Current Events

May 2023

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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 f5 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

May 2023

1. Sports

Prathamesh Jawkar shocks wins maiden archery World Cup Gold
Indian Archer Prathamesh Jawkar has won the maiden World Cup gold medal in the men's individual compound section by defeating world No. 1. Mike Schloesser of the Netherlands.

In total, India bagged two gold in the non-Olympic compound section with the mixed team duo of Ojas Deotale and Jyothi Surekha Vennam also defeated top-seeded Koreans in the Stage 2 of the World Cup.

Chennai Super Kings wins 5th IPL Title
Chennai Super Kings has defeated Gujarat Titans to win their 5th Indian Premier League title. This led to th team to equalled Mumbai Indians' record for the most number of titles. The final match was played in Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad.

2. Science & Technology

What is Mitochondial Treatment?
The first baby (from United Kingdom) with DNA from three people- mother, father and a female donar has been born after an IVF procedure known as Mitochondrial Donation Treatment.

Mitochondrial Donation Treatment (MDT) is a technique in which a child is conceived from IVF (*in vitro fertilization*) using the genetic material of the parents and the mitochondrial material of a donor. The technique uses tissue from the eggs of healthy female donors to create IVF embryos that are free from harmful mutations their mothers carry and are likely to pass on to their children.

Department of Telecommunications Initiatives for curbing Cyber Crime – ASTR
Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India has designed and implemented an innovative, indigenous, Next Gen Platform ASTR (AI and facial recognition powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber VeRification). Its vision is to analyze, identify and weed out fake/forged, non bonafide mobile connections for curbing the menace of Cyber Crimes.

ASTR, launched under Sanchar Saathi Initiative, is an AI powered tool to identify SIMs issued using fraudulent/forged documents. ASTR has capability of running checks on subscriber databases of telecom operators to deduce whether it contains multiple connections associated with the same person.

Sanchar Saathi helps citizens to know the mobile connections issued in their name; report fraudulent or unrequired connections; block mobile phones which are stolen/lost and check IMEI genuineness before buying a mobile phone.

'AIRAWAT' ranked 75th in the Top 500 Global Supercomputing List
The AI Supercomputer 'AIRAWAT', installed at C-DAC, Pune has been ranked 75th in the world. It was declared so in the 61st edition of Top 500 Global Supercomputing List announced at the International Supercomputing Conference (ISC 2023) held in Germany.

AIRAWAT (Artificial Intelligence Research, Analytics and Knowledge Assimilation Platform) is a platform that uses artificial intelligence and machine learning to support research and analytics. The installation of 'AIRAWAT' at C-DAC Pune is part of the National Program on AI initiated by the Government of India.

Supercomputers aggregate the computational power of multiple servers or compute devices for processing huge amounts of data and performing complex calculations. Performance of a supercomputer is measured in floating-point operations per second (FLOPS) instead of million instructions per second (MIPS).

ISRO launched next-generation navigational satellite NVS – 01
Scientists at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched the NVS – 01 next-generation navigation satellite on-board the Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle or GSLV Mk-II from second launch pad at Sathish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. The ISRO aims to augment continuity of the Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) services with this mission. NVS-01 is first of the India's second-generation satellites envisaged for NavIC (Navigation by Indian Constellation) services.

To meet the positioning, navigation and timing requirements of the nation, ISRO has established a regional navigation satellite system called Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC).

Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC): IRNSS (Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System) is an independent Regional Navigation Satellite System being developed by India. It is designed to provide accurate position information service to users in India as well as the region extending up to 1500 km from its boundary, which is its primary service area. It provides 2 types of services, namely, Standard Positioning Service (SPS) which is provided to all the users and Restricted Service (RS), which is an encrypted service provided only to the authorized users. The satellite is functional since April 2018.

TCS launches generative AI solution on Google Cloud
Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has announced an expanded partnership with Google Cloud, with launching 'TCS Generative AI' which leverages Google Cloud's generative AI services to design and deploy custom-tailored business solutions. It is powered by Google Cloud's Generative AI tools -- Vertex AI, Generative AI Application Builder and Model Garden, and TCS' own solutions.

Telangana becomes the first state in the country to launch a state robotics framework
The Telangana Government has launched State Robotics Framework, a first-of-its-kind policy in India, aimed at creating a sustainable robotics ecosystem and to position the state as a leader in the field of robotics. The framework was developed by the Emerging Technologies Wing of the ITE&C Department of Telangana in collaboration with the All-India Robotics Association and inputs from academia, industry experts and stakeholders.

What is Bluebugging?
The Andhra Pradesh police have warned smartphone users about the dangers of 'bluebugging,'.

Bluebugging is a type of hacking technique in which an attacker gains unauthorized access to a device, such as a smartphone, by exploiting its Bluetooth connection. Once the device is "blue bugged," the attacker can potentially listen to calls, read and send messages, steal and modify contacts, and even install malware on the compromised device.

3. Environment

Report titled -The Green Shift: The Low Carbon Transition of India's Oil & Gas Sector released
A report titled "The Green Shift: The Low Carbon Transition of India's Oil and Gas Sector," was released by the Energy Transition Advisory Committee (ETAC) under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG). The report emphasizes the role of Compressed Biogas (CBG) in addressing the country's energy deficit and reducing emissions.

