



humanperitus

Current Events

June 2023

HUMAN PERITUS

www.humanperitus.com

The download for Current Affairs for Recruitment Test (RTs) exams of UPSC, including ALC, LEO, APFC, EPFO EO/AO, Admin Officer, Store Officer, Deputy Director, and Investigator Grade-I is available.

The Current Events are tailored to the latest RTs trends and requirements of UPSC. To optimize exam performance, focus on the following key points:

- Cover current events from the past 18 months only, up to the date of the exam. For periodic events, such as the Budget, Economic Survey, Nobel Prize, or Tournaments, refer to only the latest ones. For instance, for an April 2023 exam, study the 2023 budget, not the 2022 budget.
- The UPSC RT exam is factual, so don't delve into details or implications.
- The return on investment (ROI) for studying current affairs is generally low. Therefore, devote an appropriate amount of time to them while prioritizing other topics that have a higher ROI. Studying 100 pages of current affairs may result in only 5 questions, while studying 100 pages of polity could yield 14-15 questions.
- A few questions will always be unsolvable, no matter how much you've studied. Don't get discouraged by them, as they won't affect your selection.
- Based on experience, you can expect to answer approximately 60-70% of question in exam, from these concise current affairs booklets.
- Current affairs for UPSC RT exams are purely factual, so self-study is better than coaching classes. In fact, coaching classes are counterproductive, as a teacher may only cover 10 events in 60 minutes, while you can cover 35-40 events in the same time frame.

Finally, note that these files are specifically prepared for RT exams of UPSC and should not be used for Civil Services Preliminary exam (GS Paper 1).

If you want to report any correction/error/feedback, you are welcome at contact@humanperitus.com. We will check and respond within 1 working day.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

June 2023.....5

1. Sports 5

2. Science & Technology 7

3. Environment 11

4. Scheme and Programs..... 14

5. Polity 15

6. Governance..... 16

7. International Relations 18

8. Awards & Recognition 20

9. Social Development 22

10. Economy 25

11. Books & Authors 28

12. Important Days 29

13. Culture 32

June 2023

1. Sports

India Defeated Pakistan to Become Hockey Junior Asia Cup Champions

Indian Hockey Team has defeated Pakistan in the final of the Men's Junior Asia Cup 2023, held at the Sultan Qaboos Youth Complex Stadium in Salalah, Oman.

This was India's 4th title at Men's Junior Asia Cup, after winning in 2004, 2008, and 2015. With this title win, India has become the most successful country in the history of the Men's Junior Asia Cup. Also, Pakistan is the second-most successful team in the tournament with 3 titles.

Flanders Cup 2023 Athletics: Amlan Borgohain wins 2 Gold Medals

Indian Sprinter Amlan Borgohain has won the gold medals in the Men's 100 meters and 200 meters races at the Flanders Cup 2023 athletics meet in Merksem, Belgium.

ISSF Junior World Cup: Indian Players wins Gold Medal

Gautami Bhanot and Abhinav Shaw has won the mixed air rifle gold by beating Oceanne Muller and Romain Aufrere of France in the ISSF Junior World Cup held in Suhl, Germany.

2023 Asian Athletics Championships, Bangkok

Indian athletes have won a total of 27 medals – (6 gold, 12 silver and 9 bronze) – at the Asian Athletics Championships 2023, which was held in Bangkok, Thailand. In the overall Asian Athletics Championships 2023 medals table, India finished 3rd, behind Japan and China.

The Asian Athletics Championships was held after a gap of 4 years after the 2021 edition in Hangzhou, China was cancelled due to COVID-19. In 2019, it was held in Doha, Qatar.

India has 6 gold medals from *Jyothi Yarraji, Parul Chaudhary, Tajinder Pal Singh Toor, Abdulla Aboobacker, Ajay Kumar Saroj and the mixed relay team (Rajesh Ramesh, Aishwarya Mishra, Amoj Jacob, Subha Venkatesan)*.

Asia Cup 2023: India wins maiden Women's Junior Title

The Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team has defeated South Korea in the final to win their maiden Women's Junior Asia Cup title. For India, Annu and Neelam have scored a goal each while Park Seoyeon scored a goal for South Korea. The championship was held in Japan.

Uruguay wins FIFA U-20 World Cup 2023

Uruguay has won FIFA U-20 World Cup 2023 by defeating Italy.

Key Facts

- Nigeria won the Golden Boot award, with 10 goals.
- Argentina's Thiago Almada won the Golden Ball award, as the tournament's best player.
- The tournament was first held in 1977 as the FIFA World Youth Championship.
- Argentina is the most successful team to win with 6 titles.

Asia Cup 2023 to be hosted by Pakistan and Sri Lanka

Asia Cup 2023 will be held in Pakistan, Sri Lanka in hybrid model. 13 matches will take place in the tournament.

Mascot launched for 37th edition of Indian National Games – Moga

Government has launched the mascot for the upcoming 37th National Games. Aptly named ‘Moga, it is a bison mascot represents unique identity of Goa. The National Games 2023 is scheduled to be held in October-November 2023. Moga means ‘love’ in Konkani language.

Cristiano Ronaldo receives Guinness World Record Award

Cristiano Ronaldo has received Guinness World Record award after becoming first male player to reach 200 international appearances.

Diksha Dagar wins Czech LET Golf Title

Indian Golfer Diksha Dagar has secured her second Ladies European Tour (LET) at the Tipsport Czech Ladies Open 2023. In the final, she defeated Trichat Cheenglab of Thailand.

Diksha is from Jhajjar in Haryana. In 2019, she won her first LET title at the South African Women's Open, held in Cape Town. She became only the second Indian woman to win two or more LET titles after Aditi Ashok.

FIFA appoints Indonesia to Host the 2023 U-17 World Cup

The International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) has announced Indonesia as the host of the 2023 U-17 World Cup, replacing Peru.

2. Science & Technology

What is Higgs Boson?

The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), which hosts the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), has announced that scientists at the organisation found the first evidence of the rare process by which the Higgs boson decays into a Z boson and a photon.

Higgs boson is the fundamental force-carrying particle associated with the Higgs field, a field that gives mass to other fundamental particles such as electrons and quarks. It plays such a fundamental role in subatomic physics that it is sometimes referred to as the "God particle." It was proposed in 1964 by Peter Higgs, François Englert, and four other theorists to explain why certain particles have mass. The particle was finally discovered on July 4, 2012, by researchers at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC).

