

## NEWS IN SHORT

### State issues

- A survey on the degree of innovation among manufacturing firms found that **Karnataka, overall, is the most “innovative” State, followed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu (DNH&DD), Telangana, and Tamil Nadu.** The findings are part of the **National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22**, a joint study by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)**,
- In its manifesto for the Karnataka Assembly Elections 2023, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has promised it will implement **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)** if it returns to power in the state. The term Uniform Civil Code finds a mention in **Article 44 of the Indian Constitution**. It says: “The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India.”
- **The Vote From Home (VFH) facility** introduced in Karnataka by the Election Commission of India, for the **first time in the country**, has proved to be a blessing for those in the 80+ age group and people with disabilities (PwD).
- The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) have signed a memorandum of understanding to offer better training in leadership and governance to officers.
- **Elephant Balarama** of Mysuru Dasara fame passed away due to age-related ailments. He was 67. Born in 1958, the tusker had carried **the Golden Howdah for 14 years**, the highest for any tusker.
- The comedy drama adventure **Charlie 777** is officially selected at the **13th Dada Saheb Phalke Film Festival 2023**, and is also set for a release in Japan, Latin America, and Taiwan. The director is K Kiranraj and started by Rakshit Shetty
- In a significant political development, Mallikarjun Kharge, the Congress party president, announced Siddaramaiah as the next Chief Minister of Karnataka. This decision concluded the contest primarily between Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar, who was subsequently appointed as the Deputy Chief Minister at the swearing-in ceremony. **Article 164 of the Indian Constitution deals with the appointment of the states’ council of ministers. While it specifies the appointment of the Chief Minister by the Governor**, it does not explicitly mention the Deputy Chief Minister’s post. However, the Deputy CM is generally considered equivalent to the rank of a cabinet minister and enjoys similar privileges and perks.
- Five-time MLA and former Minister **U.T. Khader**, was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly. He is the **23rd Speaker of the Legislative Assembly** and the **first Muslim** to hold the post in Karnataka.
- A **Guided City Bus Tour depicting ‘The Bengaluru Story’ and a Cultural Programme** showcasing the cultural heritage of Karnataka were organized for G20 delegates of the **2nd Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG) Meeting** in Bengaluru.
- **World’s costliest mango, Miyazaki**, is on display at a mela in Koppal. With each fruit priced at a whopping Rs 40,000 (Rs 2.5 lakh per kg), the Horticulture Department is planning to popularise its cultivation in Koppal district. Horticulture officials

brought only one Miyazaki mango from Madhya Pradesh for display at the mela. This variety is widely grown in Japan.

### **NATIONAL NEWS**

- Researchers have traced a very significant increase in special continuous oscillations with pearl-type structures called **Geomagnetic Pc1 pearl oscillations** on the **surface of the Earth** in the recovery phase of geomagnetic storms. **Geomagnetic Pc1 pearl oscillations** are amplitude-modulated structured narrow-band signals, which are signatures of low-frequency EMIC waves generated by resonant wave-particle interactions in the Earth's magnetosphere.
- **Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs** celebrated **Swachhata Pakhwada** from 16th to 30th April 2023. Under the **Swachh Bharat Mission**, the important flagship programme of the Government, initiated by the Prime Minister to fulfil the dream of Mahatma Gandhi to make a clean and hygienic India, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs launched Swachhata Pakhwada during the second fortnight of April 2023. This was as per the Calendar of Swachhata Pakhwada for the year 2023 released by the Department of Drinking water and Sanitation.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's **Mann Ki Baat radio programme** reached a crucial milestone of 100 episodes. It is a monthly programme that began in 2014.
- A five-judge or constitution bench of the Supreme Court held that a court can **directly grant divorce under Article 142 of the Constitution**, in cases where the marriage has irretrievably broken down, without referring the parties to a family court first, where they must wait for 6-18 months for a decree of divorce by mutual consent.
- India's ranking in the 2023 World Press Freedom Index has slipped to **161 out of 180 countries**, according to the latest report released by global media watchdog **Reporters Without Borders (RSF)**.
- India leads five countries named as the **"Laundromat" countries (India, China, Turkey, the UAE and Singapore)** that buy Russian oil and sell processed products to European countries, thus side-stepping European sanctions against Russia.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will hand over a **fast patrol vessel** and a **landing craft** to the **Maldives** as India's "gift" during his visit to the island nation from May 1 to 3. The Maldives is one of India's key maritime neighbours in the Indian Ocean region and the overall bilateral ties, including in the areas of defence and security, have been on an upward trajectory in the last few years. **"India's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)** along with its 'Neighbourhood First' policy as well as Maldives' 'India First' policy seek to work together to jointly develop the capabilities within the Indian Ocean region,"
- President of India launches **'addiction free Odisha'** campaign of brahma kumaris centre, Hatbadra. Addiction is a disorder. It is a social, economic, physical and mental curse. Drug addiction causes tension in family and society. Therefore, there is a need to make people aware about the ill effects of drug abuse.
- The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Shri Jagan Mohan Reddy laid the foundation stone for the development of **Bhogapuram International Airport**. The project will be developed in three phases. The airport would become a growth engine for the development of the state and play a key role in the rise of tourism in the Northern Andhra region.

- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) in association with the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) organized the '**River-Cities Alliance (RCA) Global Seminar: Partnership for Building International River-Sensitive Cities**' in New Delhi. The purpose of the RCA Global Seminar was to provide a platform for officials of member cities and international stakeholders to discuss and learn good practices for managing urban rivers.
- In a step further in the expanding India-ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) military cooperation, **the maiden ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME)** is set to begin, with war games in South China Sea.
- The Prime Minister has praised the initiative by **Border Roads Organisation Project Dantak** to commemorate 64th Raising Day. It was established on April 24, 1961 as a result of the visionary leadership of His Majesty the Third King and then Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru. To commemorate the sacrifices and contribution of its Karmyogis in nation building, Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is organising "**Ekta Evam Shradhanjali Abhiyan**", a multi modal expedition as a part of 64th BRO Day Celebrations.
- **BizAmp, an outreach programme** organized by the Ministry of MSME in association with NSIC Venture Capital Fund Limited (NVCFL) under its **Self-Reliant India (SRI) Fund** was organised at **Dimapur Nagaland** on 4th May 2023.
- The Ministry of Culture along with IBC will celebrate the auspicious day of **Vaisakh Purnima** with reverence and piety on 5th May. **International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)** in coordination with the Himalayan Buddhist Culture Association (HBCA) will be celebrating the event at the National Museum, New Delhi.
- **Indian Railways (IR)** has recorded Monthly freight loading of 126.46 MT in April 2023. The incremental loading in the month of April has been 4.25 MT i.e. a growth of 3.5% over the April figures achieved in 2022. Freight revenue in April is Rs 13,893 Cr. as compared to Rs 13,011 in April 2022, a growth of 7%. Following the Mantra, "**Hungry For Cargo**", IR has made sustained efforts to improve the ease of doing business as well as improve the service delivery at competitive prices which has resulted in new traffic coming to railways from both conventional and non-conventional commodity streams.
- **Tungnath temple**, the third of the five Panchkedars of Uttarakhand, will be declared a national monument. It is situated at an altitude of 12800 feet. Located in Rudrapur district It is the **only ancient 'Shivalaya' of its kind** located at the highest point above sea level in Asia.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme/ Convention on Migratory Species (UNEP/CMS) had organized a meeting of Range Countries to strengthen conservation efforts for migratory birds and their habitats in the **Central Asian Flyway (CAF)** in New Delhi.
- The **Arab League** welcomed back Syria's government, ending a more than decade-long suspension and securing President Bashar al-Assad's return to the Arab fold after years of isolation. Arab League, also called **League of Arab States (LAS)** is a regional organization of Arab states in the Middle East and parts of Africa.
- Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Shantanu Thakur flagged off the vessel '**M.V. MSS Galena**' from **V.O. Chidambaranar Port**, as the Direct Shipping Service between Tuticorin to Maldives.
- **India Post signed an MoU with Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) and Tripta Technologies**. The MoU facilitates operationalization of a portal called '**Bharat EMart**', which will provide the facility of pick-up of consignments from the premises of traders and will ensure delivery at the doorsteps of the consignees across the country. It is

believed that it will benefit eight crore traders associated with CAIT. India Post in the recent past has entered into similar agreements with Government e-Marketplace (GeM), Regional Centers of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED), to provide pick-up and delivery of parcels at the doorsteps of the consignees. Shortly, India Post will onboard itself on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform, being developed by Ministry of Commerce as a logistics service provider.