Carbon Credit Trading Scheme for decarbonization
The Bureau of Energy Efficiency along with the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) aims to develop the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme for decarbonization. Its aim is to decarbonize the Indian economy by pricing the Green House Gas (GHG) emissions through the trading of carbon credit certificates.

Biofuels involve the direct conversion of biomass into liquid fuels, which can be blended with existing automotive fuels. Ethanol and biodiesel are the 2 main transport biofuels. These fuels can be produced from a variety of biomass.

- *First-generation (1G) biofuels* are usually made from edible feedstock like sugarcane, beets, food grains etc.
- *Second Generation (2G) fuels* are produced from lignocellulosic biomass obtained from energy crops or waste biomass, such as agricultural and forest residue.
- *Third Generation (3G) biofuels* are produced from algal biomass. Algae can be used for the production of all types of biofuels, such as biodiesel, gasoline, butanol, propanol, and ethanol, with a high yield, approximately 10 times higher than 2G biofuel.
- *Fourth-generation biofuels (4G)* are the amalgamation of genomically prepared microorganisms and genetically engineered feedstock. These feedstocks can be grown in nonarable land.
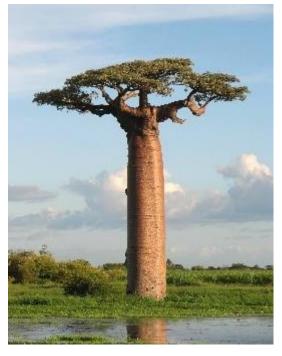
Baobab Trees
The Madhya Pradesh Government has decided that the forest department cannot grant permission for the translocation of Baobab trees in Dhar, after the protest from Bhil tribes. Under the Biodiversity Act, meaning that any commercial use of the trees will require permission from the state biodiversity board.

Baobab trees are deciduous trees found in mainland Africa, Madagascar, and Australia. They have barrel-like trunks (5 to 20m in height), can live up to 2,000 years, and are known for their extraordinary longevity.

UNEP releases report on Plastic Pollution and Circular Economy
UNEP has released a report titled 'Turning off the Tap How the world can end plastic pollution and create a circular economy'. It addresses various issues associated with solution for circular plastics economy while also safeguarding livelihoods.

Circular Economy refers to a system where there is maximum recycling and reuse of materials to ensure minimum amount of wastage.

WMO report on Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update
The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has released 2 reports titled 'Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update 2023-2027' and 'State of Global Climate 2022.' The report has predicted that the average global temperature will exceed the critical point of 1.5 degree Celsius by 2027.

MoHUA lauches Meri Life, Mera Swachh Shehar
Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs has launched MoHUA's mega campaign 'Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar'. The campaign is launched to champion the RRR's of waste management- Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

ADB announces IF-CAP
Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced the Innovative Finance Facility for Climate in Asia and the Pacific (IF-CAP).

IF-CAP is a multi-donor financing partnership facility with goal of scaling-up finance for accelerated action against climate change in Asia and the Pacific. It is a landmark program of ADB with initial partners being Denmark, Japan, Republic of Korea, Sweden, United Kingdom, and United States.

Other climate financing mechanisms are Global Environment Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation Fund, and Loss and Damage Fund etc.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) is an international development finance institution whose mission is to help its developing member countries reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of their people. It is headquartered in Manila and established in 1966.

Cyclone Mocha
Cyclone Mocha that made landfall recently in Myanmar has been categorized as an Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm by the IMD (Indian Meteorological Department) and as a 'Super Cyclone' by global weather website Zoom Earth. It originated in the Bay of Bengal.

Yemen suggested the name 'Mocha', which is supposed to be pronounced as Mokha. The cyclone has been named after a Red Sea port city known for its coffee production. The city also gave its name to the popular beverage, café Mocha.

4. Scheme and Programs

Ministry of Civil Aviation Launches UDAN 5.0
The Government of India has launched the 5th round of the Regional Connectivity Scheme – UDAN (UDAN 5.0). The scheme was launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation for regional airport development and regional connectivity enhancement. It is a part of the National Civil Aviation Policy 2016. The scheme is applicable for a period of 10 years.

Key Features of UDAN 5.0 are as follows:
- This round of UDAN focuses on Category-2 (20-80 seats) and Category-3 (>80 seats).
- The earlier stage length cap of 600 km is waived off and there is no restriction on the distance between the origin and destination of the flight.

- Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to be provided will be capped at 600 km stage length for both Priority and Non-Priority areas which was earlier capped at 500 km.
- No predetermined routes would be offered. Only Network and Individual Route Proposal proposed by airlines will be considered.
- The airlines would be required to submit an action/business plan after 2 months from the issuance of LoA wherein they submit their aircraft acquisition plan/availability of aircraft, crew, slots, etc. at the time of the Technical Proposal.
- The same route will not be awarded to a single airline more than once, whether in different networks or in the same network.
- Exclusivity will be withdrawn if the average quarterly PLF is higher than 75% for four continuous quarters, to prevent exploitation of the monopoly on a route.
- 25% of the Performance Guarantee to be encashed for each month of delay up to 4 months, to further incentivize quick operationalization.
- Airlines would be required to commence operations within 4 months of the award of the route. Earlier this deadline was 6 months.