Large Hadron Collider (LHC), Location – *Near Geneva, Switzerland*

PM gifted ‘7.5-carat green diamond’ to US First Lady

Prime Minister of India has gifted an eco-friendly lab-grown “7.5-carat green diamond” to US First Lady Jill Biden.

Key Facts:

- Lab Grown Diamonds (LGD) are artificially manufactured diamonds through crystallisation of pure carbon with the same physical and chemical properties as natural diamonds.
- The first LGD was created in 1954 by scientists at a General Electric.
- They are commonly used for industrial applications due to their hardness and strength.
- They are ideal for use as cutters and in other tools and machines that require these properties.
- In electronics, pure synthetic diamonds are used as heat spreaders for high-power laser diodes, laser arrays, and high-power transistors due to their excellent thermal conductivity.

DCGI gives nod to India’s first mRNA Vaccine

Pune based Gennova Biopharmaceuticals has announced that its mRNA COVID-19 booster vaccine – GEMCOVAC-OM - against the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2 received emergency use authorization (EUA) from the office of the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).

Clinical trials and approval of new drugs/vaccines are governed by the New Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules 2019 under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) headed by the DCGI is the authority to grant approval of Vaccine.

mRNA vaccine is type of vaccine that use messenger RNA (mRNA) molecules to provide instructions to the body’s cells for producing a protein that triggers an immune response against a pathogen. Once the mRNA is injected into the body, the cells read the instructions and produce the protein.

Manipulating Phonons for Quantum Computing

In a recent study, researchers from IBM have developed an Acoustic Beam-Splitter to manipulate Phonons to be used for Quantum Computing, potentially solving complex problems beyond the reach of conventional Computers. Beam-splitters, commonly used in optics research, split a beam of light into two parts. The working of a beam-splitter draws on quantum physics.

Phonons are packets of vibrational energy and can be considered as the quantum equivalent of sound. Similar to photons, which are packets of light energy, phonons can potentially serve as units of information in quantum computing (qubits).

What is cloud seeding?

The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) has conducted a test flight for cloud seeding which will help create conditions for rain which would help to combat dry conditions and air pollution.

Cloud seeding is a kind of a weather modification technology to create artificial rainfall. Rain happens when moisture in the air reaches levels at which it can no longer be held. Cloud seeding aims to facilitate and accelerate that process by making available chemical ‘nuclei’ around which condensation can take place. It works only when there are enough pre-existing clouds in the atmosphere.

DRDO successfully flight-tests New Generation Ballistic Missile ‘Agni Prime’

The first pre-induction night launch of new generation ballistic missile, ‘Agni Prime’, was successfully flight-tested by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.

Agni-P is a two-stage canisterised solid propellant ballistic missile with dual redundant navigation and guidance system. It has a range between 1000 to 2000 km. It is lighter than all the earlier Agni series of missiles. Agni missiles form the backbone of India’s nuclear deterrence. Agni-1 to 5 surface to surface ballistic missiles are designed & developed by DRDO.

Integrated Guided-Missile Development Programme: It was conceived by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam to enable India attain self-sufficiency in the field of missile technology.

The 5 missiles (P-A-T-N-A) developed under this program are:

1. *Prithvi*: Short range surface to surface ballistic missile.
2. *Agni*: Ballistic missiles with different ranges, i.e., Agni (1,2,3,4,5)
3. *Trishul*: Short-range low-level surface to air missile.
4. *Nag*: 3rd Generation anti-tank missile.
5. *Akash*: Medium range surface to air missile.

MH-60 Romeo Helicopter

The Indian Navy achieved a unique feat after an MH-60 ‘Romeo’ multi-mission helicopter landed on the indigenously-built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant.

MH-60 Romeo Helicopter Key Facts:

- It is the world’s most advanced maritime helicopter and is the most capable naval helicopter available today designed to operate from frigates, destroyers, cruisers and aircraft carriers.
- It is manufactured by US defence major Lockheed Martin.
- It is an all-weather helicopter designed to support multiple missions with state-of-the-art avionics and sensors.
- This helicopter is operated by a crew of 4 in anti-submarine warfare role and crew of 5 in anti-surface warfare role. It can also accommodate additional passengers.
- It carries advanced airborne active sonar, multi-mode search radar and nose-mounted forward-looking infrared (FLIR) turret.
- The helicopter has an integrated self-defense system.

- Maximum Speed – 267 km/h; Range – 454 km.

Varunastra successfully test-fired

Indigenously designed and developed heavy weight Torpedo (HWT) Varunastra was successfully test-fired with a live warhead against an undersea target, by the India Navy.

Varunastra is ship launched, heavy weight, electrically propelled anti-submarine torpedo capable of targeting quiet submarines, both in deep and shallow waters in an intense counter-measures environment. It was designed and developed by Vizag-based Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and is manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL). *Varunastra* can be fired from all Anti-submarine warfare (ASW) ships capable of firing heavy weight torpedoes.

What is Brain Computer Interface?

Neuralink (company started by Mr. Elon Musk), a company focused on implantable brain-computer interfaces, has received the US FDA's approval to conduct its first human trials.

Brain-Computer Interface (BCI)

It is a system that determines functional intent – the desire to change, move, control, or interact with something in our environment - directly from brain activity. In other words, BCIs allow to control an application or a device using only our mind.

It has 3 main parts:

- (i) A device to detect and record signals coming from the brain.
- (ii) A computer to process and analyze the recorded brain activity.
- (iii) An application/device to control.

Different techniques to measure brain activity for BCIs

- Electroencephalography (EEG): EEG is a test that measures electrical activity in the brain using small, metal discs (electrodes) attached to the scalp. Brain cells communicate via electrical impulses and are active all the time, even during asleep.
- Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI): It works by detecting the changes in blood oxygenation and flow that occur in response to neural activity. When a brain area is more active it consumes more oxygen and to meet this increased demand, blood flow increases to the active area.

What is Graphene?

It has been reported that the TATA Steel is planning to invest big in new technology in the coming years. In the new materials business, the company has been focusing on 'Graphene', which can be mixed with plastic and recycled like brand-new products, among other attributes.

Graphene is a one-atom-thick layer of carbon atoms arranged in a hexagonal lattice. It is the thinnest, strongest, and most conductive material in the world, while also being flexible, transparent, and impermeable to gases. It was discovered in 2004, but it has been difficult to produce high-grade large-scale graphene.

