms and supporting "terrorist" groups. According to The Guardian's Olivia Solon, claims by contributors to the English language Russian RT television network and Sputnik news agency have also come under critical scrutiny. According to the fact-checking organisation Snopes.com these accusations against the White Helmets are unfounded. Likewise, multiple journalists have raised serious questions as to the credibility and government ties of individuals making accusations against SCD. According to The New York Times's Linda Qiu, Assad's claim that the White Helmets are "Al-Qaeda members" was "without evidence".

In November 2016, the Revolutionaries of Syria Media Office, a Syrian media organisation, published a video showing two White Helmet volunteers performing a staged rescue operation for the Mannequin Challenge meme. The organisation apologised for their volunteers' error of judgement and said it had not shared the recording on their official channels.

PYD closed a White Helmets centre and banned the organization in Afrin. This situation ended after the successful occupation of the city during the Operation Olive Branch.

IUCN designates Aravalli Biodiversity Park in Gurugram 2022

The Aravalli Biodiversity Park in Gurugram, Haryana, has been declared as India's first "other effective area-based conservation measures" (OECM) site. This was informed by the Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change on the occasion of World Wetlands Day. The International Union for Conservation of

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Nature (IUCN) gives OECM tag to those areas that are not protected but support rich biodiversity. The tag designates the area as a biodiversity hotspot on the international map.

What is OECM?

OECM is a status for a place that has achieved effective in-situ conservation of biodiversity outside protected areas like forests. The park, which once was an abandoned mining pit, was transformed into a lush green forest patch in 10 years. Now, it has about 400 native species of plants.

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ECONOMIC EVENTS

Banking collapse in USA

Signature Bank collapse

Silicon Valley Bank - which specialised in lending to technology companies - was shut down by US regulators who seized its assets. It was the biggest failure of a US bank since the financial crisis in 2008.

New York-based Signature Bank was shut by regulators in the US, becoming the second bank in the country after Silicon Valley Bank.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) has been appointed as a receiver, which typically means it will liquidate the bank's assets to pay back its customers, including depositors and others.

The standard insurance amount from FDIC is \$250,000 per depositor, per bank, for each account ownership category.

Silvergate Bank is a California bank founded in 1988. The company began providing services for cryptocurrency users in 2016, and conducted an IPO in 2019. In November 2022, concerns were raised about Silvergate's health, following the fall in cryptocurrency prices and the bankruptcy of FTX. In March 2023, the bank announced plans to wind down and liquidate.

World Bank's Women, Business and the Law 2023 report released

According to the 9th Women, Business and the Law 2023 report, released by World Bank, UAE has topped the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region with 82.5 scores out of 100

- ◆ Belgium, Canada, and Denmark topped all eight indicators
- ◆ India scored 74.4 out of 100.
- ◆ Indicators: Mobility, Workplace, Pay, Marriage, Parenthood, Entrepreneurship, Assets, and Pension

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- ◆ It is an annual report that analyzes laws and regulations affecting women's economic opportunity in 190 countries
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Revamped MSME Competitive (LEAN) scheme launched

Union Minister Narayan Rane launched the MSME Competitive (LEAN) Scheme at the NDMC Convention Centre, Delhi.

- ◆ **Aim:** To provide a roadmap to global competitiveness for the MSMEs of India
 - ◆ Under the scheme, MSMEs will implement LEAN manufacturing tools like 5S, Kaizen, KANBAN, visual workplace, and Poka Yoka.
 - ◆ MSMEs can reduce wastages substantially, increase productivity, improve quality, work safely, expand their markets, and finally become competitive and profitable.
 - ◆ This Scheme is an extensive drive to create awareness amongst MSMEs about LEAN Manufacturing practices and motivate and incentivize them to attain LEAN levels while also encouraging them to become MSME Champions.
 - ◆ Under the scheme, MSMEs will implement LEAN manufacturing tools like 5S, Kaizen, KANBAN, Visual workplace, Poka Yoka etc under the able guidance of trained and competent LEAN Consultants to attain LEAN levels like Basic, Intermediate and Advanced. Through the LEAN journey, MSMEs can reduce wastages substantially, increase productivity, improve quality, work safely, expanding their markets, and finally becoming competitive and profitable.
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Concept of Budget

A budget is an estimation of revenue and expenses over a specified future period of time and is usually compiled and re-evaluated on a periodic basis. Budgets can be made for a person, a group of people, a business, a government, or just about anything else that makes and spends money.

To manage your monthly expenses, prepare for life's unpredictable events, and be able to afford big-ticket items without going into debt, budgeting is important. Keeping track of how much you earn and spend doesn't have to be drudgery, doesn't require you to be good at math, and doesn't mean you can't buy the things you want. It just means that you'll know where your money goes, you'll have greater control over your finances.

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A budget is a microeconomic concept that shows the trade-off made when one good is exchanged for another. In terms of the bottom line—or the end result of this trade-off—a surplus budget means profits are anticipated, a balanced budget means revenues are expected to equal expenses, and a deficit budget means expenses will exceed revenues.

What Is Zero-Based Budgeting (ZBB)?

Zero-based budgeting (ZBB) is a method of budgeting in which all expenses must be justified for each new period. The process of zero-based budgeting starts from a "zero base," and every function within an organization is analyzed for its needs and costs. The budgets are then built around what is needed for the upcoming period, regardless of whether each budget is higher or lower than the previous one.

Example of Zero-Based Budgeting

Suppose a construction equipment company implements a zero-based budgeting process calling for closer scrutiny of manufacturing department expenses. The company notices that the cost of certain parts used in its final products and outsourced to another manufacturer increases by 5% every year. The company can make those parts in-house using its workers. After weighing the positives and negatives of in-house manufacturing, the company finds it can make the parts more cheaply than the outside supplier.

Instead of blindly increasing the budget by a certain percentage and masking the cost increase, the company can identify a situation in which it can decide to make the part itself or buy the part from the external supplier for its end products.

Traditional budgeting may not allow cost drivers within departments to be identified. Zero-based budgeting is a more granular process that aims to identify and justify expenditures. However, zero-based budgeting is also more involved, so the costs of the process itself must be weighed against the savings it may identify.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE UNION BUDGET 2023-24

The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2023-24 in Parliament today. The highlights of the Budget are as follows:

PART A

- ◆ Per capita income has more than doubled to ₹1.97 lakh in around nine years.
- ◆ Indian economy has increased in size from being 10th to 5th largest in the world

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in the past nine years.

- ◆ EPFO membership has more than doubled to 27 crore.
- ◆ 7,400 crore digital payments of ₹126 lakh crore has taken place through UPI in 2022.
- ◆ 11.7 crore household toilets constructed under Swachh Bharat Mission.
- ◆ 9.6 crore LPG connections provided under Ujjwala.
- ◆ 220 crore covid vaccination of 102 crore persons.
- ◆ 47.8 crore PM Jan Dhan bank accounts.
- ◆ Insurance cover for 44.6 crore persons under PM Suraksha Bima and PM Jeevan Jyoti Yojana.
- ◆ Cash transfer of ₹2.2 lakh crore to over 11.4 crore farmers under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi.
- ◆ Seven priorities of the budget 'Saptarishi' are inclusive development, reaching the last mile, infrastructure and investment, unleashing the potential, green growth, youth power and financial sector.
- ◆ Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Program with an outlay of ₹2200 crore to be launched to boost availability of disease-free, quality planting material for high value horticultural crops.
- ◆ 157 new nursing colleges to be established in co-location with the existing 157 medical colleges established since 2014.
- ◆ · Centre to recruit 38,800 teachers and support staff for the 740 Eklatva Model Residential Schools, serving 3.5 lakh tribal students over the next three years.
- ◆ · Outlay for PM Awas Yojana is being enhanced by 66% to over ₹79,000 crore.
- ◆ Capital outlay of Rs. 2.40 lakh crore has been provided for the Railways, which is the highest ever outlay and about nine times the outlay made in 2013-14.
- ◆ Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF) will be established through use of priority Sector Lending shortfall, which will be managed by the national Housing Bank, and will be used by public agencies to create urban infrastructure in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
- ◆ Entity DigiLocker to be setup for use by MSMEs, large business and charitable trusts to store and share documents online securely.
- ◆ 100 labs to be setup for 5G services based application development to realize a new range of opportunities, business models, and employment potential.
- ◆ 500 new 'waste to wealth' plants under GOBARDhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-

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Agro Resources Dhan) scheme to be established for promoting circular economy at total investment of Rs 10,000 crore. 5 per cent compressed biogas mandate to be introduced for all organizations marketing natural and bio gas.

- ◆ Centre to facilitate one crore farmers to adopt natural farming over the next three years. For this, 10,000 Bio-Input Resource Centres to be set-up, creating a national-level distributed micro-fertilizer and pesticide manufacturing network.
 - ◆ Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0, to be launched to skill lakhs of youth within the next three years covering new age courses for Industry 4.0 like coding, AI, robotics, mechatronics, IOT, 3D printing, drones, and soft skills.
 - ◆ 30 Skill India International Centres to be set up across different States to skill youth for international opportunities.
 - ◆ Revamped credit guarantee scheme for MSMEs to take effect from 1st April 2023 through infusion of Rs 9,000 crore in the corpus. This scheme would enable additional collateral-free guaranteed credit of Rs 2 lakh crore and also reduce the cost of the credit by about 1 per cent.
 - ◆ Central Processing Centre to be setup for faster response to companies through centralized handling of various forms filed with field offices under the Companies Act.
 - ◆ The maximum deposit limit for Senior Citizen Savings Scheme to be enhanced from ₹15 lakh to ₹30 lakh.
 - ◆ Targeted Fiscal Deficit to be below 4.5% by 2025-26.
 - ◆ Agriculture Accelerator Fund to be set-up to encourage agri-startups by young entrepreneurs in rural areas.
 - ◆ To make India a global hub for 'Shree Anna', the Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad will be supported as the Centre of Excellence for sharing best practices, research and technologies at the international level.
 - ◆ ₹20 lakh crore agricultural credit targeted at animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries
 - ◆ A new sub-scheme of PM Matsya Sampada Yojana with targeted investment of ₹6,000 crore to be launched to further enable activities of fishermen, fish vendors, and micro & small enterprises, improve value chain efficiencies, and expand the market.
 - ◆ Digital public infrastructure for agriculture to be built as an open source, open standard and inter operable public good to enable inclusive farmer centric solutions and support for growth of agri-tech industry and start-ups.
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- ◆ Computerisation of 63,000 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) with an investment of ₹2,516 crore initiated.
- ◆ Massive decentralised storage capacity to be set up to help farmers store their produce and realize remunerative prices through sale at appropriate times.
- ◆ Sickle Cell Anaemia elimination mission to be launched.
- ◆ Joint public and Private Medical research to be encouraged via select ICMR labs for encouraging collaborative research and innovation.
- ◆ New Programme to promote research in Pharmaceuticals to be launched.
- ◆ ₹10 lakh crore capital investment, a steep increase of 33% for third year in a row, to enhance growth potential and job creation, crowd-in private investments, and provide a cushion against global headwinds.
- ◆ Aspirational Blocks Programme covering 500 blocks launched for saturation of essential government services across multiple domains such as health, nutrition, education, agriculture, water resources, financial inclusion, skill development, and basic infrastructure.
- ◆ ₹15,000 crore for implementation of Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission over the next three years under the Development Action Plan for the Scheduled Tribes.
- ◆ Investment of ₹75,000 crore, including ₹15,000 crore from private sources, for one hundred critical transport infrastructure projects, for last and first mile connectivity for ports, coal, steel, fertilizer, and food grains sectors.
- ◆ New Infrastructure Finance Secretariat established to enhance opportunities for private investment in infrastructure.
- ◆ District Institutes of Education and Training to be developed as vibrant institutes of excellence for Teachers' Training.
- ◆ A National Digital Library for Children and Adolescents to be set-up for facilitating availability of quality books across geographies, languages, genres and levels, and device agnostic accessibility.
- ◆ ₹5,300 crore to be given as central assistance to Upper Bhadra Project to provide sustainable micro irrigation and filling up of surface tanks for drinking water.
- ◆ 'Bharat Shared Repository of Inscriptions' to be set up in a digital epigraphy museum, with digitization of one lakh ancient inscriptions in the first stage.
- ◆ 'Effective Capital Expenditure' of Centre to be ₹13.7 lakh crore.
- ◆ Continuation of 50-year interest free loan to state governments for one more

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year to spur investment in infrastructure and to incentivize them for complementary policy actions.

- ◆ Encouragement to states and cities to undertake urban planning reforms and actions to transform our cities into 'sustainable cities of tomorrow'.
- ◆ Transition from manhole to machine-hole mode by enabling all cities and towns to undertake 100 percent mechanical desludging of septic tanks and sewers.
- ◆ iGOT Karmayogi, an integrated online training platform, launched to provide continuous learning opportunities for lakhs of government employees to upgrade their skills and facilitate people-centric approach.
- ◆ More than 39,000 compliances reduced and more than 3,400 legal provisions decriminalized to enhance Ease Of Doing Business.
- ◆ Jan Vishwas Bill to amend 42 Central Acts have been introduced to further trust-based governance.
- ◆ Three centres of excellence for Artificial Intelligence to be set-up in top educational institutions to realise the vision of "Make AI in India and Make AI work for India".
- ◆ National Data Governance Policy to be brought out to unleash innovation and research by start-ups and academia.
- ◆ One stop solution for reconciliation and updation of identity and address of individuals to be established using DigiLocker service and Aadhaar as foundational identity.
- ◆ PAN will be used as the common identifier for all digital systems of specified government agencies to bring in Ease of Doing Business.
- ◆ 95 per cent of the forfeited amount relating to bid or performance security, will be returned to MSME's by government and government undertakings in cases the MSME's failed to execute contracts during Covid period.
- ◆ Result Based Financing to better allocate scarce resources for competing development needs.
- ◆ Phase-3 of the E-Courts project to be launched with an outlay of ₹7,000 crore for efficient administration of justice.
- ◆ R & D grant for Lab Grown Diamonds (LGD) sector to encourage indigenous production of LGD seeds and machines and to reduce import dependency.
- ◆ Annual production of 5 MMT under Green Hydrogen Mission to be targeted by 2030 to facilitate transition of the economy to low carbon intensity and to reduce

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- dependence on fossil fuel imports.
- ◆ Rs. 35000 crore outlay for energy security, energy transition and net zero objectives.
 - ◆ Battery energy storage systems to be promoted to steer the economy on the sustainable development path.
 - ◆ 20,700 crore outlay provided for renewable energy grid integration and evacuation from Ladakh.
 - ◆ “PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth” (PM-PRANAM) to be launched to incentivize States and Union Territories to promote alternative fertilizers and balanced use of chemical fertilizers.
 - ◆ ‘Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes’, MISHTI, to be taken up for mangrove plantation along the coastline and on salt pan lands, through convergence between MGNREGS, CAMPA Fund and other sources.
 - ◆ Green Credit Programme to be notified under the Environment (Protection) Act to incentivize and mobilize additional resources for environmentally sustainable and responsive actions.
 - ◆ Amrit Dharohar scheme to be implemented over the next three years to encourage optimal use of wetlands, enhance bio-diversity, carbon stock, eco-tourism opportunities and income generation for local communities.
 - ◆ A unified Skill India Digital platform to be launched for enabling demand-based formal skilling, linking with employers including MSMEs, and facilitating access to entrepreneurship schemes.
 - ◆ Direct Benefit Transfer under a pan-India National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme to be rolled out to provide stipend support to 47 lakh youth in three years.
 - ◆ At least 50 tourist destinations to be selected through challenge mode; to be developed as a complete package for domestic and foreign tourists.
 - ◆ Sector specific skilling and entrepreneurship development to be dovetailed to achieve the objectives of the *‘Dekho Apna Desh’* initiative.
 - ◆ Tourism infrastructure and amenities to be facilitated in border villages through the Vibrant Villages Programme.
 - ◆ States to be encouraged to set up a Unity Mall for promotion and sale of their own and also all others states’ ODOPs (One District, One Product), GI products

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and handicrafts.