MoW&CD launched PBPB Scheme
Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) has launched Poshan bhi Padhai bhi Scheme. PBPB will focus on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) (first six years of children) at anganwadis across the country.

Poshan bhi Padhai bhi will focus on promoting holistic and quality early stimulation and pre-primary education for children, ensuring the use of developmentally appropriate pedagogies and emphasizing the links with primary education as well as early childhood health and nutrition services. Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi program will provide for mother tongue as primary teacher instruction medium, different types of teaching-learning material (visual aids, audio aids, audio-visual and bodily-kinesthetic aids) to Anganwadi Sewikas, and help build a Jan Andolan, to involve communities in strengthening the foundations of the country's future generations.

Early Childhood Care and Education refers to providing care including health and nutrition as well as early learning opportunities to all young children. It is a crucial component of Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0) and it was foreseen under the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.

Government approves the second phase of CITIIS Project
The Union Cabinet has approved the City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0).

CITIIS 2.0 is a program conceived by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in partnership with the French Development Agency (AFD), Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), the European Union (EU), and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA). The program will run for a period of 4 years, i.e., from 2023 till 2027.

CITIIS 2.0 has three major components:
Component 1: Financial and technical support for developing projects focused on building climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation in up to 18 smart cities through selection of competitively selected projects promoting circular economy with focus on integrated waste management.

Component 2: All States and UTs will be eligible for support on demand basis. The States will be provided support to: (a) set-up/strengthen their existing State climate centres/ Climate cells/ equivalents, (b) create State and city level Climate Data Observatories (c) facilitate climate-data driven planning, develop climate action

plans and (d) build capacities of municipal functionaries. To achieve these objectives, the PMU at NIUA will coordinate provision of technical assistance and strategic support to State Governments.

Component 3: Interventions at all 3 levels; Centre, State and City to further climate governance in urban India through institutional strengthening, knowledge dissemination, partnerships, building capacity, research and development to support scale up across all States and Cities.

CITIIS is a joint program of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Agence Francaise de Development (AFD), Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau (KfW) (Germany) the European Union (EU), and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA). The program is being coordinated and managed by the Program Management Unit (PMU) at NIUA in New Delhi.

Railways launches One Station One Product Scheme
Ministry of Railways has launched OSOP scheme over Indian Railways to promote 'Vocal for Local' vision and create additional income opportunities for marginalised section. Under the scheme, OSOP outlets at railway stations are allotted for showcasing, selling and giving high visibility to indigenous /local products.

These OSOP stalls are designed by the National Design Institute for uniformity. OSOP are specific to that place and include artefacts made by indigenous tribes, handlooms by local weavers, etc.

'Harit Sagar' the Green Port Guidelines 2023
Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) has launched 'Harit Sagar' the Green Port Guidelines 2023. The guidelines envisage ecosystem dynamics in port development, operation and maintenance while aligning with 'Working with Nature' concept and minimizing impact on biotic components of harbor ecosystem.

Significance of guidelines:
- To achieve Zero Carbon Emission Goal.
- Minimizing impact on biotic components of harbor ecosystem.
- Achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Promoting environmentally friendly practices across all ports.

5. Polity

SC rules it can directly grant divorce to couples under Article 142
The Supreme Court of India has ruled that it can directly grant divorce to couples under Article 142 (1) of the Constitution, which allows it to do "complete justice" in any cause or matter. The Court can waive the mandatory 6-month waiting period for divorce under The Hindu Marriage Act (HMA), 1955, and allow the dissolution of the marriage on grounds of an irretrievable breakdown even if one of the parties is not willing.

Article 142 (1) provides discretionary power to the Supreme Court as it states that the SC in the exercise of its jurisdiction may pass such decree or make such order as is necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it.

6. Governance

Kerala becomes the first full 'e-governed state'
Kerala has become the first full 'e-governed state' in India. It has digitized a range of government services,

ensuring prompt and transparent delivery to its citizens. E-governance, meaning 'electronic governance' is using ICTs such as Wide Area Networks, the Internet, and mobile computing for the purpose of enhancing governance.

Drug Menace in India

2,500 kg drugs, suspected to be methamphetamine was seized near the Kerala coast in a joint operation by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and Indian Navy. The seizure was done as part of Operation Samduragupt.

Operation Samudragupt was launched by the NCB in January 2022, to intercept contraband that is brought into India through the marine channel. It is part of the Union government's plan to make India drug-free by 2047.

Other initiatives to tackle drug menace:
- National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) for 2018-2025: It aims at reduction of adverse consequences of drug abuse through a multi-pronged strategy.
- Nasha Mukt Bharat Campaign: Launched in 2020, in 272 identified districts. It is a three-pronged attack combining the supply curb by NCB, Outreach and Awareness and Demand Reduction effort by Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and treatment through Health Department.
- Map Drugs, a mobile app and web portal, to help in identifying and destruction of illegal farming in the country.

Inter-State River Water Sharing Dispute

The water dispute between various State Governments in India is a common phenomenon.

Some of the Inter-State River Water Sharing Disputes are given below.