PM inaugurates India's first facility to produce rare earth permanent magnets in Visakhapatnam

Prime Minister of India has inaugurated India's first facility to produce rare earth permanent magnets in Visakhapatnam. The plant will produce rare earth magnets like samarium-cobalt and neodymium-iron-boron. With this facility, India will join a select group of nations in capacity to produce rare earth permanent magnets.

A *permanent magnet* is a type of magnet that can create a magnetic field without needing any external power source. It is called “permanent” because once it is magnetized, it can maintain its magnetism for a long time. Permanent magnets are usually made from certain types of metals or alloys, such as iron, nickel, and cobalt, or rare earth elements like neodymium and samarium.

Rare earth permanent magnets are a type of permanent magnet that is made from rare earth elements. Rare earth elements are a group of 17 chemical elements in the periodic table, including elements such as neodymium, samarium, and dysprosium.

3. Environment

ICIMOD releases WISE Report for Hindu Kush Himalaya

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) has released Water, Ice, Society, and Ecosystems (WISE) report for the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH).

ICIMOD is an intergovernmental knowledge and development organization (established in 1983) that focuses on climate and environmental risks, green economies, and sustainable action. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan are its members.

Steps Taken to protect Glacial Ecosystem India's Initiatives

- National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) is implemented by the Department of Science and Technology. It is part of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), launched in 2008.
- National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) established by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- Research station 'Himansh' was established in the Chandra basin (Himachal Pradesh) in 2016.
- National Institute of Hydrology (NIH) is conducting several studies for the assessment of runoff from the melting of glaciers at catchment and basin scales.

CoP 28 scheduled to be held in Bonn, Germany

Delegates to the Paris Agreement met in Bonn, Germany, paving the way to some key decisions for the UN Climate Conference (COP 28) in Dubai in 2023.

Conference of Parties (CoP) is the apex decision-making authority of UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). The COP meets every year, unless the Parties decide otherwise. The first COP meeting was held in Berlin, Germany in March 1995.

Summit for a New Global Financing Pact held in Paris, France

The Summit for a New Global Financing Pact was held in Paris, France. The first of its kind, the conference was spearheaded by President of France, and involves the leaders from both public and private segment.

Global Environmental Facility (GEF) approved Global Biodiversity Framework Fund

64th Global Environmental Facility (GEF) council meeting was held in Brazil. GEF's governing board has approved the establishment of a new fund Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) to finance the implementation of Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

KMGBF was adopted by COP15 (Montreal) of UN Convention on Biological Diversity. It has set 23 targets to be achieved by 2030, which include 30% conservation of land and sea, 30% restoration of degraded ecosystems and halving the introduction of invasive species.

Types of Climate Financing Mechanisms globally are:

Green Climate Fund (GCF): GCF helps developing countries limit or reduce their Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and adapt to climate change. It was set up in 2010 as part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)'s financial mechanism.

Global Environment Facility (GEF): GEF was established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit to help tackle most pressing environmental problems. The World Bank serves as the GEF Trustee, administering the

Fund. GEF funds are available to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to meet the objectives of the international environmental conventions and agreements.

Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF): SCCF was established under the UNFCCC in 2001 to finance projects in all developing country parties relating to: adaptation; technology transfer and capacity building etc. GEF, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, has been entrusted to operate the SCCF.

Adaptation Fund: It was established in 2001 to finance concrete adaptation projects and programmes in developing country Parties to the Kyoto Protocol that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. It is financed with a share of proceeds from the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project activities and other sources of funding. The Fund is supervised and managed by the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB). The World Bank serves as trustee of the Adaptation Fund on an interim basis.

What is Green Credit?

(MoEF&CC) has also notified the draft 'Green Credit Programme (GCP)' implementation rules 2023. It was first announced in the 2023-24 Union Budget with a view to leverage a competitive market-based approach and incentivize voluntary environmental actions of various stakeholders.

The 'Green Credit' means a singular unit of an incentive provided for a specified activity, delivering a positive impact on the environment. The Green Credit Programme as a mechanism that complements the domestic Carbon Market. While the domestic carbon market focuses solely on CO₂ Emission reductions, the Green Credit System aims to meet other environmental obligations as well, incentivizing sustainable actions by companies, individuals, and local bodies.

India tops globally in LEED Zero certifications of green building Projects

According to the US Green Building Council (USGBC) and Green Business Certification Inc (GBCI), India has emerged as a leading country in LEED Zero green building projects, surpassing the United States and China.

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the world's most widely used green building rating system in the world. It is developed by United States Green Building Council (USGBC).

LEED Zero recognises projects that have reached net zero or net positive status in the categories of carbon, energy, water, or waste.

Net zero refers to a state in which the greenhouse gases going into the atmosphere are balanced by removal from the atmosphere. The term net zero is important because – for CO₂ at least – this is the state at which global warming stops.

WEF publishes Energy Transition Index

World Economic Forum (WEF), in collaboration with Accenture, has released the report titled "Fostering Effective Energy Transition 2023". In this report, Energy Transition Index (ETI) was published.

Key Facts:

- It is prepared on the 3 parameters – equity, security, and sustainable.
- Sweden is placed at the first spot, followed by Norway and Denmark.
- India has been ranked at 67th place out of 120 countries.
- India & Singapore are the only two countries making advances in all aspects of energy system performance.

Energy transition refers to the global energy sector's shift from fossil-based systems of energy production and consumption (including oil, natural gas, and coal) to renewable energy (RE) sources like wind and solar.

Related News: 'Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress' report was released through the collaboration between the International Energy Agency (IEA), International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), United Nations Statistics Division, World Bank, and the WHO. SDG 7 provides for achieving affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.

4. Scheme and Programs

MNRE's SIGHT Programme

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has issued scheme guidelines for implementation of Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) programme.

SIGHT programme: It is a sub-component under the National Green Hydrogen Mission. It is a sub-component of the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

Aim of the Programme

- Component I – It aims at providing electrolyser manufacturing incentives.
- Component II – It focuses on green hydrogen production.

Implementing agency: The Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) would be the implementing agency responsible for the scheme's execution.

Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR)

The Ministry of Power and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy have jointly launched a National Mission titled "Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR)". It aims to facilitate indigenous research, development and demonstration of the latest and emerging technologies in the power sector. By identifying emerging technologies and taking them to the implementation stage, the Mission seeks to leverage them as the main fuel for future economic growth and thus make India a manufacturing hub of the world.

