



# DHANANJAY IAS ACADEMY

An Institute for UPSC & BPSC

**DIA MONTHLY**

**CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**DECEMBER-2023**

**BPSC | UPPCS | JPSC**

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**Dhananjay IAS Academy**

## The Hindu Review (December 2023)

### Index

No. of Chapter	Topic Name
Chapter 1	Appointment (National, International)
Chapter 2	Awards (National, International)
Chapter 3	Government Scheme/ campaign
Chapter 4	Summit/ Conference
Chapter 5	Partnership/ Agreement
Chapter 6	Ranking Index
Chapter 7	Mergers and Acquisitions
Chapter 8	Loan
Chapter 9	App/Website/Portal
Chapter 10	Important MoU
Chapter 11	GDP Forecasting
Chapter 12	Current Affairs (National) In Short
Chapter 13	Current Affairs (International)
Chapter 14	Banking & Financial
Chapter 15	Committee
Chapter 16	Defence News
Chapter 17	Sports News
Chapter 18	Book and Author
Chapter 19	Important Day
Chapter 20	Science & Technology
Chapter 21	Obituary

**Chapter 1: Appointment (National, International)**

**(National)**

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Person</u>
<b>Appointed as chairman of the India Debt Resolution Co Ltd (IDRCL)</b>	Narayan Seshadri (Updated 3 December)
<b>Appointed as director general of the Dehradun based Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)</b>	Kanchan Devi (Updated 5 December)
<b>Become the first woman medical officer in the Indian Army to be deployed at Siachen</b>	Captain Geetika Koul (Updated 7 December)
<b>The Government of India has appointed Dinesh K Tripathi as the new Vice Chief of Naval Staff</b>	Dinesh Tripathi (Updated 7 December)
<b>Took charge as Executive Director of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)</b>  IBBI is a key institution in implementing the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).	Jithesh John (Updated 7 December)
<b>Max Life Insurance appoints as Chairman</b>	Rajiv Anand (Updated 8 December)
<b>Foodtech major and grocery delivery start-up Swiggy has appointed its board as an Independent Director and Chairman of its board.</b>	Anand Kripalu (Updated 8 December)
<b>Sworn in as the Chief Minister of Mizoram at Raj Bhawan in Aizawl.</b>  About Mizoram <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formation - 20 February 1987</li> <li>• Capital - Aizawl</li> <li>• Chief Minister - Lalduhoma</li> <li>• Governor - Hari Babu Kambhampati</li> <li>• High Court - Gauhati High Court</li> </ul>	Lalduhoma (Updated 9 December)
<b>Becomes the new CM of Chhattisgarh</b>  About Chhattisgarh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital – Raipur</li> <li>• Chief Minister – Vishnu Deo Sai (replace Bhupesh Baghel)</li> <li>• Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan</li> </ul>	Vishnu Deo Sai (Updated 10 December)
<b>Become the new President of the industry association FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce &amp; Industry).</b>	Anish Shah (Updated 12 December)

<p><b>Elected as the new chief minister of Madhya Pradesh</b></p> <p>About Madhya Pradesh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital – Bhopal</li> <li>• Chief Minister – Dr Mohan Yadav (replace Shivraj Singh Chauhan)</li> <li>• Deputy CM - Jagdish Devda &amp; Rajendra Shukla</li> <li>• Speaker of Madhya Pradesh Assembly - Narendra Singh Tomar</li> <li>• Governor – Mangubhai C. Patel</li> </ul>	<p>Dr. Mohan Yadav (Updated 12 December)</p>
<p><b>Becomes Chief Minister of Rajasthan</b></p> <p>About Rajasthan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital – Jaipur</li> <li>• Chief Minister – Bhajan Lal Sharma (replace Ashok Gehlot)</li> <li>• Deputy Chief Minister - Diya Kumari and Premchand Bairwa</li> <li>• Speaker of Rajasthan Assembly – Vasudev Devnani</li> <li>• Governor – Kalraj Mishra</li> </ul>	<p>Bhajan Lal Sharma (Updated 13 December)</p>
<p><b>Tripura appoints as its tourism brand ambassador</b></p>	<p>Sourav Ganguly (Updated 14 December)</p>

**(International)**

<u>Organization / Country</u>	<u>Person</u>
<p><b>Became the first person from the country to operate the Mars rover with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in the United States.</b></p>	<p>Akshata Krishnamurthy (Updated 7 December)</p>
<p><b>Appoints head of British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Board</b></p>	<p>Samir Shah (Updated 8 December)</p>
<p><b>United Arab Emirates' has been appointed Chairman of the World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC 23).</b></p>	<p>Mohammed Al Ramsi (Updated 9 December)</p>
<p><b>Elected as new Prime Minister of Poland</b></p> <p>About Poland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital - Warsaw</li> <li>• Currency - Zloty</li> <li>• Official language – Polish</li> <li>• Prime Minister - Donald Tusk</li> </ul>	<p>Donald Tusk (Updated 13 December)</p>