River(s)	States
Ravi and Beas	Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan
Narmada	MP, Gujrat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan
Krishna	Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana
Vamsadhara	Andhra Pradesh, Odisha
Cauvery	Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry
Godavari	Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, MP, Odisha
Mahanadi	Chhatisgarh, Odisha
Mahadayi	Goa, Maharahastra, Karanataka
Periyar	Tamil Nadu, Kerala

7. International Relations

India-Maldives Relations

India and the Maldives have marked a milestone in their defence ties with the laying of the foundation stone for the Coast Guard 'Ekatha Harbour' in the Uthuru Thila Falhu atoll.

Purpose: To strengthen the capability of the Maldivian Coast Guard and facilitate regional humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts.

Joint Exercises: "Ekuverin", "Dosti", "Ekatha" and "Operation Shield" (begun in 2021).

49th G-7 Summit held in Hiroshima, Japan
The Leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) met in Hiroshima for 49th annual Summit. This year's summit is hosted by Japan in its capacity as the President of the grouping. Indian Prime Minister also attended the Summit at the invitation of Japanese Prime Minister.

The origin of G7 lies in the oil shocks of 1973 and the corresponding financial crisis. In order to address the situation after oil shock, the heads of the world's six leading industrial nations decided to hold a meeting in 1975. These six nations were - the US, UK, France, Germany (West), Japan and Italy. These countries were joined by Canada in 1976 and G7 came into existence.

Current Members: *US, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan*

The European Union is also represented within the G7.

G7 & G8: In 1998, Russia was formally inducted in the group, which transformed G7 into G8. However, Russia annexed Crimea in 2014. As a result, it was suspended from the grouping. Hence, the group became G7 again in 2014.

India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade Pact
In a meeting held in New Delhi, India and the 4 European countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland) that form the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) have expressed their willingness to resume their negotiations for a Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) that has been stalled since 2018.

The TEPA aims to boost bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the 2 regions by reducing tariffs and non-tariff barriers, enhancing market access, and promoting investment flows.

European Free Trade Association is an intergovernmental organization that was established in 1960 as an alternative trade bloc for those European states that were unable or unwilling to join the European Union (EU). EFTA comprises Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland, which are not part of the EU but have access to its single market through various agreements.

India hosts Global Buddhist Summit
India has hosted a global Buddhist summit in New Delhi, which saw the participation of key figures from the global Buddhist community, including the Dalai Lama.

6th edition of Indian Ocean Conference – IOC 2023 held
The 6th edition of the Indian Ocean Conference is being organised by India Foundation in association with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh and S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The theme of the conference was "Peace, Prosperity and Partnership for a Resilient Future".

The *Indian Ocean Conference (IOC)* was started in Singapore in 2016. The Conference endeavours to bring critical states and principal maritime partners of the region together on a common platform to deliberate upon the prospects of regional cooperation for 'Security And Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)'.

China's Naval 'Silkworm Eating' Strategy for Taiwan
The Chinese idea called 'silkworm eating' has been witnessed with regular incursions in Taiwan.

Silkworm eating is a colloquial for gradual encroachments by a country by successfully making inroads in another territory. It is Chinese equivalent to the Western notion of 'salami-slicing' tactic.

"Salami-slicing" is a divide-and-conquer tactic used to dominate opposition territory piece by piece.

India to Join International Climate Action in Civil Aviation
The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has announced that India will start participating in the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) and the Long-Term Aspirational Goals (LTAG) from 2027.

CORSIA is a global scheme established by the ICAO to address the growth in CO_2 emissions from international aviation. CORSIA aims to stabilize net CO_2 emissions at 2020 levels through a combination of measures, including carbon offsetting, carbon credits, and sustainable aviation fuel.

Defence Exercises in News
Samudra Shakti-23: It is an India-Indonesia Bilateral exercise.

Jal Rahat: It is flood relief exercise that was jointly conducted by Indian Army, Sashastra Seema Bal, National and State Disaster Response Force (NDRF), District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and police representatives at Hagrama Bridge on Manas River in Assam.

Sudarshan Shakti 2023: It was conducted by Sapta Shakti Command of the Indian Army along the western borders in Rajasthan and Punjab.

Maritime Exercise Al Mohed Al Hindi 23: The bilateral exercise 'Al Mohed Al Hindi 23' is between Indian Navy and Royal Saudi Naval Force (RSNF).

ASEAN India maritime exercise (AIME-2023)
The inaugural ASEAN India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2023) successfully culminated in the South China Sea. Approximately 1400 personnel manning 9 ships participated in the Sea Phase of the multilateral naval exercise. India's indigenously designed and built ships- destroyer INS Delhi & stealth frigate INS Satpura, maritime patrol aircraft P8I and integral helicopters exercised with ASEAN naval ships from Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP)
India has officially begun the operation of the Sittwe Port in Myanmar by flagging off a vessel containing 1,000 metric tonnes of cement from the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata.

Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP) connects the eastern Indian seaport of Kolkata with the Sittwe seaport in Rakhine State, Myanmar by sea. In Myanmar, it will then link the Sittwe seaport to Paletwa in Chin State via the Kaladan river boat route, and then from Paletwa by road to Mizoram state in Northeast India.