The Mission will be funded by pooling financial resources of the Ministry of Power, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and the Central Public Sector Enterprises under the two Ministries. Any additional funding needed will be mobilized from Government of India's budgetary resources.

Planned for an initial period of five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28, the Mission will follow the technology life cycle approach of Idea to Product.

Areas Identified for Research

- Alternatives to Lithium-Ion storage batteries
- Modifying electric cookers / pans to suit Indian cooking methods
- Green hydrogen for mobility (High Efficiency Fuel Cell)
- Carbon capture
- Geo-thermal energy
- Solid state refrigeration.
- Nano technology for EV battery
- Indigenous CRGO technology

Govt. approves PM-PRANAM scheme for alternative for chemical fertilizers

The Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved PM-PRANAM, which is aimed at incentivising states to use alternative, non-chemical fertilisers, and also decided to continue the current urea subsidy for 3 years starting FY23. PM-PRANAM stands for Prime Minister's Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Generation, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth.

5. Polity

New Parliament House inaugurated

New Parliament House was inaugurated. Current project is part of Central Vista development/redevelopment plan, an infrastructure investment project, involving multiple projects.

Key Points

- Lok Sabha Hall is based on the theme of National Bird, Peacock.
- Rajya Sabha Hall is based on the theme of the National Flower, the Lotus.
- National tree, the banyan, has been planted on the premises of the Parliament.
- Inclusion of the symbolic Sengol (sceptre), symbolising the transfer of power, is placed next to the Speaker's chair.
- Ashoka Pillar on the roof of Parliament House.
- Hand-woven carpets from Bhadohi, known as 'Carpet City' due to its beautiful hand-woven carpets, in Uttar Pradesh have been fitted in the new Parliament House.
- Six gates dedicated to water, land, and sky that express its gratitude to the friendly nature of Indian civilization.
- Ashok Chakra is made on the gate of the new Parliament House, and Satyamev Jayate is written.
- Wood from Nagpur, marble of Gujarat, stone work is of Rajasthan and bamboo wood flooring from Tripura is used.

Central Vista: Inaugurated in 1931, Central Vista included Rashtrapati Bhavan, North and South Blocks, Parliament House, Record Office (later named as The National Archives) along with India Gate monument and civic gardens on either side of Rajpath.

6. Governance

What are Private Military Companies (PMC)?

There was rebellion in Russia by Wagner Group, a Private Military Company.

Private Military Company (PMC) refers to a privately owned and operated organization that provides military and security services on a contractual basis. These companies operate independently of government military forces and are distinct from official state military organizations. They are hired by governments, corporations, international organizations, or individuals to carry out specific tasks, often in conflict zones or areas with security risks.

Ministry of Power establishes UTPRERAK

The Ministry of Power has established a specialized Centre of Excellence named UTPRERAK (*Unnat Takniki Pradarshan Kendra*), also known as the Advanced Industrial Technology Demonstration Centre (AITDC). It has been set up by the Bureau of Energy efficiency (BEE). The Centre of Excellence is located at the Badarpur campus of the National Power Training Institute (NPTI), Ministry of Power in New Delhi. It will serve as a catalyst for the industrial sector's adoption of energy-efficient technologies.

Grievance Redressal Assessment & Index (GRAI)

Ministry of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has launched the Grievance Redressal Assessment & Index (GRAI) for the year 2022.

Key Facts:

- It was conceptualised and designed by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India.
- 89 Central Ministries and Departments were assessed and ranked based on a comprehensive index in the dimensions of (1) Efficiency, (2) Feedback, (3) Domain and (4) Organisational Commitment and corresponding 12 indicators.
- To compute the index, data between January and December 2022 was used from the Centralised Public Grievance Redressal and Management System (CPGRAMS).
- CPGRAM is an online platform that aims to enable submission of grievances by the aggrieved citizens.

Nyaya Vikas Portal

Nyaya Vikas Portal allows 4 efficient ways of logging into the portal, thereby empowering stakeholders with seamless access to information pertaining to funding, documentation, project monitoring and approval.

The Department of Justice has been implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Districts and Subordinate Judiciary since 1993-94. Under the Scheme, central assistance is provided to the State Government / UT Administrations for construction of court halls and residential units for Judicial Officers / Judges of District and Subordinate Courts. With further extension of the scheme beyond 31.03.2021, some new features like Lawyers Hall, Toilet complexes and Digital computer rooms have been added to the scheme for the convenience of lawyers and litigants, besides court halls and residential units.

Funding: The funds sharing pattern under the Scheme for Center and State is 60:40 in respect of States other than North-Eastern and Himalayan States. The fund sharing pattern is 90:10 in respect of North Eastern and Himalayan States; and 100% in respect of Union Territories. This portal has been created for monitoring the implementation of this Scheme.

Rashtriya Rail Sanrakshak Kosh and Kavah System

Train accident in Balasore district of Odisha brought to the fore issue of railway safety in India. In March 2023, the parliamentary committee pointed out that not once had the annual funding to Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh has been spent fully.

Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK): It was a dedicated fund created for the railways in 2017-18 with a corpus of ₹1-lakh crore for 5 years. In 2022, the government decided to extend the currency of the fund for another five years. The objective of the fund is to clear the backlog of critical safety and related works of railways, including track renewals, strengthening of bridges and signalling improvements among others.

Kavach system: It is one of the safety devices introduced to eliminate trains colliding with each other. Kavach is India's automatic protection system in development since 2012, under the name Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS), which got rechristened to Kavach or "armour". It is an indigenously developed by the Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) in collaboration with the Indian industry. It is a state-of-the-art electronic system with Safety Integrity Level-4 (SIL-4) standards.

7. International Relations

Indian Prime Minister visited United States

Indian Prime Minister has visited the US on a three-day state visit, in which various strategic deals and partnerships were signed.

A new initiative called “Innovation Handshake” was started to connect the startup ecosystems of the two countries, which is to support the US-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET).

Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) was set up in January 2023, to strengthen and broaden the defence industrial cooperation and strategic technological partnership between the companies, and academic institutions of the two nations. It is headed by the National Security Council Secretariat in India and the US National Security Council.