**Chapter 2: Awards (National, International)**

**(National)**

<u>Award</u>	<u>Person/Organization</u>	<u>Purpose/ Field</u>
President's color	The Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC)	Recognition for any military unit, and this event is part of <b>AFMC's</b> celebration of its <b>75<sup>th</sup> year of outstanding service to the nation.</b>
National Award for empowering individual with disabilities	Amazon India	For fostering an inclusive <b>environment for individuals with disabilities</b> awarded by Gol.
The 33rd Vyas Samman 2023 (Selected)	Pushpa Bharati's 2016 memoir, Yaadein, Yaadein aur Yaadein	
The Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award at the Ajanta- Ellora Film Festival.	Javed Akhtar	

**(International)**

<u>Award</u>	<u>Person/Organization</u>	<u>Purpose/ Field</u>
French Civilian Award Legion d'Honneur	V R Lalithambika	She got this honor because of her important work in strengthening space collaboration between France and India
Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters from the French government, a prestigious honor	Famous author and translator Arshia Sattar	She has made important contributions to Indian literature and mythology. She is well-known for translating epics like the Ramayana and the Mahabharata
The 2023 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award Global Laureate	Somali refugee Abdullahi Mire	For helping displaced kids get education
Sharon Stone at the Red Sea International Film Festival	Ranveer Singh	For his contributions towards cinema
Qatar WISE Prize 2023	Safeena Hussain	For mobilizing 14 lakh out-of-school girls in Indian villages to get back to mainstream education



"ISSA Vision Zero 2023" Award	The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)	"Vision Zero" is a transformational approach for the prevention of accidents at workplaces integrating the three dimensions of safety, health, and well-being at all levels of work.
Singapore's Highest Arts Award	Meira Chand	In recognition of their artistic excellence and contribution to enriching the country's arts and culture scene.
Time magazine's Athlete of the Year for 2023.	Lionel Messi	Messi won the Ballond'Or for a record-breaking eighth time and, by moving to Inter Miami, raised awareness of the sport in the US.
CEO of the Year 2023 by TIME magazine	Sam Altman	Sam Altman marked '10-out-of-10 crazy thing to live through' when he had to spend a rather strange Thanksgiving- losing a company he co-founded, only to be reinstated after five frantic days.
Sahitya Akademi's Premchand Fellowship	Bhutanese author Tshering Tashi	For his works in the field of creative non-fiction.
"Bank of the Year (India)" by Financial Times owned The Banker	Federal Bank	This recognition is a testament to the Bank's unwavering commitment to innovation, customer-centric services, and its outstanding contributions to the banking industry over the past year.
The International Anti-Corruption Champion by the US State Department	Nikhil Dey	For his dedicated efforts against corruption in government welfare programs in India
"Order of Merit of the Italian Republic" (Merito della Repubblica Italiana)	Kabir Bedi	For made outstanding contributions to society, embodying the nation's values of merit and excellence.
International Gender Equality Prize 2023	Afghanistan NGO	To promote and protect the rights of women in Afghanistan
The Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2023 Diwali Stamp by the Diwali Foundation USA	Former Secretary-General Ban Ki moon	Ban commended the work and "forward-thinking vision" of the Diwali Foundation USA "for advancing vital light in a world of increasing darkness".

**Awards 2023: Complete winners list**

**Chapter 3: Government Scheme/ campaign**

SCHEME	PURPOSE
'Maha Lakshmi scheme' (Telangana)	It provides free travel for women, girls, and transgender persons
"Bhagwant Mann Sarkar Tuhade Dwar" scheme (Punjab)	The scheme is aimed to deliver citizen-centric services at people's doorstep.