8. Awards & Recognition

Meera Syal to receive a BAFTA fellowship in London
Meera Syal is set to receive the prestigious BAFTA Fellowship, the highest honour awarded by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA).

Meera Syal is a renowned actor and writer of Indian origin based in the UK. The award recognizes Syal's exceptional contributions to film and television and is the latest recognition of her achievements in the arts, which include being made an MBE and then a CBE by Queen Elizabeth II. Her most famous works include "Goodness Gracious Me" and "The Kumars at No. 42". She has made appearances in a broad range of productions such as Doctor Who, Paddington 2, The Sandman, Horrible Histories, The Split and The Wheel of Time.

Cannes Film Festival 2023
The Cannes Film Festival is an international film festival. The 76th edition was held in the month of May.

Key Awards are given below.
- Palme d'Or: *Anatomy Of A Fall, directed by Justine Triet*
- Grand Prix: *The Zone Of Interest Director: Jonathan Glazer*
- Jury Prize: *Fallen Leaves, directed by Aki Kaurismaki*
- Best Director: *Tran Anh Hung for The Pot-Au-Feu*
- Best Screenplay: *Monster, written by Yuji Sakamoto*
- Best Actress: *Merve Dizdar, About Dry Grasses*
- Best Actor: *Kōji Yakusho, Perfect Days*
- Camera d'Or: *Inside the Yellow Cocoon Shell, directed by Thien An Pham*
- Short Film Palme d'Or: *27, directed by Flóra Anna Buda*
- Queer Palm: *Monster*
- Honorary Palme d'Or: *Michael Douglas*

"Shatabdi Purush" (Man of the Century) Award
Former Lok Sabha MP Pandit Ramkishan was awarded the title of "Shatabdi Purush" (Man of the Century) in New Delhi in recognition of his contributions as a socialist leader.

The honor was bestowed on him during the birth centenary celebrations of Madhu Limaye, a renowned socialist ideologue and parliamentarian. Ramkishan is considered the most senior and iconic figure in Indian socialism and has been recognized as the "Socialist Shatabdi Purush".

Lionel Messi wins Laureus Sportsmen of the Year 2023 award
Lionel Messi was honored with the Laureus Sportsman of the Year award at a ceremony held in Paris.

In addition to that, Messi accepted the World Team of the Year award on behalf of the Argentina men's football team, who won the championship in Qatar. Messi also became the first athlete to scoop both the World Sportsman of the Year Award and the World Team of the Year Award in the same year.

While World Sportswoman of the Year Award was given to Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce (Jamaican track and field sprinter).

Lifetime Achievement Award by the Astronomical Society of India (ASI)
Indian astronomer and founder of IUCAA, Jayant Narlikar, has been awarded the first Astronomical Society of India (ASI) Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award, presented to recognise contributions made to astronomy and astrophysics by Indian astronomers throughout their career.

National Technology Awards 2023

T-Hub Foundation, Telangana has received the National Technology Awards 2023 in Technology Business Incubator. T-Hub (Technology Hub) is an innovation hub and ecosystem enabler. T-Hub leads India's pioneering innovation ecosystem and is the world's largest innovation campus.

N Chandrasekaran conferred with 'Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur' Award

N Chandrasekaran has been conferred with France's highest civilian honor, 'Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur'. He was awarded for his role in developing and fostering commercial links between India and France. N Chandrasekaran was appointed the chairman of Tata Sons in 2017 and later, was given a second term in the role for another 5 years.

International Booker Prize 2023 announced

Time Shelter, written by Georgi Gospodinov and translated into English by Angela Rodel, has won the International Booker Prize 2023. This is the first time a novel originally published in Bulgarian has won the annual award, given to a work of fiction translated into English and published in the United Kingdom in the preceding year. Last year, the prize went to Geetanjali Shree's Tomb of Sand, translated into English by Daisy Rockwell.

IIFA Awards 2023 announced

The 23rd season of the International Indian Film Academy Awards was announced.

Category	Winner
Best Film	Drishyam 2
Best Director	R Madhavan for Roketry: The Nambi Effect
Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female)	Alia Bhatt (GangubaiKathiawadi)
Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male)	Hrithik Roshan (Vikram Vedha)

Greentech Safety Award 2023

RINL has bagged the prestigious "GreenTech Safety Award 2023" under Safety Excellence Category for its outstanding contribution to improve workplace safety in the year 2022-23. It was awarded in the 21st edition, organized by the Greentech Foundation.

Ajay Banga becomes first Indian American to head World Bank

Ajay Banga has become the first-ever Indian American to be appointed as 14th President of the World Bank. He is the former CEO of Master Card.

Amy Pope becomes the first woman to head IOM

Amy Pope has elected as the first woman to become the Director General of the UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM). It will be a 5-year term starting on October 1.

IOM is part of the United Nations system, as a related organization. It has 175 member states (India is a member). It works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration to promote international cooperation on migration issues.

INSV Tarini returns Indian Shores after 17,000 km voyage

Indian Navy has received its six-member crew of INSV Tarini, including two women officers, at the 'Flag in' ceremony at the Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre (INWTC), INS Mandovi, Goa. INSV Tarini is returning home after successfully completing a 17000-nm long trans-ocean inter-continental voyage in 7 months.