Clean Energy Partnership: The India-U.S. New and Emerging Renewable Energy Technologies Action Platform was launched, which will accelerate cooperation in green hydrogen, offshore and onshore wind, and other emerging technologies. The U.S. Agency for International Development is to support Indian Railways’ ambitious target to become a “net-zero” carbon emitter by 2030.

Union Cabinet approves establishment of a Regional Office of UPU in New Delhi

The Union Cabinet has approved to establish a Regional Office of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in New Delhi, India to undertake UPU’s development cooperation and technical assistance activities in the region by entering into an agreement with UPU.

Established in 1874, UPU is the second oldest international organization worldwide. Its Headquarters is in Berne, Switzerland. It has 192 member countries (including India). It is the primary forum for cooperation between the postal sector entities.

Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission

The Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) has elected India as chair of the Standing Committee on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for the biennium 2023-24 during the 32nd Session of the APPPC.

The Asia-Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) was first time convened in 1956. It administers the Regional Plant Protection Agreement for Asia and the Pacific. The Commission reviews the plant protection situation at the national level in member countries, and at the regional level. It coordinates and promotes development of regional plant protection systems. It has 25 countries as members. The APPPC meets at least once every 2 years.

US decides to join back UNESCO

The United States has announced its decision to rejoin the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and pay over \$600 million in back dues.

President Droupadi Murmu visits Suriname

Indian President Smt. Droupadi Murmu has visited Suriname aiming to strengthen India’s bilateral relations with the South American nation. Suriname (*Capital: Paramaribo*) is a small country on the northeastern coast of South America. It’s defined by vast swaths of tropical rainforest, Dutch colonial architecture and a melting-pot culture.

Defence Exercises in News

Exercise Ekatha: It is an annual exercise conducted between the navies of India and Maldives.

EKUPERIN: It is joint military exercise between Indian Army and Maldives National Defence Force.

Ex Khaan Quest 2023: Indian Army participated in Ex Khaan Quest (in Mongolia), a multinational peacekeeping joint exercise.

8. Awards & Recognition

Indian PM confers 'Order of the Nile' award in Cairo, Egypt

Indian Prime Minister has been conferred with 'Order of the Nile' award in Cairo by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. 'Order of the Nile' is Egypt's highest state honour. The Prime Minister arrived in Cairo of Egypt for a first bilateral visit by any Indian Prime Minister in the past 26 years.

Instituted in 1915, the 'Order of the Nile' is conferred upon Heads of states, Crown Princes, and Vice-Presidents who offer Egypt or humanity invaluable services. This is the 13th such highest state honour that various countries across the world have conferred upon Indian Prime Minister.

UITP Awards 2023, Barcelona

Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) Undertaking has received the prestigious 'Climate And Health' award at the UITP Awards 2023, Barcelona. It was also recognized as one of the top 3 finalists in the 'Public And Urban Transport Strategy' category. UITP Awards are highly sought-after prizes in the field of public transport. The BEST was also awarded for 'Smart Mobility' category by FICCI.

Jagdish Bakan wins 2023 Michel Batisse Award

An IFS officer, Jagdish S Bakan has won the prestigious UNESCO Michel Batisse Award 2023 for biosphere reserve management. The 2017 batch officer of the Indian Forest Service is currently the Director of the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve. He will receive the award from UNESCO in Paris.

He received the award for introducing 'green' jobs and microcredit to stimulate community-led efforts to conserve biodiversity in the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve in India.

Paterson Joseph wins 2023 Royal Society of Literature Christopher Bland Prize

Author Paterson Joseph was conferred with the 2023 Royal Society of Literature Christopher Bland Prize for his debut novel 'The Secret Diaries of Charles Ignatius Sancho.' The book is a historical fiction novel that tells the story of Charles Ignatius Sancho, who was the first Black man to vote in England. RSL Christopher Bland Prize is an annual award that is awarded to a debut writer for their work of fiction or non-fiction.

Historian Ramachandra Guha's book wins Elizabeth Longford Prize

Historian and writer Ramchandra Guha's book "Rebels Against the Raj: Western Fighters for India's Freedom" has won the Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography 2023. He has been awarded £5,000 (Rs. 5 lakhs approximately) and a bound copy of Elizabeth Longford's memoir, The Pebbled Shore. The jury was chaired by Roy Foster.

Shaktikanta Das wins "Governor of the Year" Award

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das was awarded the "Governor of the Year" at the Central Banking Awards 2023 in London. Central Banking is a London-based international economic research journal. Shaktianta Das is the second RBI Governor to receive the award after Raghuram Rajan, who was given the title in 2015.

Arundhati Roy won the 45th European Essay Prize

Writer-activist Arundhati Roy has been awarded the prestigious 45th European Essay Prize for lifetime achievement for the French translation of her book 'Azadi.'

'Azadi' is a compilation of author's essays in which she writes about the true meaning of freedom, especially in a world where authoritarianism is growing.

Gita Press receives Gandhi Peace Prize 2021

Gita Press, Gorakhpur, has been honoured with the Gandhi Peace Prize 2021. The award acknowledges Gita Press' exceptional contributions to promoting social, economic, and political transformation through non-violence and Gandhian methods. It is known that Gita Press, established in the year 1923, is one of the largest publishers in the world. The jury headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi mentions that the award of the Gandhi Peace Prize to Gita Press on the completion of 100 years of its establishment is to appreciate the work done by the institution in community service.

Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual award instituted by the Government of India. The award was instituted in 1995 on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of The Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi as a tribute to his ideals.

Salman Rushdie received the German Peace Prize 2023

The Peace Prize of the German Book Trade for 2023 has been awarded to British-American author Salman Rushdie, "for his indomitable spirit, for his affirmation of life and for enriching our world with his love of storytelling,".

9. Social Development

NITI Aayog and UN signed GoI- UNSDCF 2023-27

NITI Aayog and UN have signed Government of India - United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (GoI- UNSDCF) 2023-27.

GoI-UNSDCF 2023-2027 represents the UN development system's collective offer to the Government of India, in line with the national vision for development, for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, promoting gender equality, youth empowerment and human rights.

GoI-UNSDCF 2023-2027 is built on 4 strategic pillars derived from the 2030 Agenda – (i) People, (ii) Prosperity, (iii) Planet and (iv) Participation. 4 interlinked pillars have 6 outcome areas focusing on – Health and Well Being; Nutrition and Food Security; Quality Education; Economic Growth and Decent Work; Environment, Climate, WASH and Resilience; and Empowering People, Communities, and Institutions.