- ◆ National Financial Information Registry to be set up to serve as the central repository of financial and ancillary information for facilitating efficient flow of credit, promoting financial inclusion, and fostering financial stability. A new legislative framework to be designed in consultation with RBI to govern this credit public infrastructure.
- ◆ Financial sector regulators to carry out a comprehensive review of existing regulations in consultation with public and regulated entities. Time limits to decide the applications under various regulations would also be laid down.
- ◆ To enhance business activities in GIFT IFSC, the following measures to be taken.
- ◆ Delegating powers under the SEZ Act to IFSCA to avoid dual regulation.
- ◆ Setting up a single window IT system for registration and approval from IFSCA, SEZ authorities, GSTN, RBI, SEBI and IRDAI.
- ◆ Permitting acquisition financing by IFSC Banking Units of foreign bank.
- ◆ Establishing a subsidiary of EXIM Bank for trade re-financing.
- ◆ Amending IFSCA Act for statutory provisions for arbitration, ancillary services, and avoiding dual regulation under SEZ Act
- ◆ Recognizing offshore derivative instruments as valid contracts.
- ◆ Amendments proposed to the Banking Regulation Act, the Banking Companies Act and the Reserve of India Act to improve bank governance and enhance investors' protection.
- ◆ Countries looking for digital continuity solutions would be facilitated for setting up of their Data Embassies in GIFT IFSC.
- ◆ SEBI to be empowered to develop, regulate, maintain and enforce norms and standards for education in the National Institute of Securities Markets and to recognize award of degrees, diplomas and certificates.
- ◆ Integrated IT portal to be established to enable investors to easily reclaim the unclaimed shares and unpaid dividends from the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority.
- ◆ To commemorate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, a one-time new small savings scheme, Mahila Samman Savings Certificate to be launched. It will offer deposit facility upto ₹2 lakh in the name of women or girls for tenure of 2 years (up to March 2025) at fixed interest rate of 7.5 per cent with partial withdrawal option.
- ◆ The maximum deposit limit for Monthly Income Account Scheme to be enhanced

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from ₹4.5 lakh to Rs 9 lakh for single account and from ₹9 lakh to ₹15 lakh for joint account.

- ◆ The entire fifty-year interest free loan to states to be spent on capital expenditure within 2023-24. Part of the loan is conditional on States increasing actual Capital expenditure and parts of outlay will be linked to States undertaking specific loans.
- ◆ Fiscal Deficit of 3.5% of GSDP allowed for States of which 0.5% is tied to Power sector reforms.

Revised Estimates 2022-23:

- ◆ The total receipts other than borrowings is ₹24.3 lakh crore, of which the net tax receipts are ₹20.9 lakh crore.
- ◆ The total expenditure is ₹41.9 lakh crore, of which the capital expenditure is about ₹7.3 lakh crore.
- ◆ The fiscal deficit is 6.4 per cent of GDP, adhering to the Budget Estimate.

Budget Estimates 2023-24:

- ◆ The total receipts other than borrowings is estimated at ₹27.2 lakh crore and the total expenditure is estimated at ₹45 lakh crore.
- ◆ The net tax receipts are estimated at ₹23.3 lakh crore.
- ◆ The fiscal deficit is estimated to be 5.9 per cent of GDP.
- ◆ To finance the fiscal deficit in 2023-24, the net market borrowings from dated securities are estimated at ₹11.8 lakh crore.
- ◆ The gross market borrowings are estimated at ₹15.4 lakh crore.

Economic Survey 2022-23

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, presented the Economic Survey 2022-23 in the Union Parliament today. The highlights of the Survey are as follows:

State of the Economy 2022-23: Recovery Complete

- ◆ Recovering from pandemic-induced contraction, Russian-Ukraine conflict and inflation, Indian economy is staging a broad based recovery across sectors, positioning to ascend to the pre-pandemic growth path in FY23.
- ◆ India's GDP growth is expected to remain robust in FY24. GDP forecast for FY24 to be in the range of 6-6.8 %.

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- ◆ Private consumption in H1 is highest since FY15 and this has led to a boost to production activity resulting in enhanced capacity utilisation across sectors.
- ◆ The Capital Expenditure of Central Government and crowding in the private Capex led by strengthening of the balance sheets of the Corporates is one of the growth driver of the Indian economy in the current year.
- ◆ The credit growth to the MSME sector was over 30.6 per cent on average during Jan-Nov 2022.
- ◆ Retail inflation is back within RBI's target range in November 2022.
- ◆ Indian Rupee performed well compared to other Emerging Market Economies in Apr-Dec2022.
- ◆ Direct Tax collections for the period April-November 2022 remain buoyant.
- ◆ Enhanced Employment generation seen in the declining urban unemployment rate and in the faster net registration in Employee Provident Fund.
- ◆ Economic growth to be boosted from the expansion of public digital platforms and measures to boost manufacturing output.

India's Medium Term Growth Outlook: with Optimism and Hope

- ◆ Indian economy underwent wide-ranging structural and governance reforms that strengthened the economy's fundamentals by enhancing its overall efficiency during 2014-2022.
- ◆ With an underlying emphasis on improving the ease of living and doing business, the reforms after 2014 were based on the broad principles of creating public goods, adopting trust-based governance, co-partnering with the private sector for development, and improving agricultural productivity.
- ◆ The period of 2014-2022 also witnessed balance sheet stress caused by the credit boom in the previous years and one-off global shocks, that adversely impacted the key macroeconomic variables such as credit growth, capital formation, and hence economic growth during this period.
- ◆ This situation is analogous to the period 1998-2002 when transformative reforms undertaken by the government had lagged growth returns due to temporary shocks in the economy. Once these shocks faded, the structural reforms paid growth dividends from 2003.
- ◆ Similarly, the Indian economy is well placed to grow faster in the coming decade once the global shocks of the pandemic and the spike in commodity prices in 2022 fade away.

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- ◆ With improved and healthier balance sheets of the banking, non-banking and corporate sectors, a fresh credit cycle has already begun, evident from the double-digit growth in bank credit over the past months.
- ◆ Indian economy has also started benefiting from the efficiency gains resulting from greater formalisation, higher financial inclusion, and economic opportunities created by digital technology-based economic reforms.
- ◆ Thus Chapter 2 of the Survey shows that India's growth outlook seems better than in the pre-pandemic years, and the Indian economy is prepared to grow at its potential in the medium term.

Fiscal Developments: Revenue Relish

- ◆ The Union Government finances have shown a resilient performance during the year FY23, facilitated by the recovery in economic activity, buoyancy in revenues from direct taxes and GST, and realistic assumptions in the Budget.
- ◆ The Gross Tax Revenue registered a YoY growth of 15.5 per cent from April to November 2022, driven by robust growth in the direct taxes and Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- ◆ Growth in direct taxes during the first eight months of the year was much higher than their corresponding longer-term averages.
- ◆ GST has stabilised as a vital revenue source for central and state governments, with the gross GST collections increasing at 24.8 per cent on YoY basis from April to December 2022.
- ◆ Union Government's emphasis on capital expenditure (Capex) has continued despite higher revenue expenditure requirements during the year. The Centre's Capex has steadily increased from a long-term average of 1.7 per cent of GDP (FY09 to FY20) to 2.5 per cent of GDP in FY22 PA.
- ◆ The Centre has also incentivised the State Governments through interest-free loans and enhanced borrowing ceilings to prioritise their spending on Capex.
- ◆ With an emphasis on infrastructure-intensive sectors like roads and highways, railways, and housing and urban affairs, the increase in Capex has large-scale positive implications for medium-term growth.
- ◆ The Government's Capex-led growth strategy will enable India to keep the growth-interest rate differential positive, leading to a sustainable debt to GDP in the medium run.

Monetary Management and Financial Intermediation: A Good Year

- ◆ The RBI initiated its monetary tightening cycle in April 2022 and has since raised

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the repo rate by 225 bps, leading to moderation of surplus liquidity conditions.

- ◆ Cleaner balance sheets led to enhanced lending by financial institutions.
- ◆ The growth in credit offtake is expected to sustain, and combined with a pick-up in private capex, will usher in a virtuous investment cycle.
- ◆ Non-food credit offtake by scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) has been growing in double digits since April 2022.
- ◆ Credit disbursed by Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) has also been on the rise.
- ◆ The Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio of SCBs has fallen to a seven-year low of 5.0.
- ◆ The Capital-to-Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) remains healthy at 16.0.
- ◆ The recovery rate for the SCBs through Insolvency and Bankruptcy (IBC) was highest in FY22 compared to other channels.

Prices and Inflation: Successful Tight-Rope Walking

- ◆ While the year 2022 witnessed a return of high inflation in the advanced world after three to four decades, India caps the rise in prices.
- ◆ While India's retail inflation rate peaked at 7.8 per cent in April 2022, above the RBI's upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent, the overshoot of inflation above the upper end of the target range in India was however one of the lowest in the world.
- ◆ The government adopted a multi-pronged approach to tame the increase in price levels
- ◆ Phase wise reduction in export duty of petrol and diesel
- ◆ Import duty on major inputs were brought to zero while tax on export of iron ores and concentrates increased from 30 to 50 per cent
- ◆ Waived customs duty on cotton imports w.e.f 14 April 2022, until 30 September 2022
- ◆ Prohibition on the export of wheat products under HS Code 1101 and imposition of export duty on rice
- ◆ Reduction in basic duty on crude and refined palm oil, crude soyabean oil and crude sunflower oil
- ◆ The RBI's anchoring of inflationary expectations through forward guidance and responsive monetary policy has helped guide the trajectory of inflation in the country.

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- ◆ The one-year-ahead inflationary expectations by both businesses and households have moderated in the current financial year.
- ◆ Timely policy intervention by the government in housing sector, coupled with low home loan interest rates propped up demand and attracted buyers more readily in the affordable segment in FY23.
- ◆ An overall increase in composite Housing Price Indices (HPI) assessment and Housing Price Indices market prices indicates a revival in the housing finance sector. A stable to moderate increase in HPI also offers confidence to homeowners and home loan financiers in terms of the retained value of the asset.
- ◆ India's inflation management has been particularly noteworthy and can be contrasted with advanced economies that are still grappling with sticky inflation rates.

Social Infrastructure and Employment: Big Tent

- ◆ Social Sector witnessed significant increase in government spending.
- ◆ Central and State Government's budgeted expenditure on health sector touched 2.1% of GDP in FY23 (BE) and 2.2% in FY22 (RE) against 1.6% in FY21.
- ◆ Social sector expenditure increases to Rs. 21.3 lakh crore in FY23 (BE) from Rs. 9.1 lakh crore in FY16.
- ◆ Survey highlights the findings of the 2022 report of the UNDP on Multidimensional Poverty Index which says that 41.5 crore people exit poverty in India between 2005-06 and 2019-20.
- ◆ The Aspirational Districts Programme has emerged as a template for good governance, especially in remote and difficult areas.
- ◆ eShram portal developed for creating a National database of unorganised workers, which is verified with Aadhaar. As on 31 December 2022, a total of over 28.5 crore unorganised workers have been registered on eShram portal.
- ◆ JAM (Jan-Dhan, Aadhaar, and Mobile) trinity, combined with the power of DBT, has brought the marginalised sections of society into the formal financial system, revolutionising the path of transparent and accountable governance by empowering the people.
- ◆ Aadhaar played a vital role in developing the Co-WIN platform and in the transparent administration of over 2 billion vaccine doses.
- ◆ Labour markets have recovered beyond pre-Covid levels, in both urban and rural areas, with unemployment rates falling from 5.8 per cent in 2018-19 to 4.2

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per cent in 2020-21.

- ◆ The year FY22 saw improvement in Gross Enrolment Ratios (GER) in schools and improvement in gender parity. GER in the primary-enrolment in class I to V as a percentage of the population in age 6 to 10 years - for girls as well as boys have improved in FY22.
- ◆ Due to several steps taken by the government on health, out-of-pocket expenditure as a percentage of total health expenditure declined from 64.2% in FY14 to 48.2% in FY19.
- ◆ Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Under Five mortality rate (U5MR) and neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) have shown a steady decline.
- ◆ More than 220 crore COVID vaccine doses administered as on 06 January, 2023.
- ◆ Nearly 22 crore beneficiaries have been verified under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme as on 04 January, 2023. Over 1.54 lakh Health and Wellness Centres have been operationalized across the country under Ayushman Bharat.

Climate Change and Environment: Preparing to Face the Future

- ◆ India declared the Net Zero Pledge to achieve net zero emissions goal by 2070.
- ◆ India achieved its target of 40 per cent installed electric capacity from non-fossil fuels ahead of 2030.
- ◆ The likely installed capacity from non-fossil fuels to be more than 500 GW by 2030 resulting in decline of average emission rate by around 29% by 2029-30, compared to 2014-15.
- ◆ India to reduce emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030 from 2005 levels.
- ◆ About 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity to come from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.
- ◆ A mass movement LIFE- Life style for Environment launched.
- ◆ Sovereign Green Bond Framework (SGrBs) issued in November 2022.
- ◆ RBI auctions two tranches of ₹4,000 crore Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrB).
- ◆ National Green Hydrogen Mission to enable India to be energy independent by 2047.
- ◆ Green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonne) per annum to be developed by 2030. Cumulative reduction in fossil fuel imports over ₹1 lakh crore and creation of over 6 lakh jobs by 2030 under the National green Hydrogen Mission. Renewable energy capacity addition of about 125 GW and abatement of nearly 50 MMT of annual GHG emissions by 2030.

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- ◆ The Survey highlights the progress on eight missions under the NAP on CC to address climate concerns and promote sustainable development.
- ◆ Solar power capacity installed, a key metric under the National Solar Mission stood at 61.6 GW as on October 2022.
- ◆ India becoming a favored destination for renewables; investments in 7 years stand at USD 78.1 billion.
- ◆ 62.8 lakh individual household toilets and 6.2 lakh community and public toilets constructed (August 2022) under the National Mission on Sustainable Habitat.

Agriculture and Food Management

- ◆ The performance of the agriculture and allied sector has been buoyant over the past several years, much of which is on account of the measures taken by the government to augment crop and livestock productivity, ensure certainty of returns to the farmers through price support, promote crop diversification, improve market infrastructure through the impetus provided for the setting up of farmer-producer organisations and promotion of investment in infrastructure facilities through the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund.
- ◆ Private investment in agriculture increases to 9.3% in 2020-21.
- ◆ MSP for all mandated crops fixed at 1.5 times of all India weighted average cost of production since 2018.
- ◆ Institutional Credit to the Agricultural Sector continued to grow to 18.6 lakh crore in 2021-22
- ◆ Foodgrains production in India saw sustained increase and stood at 315.7 million tonnes in 2021-22.
- ◆ Free foodgrains to about 81.4 crore beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act for one year from January 1, 2023.
- ◆ About 11.3 crore farmers were covered under the Scheme in its April-July 2022-23 payment cycle.
- ◆ Rs 13,681 crores sanctioned for Post-Harvest Support and Community Farms under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund.
- ◆ Online, Competitive, Transparent Bidding System with 1.74 crore farmers and 2.39 lakh traders put in place under the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) Scheme.
- ◆ Organic Farming being promoted through Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO) under the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY).

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- ◆ India stands at the forefront to promote millets through the International Year of Millets initiative.