Legendary mridangam maestro Karaikudi Mani Dies

Legendary mridangam 'vidwan' Karaikudi R Rani has died due to age-related issues. He had dominated Carnatic music for half a century.

Mridangam is one of the oldest Indian percussion instruments, originating 2,000 years ago. This traditional instrument is found in various parts of South India. It is a popular bifacial drum of Carnatic music and is used as an accompaniment in South Indian Classical music. It is also known by the name of maddal or maddalam. A similar instrument, the pakhavaj, is played in the Hindustani tradition of northern India, as well as in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

9. Social Development

India ranked 161 in World Press Freedom Index 2023

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has released the 21st edition of its World Press Freedom Index. India ranked 161st among the 180 countries. In 2022, India's rank was 150. Norway, Ireland and Denmark occupied the top three positions.

Radhakrishnan Committee's report on reforms of India's Higher Education Institutions

The Radhakrishnan Committee's report on reforms in accreditation system of India's Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) has been put in public domain.

IDMC released its 2023 Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID)

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre has released a report titled – 'The Global Report on Internal Displacement 2023 (GRID-2023)', which cites that the number of people displaced by disasters rose by 40% in 2022 rather than 2021.

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IMDC) is the world's leading source of data and analysis on internal displacement. It provides high-quality data, analysis and expertise on Internal Displacement with the aim of informing policy and operational decisions that can reduce the risk of future displacement.

MoH&FW launches SAKSHAM Scheme

Government of India has launched the SAKSHAM (Stimulating Advanced Knowledge for Sustainable Health Management), a Learning Management Information System (LMIS) of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. This digital learning platform has been developed by the National Institute of Health & Family Welfare (NIHFW), New Delhi.

SAKSHAM is a dedicated and unified platform for providing online training and medical education to all health professionals in the country. It will ensure inclusive capacity building of health professionals from primary health centres located in rural and remote areas all the way up to tertiary care and corporate hospitals in metropolitan cities.

New Report titled Global Slavery Index 2023 released

A new report, 'The Global Slavery Index 2023' was pulished by the Walk Free Foundation. The Report highlights the increasing prevalence of modern slavery worldwide, with the number of people living in such conditions reaching 50 million—an alarming 25% rise in the past 5 years. Modern Slavery refers to situations of exploitation that a person cannot refuse or leave due to threats, violence, coercion, deception, or abuses of power.

WHO Declares End to COVID-19 as Global Health Emergency
The World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General has determined that COVID-19 "is now an established and ongoing health issue which no longer constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)." The announcement comes more than 3 years after WHO declared the outbreak of the novel coronavirus a global health emergency.

Similar News: The World Health Organization (WHO) has ended the global health emergency for Mpox. Mpox is a Viral disease most commonly found in Africa and has infected around 87,000 people in 2022. The virus is a member of the Poxviridae family which is genetically similar to other poxviruses.

WHO released "Health for All: Transforming economies to deliver what matters" report
World Health Organization (WHO) in its 76th World Health Assembly (WHA) has released a report titled- "Health for All: Transforming economies to deliver what matters", recommending a roadmap to link health with sustainable growth.

The 76th WHA was held in Geneva, Switzerland and the theme was – "WHO at 75: Saving Lives, Driving Health for All".

The report was launched by the WHO Council on the Economics of Health (WCEH) for All, which was formed in November 2020 in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) approves world's first RSV Vaccine
US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) has approved the first vaccine – Arexvy – for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) to lower respiratory tract disease in people older than 60 years. This is the first RSV vaccine to be approved anywhere in the world.

10. Economy

RBI issued advisory for transition away from the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR)
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued an advisory to banks and other RBI-regulated entities asking them to take steps to ensure a complete transition away from the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) from July 1.

LIBOR and the Mumbai Interbank Forward Outright Rate (MIFOR) will be phased out by June 30. MIFOR, a domestic interest rate benchmark, is presently published by Financial Benchmarks India Pvt Ltd (FBIL). The global transition from LIBOR was necessitated after British financial authorities decided to phase it out in 2017 after discovering that some large banks manipulated the reference rate up or down by providing false data.

LIBOR is a global benchmark interest rate at which major global banks lend to one another in the international interbank market for short-term loans.

Financial Benchmarks India Pvt. Ltd. (FBIL) develops and administers benchmarks relating to the money market, government securities, and foreign exchange in India. The FBIL, jointly owned by FIMMDA, FEDAI, and IBA, was formed in December 2014 as a private limited company under the Companies Act 2013.

"Bima Trinity" for Insurance Sector
The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is looking to launch a bundled product which will provide life, health, casualty and property cover in a single insurance policy at an affordable price. IRDAI is working on the product along with the General Insurance Council and Life Insurance Council for this.

"Bima Trinity" includes following 3 components:

(i) *Bima Sugam*: It is a platform to integrate insurers and distributors into one platform. It acts as one-stop shop for customers, who at a later stage can pursue service requests and settlement of claims through the same portal.

(ii) *Bima Vistar:* It is a bundled risk cover for life, health, property and casualties or accidents. It will have defined benefits for each risk that can be paid out faster than usual without the need for surveyors.