Ministry releases report on Panchayat Development Index (PDI)

Ministry of Panchayati Raj has released Report on Panchayat Development Index at National Workshop on Panchayat Development Index (PDI).

Panchayat Development Index (PDI) provides a matrix to monitor and evaluate the progress of panchayats through the scores achieved by them. It ranks panchayats on the basis of scores and categorize them into four grades. Grades include A (75 to 90%), B (60-75), C (40-60%) and D (under 40%).

EIU releases Global Liveability Index 2023

For the second consecutive year, Vienna is the world's most liveable city according to The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) 2023 Global Liveability Index. Topping the ranking for the 4th time in 5 years, Vienna has excelled in stability, culture and entertainment, and reliable infrastructure. Copenhagen in Denmark maintained its second position while Melbourne and Sydney came in third and fourth position, rising to the top 5 where they previously had a consistent presence among the leading positions, before the pandemic. From India, New Delhi and Mumbai are at 141st position.

UNDP partners with DAY-NULM towards empowering women entrepreneurs

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) have entered into a collaborative partnership aimed at empowering women to make well-informed career choices in the field of entrepreneurship.

WEF releases Gender Gap Report 2023

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has released the annual Gender Gap Report for 2023, which measures the gender disparity in various aspects of society. As per the latest report, India has ranked at 127 out of 146 countries in terms of gender equality. India has improved 1.4% points and 8 places from its earlier rank of 135 from 2022 index. The index ranked India's neighbours Pakistan at 142, Bangladesh at 59, China at 107, Nepal at 116, Sri Lanka at 115 and Bhutan at 103. Iceland is the most gender-equal country in the world for the 14th consecutive year.

UNDP releases Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) Report 2023

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has released 2023 Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) report titled as '*Breaking Down Gender Biases: Shifting social norms towards gender equality*'. GSNI captures beliefs, biases and prejudices regarding gender equality in capabilities and rights, which provides an account of the root causes of gender inequality.

First introduced in the 2019 Human Development Report, GSNI provides an in-depth account of the root causes of gender inequality that hinder progress for women and girls. It covers 4 key dimensions - political, educational, economic, and physical integrity - to highlight areas where women and girls face systematic disadvantages and discrimination.

Government Schemes Related to Women Empowerment:

- Sukanya Samriddhi Yojna
- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme
- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme
- One Stop Centre

U.S. Approves the Sale of Lab-Grown Chicken

USA's Agriculture Department has approved the sale of chicken made from animal cells, allowing two companies to offer "lab-grown" meat. It is being referred to as "cell-cultivated" or "cultured" meat as it emerges from the laboratory and arrives on dinner plates.

Cellular agriculture is the process by which animal-based products are produced directly from cell cultures rather than from animals. It comprises two different approaches: cell cultivation (cellular) and precision fermentation (acellular- contain no cellular or living material in final product like Milk). In 2020, Singapore became the first country to approve the sale of cell-cultivated meat.

Phage therapy: An alternative to antibiotics in the age of multi-drug resistance

A study found out that the Public accepts use of bacteria-killing viruses (Phage Therapy) as alternative to antibiotics. Due to improper use of antibiotics, there has been an increase in Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). Therefore, an increasingly popular alternative to antibiotics is bacteriophages to control bacterial diseases.

Bacteriophages, or phages, are viruses that infect and replicate only in bacterial cells. Phage therapy involves using phages to treat bacterial infections. Bacteriophages were discovered by Frederick William Twort in 1915 (Great Britain) and Felix d'Herelle in 1917 (France). In contrast to many antibiotics, which remove harmful bacteria, while simultaneously decimating the microbiota (triggering a new set of problems), each phage has evolved to more narrowly target bacterial strains or species.

Increase in leptospirosis cases due to rain

With the onset of monsoon in India, threat of Leptospirosis disease has increased. It is a potentially fatal zoonotic bacterial disease, caused by a bacterium *Leptospira interrogans*, or leptospira. It is a contagious disease in animals (carriers include rodents, cattle, pigs, and dogs) but is occasionally transmitted to humans in certain environmental conditions. It is prevalent in warm, humid countries and in both urban and rural areas. Its symptoms mimic those of dengue, malaria, and hepatitis.

What is Golden Triangle?

According to the latest report of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report, there is no slowdown of trade in methamphetamine and other illegal drugs originating from a golden triangle of Southeast Asia.

Golden Triangle includes the area of 3 countries namely Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand, where the cultivation and production of drugs such as opium and heroin have been prevalent. The area has been a major source of

illegal drugs, contributing to the global drug trade, along with Golden Crescent (comprising Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan).

10. Economy

Li-ion Battery Recycling Technology to Boost Circular Economy

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has taken a significant step towards promoting a circular economy by transferring a cost-effective Li-ion battery recycling technology to nine recycling industries and start-ups. The technology was developed under the "Centre of Excellence on E-waste management" at the Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET), Hyderabad, in collaboration with the Government of Telangana and industry partner M/s Greenko Energies Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad. This initiative is part of the Mission Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE) under the "Promote circularity campaign."

The idea of LiFE was introduced by India during the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow in 2021. The idea promotes an environmentally conscious lifestyle that focuses on 'mindful and deliberate utilisation' instead of 'mindless and wasteful consumption. With the launch of the Mission, the prevalent "use-and-dispose" economy governed by mindless and destructive consumption will be replaced by a circular economy, defined by conscious and deliberate consumption.

RBI launches Financial Inclusion Dashboard, ANTARDRIHSTI

RBI has launched a Financial Inclusion Dashboard - ANTARDRIHSTI. The dashboard will provide the required insight to assess and monitor the progress of financial inclusion by capturing relevant parameters. This facility will also enable the ability to gauge the extent of financial exclusion at granular levels across the country so that such areas can be addressed. The dashboard, presently intended for internal use in the RBI, will further facilitate greater financial inclusion through a multi-stakeholder approach.

What is Greedflation?

There has been an increasing consensus in Europe and US that Greedflation is driving the rising cost of living rather than just Inflation.

Inflation: Inflation is the rate at which the general price level rises. If it is reported that the inflation rate was 5% in June 2023 it implies that the general price level of the economy was 5% more than what it was in June 2022.