- In a major development, Ministry of Defence, Department of Military Affairs, has approved amendment to existing cadre management provisions for Women Officers of the Territorial Army (TA). Territorial Army had commenced Commissioning of Women Officers in TA since 2019. The Territorial Army is based on a Citizen Soldiers' army concept and officers undergo Annual Training on basic military skills while remaining gainfully employed in civilian life.
- **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has announced a new introductory-level online training programme called **space science and technology awareness training (START)**. It is aimed at postgraduate and final-year undergraduate students of physical sciences and technology.
- The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Ministry of Railways jointly signed an MoU with **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)** for '**Station Area Development along Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail**' (Project-SMART).
- With an aim to promote Indian music at the grassroots level on a national scale by identifying and recognising the new and young talent in various singing genres, **MyGov in collaboration with Ministry of Culture is launching a YUVA PRATIBHA – Singing Talent Hunt**.
- With the scaled-up activities of **National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG)**, three capacity-building programmes (CBPs) for the **civil servants of Bangladesh** (59th batch with 45 participants) and **Maldives** (22nd & 23rd batch with 50 participants) commenced at the Mussoorie campus.
- **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** complete 8 years of providing social security cover. It was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 9th May, 2015 from Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Ministry of Railways has launched '**One Station One Product**' (**OSOP**) scheme over Indian Railways with objectives to promote '**Vocal for Local**' vision of the Government of India, provide a market for local/indigenous products and create additional income opportunities for the marginalised sections of society. As on 01.05.2023, 728 stations are covered with 785 OSOP outlets in 21 States and 3 Union Territories across the country
- The government plans to develop the **Indian Carbon Market (ICM)** where a national framework will be established with an objective to decarbonise the Indian economy by pricing the **Green House Gas (GHG) emission** through trading of the Carbon Credit Certificates. Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Power, along with Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change are developing the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme for this purpose.

- The Union Health Secretary launched the **SAKSHAM (Stimulating Advanced Knowledge for Sustainable Health Management)**, a Learning Management Information System (LMIS) of MoHFW. This digital learning platform has been developed by the **National Institute of Health & Family Welfare (NIHFW)**, New Delhi.
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) will be conducting an event **'Low-Cost Finance for New and Emerging Energy'** on the side-lines of the 3rd Energy Transition Working Group (ETWG) meeting.
- The **35th edition of India-Thailand** Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy was conducted
- INS Kavaratti, indigenously designed & built ASW Corvette, arrived at Batam, Indonesia to participate in the **4th edition of India-Indonesia** Bilateral exercise **Samudra Shakti-23**.
- Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts(**IGNCA**) in collaboration with Shree Guru Gobind Singh Tricentenary University and Sanrachna Foundation held Rabindra Jayanti Celebrations on 12th May in New Delhi. **'Vigyan Vaibhav'** portal developed by IGNCA was launched.
- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya addressed the **G7 Ministerial meeting on Health Innovation in Nagasaki**, Japan .The meeting was held to discuss the priorities, implementation and utilization of health innovation like digital health towards ensuring Universal Health Coverage. Health Ministers of the G7 countries and invited "Outreach 4" countries of India, Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand participated in the meeting.
- As part of Indian Navy's deployment to ASEAN countries, **Indian Naval ships Delhi and Satpura**, under the command of Rear Admiral Gurcharan Singh, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet (FOCEF), made a port call at **Sihanoukville, Cambodia** from 11 - 14 May 23. The port call demonstrates India's cordial ties with the Kingdom of Cambodia.it aimed at enhancing interoperability and mutual understanding. **INS Delhi is India's first indigenously built guided missile Destroyer and INS Satpura is an indigenous multipurpose stealth Frigate**. The two ships are equipped with a versatile array of weapons and sensors and can carry multi-role helicopters. Both ships are a testimony of India's advanced ship design and shipbuilding capabilities.
- **Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Ayush and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to promote and collaborate on integrative health research**. This cooperation will focus on identified areas of national importance in healthcare for promoting high impact research to generate evidence utilizing modern scientific methods. This MoU will also strengthen research capacity through training of Ayush researchers. This MoU will enable both parties to jointly establish Ayush-ICMR Centers for Advanced Research in Integrative Health at all AIIMS with co-funding.
- Startup India, Department of Promotion for Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce organized the third edition in the form of first-ever physical Shanghai

Cooperation Organization (SCO) Startup Forum in New Delhi recently. The engagement aimed at expanding the startup interactions amongst the SCO Member States, nurturing the spirit of innovation, generating more employment and encouraging young talent to build innovative solutions.