(iii) *Bima Vahaks (carriers)*: It will have women-centric workforce in each Gram Sabha that will meet the women heads of each household to convince them about benefits of composite insurance product. Primary objectives of the Bima Vahak guidelines are to establish a dedicated distribution channel focused on enhancing insurance inclusion and creating awareness in every Gram Panchayat.

RBI's Report on Currency and Finance 2022-23
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released a Report on Currency and Finance 2022-23. It is an annual publication of the RBI. The report covers various aspects of the Indian economy and financial system.

The theme of Report on Currency and Finance 2022–23 is "Towards a Greener Cleaner India". It focuses on the challenges and opportunities of climate change for India and the role of the financial sector in achieving a low-carbon and climate-resilient development path.

What is Greenwashing?
Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has invited interested Indian companies to participate in Greenwashing TechSprint.

The RBI is among 13 international regulators taking part in first ever Greenwashing TechSprint organised by Global Financial Innovation Network (GFIN). The GFIN is a group of over 80 international organisations committed to supporting financial innovation in the interest of consumers and it is currently chaired by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Greenwashing is marketing that portrays an organisation's products, activities or policies as producing positive environmental or social outcomes, or avoiding environmental or social harm, when this is not the case.

World Bank launches Business Ready (B-Ready) Project
The World Bank has unveiled Business Ready (B-READY), a new methodology for assessing the business climate in up to 180 countries. It is done following the cancellation of the Ease of Doing Business Index rankings in September 2021. It will focus on 10 topics covering a firm's life cycle –business entry, business location, utility services, labour, financial services, international trade, taxation, dispute resolution, market competition, and business insolvency.

ONGC discovers oil, gas in Arabian Sea blocks
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has made 2 oil and gas discoveries in Mumbai offshore. The company has named these discoveries 'Amrit' and 'Moonga', which are about 100 km and 30 km from the landfall points, respectively. Both these discoveries are located in the blocks the company won under the new Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) in the last few years.

Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP), along with the National Data Repository, was launched in June 2017 as a key driver to accelerate the Exploration and Production (E&P) activities in India.

Under the OALP, once an explorer selects areas after evaluating the National Data Repository (NDR) and submits the request, it is to be put up for competitive bidding and the entity offering the maximum share of oil and gas to the government is awarded the block. Fields are offered under a revenue-sharing model and throw up marketing and pricing freedom for crude oil and natural gas produced.

The *Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP)* was approved in March 2016. It replaced the erstwhile New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). The main features of HELP are Revenue Sharing Contract, single licence for exploration and production of conventional as well as unconventional hydrocarbon resources, marketing & pricing freedom etc.

What are Gig workers, Platform workers, Non-Platform workers?
The strike by Zomato-owned Blinkit delivery agents has once again brought to the forefront the issues plaguing the gig economy in the country.

Gig workers: It refers to workers outside of the traditional employer-employee relationship. There are two groups of gig workers - platform workers and non-platform workers.

Platform workers: When gig workers use online algorithmic matching platforms or apps to connect with customers, they are called platform workers.

Non-Platform workers: Those who work outside of these platforms are non-platform workers, including construction workers and non-technology-based temporary workers.

DST releases National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22
The Department of Science and Technology has released the "National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22: Summary for Policymakers".

The National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22 is a joint study by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to evaluate the innovation performance of manufacturing firms in India. The NMIS 2021-22 study was conducted as a 2-pronged survey that examined the innovation processes, outcomes, and barriers in manufacturing firms and also studied the innovation ecosystem that affects innovation outcomes in these firms. This study is a follow-up of DST's first National Innovation Survey held in 2011.

11. Books & Authors

Book Released: Made In India: 75 Years of Business and Enterprise
Amitabh Kant has written the book "*Made In India: 75 Years of Business and Enterprise*". The book coincides with India reaching a significant milestone by becoming the 5th largest economy in the world, surpassing its former colonial master, the United Kingdom (UK), after 75 years of independence.

Book Released: The Golden Years: The Many joys of Living a Good Long Life
Ruskin Bond is the author of a book titled "The Golden Years: The Many joys of Living a Good Long Life". The book focuses on Bond's experiences during the 60s, 70s, and 80s.

12. Important Days

International Labour Day – 1st May
The Labour Day was observed across the world on May 1, 2023. The day is also known as International Worker's Day and May Day. In India, the first celebration of the Labour Day was organised in Madras (now Chennai) by the Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan on May 1, 1923.

The date was chosen due to events on the other side of the Atlantic. In 1884, the American Federation of Organized Trades and Labour Unions demanded an 8-hour workday, to come in effect as of May 1st, 1886. This resulted in the general strike and the Haymarket (in Chicago) Riot of 1886, but eventually also in the official sanction of the 8-hour workday.

The date was then chosen for International Workers' Day by the Second International, a pan-national organisation (USA) of socialist and communist political parties, to commemorate the Haymarket affair, which occurred in Chicago in 1886. 3 years later, a French socialist party, created an international day to honour the labour movement and marked May 1 in commemoration of the Haymarket Massacre.

World Press Freedom Day – 3rd May
World Press Freedom Day is celebrated annually on May 3 to raise awareness about the importance of freedom of the press. This year marks the 30th anniversary of World Press Freedom Day.