Industry: Steady Recovery

- ◆ Overall Gross Value Added (GVA) by the Industrial Sector (for the first half of FY 22-23) rose 3.7 per cent, which is higher than the average growth of 2.8 per cent achieved in the first half of the last decade.
- ◆ Robust growth in Private Final Consumption Expenditure, export stimulus during the first half of the year, increase in investment demand triggered by enhanced public capex and strengthened bank and corporate balance sheets have provided a demand stimulus to industrial growth.
- ◆ The supply response of the industry to the demand stimulus has been robust.
- ◆ PMI manufacturing has remained in the expansion zone for 18 months since July 2021, and Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grows at a healthy pace.
- ◆ Credit to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) has grown by an average of around 30% since January 2022 and credit to large industry has been showing double-digit growth since October 2022.
- ◆ Electronics exports rise nearly threefold, from US \$4.4 billion in FY19 to US \$11.6 Billion in FY22.
- ◆ India has become the second-largest mobile phone manufacturer globally, with the production of handsets going up from 6 crore units in FY15 to 29 crore units in FY21.
- ◆ Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows into the Pharma Industry has risen four times, from US \$180 million in FY19 to US \$699 million in FY22.
- ◆ The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes introduced across 14 categories, with an estimated capex of ₹4 lakh crore over the next five years, to plug India into global supply chains. Investment of ₹47,500 crores has been seen under the PLI schemes in the FY22, which is 106% of the designated target for the year. Production/sales worth ₹3.85 lakh crore and employment generation of 3.0 lakh have been recorded due to PLI schemes.
- ◆ Over 39,000 compliances have been reduced and more than 3500 provisions decriminalized as of January 2023.

Services: Source of Strength

- ◆ The services sector is expected to grow at 9.1% in FY23, as against 8.4% (YoY) in FY22.

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- ◆ Robust expansion in PMI services, indicative of service sector activity, observed since July 2022.
- ◆ India was among the top ten services exporting countries in 2021, with its share in world commercial services exports increasing from 3 per cent in 2015 to 4 per cent in 2021.
- ◆ India's services exports remained resilient during the Covid-19 pandemic and amid geopolitical uncertainties driven by higher demand for digital support, cloud services, and infrastructure modernization.
- ◆ Credit to services sector has grown by over 16% since July 2022.
- ◆ US\$ 7.1 billion FDI equity inflows in services sector in FY22.
- ◆ Contact-intensive services are set to reclaim pre-pandemic level growth rates in FY23.
- ◆ Sustained growth in the real estate sector is taking housing sales to pre-pandemic levels, with a 50% rise between 2021 and 2022.
- ◆ Hotel occupancy rate has improved from 30-32% in April 2021 to 68-70% in November 2022.
- ◆ Tourism sector is showing signs of revival, with foreign tourist arrivals in India in FY23 growing month-on-month with resumption of scheduled international flights and easing of Covid-19 regulations.
- ◆ Digital platforms are transforming India's financial services.
- ◆ India's e-commerce market is projected to grow at 18 per cent annually through 2025.

External Sector

- ◆ Merchandise exports were US\$ 332.8 billion for April-December 2022.
- ◆ India diversified its markets and increased its exports to Brazil, South Africa and Saudi Arabia.
- ◆ To increase its market size and ensure better penetration, in 2022, CEPA with UAE and ECTA with Australia come into force.
- ◆ India is the largest recipient of remittances in the world receiving US\$ 100 bn in 2022. Remittances are the second largest major source of external financing after service export
- ◆ As of December 2022, Forex Reserves stood at US\$ 563 bn covering 9.3 months of imports.

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- ◆ As of end-November 2022, India is the sixth largest foreign exchange reserves holder in the world.
- ◆ The current stock of external debt is well shielded by the comfortable level of foreign exchange reserves.
- ◆ India has relatively low levels of total debt as a percentage of Gross National Income and short-term debt as a percentage of total debt.

Physical and Digital Infrastructure

- ◆ Government's Vision for Infrastructure Development
- ◆ **Public Private Partnerships**
- ◆ In-Principal Approval granted to 56 projects with Total Project Cost of ₹57,870.1 crore under the VGF Scheme, from 2014-15 to 2022-23.
- ◆ IIPDF Scheme with 150 crore outlay from FY 23-25 was notified by the government on 03 November, 2022.
- ◆ **National Infrastructure Pipeline**
- ◆ 89,151 projects costing ₹141.4 lakh crore under different stages of implementation
- ◆ 1009 projects worth ₹5.5 lakh crore completed
- ◆ NIP and Project Monitoring Group (PMG) portal linkage to fast-track approvals/ clearances for projects

National Monetisation Pipeline

- ◆ ₹9.0 lakh crore is the estimated cumulative investment potential.
- ◆ ₹0.9 lakh crore monetisation target achieved against expected ₹0.8 lakh crore in FY22.
- ◆ FY23 target is envisaged to be ₹1.6 lakh crore (27 per cent of overall NMP Target)

GatiShakti

- ◆ PM GatiShakti National Master Plan creates comprehensive database for integrated planning and synchronised implementation across Ministries/ Departments.
- ◆ Aims to improve multimodal connectivity and logistics efficiency while addressing the critical gaps for the seamless movement of people and goods.

Electricity Sector and Renewables

- ◆ As on 30 September 2022, the government has sanctioned the entire target ca-

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capacity of 40 GW for the development of 59 Solar Parks in 16 states.

- ◆ 17.2 lakh GWh electricity generated during the year FY22 compared to 15.9 lakh GWh during FY21.
- ◆ The total installed power capacity (industries having demand of 1 Mega Watt (MW) and above) increased from 460.7 GW on 31 March 2021 to 482.2 GW on 31 March 2022.

Making Indian Logistics Globally Competitive

- ◆ National Logistics Policy envisions to develop a technologically enabled, integrated, cost-efficient, resilient, sustainable and trusted logistics ecosystem in the country for accelerated and inclusive growth.
- ◆ Rapid increase in National Highways (NHs) /Roads Construction with 10457 km NHs/roads constructed in FY22 compared to 6061 km in FY16.
- ◆ Budget expenditure increased from ₹1.4 lakh crore in FY20 to ₹2.4 lakh crore in FY23 giving renewed push to Capital expenditure.
- ◆ 2359 Kisan rails transported approximately 7.91 lakh tonnes of perishables, as of October 2022.
- ◆ More than one crore air passengers availed the benefit of the UDAN scheme since its inception in 2016.
- ◆ Near doubling of capacity of major ports in 8 years.
- ◆ Inland Vessels Act 2021 replaced 100-year-old Act to ensure hassle free movement of Vessels promoting Inland Water Transport.

India's Digital Public Infrastructure

- ◆ Unified Payment Interface (UPI)
- ◆ UPI-based transactions grew in value (121 per cent) and volume (115 per cent) terms, between 2019-22, paving the way for its international adoption.
- ◆ Telephone and Radio - For Digital Empowerment
- ◆ Total telephone subscriber base in India stands at 117.8 crore (as of Sept,22), with 44.3 per cent of subscribers in rural India.
- ◆ More than 98 per cent of the total telephone subscribers are connected wirelessly.
- ◆ The overall tele-density in India stood at 84.8 per cent in March 22.
- ◆ 200 per cent increase in rural internet subscriptions between 2015 and 2021.
- ◆ Prasar Bharati (India's autonomous public service broadcaster) - broadcasts in 23 languages, 179 dialects from 479 stations. Reaches 92 per cent of the area and

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99.1 per cent of the total population.

Digital Public Goods

- ◆ Achieved low-cost accessibility since the launch of Aadhaar in 2009
- ◆ Under the government schemes, MyScheme, TrEDS, GEM, e-NAM, UMANG has transformed market place and has enabled citizens to access services across sectors
- ◆ Under Account Aggregator, the consent-based data sharing framework is currently live across over 110 crore bank accounts.
- ◆ Open Credit Enablement Network aims towards democratising lending operations while allowing end-to-end digital loan applications
- ◆ National AI portal has published 1520 articles, 262 videos, and 120 government initiatives and is being viewed as a tool for overcoming the language barrier e.g. 'Bhashini'.
- ◆ Legislations are being introduced for enhanced user privacy and creating an ecosystem for standard, open, and interoperable protocols underlining robust data governance.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

India, US sign MoU to build resilient supply chain in semiconductor sector

India and the US inked an initial pact on increasing private sector cooperation in the area of semiconductors under which the two countries would facilitate business opportunities and develop an ecosystem with a view to reduce their dependency on China and Taiwan.

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According to a joint statement, both sides have agreed to set up a semiconductor sub-committee, led by the Department of Commerce for the US side and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the Indian side.

Both sides have agreed to set up a semiconductor sub-committee, led by the Department of Commerce for the US side and MeitY and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the Indian side.

Uttarakhand's Rudraprayag, Tehri top landslide index: ISRO report

Uttarakhand's Rudraprayag district, which houses the Kedarnath shrine, has "maximum exposure to landslide risk in the country", according to the 'Landslide Atlas' report prepared by Hyderabad-based National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro).

According to the Landslide Atlas report, prepared by the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of ISRO, the Rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand has the maximum exposure to landslide risk in the country.

- ◆ Tehri district (Uttarakhand) ranked second on the list of landslide-prone districts.
- ◆ Rudraprayag has 32 chronic landslide zones, with the maximum located on NH-

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107 that leads to the holy town, according to the District Emergency Operation Centre.

- ◆ As per the State Emergency Operation Centre data, Uttarakhand reported 253 landslides between 2018 and 2021.
 - ◆ Kerala's Thrissur and Palakkad districts ranked 3rd and 5th respectively.
-

ISRO successfully conducts flight test of cryogenic engine for Chandrayan-3

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted the flight acceptance hot test of the CE-20 cryogenic engine. The Engine will power the Cryogenic Upper Stage of the LVM3 launch vehicle for the Chandrayaan-3 mission.



- ◆ ISRO has successfully conducted the flight acceptance hot test of the CE-20 cryogenic engine for the Chandrayan-3 mission.
 - ◆ The test was successfully conducted on February 24 at the ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.
 - ◆ The hot test was carried out for a planned duration of 25 seconds at the High Altitude Test Facility.
 - ◆ The engine will power the Cryogenic Upper Stage of the LVM3 launch vehicle of the mission.
 - ◆ Chandrayaan-3 is India's third moon mission.
 - ◆ This flight acceptance hot test comes a day after the Chandrayaan-3 lander successfully completed the crucial EMI-EMC (Electromagnetic Interference/ Electromagnetic Compatibility) test.
 - ◆ Chandrayaan-3 interplanetary mission has three major modules - the Propulsion module, Lander module and Rover. The mission's complexity calls for establishing radio-frequency (RF) communication links between the modules.
 - ◆ Chandrayaan-3 is India's third moon mission and is a follow-on mission to Chan-
-

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drayaan-2 to demonstrate end-to-end capability in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface. The mission is slated to be launched later this year by Launch Vehicle Mark 3 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota.

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DEFENSE ISSUES

India remains world's largest arms importer: SIPRI Data

Despite an 11 per cent drop in its arms import between 2013-17 and 2018-22, India remained the world's largest arms importer from 2018 to 2022 followed by Saudi Arabia, according to the latest report by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report, despite an 11% drop in arms import between 2013-17 and 2018-22, India remained the world's largest arms importer from 2018 to 2022 followed by Saudi Arabia.

- ◆ Russia was India's largest arms supplier in the periods between 2013-17 and 2018-22.
- ◆ But Russia's share of arms imports to India fell from 64 to 45%.
- ◆ While France emerged as the second-largest arms supplier to India followed by the US.

Indo-France joint exercise 'FRINJEX-23' held in Thiruvananthapuram

The maiden joint military exercise 'FRINJEX-23' between India and France, will be scheduled to conduct at the Pangode military station in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala from March 7 and 8, 2023.

It is for the first time that both countries are engaging in this format with each contingent comprising a Company Group.

The theme for the exercise is based on "Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Operations in a Contested Environment".

ISRO receives Indo-US jointly developed NISAR satellite

The US Air Force handed over an earth observation satellite, NASA-ISRO Syn-

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thetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) to ISRO on March 8, 2023.

A US Air Force C-17 aircraft carrying the NISAR has landed in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

- ◆ It was jointly developed by NASA and ISRO.
 - ◆ This satellite will be used by ISRO for a variety of purposes including agricultural mapping, and landslide-prone areas.
 - ◆ It is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory.
 - ◆ It will map the entire globe in 12 days.
-

INS Trikand participates in International Maritime Exercise/ Cutlass Express

INS Trikand has participated in the International Maritime Exercise/ Cutlass Express 2023 (IMX/CE-23), which is being held in the Gulf region from 26 Feb to 16 Mar 23.

- ◆ INS will exercise with participants from over 50 nations and international maritime agencies.
- ◆ Common aim: To enhance maritime security and keep sea lanes in the region safe for maritime commerce.
- ◆ IMX/CE-23 is one of the largest multinational maritime exercises in the world.

IMX/CE-23 is one of the largest multinational maritime exercises in the world. While this is Indian Navy's maiden IMX participation, it also marks the second occasion where an Indian Naval ship is participating in an exercise conducted by the CMF. Earlier, in Nov 22, INS Trikand had participated in the CMF led Operation Sea Sword 2.

SPORTING EVENTS

Red Bull's Max Verstappen wins 2023 Bahrain Grand Prix

Red Bull's driver, Max Verstappen has won the season-opening Bahrain Grand Prix 2023, held at Bahrain International Circuit.

Race Leaderboard:

1. Max Verstappen: – (2 pit stops)
2. Sergio Perez: +11.987 (2 pit stops)
3. Fernando Alonso: +38.637 (2 pit stops)



- ◆ He defeated Red Bull's Sergio Perez, who placed second in the race.
- ◆ It was the first time he had won in Bahrain and also the first time he had triumphed in a Formula One opener.
- ◆ Fernando Alonso (Aston Martin's driver) placed third followed by C. Sainz Jr. (Ferrari's driver).

Karnataka beats Meghalaya to clinch Santosh Trophy football after 54 years

Karnataka won its 5th Santosh Trophy National Football Championship title after defeating Meghalaya by 3-2 in the final at the King Fahd International Stadium in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

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Karnataka last won the title 54 years ago.

Earlier, Services won third place beating Punjab 2-0 in the play-off match held before the final.



Most successful team: West Bengal (32 titles)

Santosh Trophy was founded in 1941 and organized by the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

Australian Open 2023

Men's singles

Serbia Novak Djokovic def. Greece Stefanos Tsitsipas, 6-3, 7-6(7-4), 7-6(7-5)

Women's singles

Aryna Sabalenka def. Kazakhstan Elena Rybakina, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4

Men's doubles

Australia Rinky Hijikata / Australia Jason Kubler def. Monaco Hugo Nys / Poland Jan Zielinski, 6-4, 7-6(7-4)

Women's doubles

Czech Republic Barbora Krejčíková / Czech Republic Katerina Siniaková def.

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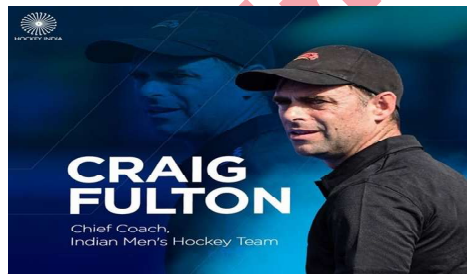
Japan Shuko Aoyama / Japan Ena Shibahara 6-4, 6-3

Mixed doubles

Brazil Luisa Stefani / Brazil Rafael Matos def. India Sania Mirza / India Rohan Bopanna, 7-6(7-2), 6-2

Craig Fulton appointed as new Chief Coach of Indian men's hockey team

Hockey India has appointed South African Craig Fulton as new chief coach of the Indian men's hockey team. Craig Fulton will succeed Graham Reid who resigned after India's poor outing at the World Cup in January 2023.



- ◆ He will succeed Australian Graham Reid who resigned in January 2023.
- ◆ He has nearly 25 years of coaching experience and earned 195 caps over a span of 10 years for South Africa.
- ◆ He also played Atlanta and Athens Olympic Games.
- ◆ He was named the Belgium Coach of the Year after he guided his club KHC Dragons to the Belgium Hockey League title in the 2020-21 season.

Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey said that Craig Fulton has tremendous experience in coaching and his work ethic induces confidence in raising the team's performance in world hockey. Craig Fulton has nearly 25 years of coaching experience and earned 195 caps over a span of 10 years for South Africa. He also played Atlanta and Athens Olympic Games.

Madagascar replaces Maldives as host of Indian Ocean Island Games 2023

Maldives has been replaced by Madagascar to host Indian Ocean Island Games which will be held in the year 2023 because of the concerns over the ongoing pan-

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demic.

Maldives, however, requested pushing back the 2023 games to 2025 but the organizers decided to avoid the six years gap between the editions of the sports event.

Maldives was given the responsibility of hosting the event in 2019 but the members of the Indian Ocean Island Games federation decided to move the games to Madagascar.

The decision by the organizers has been taken in the light of challenges faced by Maldives in organizing the event because of the pandemic.

Ahmed Marzooq, Secretary General of Maldives Olympic Committee, stated that the decision was a huge disappointment to the sport in the nation but we are facing the challenges due to the ongoing health crisis.

Indian Ocean Island Games:

It is a multi-sport event which is held in every four years among the athletes from the Indian Ocean Island Nations. The International Olympic Committee created the games in 1977. The event currently gather the island nations and territories of Comoros, Mauritius, Seychelles, Mayotte, Madagascar, Maldives and Reunion.

The number of athletes participating in the event have increased in the recent years. It went from 1000 athletes in 1979 to over 1500 athletes in 2003 and 2007 and over 2000 athletes in 2019.

The games saw the participation of 5 countries: Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Reunion and Comoros and they also drafted the charter of the games.

Indian Ocean Island Games: Events

- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Boxing
- Cycling
- Football
- Handball
- Judo
- Petanque
- Karate
- Sailing
- Rugby
- Table Tennis

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- Swimming
 - Tennis
 - Taekwondo
 - Weightlifting
 - Volleyball
 - Wrestling
-

Australia beat South Africa to lift ICC Women's T20 World Cup Trophy 2023

Australian women's cricket team has defeated South Africa by 9 runs to lift the ICC T20 World Cup Trophy 2023 at Newlands, Cricket Ground in Cape Town, South Africa.



Australian women's cricket team has won this title for the sixth time.

They have completed a 'three-peat' under the captaincy of Meg Lanning, winning in 2018, 2020, and 2023.

Player of the series: Australia Ashleigh Gardner

Most runs: South Africa Laura Wolvaardt (230)

Madhya Pradesh women's team wins maiden national hockey title 2023

Madhya Pradesh women's hockey team won the 13th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2023 held in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.

<https://www.developindiagroup.co.in/>

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MP defeated Hockey Maharashtra by 5-1 in the final.

MP's Pratibha Arya was adjudged the best defender of the championship.

She was also awarded the player of the match title.

The team of Hockey Jharkhand secured third place after defeating Hockey Haryana in the third-place match.

ICC Under 19 World Cup 2022: India beat England in final to win 5th title

India defeated England by four wickets to clinch a record-extending fifth title at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Antigua. India added the fifth title to their collection, having previously won the trophy in 2000, 2008, 2012, 2018. Yash Dhull becomes the fifth Indian captain to win the title after Mohammad Kaif, Virat Kohli, Unmukt Chand and Prithvi Shaw. Earlier, England opted to bat after winning the toss but they were shot out by India for 189 in 44.5 overs. India chases down the target of 190 with 2.2 overs to spare.

India's Raj Angad Bawa was announced Player of the Match of the ICC Under19 World Cup 2022 Final between India and England. The Indian all-rounder picked 5/31, the best bowling figures for any final in the history of the championship and also scored crucial 35 runs with the bat to help his team in its 4 wicket win.

Lionel Messi wins Best Men's Player 2022 at the FIFA awards

Lionel Messi (35) won FIFA's best men's player of the year for 2022 after winning his maiden World Cup title with Argentina in December 2022 in Qatar.

While Alexia Putellas (Spain) was awarded the best women's player for a second straight year.

Other awardees:

Best fans award: Argentina

Fairplay award: Luka Lochoshvili (Georgia)

Best men's coach: Lionel Scaloni (Argentina)

Best women's coach: Sarina Wiegman

Best goal (Puskas award): Marcin Oleksy

STATE AFFAIRS

MP Cabinet approves Ladli Behna Yojana

Madhya Pradesh cabinet, headed by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, has approved the Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana to empower women at every level.

Under this scheme, Rs 1000 (month) will be deposited in the account of women, irrespective of their class or caste, whose age is above 23 years.

The Yojana will be launched on March 5, 2023.

The applications are very simple, the team will visit to fill out the application in their village itself.

Mauganj became the 53rd District of Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced that Mauganj, a tehsil of Rewa district, will be the 53rd district of state.

- ◆ It will be developed by joining four tehsils of Rewa district.
- ◆ Four tehsils: Mauganj, Hanumana, Nai Garhi, and Deotalab.
- ◆ Residents of Mauganj were raising the demand for a separate district for a long time.
- ◆ He has also released 605 crore in the bank accounts of 27,000 beneficiaries of the Sambal Yojana in financial distribution program.

Uttarakhand becomes 1st state to start insurance scheme for sericulturists

Uttarakhand has become India's first state to launch the Resham Keet Bima scheme for sericulturists. In the first phase of this pilot project, 200 sericulturists from five blocks of four districts -- Dehradun, Haridwar, Udham Singh Nagar, and Nainital - have been insured from the ill effects of climate change, scarcity of water, and other hazards.

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- ◆ This scheme will be run under Saral Krishi Beema.
 - ◆ Uttarakhand CM: Pushkar Singh Dhami; Governor: Gurmit Singh
-

New initiative 'beggar-free city' started in Nagpur

A new initiative called 'beggar-free city' has been started in Nagpur, Maharashtra. Commissioner of Police of Nagpur City, Amitesh Kumar informed that notification of 144 CrPC has been issued in this regard.

- ◆ Notices have been served to people.
 - ◆ The Nagpur police will strictly enforce this and begging will not be allowed in public places.
 - ◆ This is the joint venture of Nagpur City police and Nagpur Municipal Corporation's (NMC) social welfare department.
-

India to get its first geopark in Madhya Pradesh

Geological Survey of India (GSI) has approved the setting up of a geopark in Madhya Pradesh, the country's first. The park will be set up at Lamheta village on the banks of river Narmada, Jabalpur district.

What is a Geopark?

According to UNESCO, geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education, and sustainable development. The local community is included to foster conservation with sustainable development. Geoparks can help in promoting the economic well-being of the people living nearby. It would also help in the conservation of rock formations of geological significance.

About the park

The Geological Survey of India has sanctioned an amount of Rs 1.30 crore to prepare a detailed project report on the geological rock formations in five acres in the Lamheta village. Furthermore, Rs 35 crore has been estimated as the cost of the project.

According to the Member of the Parliament (MP) Rakesh Singh, the site is already on the UNESCO geo-heritage tentative list for the conservation of the natural heritage. Several dinosaur fossils had been found in the Narmada valley, particularly in the Bhedaghat-Lameta Ghat area of Jabalpur, as per the MP.

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Benefits of a Geopark

Having geopark has several advantages to it. It can help in the conservation and protection of rocks formations that are significant in nature. Further, it also facilitates studies related to it. Culturally speaking, geo-sites play a significant part in the heritage and folklore of the areas in which it is located, adds to tourism prospects, and also create livelihood opportunities.

About GSI

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) was set up in 1851 to find coal deposits for the Railways. Over the years, GSI has grown into a repository of geo-science information required in various fields in the country. The main functions of GSI relate to the creation and upgradation of national geo-scientific information and mineral resource assessment.

It is one of the oldest of organisations in the world. GSI is headquartered in Kolkata and has six regional offices located at Lucknow, Jaipur, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Shillong, and Kolkata and State Unit offices in almost all states of the country.

Sanctuaries in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh listed as Ramsar sites

The Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary near Jamnagar in Gujarat and Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh have been listed as Wetlands of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention. With this, the total number of Ramsar sites in India goes up to 49. Khijadiya has become the fourth wetland of Gujarat to get the Ramsar tag. Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary, Thol Wildlife Sanctuary and Wadhwana wetland are the other Ramsar sites in the state. The last two were included in April last year.

Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary (Ramsar site No. 2464), a freshwater wetland near the coast of the Gulf of Kutch, was formed following the creation of a bund (dike) in 1920 by the then ruler of the erstwhile princely state of Nawanagar to protect farmlands from saltwater ingress. The sanctuary is now part of Marine National Park, Jamnagar, the first marine national park in the country.

About the Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary:

On the other hand, Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary (site no. 2465), a freshwater marsh in the Sant Kabir Nagar district, is the largest natural floodplain wetland of eastern Uttar Pradesh. The Sanctuary was established in 1980 and is protected under the Wildlife Protection Act (1972); an “eco-sensitive zone” extends up to a kilometre around its boundary.

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A book titled 'Golden Boy Neeraj Chopra' by Navdeep Singh Gill released

A short biography of Indian athlete Neeraj Chopra has titled 'Golden Boy Neeraj Chopra' authored by sports author Navdeep Singh Gill has been released. Neeraj Chopra won a Gold medal in Javelin Throw at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. The biography on Tokyo Olympics-2021 gold medalist Neeraj Chopra was released by the chairperson of Punjab Kala Parishad Surjit Patar and president of Punjabi Sahit Akademi Lakhwinder Singh Johal, amid the presence of the author and his family members.

The book has 72 pages and covers the life history and achievements of Neeraj Chopra right from his childhood to the Tokyo Olympics. The book very aptly covers his sporting techniques, numerous awards and contemporaries in different chapters with coloured photos in each chapter.

This book covers the life history and achievements of Neeraj Chopra from childhood to Tokyo Olympics. Which has 72 pages and the book covers his playing techniques in different chapters, many awards, and contemporaries very aptly with color photographs in each chapter.

Dr. Surjit Patar said that the biography of the world champion player will become a source of inspiration for the generations to come, whose life will inspire new-age players by taking inspiration. He said that it is a great effort by Navdeep Singh Gill to preserve the glorious sport's history in writing with his own pen.

Uttar Pradesh wins best state tableau of Republic Day parade 2022

The tableau of Uttar Pradesh has been picked as the best tableau among the 12 States/UTs which participated in the Republic Day parade on January 26, 2022. The theme of the tableau of Uttar Pradesh was 'One District One Product and Kashi Vishwanath Dham'. A total of 12 states and union territories had participated in the Republic Day parade on January 26. The second place went to Karnataka for its tableau based on 'cradle of traditional handicrafts' while the third position went to Meghalaya for its tableau based on 'Meghalaya's 50 years of Statehood and its tribute to women-led cooperative societies & SHGs'.

Other winners of Republic Day parade 2022:

Best marching contingent among three Services: Indian Navy

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Best marching contingent among CAPF/other auxiliary forces: Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

The tableaux of the ministry of education and the ministry of civil aviation have been declared as joint winners in the category of central ministries and departments. The theme of the tableau of the ministry of education and the ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship was 'National Education Policy. The tableau of the ministry of civil aviation was based on the theme 'Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik'.

Popular Choice Awards

The popular choice category award was introduced for the first time in 2022, wherein the general public was invited to vote for the best marching contingents and best tableaux through the MyGov platform. The online poll was conducted between January 25-31, 2022.

List of winners:

- ◆ Best state/UTs Tableau: Maharashtra (Theme 'Biodiversity and State Bio-symbols of Maharashtra'.);
- ◆ Best marching contingent among three Services: Indian Air Force;
- ◆ Best marching contingent among CAPF/other auxiliary forces: Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF);
- ◆ Central Ministry: Ministry of Communication/Department of Posts (Theme 'India Post: 75 years @ Resolve – Women Empowerment'.)

APPOINTMENTS

Manik Saha sworn in as chief minister of Tripura for second time

Dr. Manik Saha has been sworn in as the new chief minister of Tripura for the second consecutive term.



Tripura governor Satyadeo Narain Arya administered the oath to him at Vivekananda Maidan in the capital city of Tripura, Agartala.

The oath ceremony was attended by PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

- ◆ In 2022, he was made the chief minister after replacing Biplab Deb.
- ◆ He joined the BJP in 2016 after quitting Congress.
- ◆ He was elected to the Rajya Sabha in March 2022.

Conrad Sangma sworn-in as Meghalaya Chief Minister

National People's Party president, Conrad K Sangma, has taken oath as the chief minister of Meghalaya for the second consecutive term.

Governor Phagu Chauhan has administered the oath of office to Sangma.

The sworn-in ceremony was attended by PM Narendra Modi, BJP president JP Nadda and home minister Amit Shah.

While Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP)'s Neiphiu Rio will take oath as Nagaland chief minister.

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Vo Van Thuong elected as new President of Vietnam

The Vietnam lawmakers have elected the candidate of the ruling Communist Party, Vo Van Thuong (52) as the new President of the country.



- ◆ His election comes after the sudden resignation of his predecessor Nguyen Xuan Phuc in January 2023, who the Party blamed for wrongdoing and violations.
- ◆ A total of 487 out of 488 deputies present at the National Assembly voted for him.
- ◆ He is the youngest member of the party's Politburo (the country's top decision-making body).

Ram Chandra Paudel elected as the third President of Nepal

Senior Nepali Congress leader Ram Chandra Paudel (78) has been elected the third President of Nepal.



Nepali Congress senior leader Ram Chandra Paudel has been elected the new President of Nepal. In the voting that took place for the third Head of State of the country, Poudel was elected to the post with 33,802 votes. Paudel defeated CPN-UML Vice-chair Subash Chandra Nembang, who got 15,518 votes. The President is

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elected by an Electoral College consisting of the members of the Federal Parliament (House of Representatives and the National Assembly) and the Provincial Assembly.

A total of 313 members of the Federal Parliament and 518 provincial assembly members took part in the vote on Thursday. The vote weightage of the federal MP is 79 and of the provincial assembly member is 48. Voting took place from 10 am to 3 pm today. Former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Poudel was a joint candidate of CPN (Maoist Center), CPN (Unified Socialist), Janata Samajwadi Party Nepal, Loktantrik Samajbadi Party Nepal, Janmat Party, Nagarik Unmukti Party, Rastriya Janamorchha and Nepal Samajbadi Party along with his party, the Nepali Congress.

- ◆ He defeated CPN-UML Vice-chair Subash Chandra Nembang.
 - ◆ He won the presidential elections with 33,802 votes, while his opponent received 15,518 votes.
 - ◆ The President is elected by an Electoral College consisting of the members of the Federal Parliament and the Provincial Assembly.
 - ◆ The tenure of Bidya Devi Bhandari as Nepal's President will be ended on March 12.
-

Captain Shaliza Dhami becomes first woman to command combat unit in IAF

Group Captain Shaliza Dhami (Ludhiana) has been selected by the Indian Air Force to take over a frontline combat unit's command in the western sector.



- ◆ She becomes the first woman officer in the history of the IAF to be given the frontline combat unit command.
 - ◆ Currently, she is posted in the operations branch of a frontline command headquarters.
-

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- ◆ She also served as flight commander of a Chetak unit at the Hindon air base—both firsts for an IAF woman officer.

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OBITUARIES

Bollywood actor, director Satish Kaushik passes away

Bollywood actor-director Satish Kaushik passed away at the age of 66 in Delhi due to cardiac arrest.



Kaushik was an alumnus of the National School of Drama (NSD) and the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII).

He was known for his iconic roles in Mr. India, Tere Naam, Roop Ki Rani Choron Ka Raja, Deewana Mastana, Brick Lane, Saajan Chale Sasural among others.

Kaushik is fondly remembered for penning the dialogues for the 1983 cult classic "Jaane Bhi Do Yaaron".

Japanese Nobel-winning novelist Kenzaburo Oe passes away

Japanese novelist, Kenzaburo Oe passed away at the age of 88 on March 3, 2023, due to age-related issues.