**Chapter 4: Summit/ Conference**

Summit/Conference	Location	About
The 40th coast guard commander conference	New Delhi	Defense Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 40th coast guard commander conference. He has urged the Indian Coast Guard to keep working hard to strengthen the country's coastal defenses and maritime abilities.
The first edition of high level virtual interaction MAHASAGAR	Virtual interaction	On November 29, 2023, the Indian Navy reached an important achievement by hosting the first MAHASAGAR, Maritime Heads for Active Security And Growth for All in the Region, a virtual meeting to enhance safety and development in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
The United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting	Accra Ghana	The UN Peacekeeping Ministerial meeting plans to talk about the problems UN peacekeepers are dealing with.
The INTERPOL General Assembly started its 91 <sup>st</sup> meeting	Vienna	They aim to address the increasing transnational crime happening worldwide.
The third edition of the India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF)	New Delhi	Theme 2023- 'Moving Forward-Calibrating Bharat's Digital Agenda' Calibrating Bharat's Digital Agenda'
A two-day National Conference on "Energy Transition in India – Road Travelled and Opportunities Ahead"	Gandhinagar	The main objective of this conference is to move forward with an ambitious vision of promoting clean energy and facilitating the energy transition.
The 37th session of the Asia Pacific Regional Conference (APRC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Sri Lanka	The conference will enable ministers of agriculture and high officials from 46 member countries across the Asia Pacific region to discuss challenges and priorities related to food and agriculture, promoting regional coherence.
The 27th edition of World Investment Conference	New Delhi	Invest India will host the 27th edition of World Investment Conference in New Delhi. Theme- "Empowering Investors: IPAs Pioneering Future Growth."
The 15th edition of the 'Capacity Building Senior Officers' Meeting' (CBSOM-2023)	GIFT City in Gandhinagar	The meeting was held as per the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia.

**Chapter 5: Partnership/ Agreement**

Partnership/ Agreement	Aim
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has partnered with Water.org	It helps people get access to <b>safe water and sanitation</b> through affordable <b>financing</b> , such as small loans.
Kaspersky and IIT Delhi partnered	To jointly work on <b>cybersecurity-related research and educational initiatives</b> at the institute.
The Defense Ministry has collaborated with the prestigious Indian School of Business (ISB)	The initiative focuses on providing <b>scholarships to military personnel transitioning to civilian life after retirement</b> .
EKI Energy Services, a carbon credits developer and supplier, and Indian Oil Corp. Ltd (Indian Oil) have agreed	To jointly promote <b>Surya Nutan, IndianOil's innovative indoor solar cooking system</b> .
Union Bank of India has collaborated with Accenture	To design and develop a <b>scalable and secure enterprise data lake platform to boost its operational efficiency</b> .
U GRO Capital joined hands with Laghu Udyog Bharati	To supporting and promoting <b>micro-enterprises) to empower India's micro- enterprises</b> with knowledge about <b>government schemes, and digital credit</b> .
Intellect Design Arena Ltd has signed a ₹80 crore, five-year deal with Indian Bank	To deploy Intellect's <b>eMACH.ai powered Cash Management System</b> .
State-owned RITES Ltd has signed a pact with CFM Mozambique	For the supply of <b>diesel locomotives and incidental services at a total cost of USD 37,680,080 (Rs 314.1 crore)</b> .

**Chapter 6: Ranking Index**

Index	Index released by	India's Rank	1st Rank
<b>2023 World Digital Competitiveness Ranking (WDCR)</b>	The International Institute for Management Development (IMD)	49th	US
<b>Safest city in India</b>	National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)		Kolkata
<b>Climate Change Performance Index 2023 (CCPI)</b>	Germanwatch, the New Climate Institute, and the Climate Action Network,	7th	--
<b>The first delta rankings of the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)</b>	NITI Aayog		Tiriyani Block of Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district, Telangana
<b>The top global large- scale solar developers</b>	The rankings by Mercom Capital	2 <sup>nd</sup> Adani Green Energy Ltd.	France-based Total Energies
<b>Quality of Living City Index 2023</b>	Mercer	Hyderabad- <b>153rd</b> Pune- <b>154th</b> Bengaluru- <b>156th</b>	Vienna (Austria),
<b>The world's largest source of opium in 2023</b>	UNODC's report		Myanmar



**Chapter 7: Mergers and Acquisitions**

Merger Company	About
Test prep firm Allen Career Institute has acquired AI led doubt solving platform Doubtnut.	This strategic move reflects <b>Allen's commitment to building technology</b> led learning solution focused on improving students' learning outcome.

**Chapter 8: Loan**

Organization/Bank	Loan Amount	To which country	Purpose
India	\$250 million Line of Credit	Kenya	For modernization of agriculture in Kenya.
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	USD 175	The central government of India	To improve the <b>connectivity</b> and resilience of roads in Madhya Pradesh.

**Chapter 9: App/Website/Portal**

App/ Website/Portal	Company / Department	Purpose
Amplifi 2.0 portal	The Union Ministry of Urban and Housing affairs	The <b>Amplifi</b> portal, which stands for <b>Assessment and Monitoring Platform for Liveable, Inclusive, and Future-Ready Urban India</b> , wants to share <b>information</b> about Indian cities.