- As a part of India's G20 Presidency, **the Youth 20 (Y20) group's Y20 Consultation was held at University of Kashmir** to consult the youth of the nation on ideas for a better tomorrow and draft an agenda for action on 'Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Sustainability a Way of Life', one of the five Y20 themes.
- To meet the larger vision of achieving **Zero Carbon Emission Goal**, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways has launched '**Harit Sagar**' the **Green Port Guidelines**. It envisages ecosystem dynamics in port development, operation and maintenance while aligning with '**Working with Nature**' concept and minimizing impact on biotic components of harbour ecosystem.
- '**Sustain: The Craft Idiom**' a specially curated cultural exhibition at Kala Bhoomi inaugurated by Shri G. Kishan Reddy and Shri Naveen Patnaik at the 2nd **G20 Culture Working meet in Bhubaneswar**. The theme of the exhibition is reflective of second priority of Culture Working Group (CWG) - '**Harnessing Living Heritage for a Sustainable Future.**'
- The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, organised the **first meeting of the National MSME Council at Vigyan Bhawan**, New Delhi. The event was organised under the aegis of the **Central Sector Scheme "Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance"** which was launched by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in June 2022.
- The 'E-chits' application was launched in **Andhra Pradesh** to regulate chit-fund companies and prevent fraud.
- The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur** has launched an initiative named '**Online Rural Education Initiative (OREI)**' to impart online education to children belonging to rural areas of Uttar Pradesh.
- **The Sanchar Saathi portal** was launched by the Department of Telecom to help People to block ,track their lost or stolen mobile phones and check the genuineness of a used device before buying them across India. The Sanchar Saathi facilities have been developed by **C-DoT**. The technology development arm under the Department of Telecom has been able to add feature to check use of cloned mobile phones across all telecom networks.
- **HPCL Mumbai & Visakhapatnam Refineries** operated at **113% capacity** processing highest ever quarterly Crude Thruput of 4.96 MMT during Jan-Mar 2023.
- The Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has inaugurated the **EEI Golden Jubilee Auditorium** at Extension Education Institute (EEI), **Rajendranagar, Hyderabad**
- The **rail network** in the militancy-hit Kashmir is being **expanded up to the Line of Control (LoC)** with the Northern Railway considering connecting the border town of **Uri in north Kashmir** with the train route. The train to Uri will not only benefit locals and businessmen, but also help in transportation of troops, equipment and supplies to forward areas of the LoC.
- **National Logistics Management Seminar, LOGISEM - 23**, on the theme '**Leverage Emerging Global Supply Chain to Enhance Logistics Capabilities While Absorbing Disruptions**', was held on 16 May 2023 at New Delhi.

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- Under Azadi ka Amrit Kaal, **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** celebrates a new milestone of ensuring safe and clean drinking water through taps to more than **12 Crore rural households of the country**. As on date, 5 States (Goa, Telangana, Haryana, Gujarat and Punjab) and 3 UTs (Puducherry, D&D and D&NH and A&N Islands), have reported 100% coverage. Himachal Pradesh at 98.35%, followed by Bihar at 96.05%, are also poised to achieve saturation in the near future. Goa, Haryana, Punjab, A&N Islands, Puducherry, D&NH and D&D are 'Har Ghar Jal certified States/ UTs i.e., in these states/ UTs, the villagers have confirmed through Gram Sabhas that 'all households and public institutions' in the village are getting adequate, safe and regular supply of water. **Three Aspirational districts** from Telangana (Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Jayashankar

Bhupalpalli and Bhadrabri Kothagudem), two districts in Gujarat (Dahod & Narmada) and Punjab (Moga & Ferozepur) and 1 district each in Haryana (Mewat) and Himachal Pradesh (Chamba) have reported 100% tap water coverage