◆ He was known for his pacifist and anti-nuclear views.

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- ◆ He was honoured with the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1994 for creating "an imagined world, where life and myth condense to form a disconcerting picture of the human predicament today".
 - ◆ His notable works are 'A Personal Matter' and 'The Silent Cry'.
-

Olympic Diving Champion, Pat McCormick passes away

American Olympic athlete Pat McCormick died at 92 in California due to health-related problems and dementia.

She won the women's 3-meter springboard and 10-meter platform competitions at the 1952 Olympics in Finland.

- ◆ She was honored by the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) with the James E. Sullivan Award - amateur athlete of the year in 1956.
 - ◆ She was the 2nd woman to win the award after Swimmer Ann Curtis(1944).
 - ◆ She was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame
-

Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar passes away

Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar has passed away at the age of 92 after suffering a multi-organ failure. The Bharat Ratna awardee was admitted to the hospital after being diagnosed with pneumonia and tested positive for the coronavirus disease in January. She is survived by her 3 sisters – Usha Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Meena Khadikar and brother Hridaynath Mangeshkar.

Facts

- ◆ She began her career as a singer back in 1942 and never looked back. She recorded innumerable songs in over 36 Indian and foreign languages.
 - ◆ She gave us musical gems such as Aye Mere Watan Ke Logo, Lag Jaa Gale, Yeh Kahan Aage Hain Hum and Pyar Kiya To Darna Kya, among others.
 - ◆ Having led an eventful and rich life of several milestones, Lata Mangeshkar was conferred with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 1990. For her contribution to Indian music, she also was bestowed with Padma Bhushan in 1969 and Bharat Ratna in 2001.
-

DAYS

International Day of Women Judges 2023: March 10

The International Day of Women Judges is observed every year on March 10 to honour all-female judges who have taken the lead in the fight against social injustice.

This day is being observed with the campaign “Women in Justice, Women for Justice”.

It is a symbolic day for the fight for gender equality and the fight against gender-based discrimination.

In April 2021, UNGA enacted resolution 75/274 designating March 10 as the International Day of Women Judges

Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2023: 7th March

The 5th Jan Aushadhi Diwas is being organized on 7th March 2023 across India to enhance awareness about the scheme and promote generic medicines.



Theme 2023: Jan Aushadhi – Sasti bhi Acchi bhi

- ◆ The Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI), and States/UTs.
- ◆ A week-long event is being organized in different cities all across the country from March 1-7, 2023.
- ◆ This day was first observed on March 7, 2019.

AWARD / PRIZE

India wins GSMA Government Leadership Award 2023

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's visionary leadership gets global recognition. GSM Association (GSMA) has conferred Government Leadership Award 2023 to India for implementing best practices in telecom policy and regulation.



India has been awarded the prestigious GSM Association (GSMA) Government Leadership Award 2023 at Mobile World Congress Barcelona on 27 February 2023.

- ◆ Reason: For implementing best practices in telecom policy and regulation
- ◆ Minister for Communications, Ashwini Vaishnaw has also informed that the Right of Way (RoW) permissions which used to take more than 230 days, now get approval within 8 days.
- ◆ More than 85% of mobile tower clearances are now instantaneous.

WINS Awards 2023 launched by MoHUA

The Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri has launched the 'Women Icons Leading Swachhata' (WINS) Awards 2023.

Aim: To recognize celebrate and disseminate inspiring and exemplary initiatives in urban sanitation and waste management by women-led organizations and individual women.

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The applications are open from 8th March to 5th April 2023.

Applications for the Awards are open to SHG, Micro-enterprises, NGOs, Startups, and Individuals.

Himachal govt hikes monetary award for Mahila Vikas Protsahan Puraskar

Presiding over a state-level event for International Women's Day (8th March), Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has announced a nearly five-fold increase in the monetary award under the Himachal Pradesh Mahila Vikas Protsahan Puraskar.

The monetary award for the Mahila Vikas Protsahan Puraskar has been hiked to Rs 1 lakh from the current Rs 21,000.

The allowance for district-level awards has been raised from Rs 5,000 to Rs 25,000.

Nobel Prize winners 2022

The Noble Prize 2022 has been announced on 3rd October 2022 and will continue till 10th October 2022. The winners of the Noble Prize 2022 receive prize money of 10,00,000 Swedish Krona. The first award ceremony for Nobel Prize was held in 1901, and since then it has been awarded 609 times to 975 individuals and organizations.

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Noble Prize in Physiology and Medicine 2022

Professor Svante Pääbo : Awarded For “For the discovery of the genetic identity of two of humankind’s earliest ancestors, and opening a new window on the human evolution process.”

Noble Prize in Literature 2022

Annie Ernaux : “For the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements, and collective restraints of personal memory.”

Noble Peace Prize 2022

Ales Bialiatski and Organization memorial and Organization Centre for Civil Liberties : For promoting the right to criticize power and protect the fundamental rights of citizens.

For showing outstanding efforts to document war crimes, human rights abuses, and the abuse of power.

Noble Prize in Physics 2022

Alain Aspect, John Clauser and Anton Zeilinger : “For conducting experiments in quantum mechanics that laid the groundwork for rapidly-developing new applications in computing and cryptography.”

Noble Prize in Chemistry 2022

Carolyn Bertozzi, Morten Meldal, Barry Sharpless : “For the development of click chemistry and bio-orthogonal chemistry.”

Noble Prize in Economics 2022

Ben S. Bernanke, Douglas W. Diamond and Philip H. Dybvig : “For the research on banking and financial crises.”

Noble Prize given in the following categories

When the Noble Prize was announced by Alfred Noble, he categorized it into five categories in his will. Later, in Alfred Noble’s memory, Economics was also added to the categories. Now, six categories of Noble Prizes are awarded by the following organizations.

1. Noble Prize in Literature- Awarded by the Swedish Academy
2. Nobel Prize in Chemistry- Awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
3. Noble Prize in Peace- Awarded by the Norwegian Nobel Committee
4. Noble Prize in Physiology and Medicine- Awarded by the Karolinska Institute
5. Noble Prize in Physics- Awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
6. Noble Prize in Economics- Awarded by the Sveriges Riksbank, Bank of Sweden

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2021 Nobel Prize winners category wise

1- Physiology or Medicine: Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2021 was jointly awarded to David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian for their discoveries of receptors for temperature and touch.

2- Physics: Nobel Prize in Physics 2021 was jointly awarded to Syukuro Manabe, Klaus Hasselmann and Giorgio Parisi. One half was awarded to Syukuro Manabe and Klaus Hasselmann for the physical modelling of Earth's climate, quantifying variability and reliably predicting global warming while the other half was presented to Giorgio Parisi for the discovery of the interplay of disorder and fluctuations in physical systems from atomic to planetary scales.

3- Chemistry: Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2021 was jointly awarded to Benjamin List and David W.C. MacMillan for the development of asymmetric organocatalysis.

4- Literature: Nobel Prize in Literature 2021 has been awarded to the novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah for his uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents.

5- Peace: Nobel Prize in Peace 202 was jointly awarded to Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov for their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression, which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace. Both of them are representatives of all journalists who stand up for this ideal in a world in which democracy and freedom of the press face increasingly adverse conditions.

6- Economic Sciences: Nobel Prize in Economics 2021 was jointly awarded to David Card, Joshua D. Angrist and Guido W. Imbens. One half was presented to David Card for his empirical contributions to labour economics while the other half was presented to Joshua D. Angrist and Guido W. Imbens for their methodological contributions to the analysis of causal relationships.

Nobel Prize winners 2020

The Nobel Prize in Physics 2020

Roger Penrose

“for the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity”

Reinhard Genzel

“for the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy”

Andrea Ghez

“for the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy”

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The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2020

Emmanuelle Charpentier

"for the development of a method for genome editing"

Jennifer A. Doudna

"for the development of a method for genome editing"

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2020

Harvey J. Alter

"for the discovery of Hepatitis C virus"

Michael Houghton

"for the discovery of Hepatitis C virus"

Charles M. Rice

"for the discovery of Hepatitis C virus"

The Nobel Prize in Literature 2020

Louise Glück

"for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal"

The Nobel Peace Prize 2020

World Food Programme (WFP)

"for its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict."

The Prize in Economic Sciences 2020

Paul R. Milgrom

"for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats"

Robert B. Wilson

"for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats"

Here are the 2019 Nobel Prize winners (so far):

Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2019

William G. Kaelin Jr., Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe and Gregg L. Semenza won the 2019 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine. The trio "identified molecular machinery that regulates the activity of genes in response to varying levels of oxygen," according to The Nobel Assembly. Their work, says the Assembly, has "paved the way for promising new strategies to fight anemia, cancer and many other diseases."

Nobel Prize in Physics

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James Peebles, Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz won the 2019 Nobel Prize in physics. Peebles, of Princeton University, received half of the award, per the Nobel Assembly, for work focused on “theoretical discoveries in physical cosmology,” while Mayor and Queloz, of the University of Geneva (and, for Queloz, Cambridge University) shared half the award “for the discovery of an exoplanet orbiting a solar-type star.”

“This year’s Laureates have transformed our ideas about the cosmos,” the Assembly wrote in a release accompanying the Prize’s announcement. “While James Peebles’ theoretical discoveries contributed to our understanding of how the universe evolved after the Big Bang, Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz explored our cosmic neighborhoods on the hunt for unknown planets. Their discoveries have forever changed our conceptions of the world.”

Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2019

John B. Goodenough, M. Stanley Whittingham and Akira Yoshino won the 2019 Nobel Prize in chemistry. The three scientists have all worked to develop and advance lithium-ion batteries, now-ubiquitous technology which the Nobel Assembly said has “laid the foundation of a wireless, fossil fuel-free society.”

Nobel Prize in Literature 2019

Austrian novelist and playwright Peter Handke won the 2019 Nobel Prize in literature “for an influential work that with linguistic ingenuity has explored the periphery and the specificity of human experience,” according to the Nobel Assembly. Polish author Olga Tokarczuk won the 2018 Nobel Prize in literature “for a narrative imagination that with encyclopedic passion represents the crossing of boundaries as a form of life,” the Assembly said. The two awards were both given out this year because last year’s announcement was canceled in the midst of sexual assault allegations.

Nobel Prize in Peace 2019

The 2019 Nobel Peace Prize announced on Friday, Oct. 11.

The Norwegian Nobel committee has decided to award the Nobel peace prize for 2019 to **Ethiopian prime minister Abisý Ahmed's** efforts to achieve peace and international cooperation and for his decisive initiative to resolve the border conflict with neighbouring Eritrea.

Nobel Peace Prize for 2018 to Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict. Both

Prize in Economic Sciences 2019

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The 2019 Prize in economic sciences announced on Monday, Oct. 14.

Indian-American Abhijit Banerjee, his wife Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer jointly won the 2019 Nobel Economics Prize on Monday "for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty." Banerjee, 58, was educated at the University of Calcutta, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Harvard University, where he received his Ph.D in 1988. He is currently the Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, according to his profile on the MIT website.

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BOOKS AND THEIR AUTHORS

Mansukh Mandaviya released book 'India's Vaccine Growth Story'

Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya released the book 'India's Vaccine Growth Story- From Cowpox to Vaccine Maitri' at World Book Fair in New Delhi

- ◆ Additional Secretary of Finance Ministry Sajjan Singh Yadav has authored the book.
- ◆ Dr. Mandaviya also urged the writers to inculcate research-based documentation.
- ◆ The research-based documentation reflects knowledge and science that have proven exemplary in times of crisis.

BOOKS AND THEIR AUTHORS

<i>Book Name</i>	<i>Authors Name</i>
<i>'The India Story'</i>	<i>Bimal Jalal</i>
<i>'Listen to Your Heart: The London Adventure'</i>	<i>Ruskin Bond</i>
<i>'Business of Sports: The Winning Formula for Success'</i>	<i>Vinit Karnik</i>
<i>'A Place Called Home'</i>	<i>Preeti Shenoy</i>
<i>'Modi @20: Dreams Meeting Delivery'</i>	<i>VP Venkaiah Naidu</i>
<i>'The Struggle for Police Reforms in India'</i>	<i>Ex-IPS Prakash Singh</i>
<i>'INDO-PAK WAR 1971- Reminiscences of Air Warriors'</i>	<i>Rajnath Singh</i>
<i>'Leaders, Politicians, Citizens'</i>	<i>Rasheed Kidwai</i>
<i>'Birsa Munda – Janjatiya Nayak'</i>	<i>Prof. Alok Chakrawal</i>

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<i>Lal Salam</i>	<i>Smriti Irani</i>
<i>Pride, Prejudice and Punditry</i>	<i>Shashi Tharoor</i>
<i>"Crunch Time: Narendra Modi's National Security Crises"</i>	<i>Dr Sreeram Chauliahas</i>
<i>"Queen of Fire"</i>	<i>Devika Rangachari</i>
<i>"Birsa Munda – Janjatiya Nayak"</i>	<i>Dharmendra Pradhan</i>
<i>"Decoding Indian Babudom"</i>	<i>Ashwini Shrivastava</i>
<i>'The Maverick Effect'</i>	<i>Harish Mehta</i>
<i>"Tiger of Drass: Capt. Anuj Nayyar, 23, Kargil Hero"</i>	<i>Meena Nayyar & Himmat Singh Shekhawat</i>
<i>'Hear Yourself'</i>	<i>Indian Author Prem Rawat</i>
<i>'Not Just A Nightwatchman: My Innings with BCCI'</i>	<i>Former CAG Vinod Rai</i>
<i>"The Boy Who Wrote a Constitution "</i>	<i>Rajesh Talwar</i>
<i>"The Magic of Mangalajodi" & "My Research Works on Sikh History and Philosophy"</i>	<i>Avinash Khemka & Abinash Mahapatra</i>
<i>'Chinese Spies: From Chairman Mao to Xi Jinping'</i>	<i>Roger Faligot</i>
<i>'Amit Shah Ani Bhajapachi Vatchal'</i>	<i>Dr Anirban Ganguly and Shivanand Dwivedi</i>
<i>'The Millennial Yogi: A modern-day parable about reclaiming one's life'</i>	<i>Former Indian Army Captain, Deepam Chatterjee</i>
<i>'Udaan Ek Majdoor Bachhe Ki'</i>	<i>Mithilesh Tiwari</i>
<i>Ungalil Oruvan (One Among You)</i>	<i>Chief minister MK Stalin's</i>
<i>'The Queen of Indian Pop: The Authorised Biography of Usha Uthup'</i>	<i>Vikas Kumar Jha</i>
<i>'The Blue Book: A Writer's Journal</i>	<i>Amitava Kumar</i>
<i>'Role of Labour in India's Development'</i>	<i>Labour Minister Bhupendra Yadav</i>
<i>'Soli Sorabjee: Life and Times'</i>	<i>Abhinav Chandrachud</i>
<i>'The Queen of Indian Pop'</i>	<i>Usha Uthup</i>

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<i>'On Board: My Years in BCCI'</i>	<i>Ratnakar Shetty's</i>
<i>'Tomb of Sand'</i>	<i>Geetanjali Shree's</i>
<i>'Monsoon'</i>	<i>Sahitya Akademi</i>
<i>'More than Just Surgery: Life Lessons Beyond the OT'</i>	<i>Dr Tehemton Erach Udawadia</i>
<i>'Wrist Assured: An Autobiography'</i>	<i>Former Cricketer G.R. Viswanath</i>
<i>'Unfilled Barrels India's oil story'</i>	<i>Richa Mishra</i>
<i>'The Little Book of Joy'</i>	<i>Dalai Lama & Desmond Tutu</i>
<i>'Spoorthi Pradatha Sri Somayya'</i>	<i>K Syam Prasad</i>
<i>'Fearless Governance'</i>	<i>Dr. Kiran Bedi</i>
<i>'Operation Khatma'</i>	<i>RC Ganjoo and Ashwini Bhatnagar</i>
<i>'India, That is Bharat: Coloniality, Civilisation, Constitution'</i>	<i>J Sai Deepak</i>
<i>'Golden Boy Neeraj Chopra'</i>	<i>Navdeep Singh Gill</i>
<i>'Atal Bihari Vajpayee'</i>	<i>Sagarika Ghose</i>
<i>'India-Africa Relations: Changing Horizons'</i>	<i>Rajiv Bhatia</i>
<i>'How to Prevent the Next Pandemic'</i>	<i>Bill Gates</i>
<i>'Humane: How the United States Abandoned Peace and Reinvented War'</i>	<i>Samuel Moyn</i>
<i>'Dignity in a Digital Age: Making Tech Work for All of Us'</i>	<i>Ro Khanna</i>
<i>'A History of Sriniketan: Rabindranath Tagore's Pioneering Work in Rural Construction'</i> <i>Uma Das Gupta</i>	
<i>'A Nation To Protect'</i>	<i>Priyam Gandhi Mody</i>
<i>'The Founders: The Story of Paypal and the Entrepreneurs Who Shaped Silicon Valley'</i> <i>Jimmy Soni</i>	
<i>'The Great Tech Game: Shaping Geopolitics and the Destinies of Nations'</i>	<i>Anirudh Suri</i>
<i>'Gandhi's Assassin: The Making of Nathuram Godse and His Idea of India.'</i>	<i>Dhirendra K. Jha</i>
<i>'Mamata: Beyond 2021'</i>	<i>Jayanta Ghosal</i>

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<i>'Ratan N. Tata: The Authorized Biography'</i>	Dr. Thomas Matthew
<i>'Indomitable: A Working Woman's Notes on Life, Work, and Leadership'</i> Bhattacharya	Arundhati
<i>'Bose: The untold story of an inconvenient nationalist'</i>	Chandrachur Ghose
<i>'The Legend of Birsa Munda'</i>	Tuhin A Sinha and Ankita Verma
<i>'India's Women Unsung Heroes'</i>	Meenakshi Lekhi
<i>'A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 years of Independence'</i>	Ruskin Bond
<i>'The \$10 Trillion Dream'</i>	Subhash Chandra Garg
Books and Authors 2021	

Check the complete list of Books & Authors of 2021 in the below table.