**Chapter 10: Important MoU**

MoU	Between Which Countries
Signed a MoU (Memorandum of understanding) to provide job-oriented skill development training to 540 young individuals from families affected by NLC India Limited's projects in Neyveli	<b>NLC India Limited</b> , with Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation ( <b>TNSDC</b> ) and Nettur Technical Training Foundation ( <b>NTTF</b> )
Signed an MoU for a powerful resolution to the devastating water crises	The Art of Living with the Govt of Maharashtra

**Chapter 11: GDP Forecasting**

- India's economy to grow at 6.8% in FY24, accelerate to 7% in FY25: CII
  - Industry chamber CII expects the country's economy to grow at 6.8 percent in the current fiscal and accelerate to 7 percent in 2024-25, driven by the government's continued focus on infrastructure development and promotion of ease of doing business.
  - The expected gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 6.8 percent will be more than the 6.5-6.7 percent estimated earlier by the industry body.
  - India's economy recorded a growth of 7.7 percent in the first half of the current fiscal ended in September.

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**Chapter 12: Current Affairs (National)**

1. **Jal Itihas Utsav is organized by the ministry of JAL Shakti in Delhi.**
  - The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** will host 'Jal Itihas Utsav' on December 1st at Shamsi Talab, **Jahaz Mahal in Mehrauli, Delhi**.
  - The main aim is to make people more aware of protecting water heritage sites, instill a sense of ownership and encourage tourism and restoration of these historical structures.
  - The Jal Shakti Ministry said that Lt. Governor of Delhi Vinai Kumar Saxena and Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat are expected to be present at the event.
2. **Bengaluru to Get India's Largest Circular Railway, Spanning 287 Kilometers.**
  - A new circular railway expanding 287 kilometers around Bengaluru and connecting major nearby towns, is set to become India's largest network, as mentioned by **Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw**.
  - The goal of this project is to reduce traffic congestion and enhance connectivity in the region.
  - The government has allocated Rs 7 crore for alignment study of this circular railway, aiming to improve local train services alleviating congestion on existing rail networks, and complement the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project and Namma Metro initiatives.
3. **The 5th Global Ayurveda Festival is going to be held in Thiruvananthapuram.**
  - **Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar** will inaugurate the **5th Global Ayurveda Festival in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**. This event, taking place from December 1 to 5, 2023, focuses on the theme '**Emerging Challenges** in Healthcare and a Resurgent Ayurveda'.
  - GAF 2023, the biggest Ayurveda meeting ever, will bring together practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and industry leaders from around the world to discuss the influence of Ayurveda in healthcare.
4. **Cyclone Michaung is going to landfall on coastal Andhra.**
  - **Cyclone 'Michaung'** is expected to strike the eastern coast of the country. The IMD has given an update on the current situation of the cyclone. **The name Michaung is given by Myanmar**.
  - According to MD Sunanda from the Visakhapatnam Cyclone Warning Centre, It is expected to get stronger, turning into a deep depression and eventually a cyclonic storm within the next 48 hours.
  - The Cyclone Warning Centre also forecasts increased winds and rainfall along the North Tamil Nadu coast and South Andhra coast starting from December 3.
5. **Arjun Ram Meghwal inaugurated Sahitya Akademi Book Fair**
  - Union Minister of State for Culture, Arjun Ram Meghwal has inaugurated the Sahitya Akademi Book Fair in New Delhi.
  - The Sahitya Akademi Book Fair will continue till 9th of this month and feature a host of cultural programs and rendezvous with prominent writers.
  - The Minister said that books played an important role in nation-building and the constitution makers were all voracious readers. He added that the decision to put equality before liberty as a fundamental right in the constitution was due to a greater understanding of the society achieved from reading various constitutions and important books.
6. **Bihar government launched "Mission Daksh" to minimize school dropout**
  - Bihar government has launched its ambitious scheme to minimize school dropout.
  - The scheme, called Mission Daksh (Dynamic Approach for Knowledge and Skill) aims at offering special Hindi, Mathematics, and English classes to weak students of classes 3-8 across the state.
  - A teacher will teach only five students, who cannot read and write Hindi and English fluently and are not good at basic Mathematics.
  - Daksh classes were run successfully between 3.30 pm and 4.15 pm in over 60,000-plus schools across the state. An estimated five lakh teachers taught over 25 lakh students.
7. **World's first portable hospital 'Aarogya Maitri Aid Cube' unveiled in Gurugram**
  - The World's first portable hospital, 'Aarogya Maitri Aid Cube' was unveiled in Gurugram.

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- Designed indigenously under the Project 'BHISHM', the modular trauma management and aid system is made up of 72 detachable mini-cubes, each being a specialized station for emergency response and humanitarian efforts.
- It can handle bullet injuries, burns, head, spinal and chest injuries, minor surgeries, fractures and major bleeding.