- The National Workshop on "**Capacity building of training institutes and HRD in disability field in the context of National Education Policy: 2020**" was inaugurated in Jabalpur. The workshop, organized by the **Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)**, aimed to empower individuals with disabilities and implement the goals of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. RCI, established as a **Statutory Body by an Act of Parliament**, has the mandate to standardize, regulate, and monitor training programs, maintain the central rehabilitation register (CRR), and promote research in the field of special education and disability.
- Ministry of Ayush is organising a two days **National Ayush Mission Conclave** in New Delhi. National Ayush Mission (NAM) is the flagship program of Ministry of Ayush and with active cooperation of states and UTs governments; it is changing the Health and wellness landscape in states. The two days conclave will pave way for better coordination among stakeholders and strengthen AHCs functioning. The flagship program National Ayush Mission was launched in 2014 and it has played a crucial role in preserving and promoting India's traditional systems of medicine and their integration into the mainstream healthcare system.
- **Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)** celebrated its **6th Creation Day** by organising an outreach program on '**trade remedies**' for **MSMEs**. The DGTR was created in the year 2018. Before the DGTR, the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) and the DG Safeguards were responsible for administering the trade remedial investigation against unfair trade practices such as anti-dumping and countervailing duties, as well as safeguard measures. Since 1995, India has initiated more than 1100 trade remedy investigations. DGTR also assists the Indian exporters in getting a fair outcome in trade remedy investigations conducted by other WTO Members against India.
- The sixth submarine of **Project 75, Vaghsheer**, Indian Navy's **Kalvari class** commenced her sea trials on 18 May 23. The submarine was launched in 20 Apr 22 from the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL). Vaghsheer is scheduled for Delivery to the Indian Navy in early 2024 after completion of these trial
- The **index of mineral production of mining and quarrying sector** for the month of March, 2023 (Base: 2011-12=100) at 154.2, is 6.8% higher as compared to the level in the month of March, 2022.
- An MoU for '**Riverine based tourism Circuit**' being developed over river **Brahmaputra** will be signed between Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), Sagarmala Development Company Limited (SDCL), Assam Tourism Development Corporation Limited (ATDC) and Directorate of Inland Water Transport (DIWT) Assam in Guwahati
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated **the International Museum Expo 2023** at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. It is being organised as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, to celebrate **the 47th International Museum Day (IMD)**.



- To empower the youth, the **Government of Madhya Pradesh** has unveiled the **Mukhyamantri Seekho-Kamao Yojana** with an aim to provide young individuals with the opportunity to learn and master their desired professions while earning a steady income each month.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, approved the **Production Linked Incentive Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware** with a budgetary outlay Rs. 17,000 crore.
- The closing ceremony of the four-day long **Uttarakhand Shree Anna (Millets) Festival** took place in Dehradun under the chief hospitality of the Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar.
- The Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has announced the commencement of Phase-V of the Sagar Parikrama initiative. Starting from Raigad, Maharashtra and ending in Canacona, Goa
- **Jallikattu**, the traditional rural sport involving bulls, has received judicial approval. A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court has ruled that the amendment made in 2017 by the **Tamil Nadu Assembly to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960**, facilitating the smooth conduct of the sport with stringent regulations, is valid.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to withdraw ₹2,000 denomination banknotes from circulation in pursuance of its "**Clean Note Policy**". However, the ₹2,000 notes will continue to be legal tender. A similar withdrawal of notes from circulation was undertaken in 2013-2014.
- **Bhopal** has become the **first city in India** to join the growing global movement on **localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** following the release of its **Voluntary Local Review (VLR)**.
- Scientists from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have proposed a new metric, which can help **quantify image quality of the Sun** taken from ground-based telescopes.
- **'Sengol' to be installed in the new parliament building** when it is inaugurated on May 28. The Sengol gets its name from the Tamil word **'semmai'**, meaning **righteousness**. The sceptre is a historical symbol of Independence as it signifies the transfer of power from the British to the Indians.
- India is set to dramatically scale up its supercomputing prowess and install an **18-petaflop system** over the course of this year. Flops (floating point operations per second) are an indicator of processing speed of computers and a **petaflop refers to a 1,000 trillion flops**. Processing power to such a degree greatly eases complex mathematical calculations required, for, among other things, forecasting how the weather will be over the next few days all the way up to two or three months ahead.
- Following four successful rounds of the **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN)** and with the version 5.0 of the fifth round underway, the **Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched UDAN 5.1** to further enhance the connectivity to remote areas of the country and achieve **last mile connectivity through helicopters**.
- 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 at **the International Supercomputing Conference (ISC 2023) in Germany**. It puts India on top of AI Supercomputing nations worldwide. The system is installed under **National Program on AI by Government of India**.