Book Name	Author Name
<i>'The Ambuja Story: How a Group of Ordinary Men Created an Extraordinary Company'</i> Narotam Sekhsaria	
<i>'1971: Charge of the Gorkhas and other stories'</i>	Rachna Bisht Rawat
<i>Vahana Masterclass</i>	Alfredo Covelli
<i>India's 71-Year Test: The Journey to Triumph in Australia</i>	R. Kaushik
<i>Right Under Our Nose</i>	R. Giridharan
<i>Making of a General-A Himalayan Echo</i>	Lt. Gen. Konsam Himalay Singh
<i>The Commonwealth of Cricket</i>	Ramachandra Guha
<i>Manohar Parrikar-Off the Record</i>	Waman Subha Prabhu
<i>The Little Book of Encouragement</i>	Dalai Lama
<i>Beautiful Things' A Memoir</i>	Hunter Biden
<i>By Many a Happy Accident: Recollections of a Life</i> Former Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari	
<i>Platform Scale: For A Post-Pandemic World</i>	Sangeet Paul Choudary

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<i>Unfinished</i>	<i>Priyanka Chopra Jonas</i>
<i>The Terrible, Horrible, Very Bad Good News</i>	<i>Meghna Pant</i>
<i>ASOCA: A Sutra</i>	<i>Irwin Allan Sealy</i>
<i>Maverick Messiah: A Political Biography of N T Rama Rao</i>	<i>Ramesh Kandula</i>
<i>Rashtra Pratham - 82 Varshon ki Swarnim Gatha</i>	<i>Amit Shah</i>
<i>Stories I Must Tell: The Journey of an Actor</i>	<i>Kabir Bedi</i>
<i>Advantage India: The Story of Indian Tennis</i>	<i>Anindya Dutta</i>
<i>Dynasty to Democracy: The Untold Story of Smriti Irani's Triumph</i>	<i>Anant Vijay</i>
<i>Battle Ready for 21st Century</i>	<i>Lt Gen AK Singh and Brig. Narendra Kumar</i>
<i>My Experiments with Silence</i>	<i>Samir Soni</i>
<i>Names of the Women</i>	<i>Jeet Thayil</i>
<i>Suparipalana</i>	<i>Dr. Shailendra Joshi</i>
<i>Manohar Parrikar: Brilliant Mind, Simple Life</i>	<i>Nitin Gokhale</i>
<i>Odisha Itihaas</i>	<i>Utkal Keshari Harekrushna Mahtab</i>
<i>The Braille edition of the book Exam Warriors</i>	<i>PM Narendra Modi</i>
<i>Believe-What Life and Cricket Taught Me</i>	<i>Suresh Raina</i>
<i>The Christmas Pig</i>	<i>JK Rowling</i>
<i>Whereabouts</i>	<i>Jhumpa Lahiri</i>
<i>The Living Mountain: A Fable for Our Times</i>	<i>Amitav Ghosh</i>
<i>Climate Change Explained – For One and All</i>	<i>Aakash Ranison</i>
<i>The Bench</i>	<i>Meghan Markle</i>
<i>Elephant in the Womb</i>	<i>Kalki Koechlin</i>
<i>Life in the Clock Tower Valley</i>	<i>Shakoore Rather</i>
<i>Sikkim: A History of Intrigue and Alliance</i>	<i>Preet Mohan Singh Malik</i>

CURRENT EVENTS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

<i>Nehru, Tibet and China</i>	<i>Avtar Singh Bhasin</i>
<i>India and Asian Geopolitics: The Past, Present</i>	<i>Shivshankar Menon</i>
<i>Sach Kahun Toh</i>	<i>Neena Gupta</i>
<i>Stargazing: The Players in my Life</i>	<i>Ravi Shastri</i>
<i>Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020</i>	<i>Salman Rushdie</i>
<i>Savarkar: A Contested Legacy (1924-1966)</i>	<i>Vikram Sampath</i>
<i>7 Lessons from Everest - Expedition Learnings from life and Business</i>	<i>Aditya Gupta</i>
<i>1232km: The Long Journey Home</i>	<i>Vinod Kapri</i>
<i>Home in the World</i>	<i>Amartya Sen</i>
<i>The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis</i>	<i>Amitav Ghosh</i>
<i>Beyond Here and Other Poems</i>	<i>Bishnupada Sethi</i>
<i>The 7 Sins of Being a Mother</i>	<i>Tahira Kashyap Khurrana</i>
<i>Habba Khatoon</i>	<i>Kajal Suri</i>
<i>Will</i>	<i>Will Smith and Mark Manson</i>
<i>My Joys and Sorrows- as a Mother of a Special Child</i>	<i>Krishna Saksena</i>
<i>It's a Wonderful Life</i>	<i>Ruskin Bond</i>
<i>Fiercely Female: The Dutee Chand Story</i>	<i>Sundeep Mishra</i>
<i>Policymaker's Journal: From New Delhi to Washington DC</i>	<i>Kaushik Basu</i>
<i>Kashmiri Century: Portrait of a Society in Flux</i>	<i>Khemlata Wakhlu</i>
<i>Lady Doctors: The Untold Stories of India's First Women in Medicine</i>	<i>Kavitha Rao</i>
<i>The Pregnancy Bible</i>	<i>Kareena Kapoor</i>
<i>The Art of Conjuring Alternate Realities: How Information Warfare Shapes Your World</i>	
<i>Shivam Shankar Singh and Anand Venkatanarayanan</i>	
<i>The Great Big Lion</i>	<i>Chryseis Knight</i>
<i>The India Story</i>	<i>Bimal Jalan</i>

CURRENT EVENTS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

<i>The Stranger In The Mirror(Autobiography of Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra)</i>	Reeta
<i>Ramamurthy Gupta and Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra</i>	
<i>Palleku Pattabhishekam</i>	Yalamanchili Sivaji
<i>Bank With A Soul: Equitas</i>	Dr. C K Garyali
<i>An Ordinary Life: Portrait of an Indian Generation</i>	Ashok Lavasa
<i>In An Ideal World</i>	Kunal Basu
<i>My Own Mazagon</i>	Captain Ramesh Babu
<i>Leopard Diaries – the Rosette in India</i>	Sanjay Gubbi
<i>Balakot Air Strike: How India Avenged Pulwama</i>	Manan Bhatt
<i>The Year That Wasn't – The Diary of a 14-Year-Old</i>	Brisha Jain
<i>The Earthspinner</i>	Anuradha Roy
<i>How the Earth Got Its Beauty</i>	Sudha Murty
<i>OPERATION KHUKRI</i>	Rajpal Punia & Ms Damini Punia
<i>Accelerating India: 7 Years of Modi Government</i>	K J Alphons
<i>Back to the Roots</i>	Tamannaah Bhatia
<i>Gita Govinda: Jaydeva's Divine Odyssey</i>	Dr. Utpal K. Banerjee
<i>Human Rights and Terrorism in India</i>	Subramanian Swamy
<i>Translating Myself and Others</i>	Jhumpa Lahiri
<i>Shining Sikh Youth of India</i>	Dr. Prabhleen Singh
<i>400 Days</i>	Chetan Bhagat
<i>Jungle Nama</i>	Amitav Ghosh
<i>The Fractured Himalaya: How the Past Shadows the Present in India-China Relations</i>	
<i>Nirupama Rao</i>	
<i>The Battle of Rezang La</i>	Kulpreet Yadav
<i>Books and Authors 2020</i>	

CURRENT EVENTS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Check the important books and its authors of 2020 in the table below.

Book Name	Author Name
<i>Karmayoddha Granth</i>	Amit Shah
<i>Relentless</i>	Yashwant Sinha
<i>A Child of Destiny</i>	K. Ramakrishna Rao
<i>The Thin Mind Map</i>	Dharmendra Rai
<i>A Commentary and Digest on The Air, Act 1981</i>	Apoorva Kumar Singh
<i>Death – An Inside Story</i>	Jaggi Vasudev
<i>An Extraordinary Life: A biography of Manohar Parrikar</i>	Sadguru Patil & Mayabhushan Nagvenkar
<i>Invincible – A Tribute to Manohar Parrikar</i>	Tarun Vijay
<i>My Encounters in Parliament</i>	Bhalchandra Mungekar
<i>Messiah Modi: A Tale of Great Expectations</i>	Tavleen Singh
<i>Legacy of Learning</i>	Savita Chhabra
<i>Missing in Action: The Prisoners Who Never Came Back</i>	Chander Suta Dogra
<i>The Art of Her Deal: The Untold Story of Melania Trump</i>	Mary Jordan
<i>Shuttling to the Top: The Story of P V Sindhu</i>	Krishnaswamy V
<i>Vijayant at Kargil: The Life of a Kargil War Hero</i>	Neha Dwivedi
<i>Wuhan Diary: Dispatches from a Quarantined City</i>	Fang Fang
<i>Hop-On: My Adventures on Boats, Trains, and Planes</i>	Ruskin Bond
<i>The Ickabog</i>	J.K Rowling
<i>Legend of Suheldev: The King Who Saved India</i>	Amish Tripathi
<i>Future of Higher Education: Nine Mega Trends</i>	V Pattabhi Ram
<i>Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver</i>	Urjit Patel
<i>Getting Competitive: A Practitioner's Guide for India</i>	RC Bhargava

CURRENT EVENTS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

<i>A Song of India</i>	<i>Ruskin Bond</i>
<i>If It Bleeds</i>	<i>Stephen King</i>
<i>The Endgame</i>	<i>Hussain Zaidi</i>
<i>Suraj Kade Marda Nahi (Sun Never Dies)</i>	<i>Baldev Singh Sadaknama</i>
<i>Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India</i>	<i>Viral V.Acharya</i>
<i>Amazing Ayodhya</i>	<i>Neena Rai</i>
<i>Connecting, Communicating, Changing</i>	<i>Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh</i>
<i>Our Only Home: A Climate Appeal to the World</i>	<i>Dalai Lama and Franz Alt</i>
<i>Full Spectrum: India's Wars, 1972-2020</i>	<i>Arjun Subramaniam</i>
<i>One Arranged Murder</i>	<i>Chetan Bhagat</i>
<i>Cricket Drona</i>	<i>Jatin Paranjpe</i>
<i>Let us Dream</i>	<i>Pope Francis</i>
<i>The Little Book of Encouragement</i>	<i>Dalai Lama</i>
<i>My Life in Design</i>	<i>Gauri Khan</i>
<i>Azadi: Freedom. Fascism. Fiction</i>	<i>Arundhati Roy</i>
<i>Kitchens of Gratitude</i>	<i>Chef Vikas Khanna</i>
<i>A Promised Land</i>	<i>Barack Obama</i>
<i>Bapu- the Unforgettable</i>	<i>Manish Sisodia</i>
<i>The Battle of Belonging</i>	<i>Shashi Tharoor</i>
<i>Bye Bye Corona</i>	<i>Dr. Pradeep Kumar Srivastava</i>
<i>Your Best Day is Today!</i>	<i>Anupam Kher</i>
<i>I am No Messiah</i>	<i>Meena Iyer</i>
<i>40 Years with Abdul Kalam-Untold Stories</i>	<i>Dr. A. Sivathanu Pillai</i>
<i>Dharma: Decoding the Epics for a Meaningful Life</i>	<i>Amish Tripathi and Bhavna Roy</i>

CURRENT EVENTS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Oh Mizoram *PS Sreedharan Pillai*

Books and Authors 2019

Check the important books and its authors of 2019 in the table below.