The theme for 2023 World Press Freedom Day was "*Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of Expression as a Driver for all other human rights.*"

This day was first proclaimed by UNESCO in 1991 in response to the increasing number of attacks on journalists around the world.

International Leopard Day – 3rd May
International Leopard Day is a new annual event that was officialised on 3rd May 2023, with the launch of a dedicated portal, "internationalleopardday.org" by the Cape Leopard Trust (CLT).

World Athletics Day – 7th May
World Athletics Day is observed every year on May 7th to mark the importance of athletes and sportspersons globally. The theme for World Athletics Day 2023 was *"Athletics for All – A New Beginning".*

This day was established by the late Primo Nebiolo, the then-President of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF).

World Red Cross Day – 8th May
World Red Cross Day was observed globally on 8th May every year.

The day aims to broaden the public's understanding of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Red Crescent Societies are affiliated and work in cooperation with the World Red Cross to assist in the activities of the movement. National Red Crescent societies and Red Cross Societies are found in almost every nation worldwide.

The theme of World Red Cross Day 2023 was *"Everything we do comes #fromtheheart".*

International Thalassaemia Day – 8th May
World Thalassaemia Day is celebrated every year on May 8 to create awareness about the disorder and explore treatment options.

The theme for 2023 day was *"Be aware. Share. Care: Strengthening Education to Bridge the Thalassaemia Care Gap."*

National Technology Day – 11th May
Since 1999, May 11 is celebrated as National Technology Day to mark India's technological advancements.
Theme for the year 2023: *"School to Startups-Igniting Young Minds to Innovate".*

On May 11, 1998, India detonated 3 nuclear bombs in the Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam lead the Indian team of scientists to successfully test-fire the Shakti I nuclear missile at Rajasthan's Pokhran test range.

International Nurse Day – 12th May
International Nurse Day is observed globally on 12th May every year.

This day is observed to commemorate the Birth Anniversary of Florence Nightingale. She was also known as *'Lady with the Lamp'*. She was the founder of modern nursing and was a British Social Reformer and Statistician.
Theme for the year 2023 – *"Our Nurses. Our Future".*

International Museum Day 2022 – 18th May
International Museum Day is observed every year on 18th May. The Day was instituted in 1977 by the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

Theme for the year 2023: *"Museums, Sustainability, and Well-being"*

ICOM is a membership association and a non-governmental organisation which establishes professional and ethical standards for museum activities. It is the only global organisation in the museum field. It was created in 1946 and is headquartered in Paris, France.

International Day for Biological Diversity – 22nd May
International Day for Biological Diversity is observed on 22nd May every year to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.

The Resolution to celebrate the day was adopted in 1992. The day was initially celebrated on December 29 till year 2000 starting from 1993. It was marked on December 29 to celebrate the day the Convention on Biological Diversity came into effect. It was later shifted to May 22 to commemorate the adoption of convention at Rio Earth Summit.
Theme for the year 2023: *"From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity.".*

Menstrual Hygiene Day – 28th May
Menstrual Hygiene Day is celebrated every year on 28th May.

The theme for 2023 day was *"Making mensuration a normal fact of life by 2030".*

International Day of UN Peacekeepers – 29th May
International Day of UN Peacekeepers is observed every year on 29th May.
Theme for 2023: *"Peace begins with me".*

United Nations Peacekeeping is a joint effort between the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support. Every peacekeeping mission is authorized by the Security Council. It is often referred to as Blue Berets or Blue Helmets because of their light blue berets or helmets.

UN Peacekeeping is guided by 3 basic principles:
1. Consent of the parties
2. Impartiality
3. Non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate

The first UN peacekeeping mission was established on 1948, May 29 when the Security Council deployed a small number of UN military observers to the Middle East to form the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) with the objective to monitor the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

World No Tobacco Day – 31st May
World Health Organization celebrates World No Tobacco Day every year on 31st May.

The day is being celebrated to draw global attention to the tobacco epidemic including the preventable death and disease it causes. This yearly celebration aims to raise awareness amid the global citizens about not only the dangers of using tobacco but also the business practices of tobacco companies.
Theme for the year 2023: *"We need food, not tobacco".*

13. Culture

Ancient Copper plates decoded by Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute (BORI)
Researchers at the Pune-based Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute (BORI) have decoded the copper-based inscriptions. The inscriptions have revealed that the celebrated Sanskrit poetess Shilabhattarika was a daughter of Chalukyan Emperor, Pulakeshin II of Badami (in modern Karnataka).

Shilabhattarika was an ancient Sanskrit poet. She is considered a leading figure of the Panchali literary style, which maintains a balance between words and meaning. The Panchali style can be traced to the works of Shilabhattarika and possibly in some of the works of the 7th-century poet Bana.

Gongadi shawl
Telangana's woollen gongadi shawls has been refashioned into shoes for farmers by alumni of the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad.

Gongadi, (known also as Kambal) is the traditional woolen blanket woven by the indigenous Kuruma pastoralist communities from wool of the indigenous Deccani sheep (known locally as Nalla gorrae) breed found in the Deccan Plateau region including the Indian state of Telangana.