- Prime Minister will flag off the inaugural run of **Vande Bharat Express from Dehradun to Delhi** This will be the first Vande Bharat to be introduced in Uttarakhand. The train has been indigenously and is equipped with advanced safety features including the Kavach technology.
- Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized the **B20 International Conference on 'Chemicals and Petrochemicals: Sustainable transitions through Green Technologies and digitalization'** at New Delhi.
- **Assam's first Vande Bharat Express** was flagged off by Prime Minister via video-conferencing. The state-of-the-art train will provide the people of the region with the means to travel with speed and comfort. It will also boost tourism in the region. Connecting Guwahati with New Jalpaiguri, the train will help save about an hour of journey time, compared to the current fastest train connecting the two places.
- Prime Minister inaugurated the new Parliament building at a grand ceremony that included a havan, multi-faith prayers and the installation of the Sengol in a special enclosure in the Lok Sabha chamber.
- Prime Minister released a **special commemorative postage stamp** and a **Rs 75 coin** to mark the inauguration of the new Parliament building. The weight of the coin would be 34.65-35.35 grams. One side of the coin will bear the **image of the Lion Capital of the Ashoka Pillar** in the centre, flanked by the word "**Bharat**" in **Devanagari script** and "**INDIA**" in **English**. The rupee symbol and denominational value "75" in international numerals will also be inscribed below the Lion Capital.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has praised **the Bori-bandh campaign** in Jharkhand's rebel-hit Khunti district during his 'Mann ki Baat' for setting up an example that how public participation brings positive change in the society. Under this campaign, **small dams are constructed by filling sand and soil in used cement bags that are kept on one atop the other to stop water from flowing into the local rivulets**. This helps provide water for irrigation throughout the year and also maintains the water-table in the region.
- For the smooth implementation of its initiative under Prime Minister (PM) Gati Shakti's programme, the **Ministry of tourism** will do a mapping of all major tourist destinations and attractions.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully placed **NVS-01, a second-generation navigation satellite**, from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR in Sriharikota.
- The Prime Minister, has praised activation of **2,00,000th 5G site of India at Gangotri** and dedication of Char Dham fibre connectivity project.
- **First Mining Start-up Summit to be organized by the Ministry of Mines** in collaboration with Indian **Institute of Technology, Bombay** The unique Summit will be mainly focusing on innovation and techniques that will support and improve the performance, safety and help in building autonomy in the field of mining and metallurgy. With the country having the third largest start-up ecosystem in the world there is scope for involving start-ups in addressing

challenges in the mining sector, to simplify the process for the mining industry by leveraging new technologies in exploration and mining and enhancing mining and mineral production of the country

- As a possible solution to increase the availability of clean, potable water, **Indian Institute of Science (IISc) researchers have developed a novel thermal desalination system** which can work using solar energy.
- In an important step towards realising India's ambitious Gaganyaan mission to put an Indian in space, the **Indian Navy and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** released **the Gaganyaan Recovery Training Plan** at the Water Survival Training Facility (WSTF) at INS Garuda, Kochi.
- A new **Jupiter-size exoplanet** with the highest density known till this date and mass 13 times than that of Jupiter, has been discovered by an international team of scientists at the Exoplanet Research Group of the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad. The planet discovered by scientists from India, Germany, Switzerland and the USA is with a density of  $\sim 14 \text{ g/cm}^3$ .
- **Country's first-ever Vedic theme park to come up in Noida.** It will highlight excerpts from the four vedas — the Rig Veda, Atharva Veda, Yajur Veda and Sama Veda — via laser shows and wall paintings. The park will be divided into seven zones named after the sages of the Vedic age, including Kashyap, Bharadvaj, Gautam, Atri, Vasishtha, Vishvamitra and Agastya, along with their information and other the holy scriptures.
- **SEBI will soon introduce a new light-touch regulatory framework- 'Mutual Fund Lite' for passively managed mutual funds like exchange traded funds (ETFs) and index funds,** which have seen a sharp uptick in assets under management (AUM) in recent years.
- **Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister,** chaired the **2nd meeting of the Apex Monitoring Authority** constituted to review the activities of National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT). The Apex Monitoring Authority comprises of Finance Minister as Chairperson, Minister-in-charge, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Minister of Railways, Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Minister of Shipping, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, and Chief Minister(s) of States concerned. Chief Ministers from four states, viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Uttarakhand, and Maharashtra;
- A fresh round of excavations at the site of **Delhi's Purana Qila (Old Fort)** have uncovered evidence of the continuous history of the city since the **pre-Mauryan era**. The findings include shards of **Painted Gray Ware pottery** which are usually dated to around 1200 BC to 600 BC.
- **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.

### **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

- **12-foot statue of Maratha warrior-king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was unveiled in Mauritius's Maharashtra Bhavan** to mark the strong bond between the two nations. The sculpture was created in India by a Delhi-based artist and sent to the island nation. An MoU was also signed between the Economic Development Board, Mauritius, and the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation to establish a platform for investment between the Western State and the island nation.