<i>Book Name</i>	<i>Authors Name</i>
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<i>Politics of Opportunism</i>	<i>R P N Singh</i>
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<i>Malayalam poetry</i>	<i>Akkitham Achuthan Namboodri</i>
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<i>The Testaments</i>	<i>Margaret Atwood</i>
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<i>Celestial Bodies</i>	<i>Jokha Alharthi</i>
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<i>Cheque book</i>	<i>Vasdev Mohi</i>
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<i>The Overstory</i>	<i>Richard Powers</i>
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<i>The Braille edition of the book Exam Warriors</i>	<i>PM Narendra Modi</i>
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<i>Mind-Master</i>	<i>Viswanathan Anand and Susan Ninan</i>
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<i>Hemant Karkare: A Daughter's Memoir</i>	<i>Hemant Karkare's daughter Jui Karkare</i>
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<i>"Courts of India"</i>	<i>Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi</i>
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<i>Hemant Karkare: A Daughter's Memoir</i>	<i>Karkare's Daughter Jui Karkare</i>
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<i>Braille Edition of 'Exam Warriors'</i>	<i>Prime Minister Narendra Modi</i>
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<i>Bridgital Nation</i>	<i>Shri N Chandrasekaran</i>
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<i>Girl Power: Indian Women Who Broke The Rules</i>	<i>Neha J Hiranandani</i>
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From Leeches to Slug Glue: 25 Explosive Ideas that Made (and Are Making) Modern Medicine
Roopa Pai

<i>Fakir Hassen</i>	<i>'150 Years of Celebrating the Mahatma-the South African Legacy'</i>
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<i>Turbulence and Triumph: The Modi Years</i>	<i>Rahul Agarwal and Bharathi S Pradhan</i>
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<i>Handbook on Fisheries Statistics - 2018</i>	<i>Ministry of fisheries</i>
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<i>Savarkar: Echoes from a forgotten past, 1883-1924</i>	<i>Vikram Sampath</i>
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<i>Glorious Diaspora-Pride of India</i>	<i>Indian Diaspora Club</i>
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CURRENT EVENTS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

<i>First They Erased Our Name: A Rohingya Speaks</i>	<i>Habiburahman, Sophie Ansel</i>
<i>Obama: The Call of History</i>	<i>Peter Baker</i>
<i>Kashmir's untold story: Declassification</i>	<i>Iqbal Chand Malhotra and Maroof Raza</i>
<i>"Sridevi: Girl Woman Superstar"</i>	<i>Satyarth Nayak</i>
<i>Manav</i>	<i>Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Persistent Systems</i>
<i>'The Commonwealth at 70: From Westminster to the World'</i>	<i>St James House and the History of Parliament Trust</i>
<i>Vivekadeepini</i>	<i>Adi Shankaracharya</i>
<i>Listening, Learning and Leading</i>	<i>Venkaiah Naidu</i>
<i>'My Life, My Mission'</i>	<i>Baba Ramdev</i>
<i>'The New Delhi Conspiracy'</i>	<i>Meenakshi Lekhi</i>
<i>'The Diary of Manu Gandhi'</i>	<i>Tridip Suhrud</i>
<i>"A Prime Minister to Remember- Memories of a Military Chief"</i>	<i>Sushil Kumar</i>
<i>Vivekadeepini</i>	<i>Adi Shankaracharya</i>
<i>"Lessons Life Taught Me Unknowingly".</i>	<i>Anupam Kher</i>
<i>"Cricket World Cup: The Indian Challenge"</i>	<i>Ashis Ray</i>
<i>My Journey</i>	<i>Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam</i>
<i>Making of New India</i>	<i>Dr. Bibek Debroy</i>
<i>"Whispers of Time"</i>	<i>Dr. Krishna Saksena</i>
<i>Indian Fiscal Federalism</i>	<i>Dr. Y.V. Reddy</i>
<i>'Chequered Brilliance: The Many Lives of V K Krishna Menon'</i>	<i>Jairam Ramesh</i>
<i>'Designing Destiny: The Heartfulness Way'</i>	<i>Kamlesh Patel Alias Daaji</i>
<i>'The Heartfulness way: Heart-Based Meditations for Spiritual Transformation'</i>	<i>Kamlesh Patil & Joshua Pollock</i>
<i>Darkness to light</i>	<i>Lamar Odom</i>

CURRENT EVENTS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Fire and Fury Corps – Saga of Valour, Fortitude and Sacrifice, Lieutenant General Ranbir Singh

Quality, Accreditation, and Ranking – A Silent Revolution in the Offing in Indian Higher Education M Venkaiah Naidu

We are Displaced Malala Yousafzai

'Saffron Swords' Manoshi Sinha Rawal

"The New Delhi Conspiracy" Meenakshi Lekhi

'Law, Justice and Judicial Power- Justice P N Bhagwati's Approach' Mool Chand Sharma

'Khooni Vaisakhi' Mr. Suri

'Every Vote Counts- The story of India's Elections' Navin Chawla

'Virat: The making of a Champion' Neeraj Jha, Vidhanshu Kumar

'Undaunted: Saving the Idea of India' P. Chidambaram

From Possession to Freedom R Uma Maheswari

The Third Pillar Raghuram Rajan

'Undaunted: Saving the Idea of India' Ruchir Sharma

Politics of Jugaad: The Coalition Handbook Saba Naqvi

Game Changer Shahid Afridi

'Kundan: Saigal's Life & Music' Sharad Dutt

"Chandra Shekhar - The Last Icon of Ideological Politics"; Shri Harivansh and Shri Ravi Dutt Bajpai.

'Defining India: Through Their Eyes' Sonia Singh

'Function of Data Sovereignty - The Pursuit of Supremacy' Vinit Goenka

'Ayodhya: City of Faith, City of Discord' Valay Singh

Books and Authors 2018

Check the important books and its authors of 2018 in the table below.

CURRENT EVENTS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

<i>Book Name</i>	<i>Authors Name</i>
<i>A Rural Manifesto – Realising India's Future through her Villages</i>	<i>BJP MP Varun Gandhi</i>
<i>Changing India</i>	<i>Dr. Manmohan Singh</i>
<i>Timeless Laxman</i>	<i>Prime Minister Narendra Modi</i>
<i>Arivu</i>	<i>Dr Murali Mohan Chuntharu</i>
<i>The Fire Burns Blue: A History of Womens Cricket in India</i>	<i>Karunya Keshav and Sidhanta Pathak</i>
<i>Maharana Pratap: The Invincible Warrior</i>	<i>Rima Hooja</i>
<i>The Paradoxical Prime Minister</i>	<i>Shashi Tharoor</i>
<i>The Rule Breakers</i>	<i>Preeti Shenoy</i>
<i>Experiential Learning – Gandhiji's Nai Talim</i>	<i>Union Minister of Human Resource Development Prakash Javadekar</i>
<i>From Lehman to Demonetisation: A Decade of Disruption, Reforms and Misadventures</i>	<i>Tamal Bandyopadhyay</i>
<i>Poonachi or the Story of a Black Goat</i>	<i>Perumal Murugan</i>
<i>Making of Legend</i>	<i>Bindeshwar Pathak</i>
<i>Diabetes with Delight</i>	<i>Anoop Misra</i>
<i>The Last White Hunter</i>	<i>Donald Anderson with Joshua Mathew</i>
<i>Indian Cultures as Heritage</i>	<i>Romila Thapar</i>
<i>Strangers No More: New Narratives from Northeast</i>	<i>Sanjoy Hazarika</i>
<i>Matoshree</i>	<i>Sumitra Mahajan</i>
<i>Sanjay Dutt: The Crazy Untold Story of Bollywood's Bad Boy</i>	<i>Yasser Usman</i>
<i>Indian Instinct</i>	<i>Miniya Chatterjee</i>
<i>The Coalition years</i>	<i>Pranab Mukherjee</i>
<i>Dreamers: How Young Indians are Changing Their World</i>	<i>Snigdha Poonam</i>

CURRENT EVENTS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

<i>Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump Whitehouse</i>	Michael Wolff
<i>Citizen Delhi: My Times, My Life</i>	Sheila Dikshit
<i>Mere Sapno Ka Bharat</i>	Tarun Vijay
<i>Born to be Hanged: Political Biography of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto</i>	Syeda Saiyidan Hameed
<i>Ants Among Elephants</i>	Dujatha Gidla
<i>The Constitution of India: Miracle, Surrender, Hope</i>	Rajeev Dhavan
<i>A Ringside Affair</i>	James Lawton
<i>The Year of the Hawks</i>	Kanwaljit Singh
<i>How May I Help You</i>	Deepak Singh
<i>A World of Three Zeroes: The New Economics of Zero Poverty, Zero Unemployment, and Zero Carbon Emission</i>	Mohammad Yunus
<i>Do We Not Bleed? Reflections of a 21st-Century Pakistan</i>	Mehr Tarar
<i>Xi Jinping's China</i>	Jayadev Ranade
<i>The Book Hunters of Katpadi</i>	Pradeep Sebastia
<i>All the Worlds Between</i>	K Srilata and Fiona Bolger
<i>Hit Refresh</i>	Satya Nadella
<i>Letters to a Young Philosopher</i>	Ramin Jahanbegloo
<i>Imperfect (autobiography)</i>	Sanjay Manjrekar
<i>Immortal India</i>	Amish Tripathi
<i>Maharana Pratap: The Invincible Warrior</i>	Rima Hooja
<i>Conflicts of Interest: My Journey Through India's Green Movement</i>	Sunita Narain
<i>2G Saga Unfolds</i>	A Raja
<i>Two</i>	Gulzar
<i>Status Single</i>	Sreemoyee Piu Kundu
<i>An Ordinary Mans Guide to Radicalism</i>	Neyaz Farooquee

CURRENT EVENTS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

<i>What happened</i>	<i>Hilary Clinton</i>
<i>Artemis</i>	<i>Andy Weir</i>
<i>Drone</i>	<i>Adam Rothstein</i>
<i>Why I am hindu</i>	<i>Shashi Tharoor</i>
<i>A dairy of deomestic diva</i>	<i>Shilpa Shetty</i>
<i>The New Wealth of Nations</i>	<i>Surjit S Bhalla</i>
<i>Indira Gandhi: A Life in Nature</i>	<i>Jairam Ramesh</i>
<i>Dreamers: How Young Indians are Changing Their World and Yours</i>	<i>Poonam</i>
<i>My Enemy's Enemy: India in Afghanistan from the Soviet Invasion to the US Withdrawal</i>	<i>Avinash Palizwal</i>
<i>A state of freedom</i>	<i>Neel Mukerjee</i>
<i>Enemies and Neighbours: Arabs and Jews in Palestine and Israel, 1917-2017</i>	<i>Ian Black</i>
<i>I do what I do</i>	<i>Raghuram Rajan</i>
<i>Indian Political Theory: Laying the Ground work for Swaraj</i>	<i>Aakash Singh Rathore</i>
<i>Hisaab Kitaab</i>	<i>Anjana Sukani</i>
<i>Songs of a Coward</i>	<i>Perumal Murugan</i>
<i>An unsuitable boy</i>	<i>Karan johar</i>
<i>Stalin: Waiting for Hitler 1928-1941</i>	<i>Stephen Kotkin</i>
<i>281 and Beyond</i>	<i>V V S Laksman</i>
<i>4321</i>	<i>Paul Auster</i>
<i>History of Wolves</i>	<i>Emily Fridlund</i>
<i>Exit West</i>	<i>Mohsin Hamid</i>
<i>Elmet</i>	<i>Fiona Mozley</i>
<i>Lincoln in the Bardo</i>	<i>George Saunders</i>
<i>Autumn</i>	<i>Ali Smith</i>

CURRENT EVENTS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

<i>Writing Pakistan: Conversations on Identity, Nationhood and Fiction</i>	Mushtaq Bilal
<i>The Bengalis: A Portrait of a Community</i>	Sudeep Chakravarti
<i>Moments of Truth: My Life with Acting</i>	Roshan Taneja
<i>The Goat Thief</i>	Perumal Murugan
<i>The Widow of Malabar Hills</i>	Sujata Massey
<i>The Vanishing</i>	Prerna Singh Bindra
<i>Where India Goes</i>	Diane Coffey and Dean Spears
<i>The Nationalist</i>	Minhaz Merchant
<i>Political Violence in Ancient India</i>	Upinder Singh
<i>The tall man biju patnaik</i>	Sundar Ganesan
<i>A Tale of Two Victoria Crosses</i>	Lt Gen Baljit Singh
<i>Fifty Things that Made the Modern Economy</i>	Tim Harford
<i>New Wealth of Nations</i>	Surjit Bhalla
<i>The Emergency: Indian Democracy's Darkest Hour</i>	A Surya Prakash
<i>No Room for Small Dreams</i>	Shimon Peres
<i>A Horse Walks Into a Bar</i>	David Grossman
<i>An Ordinary Life: A Memoir</i>	Nawazuddin Siddiqui with Rituparna Chatterjee
<i>Democracy's XI: The Great Indian Cricket Story</i>	Rajdeep Sardesai
<i>A Republic in the Making: India in the 1950s</i>	Gyanesh Kudaisya
<i>Durand's Curse: A Line Across the Pathan Heart</i>	Rajiv Dogra
<i>Origin</i>	Dan Brown
<i>The Crisis Within: On Knowledge and Education in India</i>	GN Denvy
<i>Inside Parliament: Views From the Front Row</i>	Derek O'Brien
<i>India Turns East: International Engagement and US-China Rivalry</i>	Fredrick Grare

CURRENT EVENTS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

<i>Weather Information Portal for Indian Power System</i>	R K Singh
<i>The Ministry of Utmost Happiness</i>	Arundhati Roy
<i>China & India War: Collision Course on the Roof of the World</i>	Bertil Lintner
<i>Cadres of Tibet</i>	Jayadeva Ranade
<i>Unstoppable: My Life So Far</i>	Maria Sharapova
<i>The Book of Chocolate Saints</i>	Jeet Thayil
<i>Conflict of Interest</i>	Sunita Narain
<i>Atal Ji Ne kaha</i>	Birendra Rehi
<i>Confessions of a dying mind: the blind faith of atheism</i>	Kiren Rijiju and Haulianlal Guite
<i>Available Light</i>	CP Surendran
<i>Ashoka: Satrap of Taxila</i>	Ashok K Banker
<i>Sea Prayer</i>	Khaled Hosseini
<i>Loyal Stalkers</i>	Chhimi Tenduf La
<i>No Spin</i>	Shane Warne
<i>Attendant Lords</i>	TCA Raghavan
<i>The Driver in the Driverless Car</i>	Vivek Wadhwa with Alex Salkever
<i>Life Among the Scorpions: Memoir of a Woman in Indian Politics</i>	Jaya Jaitely
<i>Gorbachev: His Life and Times</i>	William Taubman
<i>Ambedkar Gandhi and Patel: The Making of India's Electoral System</i>	Raja Shekhar Vundru
<i>Evolution</i>	Emmanuel Macron
<i>Exam Warriors</i>	Narendra Modi
<i>Evil in the Mahabharata</i>	Meena Arora Nayak
<i>Happy Dreams</i>	Jia Pingwa
<i>6 TIMES THINNER</i>	N N Vohra

CURRENT EVENTS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

<i>Rohingya Inside Myanmar's Hidden Genocide</i>	Azeem Ibrahim
<i>Myanmar's Enemy Within: Buddhist Nationalism and Anti-Muslim Violence</i>	Francis Wade
<i>Reimagining Pakistan</i>	Husain Haggani
<i>Born to be Hanged: Political Biography of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto</i>	Syeda Hameed
<i>Reporting Pakistan</i>	Meena Menon
<i>Who We Are and How We Got Here</i>	David Reich
<i>A Century Is Not Enough</i>	Sourav Ganguly
<i>Winning Like Sourav: Think & Succeed Like Ganguly</i>	Abhirup Bhattacharya
<i>The Perils of Being Moderately Famous</i>	Soha Ali Khan
<i>Directorate S: The CIA and America's Secret Wars in Afghanistan and Pakistan</i>	Steye Coll
<i>Economics for the Common Good</i>	Jean Tirole
<i>Political Tribes</i>	Amy Chua
<i>Dividing Lines: Contours of the India-China Discord</i>	KN Raghavan
<i>My Journey from Marxism-Leninism to Nehruvian Socialism</i>	CH Hanumantha Rao
<i>Triple Talaq: Examining Faith</i>	Salman Khurshid
<i>Kashmir: Exploring the Myth Behind the Narrative</i>	Khalid Bashir
<i>The Only Story</i>	Julian Barnes
<i>She Goes to War Women Militants of India</i>	Rashmi Saksena
<i>The Future of Humanity</i>	Michio Kaku
<i>Governing the Ungovernable: Institutional Reforms for Democratic Governance</i>	Ishrat Husain
<i>The Unseeing Idol of Light</i>	KR Meera
<i>Across the Universe</i>	Ajoy Bose
<i>Anita Gets Bail: What Are Our Courts Doing? What Should We Do About Them?</i>	Arun Shourie