**8. PM Modi unveiled the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Rajkot Fort**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Rajkot Fort in Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district.
- Mr. Modi paid homage to the rich maritime heritage of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj who constructed several coastal and sea forts, including the Sindhudurg Fort.

**9. UP Municipality passed proposal to rename Firozabad as Chandra Nagar**

- Firozabad Municipal Corporation in Uttar Pradesh has approved the proposal to rename Firozabad as Chandra Nagar.
- Firozabad is famous for the construction of bangles. It is located 40 kilometres from Agra and 250 km from the capital city on the east side. Uttar Pradesh's capital Lucknow is about 250 km east from here. Two towns come under Tundla and Shikohabad under the Firozabad district.

**10. Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched "Gram Manchitra"**

- Ministry of Panchayati Raj has launched the Geographic Information System (GIS) application "Gram Manchitra" (<https://grammanchitra.gov.in>).
- This application facilitates and supports Gram Panchayats to perform planning at Gram Panchayat level using geo-spatial technology.
- It provides a single/ unified Geo Spatial platform to better visualize the various developmental works to be taken up across the different sectors and provide a decision support system for Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GDPD).

**11. Garba of Gujarat makes it to UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list**

- Gujarat's traditional dance form 'Garba' has been included in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- The popular dance form is the 15th cultural item from India to make it to the UNESCO list. Kolkata's Durga Puja was the last one added two years ago.
- The Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage inscribed 'Garba of Gujarat' on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity during its 18th session, taking place in Kasane, Botswana.

**12. 59th Fertiliser Association of India Annual Seminar 2023 in New Delhi**

- Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya addresses the inaugural session of the 59th Fertiliser Association of India Annual Seminar 2023 in New Delhi.
- India is the first nation to introduce Nano fertilizers such as Nano DAP and Nano Urea through the Indian Research ecosystem.
- The government has set up two lakh Model Retail outlets known as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhi Kendras.

**13. Wax statue of Babasaheb Ambedkar installed in Jaipur Wax Museum**

- A wax statue of Constitution architect Baba Saheb Ambedkar was installed in Jaipur Wax Museum, Nahargarh Fort on the occasion of Mahaparinirvan Day.
- The wax statue has been placed in the set of Rashtrapati Bhavan along with the statue of India's second great personality, 'missile man' and Bharat Ratna Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.
- The height of the statue is 5 feet 11 inches, while the weight is about 38 kg. PM Modi approves India's first project to tackle urban floods
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sanctioned an ambitious urban flood mitigation project for Chennai, with a budget allocation of Rs. 561.29 crore under the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF).



- This announcement arrives as Chennai grapples with the devastating aftermath of Cyclone Michaung. Torrential rains have left the city submerged in water, highlighting the critical need for improved flood prevention measures.

**14. PM Modi addressed financial technology event "Infinity Forum 2.0"**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the 2nd Edition of the flagship Financial Technology event - Infinity Forum 2.0.
- The event is hosted by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, GIFT City, under the aegis of the Union Government.
- Organized as a pre-cursor event to Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024, the 2nd edition of the Infinity Forum 2.0 was held in hybrid mode, with an invite-only in-person event scheduled in GIFT City and for virtual participation from participants across the globe.

**15. New branch of CAT, Mumbai Bench inaugurated by CJI Chandrachud**

- The new office premises of Central Administrative Tribunal, Mumbai Bench at Nishtha Bhawan, New Marine Lines, near Churchgate Station, Mumbai-400020; has been inaugurated by Chief Justice of India Dr DY Chandrachud.
- He commended the Central Government's support in establishing judicial infrastructure.

**16. UNICEF in collaboration with India to launch "Green Rising" initiative at COP28 Summit in Dubai**

- UNICEF's Generation Unlimited, in collaboration with India's Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change will unveil the "Green Rising" initiative at COP28 in Dubai.
- The global "Green Rising" initiative and the "Green Rising India Alliance" marks a collaborative effort involving UNICEF, Generation Unlimited, and a diverse network of public, private, and youth partners.
- The main goal is to mobilize millions of young people worldwide, encouraging their active participation in green initiatives addressing and adapting to the severe impacts of climate change on their communities.