Disinflation: Disinflation refers to the trend when the inflation rate decelerates. It refers to a period when even though prices are rising, it is happening at a slower rate each passing month. For example, it was 10% in April, 7% in May and 5% in June.

Deflation: Deflation is the exact opposite of inflation. Imagine if the general prices level in June 2023 was 5% lower than what it was in June 2022. That's deflation. It is a general decline in prices for goods and services, typically associated with a contraction in the supply of money and credit in the economy.

Reflation: Reflation typically follows deflation as policymakers try to pump up economic activity either by government spending more and/or interest rates being reduced.

Greedflation refers to the situation where corporate greed drives inflation. Rather than a wage-price spiral, it is a Profit-Price Spiral where companies exploit inflation by raising prices excessively, going beyond covering their increased costs, and aiming to maximize their profit margins. These further fuels inflation. There is a growing consensus in developed countries, like Europe and the US, that greedflation is the true culprit.

IEA releases World Energy Investment Report 2023

The International Energy Agency's (IEA) has released 'World Energy Investment 2023' report. The Report revealed that clean energy investment has overtaken fossil fuel spending at a ratio of USD 1.7:1, with investment in solar power set to overtake investment in oil production for the first time.

International Energy Agency (IEA): The IEA is an inter-governmental organization (HQ: Paris) that ensures the security of oil supplies and promotes energy cooperation among member countries. It was Established in 1974 to ensure the security of oil supplies (in the wake of the oil crisis of 1973-1974); It is within the OECD framework. It mainly focuses on its energy policies which include economic development, energy security and environmental protection. These policies are also known as the 3 E's of IEA.

Kishtwar Region of J&K, North India's Major 'Power Hub'

It was reported that the UT Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar region will become North India's major "power hub" generating around 6,000 MW of power after the completion of the ongoing power projects.

Names of the various upcoming hydroelectric project in the region:

1. Pakal Dul (1,000 MW);
2. Kiru Hydroelectric project (624 MW);
3. Kwar Hydroelectric project, Kirthai II Hydroelectric project, Ratle project, Dulhasti power station, and
4. Dulhasti II Hydroelectric project.

What are critical minerals?

India released a list of 30 critical minerals that have been identified as significantly important for the country's economic development and security. These minerals include lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite, tin, and copper, which play a crucial role in various strategic value chains.

The list comprises 30 critical minerals, including 17 Rare Earth Elements (REEs) and 6 Platinum-Group Elements (PGE), each designated as critical based on their limited availability in India's geological reserves.

Critical minerals are elements that are the building blocks of essential modern-day technologies and are at risk of supply chain disruptions. For example, Antimony, Beryllium, Bismuth, Cobalt, Copper etc. For India, major import sources of Cobalt are China, US, Japan; Lithium (Chile, Russia, China); Nickel (Sweden, China) etc.

CEA notifies National Electricity Plan for the period of 2022-32

The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has notified the National Electricity Plan (NEP) (Vol-I Generation) for the period of 2022-32. According to the NEP document, the projected All India peak electricity demand and electrical energy requirement is 277.2 GW and 1907.8 BU for the year 2026-27 and 366.4 GW and 2473.8 BU for the year 2031-32 as per 20th Electric Power Survey (EPS) Demand projections. The Energy Requirement & Peak Demand are inclusive of the impact due to increased adoption of Electric Vehicles, Installation of Solar roof tops, Production of Green hydrogen, Saubhagya scheme etc.

As per Electricity Act 2003, CEA is required to prepare a NEP in accordance with the National Electricity Policy and notify such Plan once in five years. NEP includes the review of last five years (2017-22), a detailed plan for next five years (2022-27) and prospective plan for 2027-32. First NEP was notified in 2007.

SEBI issued guidelines for Investor Protection Fund, Investor Services Fund

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued comprehensive guidelines for Investor Protection Fund (IPF) and Investor Services Fund (ISF) maintained by stock exchanges and depositories. The guidelines cover the constitution and management of the IPF, contribution to IPF by exchanges as well as depositories, and utilization of IPF.

The objective of establishing an IPF is to protect the interests of participants (like stockbrokers and investors) of the Exchange. ISF aims at providing different kinds of services to the investing public such as investor education and awareness programs, dissemination of companies' information etc.

Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF)

IPEF has been established by SEBI in 2007 and it is regulated under the SEBI (IPEF) Regulations 2009. It is utilized for the protection of investors and the promotion of investor education and awareness. It is funded through contributions made by SEBI, grants and donations by central government or state governments, security deposits and amounts in IPF/ISF of derecognized stock exchanges etc.

DGFT permits import of pet coke as raw material for lithium-ion batteries

The Government has permitted the import of pet coke for making graphite anode material for Lithium-ion batteries as a feedstock and not for any other purposes. Import of pet coke for fuel purposes is completely banned.

Petroleum coke (pet coke) related key facts:

- It is a final carbon-rich solid material and residual waste material extracted from oil refining.
- Bitumen contains a higher number of carbon atoms than regular oil and it's these atoms, extracted from large hydrocarbon molecules using heat, that go on to form petcoke.
- It is high in calorific value and easy to transport and store.
- It releases toxic gases like carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, mercury, arsenic, chromium, nickel, and hydrogen chloride after burning.
- There are two distinctive grades of Petroleum Coke viz. Calcinable or Green Petcoke and Fuel Grade Petcoke.
- It is widely used by power stations and several manufacturing industries including cement, steel and textile plants in India.

11. Books & Authors

Book Released: Ajay to Yogi Adityanath

This novel is written by Shantanu Gupta. Notably, the author, prior to this, has written two books on Yogi Adityanath- The Monk Who Transformed Uttar Pradesh and The Monk Who Became Chief Minister.

12. Important Days

Statistics Day – 29th June

The Government of India has been celebrating 29th June every year, since 2007, as “Statistics Day”, to mark the birth anniversary of late Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, in recognition of his valuable contribution in the field of Economics, Planning and Statistics. The major objective of celebrating Statistics Day is creation of public awareness, especially among younger generation, on the role and importance of statistics in socio-economic planning and policy formulation for development of the country.

Theme for 2023: *"Alignment of State Indicator Framework with National Indicator Framework for monitoring Sustainable Development Goals"*.

Related News: The MoSPI has developed a National Indicator Framework (NIF) for Sustainable Development Goals, in sync with GIF, for facilitating the monitoring of SDGs at national level.