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<i>Eleven Gods and a Billion Indians</i>	<i>Borta Majumdar</i>
<i>Indian Railway- The weaving of a National Tapestry</i>	<i>Bibek Debroy</i>
<i>An Uncertain Glory: India and Its Contradiction</i>	<i>Amartya Sen and Jean Dreze</i>
<i>Lethal White</i>	<i>Robert Galbraith (JK Rowling)</i>
<i>The English Patient</i>	<i>Michael Ondaatje</i>
<i>In a Free State</i>	<i>VS Naipaul</i>
<i>Michael Ondaatje</i>	<i>Warlight</i>
<i>Yug Purush, Bharat Ratna, Atal Ji</i>	<i>Ramesh Pokhriyal</i>
<i>Moon Tiger</i>	<i>Penelope Lively</i>
<i>Wolf Hall</i>	<i>Hilary Mantel</i>
<i>Lincoln in the Bardo</i>	<i>George Saunders</i>
<i>The Only Story</i>	<i>Julian Barnes</i>
<i>Like a Psalm</i>	<i>Perumbadavam Sreedharan</i>
<i>Indian Cultures as Heritage: Contemporary Pasts</i>	<i>Romila Thapar</i>
<i>Note by Note: The India Story 1947-2017</i>	<i>Ankur Bhardwaj, Seema Chishti and Sushant Singh</i>
<i>Vedvigyan Alok (Maharishi Aitareya Mahidas Praneet - Aitareya Brahmina ki Vaigyanik Vyakhya)</i>	<i>Acharya Agnivarat Naishthik</i>
<i>The Billionaire Raj: A Journey Through India's New Guided Age</i>	<i>James Crabtree</i>
<i>India Moving: A History of Migration</i>	<i>Chinmay Tumble</i>
<i>Blessings from Beijing: Inside China's Softpower War on Tibet</i>	<i>Greg Bruno</i>
<i>The Unending Game: Insights into Espionage</i>	<i>Vikram Sood</i>
<i>Straight Talk</i>	<i>Abhishek Manu Singhvi</i>
<i>The President Is Missing</i>	<i>Bill Clinton and James Patterson</i>
<i>Vernon Subutex</i>	<i>Virginie Despentes</i>
<i>The White Book</i>	<i>Han Kang</i>

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<i>The World Goes On</i>	Laszlo Krasznahorkai
<i>Like a Fading Shadow</i>	Antonio Munoz Molina
<i>Frankenstein in Baghdad</i>	Ahmed Saadawi
<i>Flights</i>	Olga Tokarczuk
<i>Travails with the Alien</i>	Satyajit Ray
<i>The Spy Chronicles: RAW ISI and the Illusion of Peace</i>	Asdulat, Aditya Sinha, Asad Durrani
<i>The Zero Cost Mission/The Wily Agent</i>	Amar Bhushan
<i>The Most Dangerous Place: A History of the United States in South Asia</i>	Srinath Raghavan
<i>Eleven Gods and a Billion Indians</i>	Boria Majumdar
<i>Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Life and Times</i>	Tathagata Roy
<i>Republic of Caste</i>	Anand Teltumbde
<i>Gandhi: The Years That Changed the World (1914-1948)</i>	Ramachandra Guha
<i>The Way I See It</i>	Gauri Lankesh, edited by writer and sociologist Chandan Gowda
<i>Rebel Sultans: The Deccan from Khilji to Shivaji</i>	Manu Pillai
<i>From Kargil to Coup: Events That Shook Pakistan</i>	Nasim Sehra
<i>Kashmir: Glimpses of History and the Story of Struggle</i>	Saifuddin Soz
<i>President's Lady</i>	Sangeeta Ghosh
<i>Republic of Caste: Thinking Equality in the Time of Neo-liberal Hindutva</i>	Anand Teltumbde
<i>Missing</i>	Sumana Roy
<i>God Save the Hon'ble Supreme Court</i>	Fali S Nariman
<i>Pakistan Adrift: Navigating Troubled Waters</i>	Asad Durrani
<i>Ten Ideologies: The Great Asymmetry Between Agrarianism and Industrialism</i>	S Jaipal Reddy
<i>Mann Ki Baat – A Social Revolution on Radio</i>	Devendra Fadnavis

NEW GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

About the Government Schemes

Knowing all the government schemes is one thing, but the candidates must also know their purpose. Candidates stand a better chance of scoring high marks if and when they go through the purpose of each scheme given below.

1. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana: Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana is a National Mission on Financial Inclusion that provides an integrated approach to bring about robust financial inclusion and ultimately provide banking services to all households in the country.

2. Make in India: PM Narendra Modi launched the 'Make in India' campaign that will facilitate investment, foster innovation, enhance protection for intellectual property and build best in manufacturing infrastructure.

'Make in India' has identified 25 sectors in manufacturing, infrastructure and service activities and detailed information is being shared through interactive web-portal and professionally developed brochures.

3. Swachh Bharat Mission: Swachh Bharat Mission was launched in the entire country as a national movement. The campaign aims to achieve the vision of a 'Clean India' by 2nd October 2019. The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is the most significant campaign with regard to sanitation by the Government of India.

4. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao: The goal of this scheme is to make girls socially and financially self-reliant through education.

5. Atal Pension Yojna: Atal Pension Yojana is a pension scheme mainly aimed at providing a universal pension scheme for those who are a part of the unorganized sector such as maids, gardeners, delivery boys, etc. This scheme replaced the previous Swavalamban Yojana which wasn't well-received by the people.

6. Digital India Mission: The Digital India programme is a flagship programme of the Government of India with a vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

7. Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan: It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme, under which the subscriber would receive the following benefits:

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(i) Minimum Assured Pension: Each subscriber under the PM-SYM, shall receive a minimum assured pension of Rs 3000/- per month after attaining the age of 60 years.

(ii) Family Pension: During the receipt of a pension, if the subscriber dies, the spouse of the beneficiary shall be entitled to receive 50% of the pension received by the beneficiary as a family pension. Family pension is applicable only to a spouse.

(iii) If a beneficiary has given a regular contribution and died due to any cause (before age of 60 years), his/her spouse will be entitled to join and continue the scheme subsequently by payment of regular contribution or exit the scheme as per provisions of exit and withdrawal.

8. Gold Monetisation Scheme: Gold Monetisation Scheme was launched by the Government of India in 2015, under this scheme one can deposit their gold in any form in a GMS account to earn interest as the price of the gold metal goes up.

9. PM CARES Fund-Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situation Fund: This is a public charitable trust initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This national trust is created with the objective to meet the distressed and dreadful situations like COVID-19 in the times ahead. PM CARES was initiated on March 28, 2020, under the chairmanship of the Indian Prime Minister with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Defence Minister and Finance Minister as the ex-officio Trustee.

10. Aarogya Setu: The Government of India took the initiative to fight the Coronavirus pandemic. It launched a mobile application to spread the awareness of COVID_19 among the citizens of India through an app called Aarogya Setu. The Aarogya Setu mobile app has been developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) that comes under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. For detailed information, visit the link of Aarogya Setu given above.

11. Ayushman Bharat: Launched in 2018 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ayushman Bharat is a health scheme. It is the largest government-funded healthcare programme in the world with over 50 crore beneficiaries. The Ayushman Bharath programme has two sub-missions PM-JAY & HWCs.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), earlier known as the National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS) will cover the financial protection for availing healthcare services at the secondary and tertiary levels.

Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) are aimed at improving access to cheap and quality healthcare services at the primary level. Read about Ayushman Bharat in detail in the link provided above.

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12. UMANG - Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance is a mobile application launched by PM Narendra Modi to provide secured access to the citizens to multiple government services at one platform. UMANG is a key component of the Digital India initiative of the government that intends to make all traditional offline government services available 24 * 7 online through a single unified app.

13. PRASAD Scheme - Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spirituality Augmentation Drive. The Scheme is launched under the Ministry of tourism in the year 2015. The aim of the PRASAD Scheme is the integrated development of pilgrimage destinations in a prioritised, planned, and sustainable manner for providing a complete religious tourism experience. The focus of Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spirituality Augmentation Drive- PRASAD is on the development and beautification of the identified pilgrimage destinations.

14. Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan - The scheme (meaning self-reliant India scheme) is a name given to the full-fledged economic stimulus package announced by the Union Government. It has been launched with an aim to make people self-dependent and overcome the difficulties caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

15. National Digital Health Mission - Launched on August 15, 2020, the mission aims to create an integrated healthcare system linking practitioners with patients digitally by giving them access to real-time health records.

16. PM Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana - The scheme is launched to develop capacities of primary, secondary, and tertiary health care systems, strengthen existing national institutions, and create new institutions, to cater to the detection and cure of new and emerging diseases.

17. National Infrastructure Pipeline Project - It is a social and economic infrastructure project which was launched in 2019 in order to improve the overall quality of life for all citizens. The NIP will fulfil all the crucial factors that will help India in achieving its target of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by the financial year 2025.

Government Schemes in India

<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Full-Form</i>	<i>Date of Launch</i>	<i>Government Ministry</i>
PMJDY	Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana	August 28, 2014	Ministry of Finance
PMSSY	Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana	January 22, 2015	Ministry of H&FW
PMMY	Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana	April 8, 2015	Ministry of Finance
PMJJBY	Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana	May 9 2015	Ministry of Finance
PMSBY	Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana	May 9, 2015	Ministry of Finance
APY	Atal Pension Yojana	May 9, 2015	Ministry of Finance
KVP	Kisan Vikas Patra	2014	Ministry of Finance
GMS	Gold Monetisation Scheme	November 4 2015	Ministry of Finance
PMFBY	Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana	February 18, 2016	Ministry of Agriculture

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PMGKY	Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana	July 1, 2015	Ministry of Agriculture
DDUGJY	Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana	July 25, 2015	Ministry of Power
RGM	Rashtriya Gokul Mission	December 16, 2014	Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
DI	Digital India	July 1, 2015	Ministry of Electronics and IT Technology
SI	Skill India	July 15, 2015	Ministry of Skill Development and Entr.
(PMKVY)	Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana	2015	Ministry of Skill Development and Entr.

Important Schemes launched in India related to Employment and Poverty Alleviation Government Schemes in India

<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Full-form</i>	<i>Date of Launch</i>	<i>Government Ministry</i>
MI	Make in India	September 25, 2014	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
SI	Startup India, Standup India	January 16, 2016	Government of India
PMGKY	Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY)	December 16, 2016	Ministry of Finance

Important Schemes launched in India related to Health and Sanitation Government Schemes in India

<i>Full-Form</i>	<i>Name of Scheme</i>	<i>Date of Launch</i>	<i>Government Ministry</i>
SBA	Swachh Bharat Abhiyan	October 2nd, 2014	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
	Namami Gange	NG	June, 2014 Ministry of Water Resources
	National Bal Swachhta	NBS	November 14, 2014 Ministry of Women and Child Development
	Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana'	September 2015	Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
NDHM	National Digital Health Mission	August 15, 2020	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

List of Social Security Schemes in India 2022

<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Full-Form</i>	<i>Date of Launch</i>	<i>Government Ministry/Department</i>
BBBPY	Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Yojana	January 22, 2015	Ministry of Women and Child Development
PDUSJY	Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Shramev Jayate Yojana	October 16, 2014	Ministry of Labour and Employment

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NSTSS	National Sports Talent Search Scheme	February 20, 2015	Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
PM SVANidhi	Prime Minister Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi	June 1, 2020	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
PM FME	Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme	June 29, 2020	Ministry of Food Proces.
PMMSY	Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana	September 10, 2020	Department of Fisheries
SWAMITVA	Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas	April 24, 2020	Ministry of Panchayati Raj
PM-KUSUM	Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan	February 19, 2019 (Approval Date)	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

India to host SCO Tourism Ministers' Meeting 2023 in Kashi

India will host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Tourism Ministers' Meeting (TMM) on 17th -18th March 2023 in Kashi (designated as the first cultural capital of the SCO).

- ◆ During TMM, the Tourism Joint Action Plan on the Development of Cooperation in Tourism among SCO member countries would be adopted.
- ◆ India will also host the SCO Food Festival in Mumbai from 13-19 April 2023.
- ◆ India is the current chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

23rd Commonwealth Law Conference begins in Goa

Governor of Goa, P.S. Sreedharan Pillai has inaugurated the 23rd Commonwealth Law Conference in Goa, which is being held from March 5-9, 2023.

The event was also attended by Union Minister for Law, Kiren Rijiju, and Goa CM Pramod Sawant.



Minister also informed that the government had started eCourts phase III to make Indian Judiciary completely paperless.

500 delegates from 52 countries attended the Conference.

It is a platform for open discussions on critical issues.

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President inaugurates 7th International Dharma-Dhamma Conference in Bhopal

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the 7th International Dharma-Dhamma Conference at Bhopal (MP) on March 3, 2023, and will continue till March 5, 2023.

- ◆ **Theme:** *Eastern Humanism for the New Era*
 - ◆ **Aim:** To bring together religious, political, and thought leaders from Dharma-Dhamma traditions to ponder over building a philosophical framework for the emerging new world order
 - ◆ **Organized by:** India Foundation in collaboration with Sanchi University of Buddhist-Indic Studies
-

ECI to host the 3rd International Conference

The Election Commission of India (ECI) hosted the 3rd International Conference in virtual format on 09 March 2023.

Theme: Inclusive Elections and Elections Integrity

ECI is leading the Cohort on Elections Integrity which was established as a follow-up to the 'Summit for Democracy' held virtually in December 2021.

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioners Anup Chandra Pandey and Arun Goel addressed the Conference.

Over 46 Participants from 25 Countries/EMBs including Angola, Armenia, Australia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, Dominica, Georgia, Guyana, Kenya, Rep. of Korea, Mauritius, Moldova, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, St. Lucia, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland and Zambia as well as representatives of international organisations from International IDEA and International foundation for Electoral systems and representatives from Civil Society Organisations viz. General Election Network for Disability Access in Indonesia and Association of Youth Organisations in Nepal are expected to participate in the Conference. Chief Election Commissioner Shri Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioners Shri Anup Chandra Pandey and Shri Arun Goel will also address the Conference.

3rd Session of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction concluded

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Third Session of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) has been concluded in New Delhi today.

Organized by: Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM).

NPDRR was comprised of 4 Plenary Sessions, 1 Ministerial Session, and 8 Thematic Sessions with more than 1200 subject experts, practitioners, academicians and delegates.

Disaster risk reduction and management is turning into Jan Andolan as envisaged by the Prime Minister: P. K. Mishra

“Prime Minister’s 10-Point Agenda emphasizes the need for building local capacities and initiatives, and especially women’s leadership in disaster risk management”

“Professionalizing the disaster risk management setup and developing programmes and interventions which are responsive to the needs of the people are the way forward”

“If we are not able to support the most vulnerable and protect their lives and livelihoods, the entire purpose of our work is defeated”

Over 1200 subject experts, practitioners, academicians and delegates deliberated upon various cross cutting issues on disaster risk reduction based on the 10-point agenda on Disaster Risk Reduction given by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Sendai Framework

India host Quad Foreign Ministers meeting in New Delhi

India hosted the Quad Foreign Ministers in New Delhi on March 3, 2023. The meeting was attended by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Japan foreign minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and Australian foreign minister Penny Wong. The statement said, Quad, which will act as a force for regional and global good, will be guided by the priorities of the Indo-Pacific region through its positive and constructive agenda.

- ◆ External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar chaired the meeting.
- ◆ The Foreign Ministers of Australia and Japan and the Secretary of State of the US participated in the meeting.
- ◆ It is an opportunity for the Ministers to continue their discussions held at their last meeting in New York in September 2022.
- ◆ **QUAD:** It is a strategic security dialogue between Australia, India, Japan, and

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the US.

- ◆ The Quad Foreign Minister also condemned the launch of yet another intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) on February 16, 2023 and said it is in violation of UN Security Council resolutions (UNSCRS). The leaders said Quad countries are committed to the complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula and urge North Korea to comply with its obligations under UNSCRS.
- ◆ The Foreign Ministers also raised concerns over the use of emerging and evolving technologies such as unmanned aerial systems in the terrorism activities.
- ◆ The leaders unequivocally condemned terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations. They denounced the use of terrorist proxies and emphasised the importance of denying any logistical, financial or military support to terrorist organizations. During the meeting Foreign Minister condemned the terrorist attacks in Mumbai and Pathankot.
- ◆ Over the Myanmar situation, they strongly emphasised the importance of maintaining peace, stability and prosperity and expressed deep concern at the deteriorating situation in Myanmar. The leader said there is need for complete cessation of violence and the release of all those arbitrarily detained in Myanmar.
- ◆ Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi also reiterated that Quad is not a military grouping. He said that Quad does not try to exclude anybody, including China. Mr Hayashi added that as long as China abides by international norms and laws, then this is not a conflicting issue between China and Quad.