**17. Loans worth Rs 9,790 crore disbursed under PM SVANidhi scheme: Govt**

- A total of Rs 9,790 crore worth of loans have been disbursed so far to beneficiaries of the PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme, according to government data.
- The scheme was launched during the COVID-19 outbreak as a micro-credit scheme for urban street vendors that aims to provide collateral-free working capital loans up to Rs 50,000. This scheme is available pan-India in all urban local bodies.
- All street vendors in urban areas are eligible for benefits under the PM SVANidhi Scheme, irrespective of the date on which they started vending.
- Loans disbursed to PM SVANidhi beneficiaries stood at Rs 2,039 crore in the 2020-21 fiscal, Rs 1,248 crore in 2021-22, Rs 1,866 crore in 2022-23, and Rs 4,637 crore up to December 5 of the current 2023 - 24 fiscal, taking the total to Rs 9,790 crore.

**18. PM launched 'Viksit Bharat @2047: Voice of Youth' Workshop**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the 'Viksit Bharat@2047 - Voice of Youth' and also addressed the Vice Chancellors and Heads of other Higher Education Institutes including students across the nation virtually.
- Governor of Assam Gulab Chand Kataria hosted the programme at IIT Guwahati where around 1000 students, Vice Chancellors and the Heads of Institutions from about 61 Higher Educational Institutions of Assam attended physically.
- About 45 Higher Educational Institutions and about 600 colleges also participated in the virtual mode.

**19. Rays Power Infra to build 500 MW solar park in Uttarakhand**

- Rays Power Infra has inked an initial pact with the Uttarakhand government to build a 500 MW solar park in the state.
- The collaboration underscores the company's dedication to advancing sustainable energy initiatives and aligning with the Uttarakhand government's vision for an environmentally responsible future.



**Chapter 13: Current Affairs (International)**

1. **Nepal is the first country in South Asia to register same sex marriage.**
  - **Nepal has witnessed its initial same-sex marriage, as a trans-woman and a gay man** legally tied the knot in the Lamjung district.
  - **Nepal has officially documented its first same-sex marriage**, and this comes five months after the Supreme Court legalized it.
  - According to PTI, a 35-year-old trans-woman named Maya Gurung and a 27-year-old gay man, Surendra Pandey, got legally married in Dordi Rural Municipality in the Lamjung district of Western Nepal. This was confirmed by Sanjib Gurung, the president of Blue Diamond Society.
2. **ALTERRA Fund for climate investment is launched by the UAE.**
  - **The United Arab Emirates announced its commitment to contribute \$30 billion to a new fund focused on addressing climate issues.** This fund, called Alterra, has influential partners like BlackRock, Brookfield, and TPG joining in as initial supporters.
  - **Alterra aims to attract \$250 billion in investments by 2030. Its main focus is to enhance access to funding**, particularly for developing nations in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Oceania, collectively known as the Global South.
3. **Angkor Wat temple in Cambodia becomes 8th wonder of the world**
  - Angkor Wat temple, located in the northern province of Siem Reap in Cambodia has become the eighth Wonder of the World.
  - The unofficial title Eighth Wonder of the World is sometimes given to buildings, structures, projects, designs, or even people who are thought to be comparable to the Seven Wonders of the World.
4. **About Angkor Wat temple**
  - Lakhs of devotees from across the globe visit Angkor Wat temple every year. It is the largest religious monument in the world, comprising some 1,200 square metres of intricately carved bas reliefs.
  - The Angkor Wat was built in the 12th century as a Hindu temple by the Khmer Emperor Suryavarman II. The temple was dedicated to Lord Vishnu.
5. **India re-elected to International Maritime Organization**
  - India was re-elected to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council with the highest tally and the term of council will be for the biennium 2024-25.
  - India's re-election falls under the category of 10 states with "the largest interest in international seaborne trade", alongside Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
6. **The word "Rizz" chosen as the Oxford Word of the Year 2023**
  - Often associated with celebrities and other famous figures, "Rizz" has been chosen by the Oxford University Press as its word of the year 2023.
  - It's a term Gen Z has mainly embraced, and it beat out words such as "prompt," "situationship" and "Swiftie" that were considered by Oxford University Press, which publishes the Oxford English Dictionary.
  - While Merriam-Webster's word of the year was "authentic," rizz was also under consideration. Collins Dictionary selected "artificial intelligence" as their word of the year in November
7. **World's biggest experimental nuclear fusion reactor JT-60SA inaugurated in Japan**
  - The world's largest and most advanced nuclear fusion reactor 'JT-60SA' started its official operations in Japan's Ibaraki Prefecture.
  - JT-60SA is a joint initiative between the European Union and Japan
  - The experimental nuclear fusion reactor is quite a new technology. However, some say that it is the answer to humanity's future energy needs by establishing nuclear fusion as a clean energy source.
  - Notably, fusion differs from fission, the technique currently used in nuclear power plants. The process includes fusing two atomic nuclei instead of splitting one.