World Bicycle Day – 3rd June

World Bicycle Day is celebrated every year on 3rd June. Its aim is to promote the importance of bicycles as a means of transportation, fostering sustainability, health, and well-being. The day was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in April 2018 to recognize the uniqueness, versatility and sustainability of the bicycle and its positive impact on society. The initiative to establish this Day was led by Turkmenistan, with the support of numerous other countries.

World Food Safety Day – 7th June

The World Food Safety Day is celebrated every year on 7th June to draw attention to help prevent, detect, and manage foodborne risks, contributing to food security, human health, agriculture, and sustainable development. Theme for World Food Safety Day 2023 was *"Food Standards Save Live"*.

World Milk Day – 1st June

World Milk Day is celebrated every year on 1st June. This day was created in the year 2001 by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations (UN). Its aim is to promote the consumption and benefits of milk around the world. The goal of this day is to provide us with a chance to raise awareness of and support in any manner possible initiatives related to the dairy industry.

World Oceans Day – 8th June

World Oceans Day is celebrated every year on 8 June to create awareness about the significance of oceans, and importance of preserving and conserving oceanic resources.

The theme for World Oceans Day 2023 was *"Planet Ocean: Tides are Changing"*.

The concept was originally proposed by Canada's International Centre for Ocean Development and the Ocean Institute of Canada at the Earth Summit in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This day was officially recognised by the United Nations in 2008.

World Accreditation Day – 9th June

World Accreditation Day is celebrated annually on June 9.

This day is celebrated to recognize and promote the role of accreditation across various sectors. Its aim is to raise awareness about the value and benefits of accreditation in ensuring competence, reliability, and credibility in industries such as healthcare, laboratories, certification bodies, and conformity assessment services.

World Accreditation Day 2023 theme was *"Accreditation: Supporting the Future of Global Trade"*.

The World Day against Child Labour

The World Day against Child Labour is celebrated annually on 12th June to support the expanding anti-child labour movement. The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the first World Day Against Child Labour in 2002 as a way to highlight the plight of children engaged in child labour.

"*Week of Action against Child Labour*" is the theme for the 2023 World Day Against Child Labour.

International Albinism Awareness Day – 13th June

International Albinism Awareness Day is celebrated annually on June 13.

It is celebrated to ensure the inclusion of the voices of persons with albinism in all sectors of life. The theme for 2023 is "*Inclusion is Strength*".

Albinism is a rare, non-contagious, genetically inherited difference present at birth. In almost all types of albinism, both parents must carry the gene for it to be passed on, even if they do not have albinism themselves. The condition is found in both sexes regardless of ethnicity and in all countries of the world. Albinism results in a lack of pigmentation (melanin) in the hair, skin and eyes, causing vulnerability to the sun and bright light. As a result, almost all people with albinism are visually impaired and are prone to developing skin cancer. There is no cure for the absence of melanin that is central to albinism.

World Refugee Day – 20th June

World Refugee Day is celebrated every year on 20th June to serve as a reminder of the challenges faced by millions of individuals who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution, or violence.

World Refugee Day 2023 theme is "*Hope Away from Home*".

The International Day of Yoga – 21st June

The International Day of Yoga is celebrated every year on June 21 since 2015.

This year, the theme for International Yoga Day is "*Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*". This year's theme highlighted beautifully encapsulates collective aspiration for "One Earth, One Family, One Future".

On 11 December 2014, the UN proclaimed 21 June as the International Day of Yoga.

The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking – 26th June

The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is celebrated annually on June 26 to spread awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse. This day is celebrated to honour Lin Zexu, who played a key role in the demolition of the opium trade in the Guangdong region of China. The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2023 theme is "*People first: stop stigma and discrimination, strengthen prevention*".

International Asteroid Day – 30th June

International Asteroid Day is celebrated annually on 30 June to raise awareness about the potential hazards posed by asteroid impacts.

In December 2016, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed a resolution (A/RES/71/90) establishing June 30th as International Asteroid Day.

World Environmental Day, 2023 – 5th June

World Environment Day 2023 marks the completion of 50 years of its establishment on 5th June, 2023. WED is observed on 5th June every year since 1973 as part of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to build awareness to save life on planet Earth. Every year World Environment Day has a specific host country and a theme. This year host is the West African country of Côte d'Ivoire, in partnership with the Netherlands with theme '*Beat Plastic Pollution.*' 45th World Environment Day with the same theme was held under the leadership of India.

13. Culture

350th anniversary celebrations of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's coronation held

350th anniversary celebrations of Maratha leader Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's coronation was being held at Raigard Fort in Maharashtra. At this fort, Shivaji was coronated in 1674. Here, he laid the foundation of "Hindavi-Swaraj" or the self-rule of Hindu people and also took the title Chhatrapati. He was born in 1630 and died on 3 April 1680.

Traditional Theatre form of Karnataka – Yakshagana

Yakshagana is a traditional theatre form of Karnataka. It is performed with massive headgear, elaborate facial makeup, and vibrant costumes and ornaments. Usually recited in Kannada, it is also performed in Malayalam as well as Tulu (the dialect of south Karnataka). It was performed by a special community known as Jakkula Varu in the royal courts of the Vijayanagar dynasty. The word Yakshagana is derived from the names Aata Bayalaata, Kelike, and Dashavatara. The dance form of Yakshagana has been divided into two groups by intellectuals and researchers.

Sengol dedicated to the new Parliament building

Prime Minister of India has placed the Sengol or sceptre, presented by head of Thiruvaduthurai Adheenam (monastery) to India's first PM, in the new Parliament building.

On August 14, 1947, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru received the '*Sengol*' as a symbol of the transfer of power to the government from the specially arrived priests from the Thiruvaduthurai Adheenam in Tamil Nadu. The word '*sengol*' is derived from the Tamil word '*semmai*', which means '*righteousness*'. As the observer of 'justice', the hand engraved Nandi sits atop it, watching with his unflinching gaze. The Sengol reminds the recipient that he has the "aanai" (order or decree) to rule justly and fairly.

In the Chola Empire, Sengol was considered a symbol of the path of duty, the path of service, and the path of the nation.

Thiruvavaduthurai Adheenam is established by Namasivaya Murthy, a Saivite saint and scholar, in 16th century, this Math had outstanding scholars in Tamil and Saivite philosophy. Heads of Math were also patrons of Tamil scholars and musicians.