- **The sixth India- Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment (MDTI)** will be held on 8th May 2023 in Ottawa. India-Canada bilateral trade in goods reached about US\$ 8.2 billion in 2022, registering about 25% growth compared to 2021.
- The **annual G7** was held from May 19 to 21 in Hiroshima, Japan and was attended by Indian PM Narendra Modi and British PM Rishi Sunak. Various issues of global importance like the Ukraine war, generative AI, economy, military relations and more were discussed
- In a special ceremony at the Government House, H.E. Sir Bob Dadae, Governor-General of Papua New Guinea (PNG) conferred Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with the **Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu (GCL)**. This is the highest civilian award of PNG and recipients of the award are titled "Chief".
- Prime Minister Rabuka bestowed Prime Minister Modi with the **highest honor of the Republic of Fiji - the Companion of the Order of Fiji (CF)**.
- Ministry of Education, Government of India and US Department of State launched the **India-US Working Group on Education and Skill Development in virtual mode**, with the aim to enhance cooperation and collaboration between the two countries in the field of education and skill development. The establishment of the India-US Working Group on Education and Skill Development was announced by the leaders on the sidelines of the 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue held between India and US in Washington DC.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) issued new guidelines advising against the use of **non-sugar sweeteners (NSS) like aspartame, saccharin, stevia and other derivatives** as a "healthy" alternative to sugar.
- The **Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly** is being held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 21–30 May 2023.
- **VAdm Priyantha Perera**, Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy is on a five day official visit to India. During the visit, she will be presiding over the Passing Out Parade of the Spring Term 23 at Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala. India and Sri Lanka have enhanced their interactions in the maritime domain substantially in accordance with India's '**Neighbourhood First Policy**' and the maritime outlook of 'Security and Growth for All in Region'. Indian Navy cooperates with the Sri Lanka Navy through various initiatives, which include operational interactions such as the **bilateral naval exercise SLINEX, hydrography, training, and other maritime avenues**. In addition, warships from both the Navies regularly make port calls at each other's ports.
- **The sea phase of second edition of bilateral exercise 'Al Mohed Al Hindi 23'**, between **Indian Navy and Royal Saudi Naval Force (RSNF)** was held from 23 - 25 May 23 off Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia. INS Tarkash, INS Subhadra and Dornier Maritime Patrol aircraft (MPA) participated in the exercise from the Indian side. The RSNF was represented by HMS Badr and Abdul Aziz, MH 60R helo and UAV. The successful conduct of 'Al Mohed Al Hindi 23' showcased high degree of professionalism, interoperability and exchanges of best practices between the two navies.
- A prominent American lawmaker introduced a bill in the U.S. Congress to declare Diwali, the festival of lights, a federal holiday. The Diwali Day Act, when passed by the Congress and signed into law by the President, would make the festival of lights the **12th federally recognised holiday in the United States**.

## **Environment & ECOLOGY NEWS**

- Driven by the message of **Mission LiFE** and circular economy goals, the Central Pollution Control Board is organizing an online '**Waste to Wealth Ideation Hackathon**' for undergraduate and above students on 14th May, 2023
- **Mumbai is hosting the 2nd Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group** of G20 countries and the five key priority areas that will be taken up for discussions in this meeting are **early warning, resilient infrastructure, national and international response, building back better and nature-based solutions**. The DRRWG is an initiative taken by India under its G-20 Presidency. The first DRRWG meeting was held in Gandhinagar in March-April this year. This initiative of India to include Disaster Risk Reduction in the G-20 is a part of the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 to 2030** (Sendai Framework). This was the first major agreement that provides Member-States with a concrete action plan to protect development gains from the Risk of Disaster. It was endorsed by the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and advocates for – 'The Substantial Reduction of Disaster Risk and losses in lives, livelihood and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, business, communities and countries'.

## **SPORTS NEWS**

- **V. Praneeth became Telangana's sixth and India's 82nd Grandmaster** when he outwitted GM Hans Niemann of the US in the penultimate round of the Baku Open **2023**. The win against the top seed helped Praneeth cross Elo 2500 in live ratings, 2500.5 to be exact.
- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) approved proposal of Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) shooters **Ganemat Sekhon and Gurjoat Singh's proposals to train in Italy** under foreign coaches Piero Genga and Ennio Falco respectively.
- **V. Jyothi Surekha has claimed her maiden individual gold medal in the Archery World Cup Stage-1** in Antalya, and two mixed team gold medals in the first two stages of the World Cup
- The **third edition of Khelo India University Games** will be held from 25th May to 3rd June in **Uttar Pradesh**. These competitions will be organised in Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Lucknow and Gautam Buddha Nagar. The closing ceremony of the Games will be held in Varanasi on 3rd June. The mascot of the Games is **named Jitu, which represents Swamp Deer (Barasingha)** - the state animal of Uttar Pradesh.
- The **city of Chennai** prepares to host the highly anticipated **2023 Squash World Cup**. This prestigious event, organized by the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) in partnership with the World Squash Federation (WSF), will showcase the world's top squash players competing for the coveted trophy.
- Triple jumper **T. Selva Prabhu** broke Arpinder Singh's 12-year-old National junior record while **winning gold at the Venizelia-Chania international meet**, a World Athletics Continental Tour-Bronze event, at Chania