**8. Nirmala Sitharaman & 3 other Indians among Forbes list of 'World's 100 Most Powerful Women' of 2023**

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, HCL Corporation Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Steel Authority of India Chairperson Soma Mondal and Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw are the four Indians among the 100 named in Forbes' annual list of 'The World's Most Powerful Women of 2023'.
- Sitharaman has made it to the list for the fifth year in a row, ranking at number 32. This is the 64-year old BJP leader's best ranking so far — in 2022, she had ranked at 36, while she was 37 in 2021, 41 in 2020 and 34 in 2019.
- While Malhotra was ranked 60th, Mondal took the 70th spot and Mazumdar-Shaw the 76th. They had made it to the prestigious list last year also at 53rd, 67th and 72nd spots respectively.
- Politicians topped the list, occupying the first four spots, with Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, at the number 1 position. She is followed by European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde, US Vice President Kamala Harris and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.

**9. Indonesia's Ibu volcano erupts, ash up to 1,200m**

- The Ibu volcano on Halmahera Island in the eastern Indonesian province of North Maluku erupted.
- Local time for about 90 seconds, throwing ash up to 1,200 metre above its peak, according to the country's Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation (PVMBG).
- Standing as high as around 1,300 metre above sea level, Ibu volcano is classified in the second danger level, below the highest level of IV.

**10. SBI Card joins Bharat BillPay in the credit card category**

- NPCI Bharat BillPay (NBBL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has successfully integrated SBI Card, one of India's leading credit card issuers, into the credit card category of Bharat BillPay.
- This integration marks a significant advancement, streamlining the credit card bill payment process for millions of customers.
- Noteworthy credit card issuers already present in this category include Kotak Mahindra Bank, BoB Financial, Federal Bank, AU Small Finance Bank, IndusInd Bank, and Canara Bank.
- SBI Card has an extensive customer base, totaling around 1.68 crores. Through the utilization of Bharat BillPay, SBI Card customers gain the advantage of seamlessly handling their credit card bill payments across various Bharat BillPay-supported payment channels.
- This includes online platforms through banks or payment apps, as well as the extensive network of physical outlets enabled by Bharat Bill Pay.

**11. LIC fourth largest insurer in the world based on reserves: S&P Global study**

- Insurance behemoth Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is the fourth largest insurer in the world, according to a ranking based on life and accident & health reserves of companies in 2022 by S&P Global Market Intelligence.
- The state-owned insurer is ranked after Allianz SE, China Life Insurance Company, and Nippon Life Insurance Company.
- According to the report, LIC's reserves stood at \$503.7 billion. Germany's Allianz SE (\$750.20 billion), China Life Insurance Company (\$616.90 billion), and Nippon Life Insurance Company (\$536.80 billion) are the top three insurance companies in the world.
- The S&P list of the top 50 global life insurance companies was dominated by European firms, taking 21 spots. On an individual country basis, the US has the highest number of life insurers on the list, with eight companies headquartered in the region, followed by the UK with seven companies.

**12. UPI transaction limit for medical, educational services to be hiked to ₹5 lakh**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed enhancing the limit of UPI transactions undertaken for medical or healthcare and educational services from ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh per transaction.
- Currently, the transaction limit for UPI is capped at ₹1 lakh, except in a few categories like capital markets (AMC, broking, mutual funds, etc.), collections (credit card payments, loan re-payments, EMI), Insurance, etc. where the transaction limit is ₹2 lakh.

**13. Russia unveiled two new nuclear-powered submarines**

- President of Russia, Vladimir Putin has unveiled two new nuclear-powered submarines "Krasnoyarsk and Emperor Alexander".
- The Emperor Alexander III is the seventh Borei-class atomic-powered submarine to enter the service. Each of them is armed with 16 nuclear-tipped Bulava Intercontinental ballistic missiles.

**14. China launched the deepest lab on Earth**

- The world's deepest and largest underground laboratory became operational in China.
- The 2,400-metre-deep physics laboratory is located in southwest China's Sichuan Province.
- The Deep Underground and Ultra-low Radiation Background Facility for Frontier Physics Experiments (DURF) is located beneath Jinping Mountain in Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture.
- The DURF has a total room capacity of 330,000 cubic metres.

**Chapter 14: Banking & Financial**

**1. The total GST revenue 1.68 lakh crore in the month of November 2023.**

- As of December 1, the Ministry of Finance reported a 15% increase in the government's **Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections for November, totaling Rs 1.68 lakh crore.**
- However, this figure shows a 2% drop from October's GST collection of Rs 1.72 lakh crore. Despite the slight decrease the monthly GST collection has remained above Rs 1.5 lakh crore for nine months in a row.
- Although November's total GST collections decreased slightly from October, the year-on-year growth exceeded 15%, making it the highest in 2023 to 2024.