## **PERSONALITIES IN NEWS**

- **Commander Abhilash Tomy (retd)** created history as **the first Indian to complete the Golden Globe Race**, finishing in the **second place** after a gruelling 236 days alone at sea in his **sail boat Bayanat**, in a journey of grit and endurance.
- **South African sailor Kirsten Neuschafer** also scripted her name into maritime history, becoming the **first woman to win the golden globe race**, a solo, non-stop circumnavigation of the globe without using any modern technological aids, recreating the 1960s on the high seas.
- Two **South African Indian-origin citizens**, the late struggle icon **Ebrahim Ismail Ebrahim** and scientist **Dr Aboubaker Ebrahim Dangor**, were among the many recipients of **National Orders**. National Orders are the **highest awards that South Africa country bestows on its citizens and eminent foreign nationals** who have contributed towards the advancement of democracy and have made a significant impact on improving the lives of South Africans. The National Orders also recognise the contributions made by individuals towards building a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa as envisaged in our Constitution.
- **Dr. Issac Mathai**, a city doctor and the Chairman of SOUKYA, International Holistic Centre, has been invited by **Buckingham Palace**, London, to the **coronation of King Charles III and Queen Consort Camilla** on May 6.
- **Karaikudi R. Mani**, who dominated the Carnatic music world for more than half a century as a mridangam player and popularised the south Indian percussion instruments across the globe through his troupe Sruthilaya, passed away in Chennai. Mr. Mani and his troupe had collaborated with American singer Paul Simon and one could listen to his konnakol in the album Dazzling Blue.
- **Dr Manoj Soni** took over as Chairman, Union Public Service Commission

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

- **Labour Day**, also known as **May Day** or **Worker's Day**, is celebrated on **May 1** to recognize and appreciate the invaluable contributions made by the labour class.
- **World smile day** was celebrated on **first Sunday of May month( 07 May 2023)**
- **World Red Cross Day 2023** observed on **8th May**. The theme of World Red Cross Day for 2023 is **“Everything we do comes from the heart.**
- **World Migratory Bird Day** is a global event **held twice a year on the second Saturday of May and October**. May 13, marks the celebration of World Migratory Bird Day in 2023. **Theme: “Water: Sustaining Bird Life”.**



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- The **National Technology Week**, took place from May 11th to May 14th, 2023 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. This **year's theme was 'School to Startup - igniting young minds to innovate'**.
- **National Technology Day** is celebrated annually **on May 11** in honour of India's scientists and their accomplishments. Under the leadership of the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, India conducted a series of five nuclear bomb tests (Pokhran-II) in May 1998. Following the success of Pokhran-II, the government declared May 11 as National Technology Day in 1998. The first Nuclear test was conducted in May 1974.
- **World Telecom Day Conference** to mark the observance of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day on May 17 at Dr Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi. World Telecommunication Day has been celebrated annually on 17 May since 1969, marking the founding of ITU and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865. It was instituted by the Plenipotentiary Conference in **Malaga-Torremolinos** in 1973 as Resolution 46.
- **World Bee Day** is an annual event held on **May 20th** to increase understanding and recognition of the vital role bees and other pollinators play in our ecosystem. **Theme:** "Bee engaged in pollinator-friendly agricultural production."
- The **International Day for Biological Diversity**, celebrated on **May 22**, is a global observance that highlights the importance of biodiversity and its crucial role in sustaining life on Earth. The **theme** for this year's commemoration is "**From Agreement to Action: Building Back Biodiversity.**"
- **World Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Day** is officially marked on **30th May**. It brings the global MS community together and to raise awareness and campaigns with everyone affected by multiple sclerosis (MS). **The theme for World MS Day 2020-2023 is 'connections'**. The campaign tagline is '**I Connect, We Connect**' and the campaign hashtag is **MS Connections**.

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