**2. SEBI is announced to extend the timeline of implementation for SCORES platforms.**

- **SEBI, the market regulator, has extended the deadline for linking the SEBI Complaint Redressal (SCORES) platform** with the online dispute resolution platform. Initially set for December 4, the new deadline is now April 1, 2024.
- **The deadline for applying for SCORES authentication has now been extended to April 1, 2024.**

**3. LIC introduces new whole life insurance policy Jeevan Utsav**

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched a special scheme, named Jeevan Utsav.
- LIC's Jeevan Utsav is a non-linked, non-participating, individual, savings, whole life insurance plan based on the selected Premium Paying Term (Regular Income to Flexi Income), 10% of the Sum Assured is paid back annually after the specified years.
- The fact that this plan offers life insurance coverage for the duration of the policyholder's life is a plus point.
- This plan is available for age starting from 90 days to 65 years. It gives guaranteed lifelong income and lifelong risk cover.

**4. SBI to acquire 20 percent stake in SBI Pension Funds for Rs 230 crore**

- The Executive Committee of the Central Board (ECCB) of the State Bank of India (SBI) has accorded final approval to the Bank for acquiring 20 percent stake held by SBICAPS (SBI Capital Markets Ltd) in SBIPFPL (SBI Pension Funds Private Ltd).
- The acquisition, which will be completed by December 15, 2023, is for a cash consideration of ₹229.52 crore, as per SBI's regulatory filing.
- Post-acquisition, SBI will have 80 percent stake in SBIPFPL, with the balance being held by SBI Funds Management Ltd. The latter is a joint venture of SBI (62.53 percent) and Amundi (36.73 percent).

**5. RBI keeps policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5 percent in latest MPC meet**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has kept the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5 percent in its monetary review meeting.
- This is for the fifth time in a row that the MPC has maintained the status quo.
- The Monetary Policy Committee, MPC's has unanimously decided to keep key rates unchanged. The Standing Deposit Facility rate remains at 6.25 percent and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate

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and the Bank Rate at 6.75 percent.

- Attributing the declining inflation as reason behind maintain status quo the policy stance, the RBI Governor informed that, real GDP growth projection for the current year 2023-24 has been revised from earlier 6.5 per cent to 7 percent.

**6. RBI has canceled the license of Sitapur-based Urban Co-operative Bank**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the license of Sitapur-based Urban Co-operative Bank in Uttar Pradesh.
- The bank's license was canceled due to lack of adequate capital and prospects of earning.
- The RBI has prohibited the bank from any banking, including depositing money and repaying its customers.
- On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of ₹5 lakh from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).

**7. IDFC FIRST Bank launches "FIRST SWYP" credit card**

- IDFC FIRST Bank has introduced a youth-centric "FIRST SWYP" credit card in partnership with Master card.
- This card can be used as a no-interest charge card and has curated features -- flexible bill repayments through EMIs, a benefit-laden referral program, and exclusive and relevant merchant partnerships.
- The card will address demands of new-age customers, blending benefits across their favorite categories of spends and lifestyle-related offers and innovative propositions, it added.

**8. Bank of India Unveils Nari Shakti Savings Account**

- Bank of India (BoI) has launched an exclusive savings bank product for women (Nari Shakti Savings Account) with an independent source of income.
- The savings account has features such as personal accident insurance cover of up to ₹1 crore, discounted health insurance and wellness products, and rebates on locker facilities for gold and diamond SB A/C holders, among others.
- Additionally, the account offers a concessional rate of interest on retail loans and waiver of processing charges on these loans, free issuance of credit cards and a higher usage limit of up to ₹5 lakh on POS.

**9. Retail inflation surged to 5.5% in November amid rising food prices**

- India's retail inflation surged sharply to 5.55 percent in November after falling to a four-month low of 4.8 percent in October, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.
- The uptick in retail inflation has been attributed to a sharp rise in food prices. Notably, the food inflation for November registered at 8.70 percent.
- Despite the surge, the inflation figure remains within the Reserve Bank of India's acceptable range of 2-6 percent. In sequential terms, the inflation rate recorded a 0.54 percent increase, as per the released data. It may be noted that this marks the third consecutive month when retail inflation has stayed below 6 percent.
- In its most recent policy review, the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to keep the key rates unchanged, but warned that it would remain "highly alert" to undertake appropriate policy actions if the need arises.

**10. Poonawalla Housing Finance rebrands as Grihum Housing Finance**

- Poonawalla Housing Finance has been rebranded as Grihum Housing Finance with global private equity firm TPG now holding 99.02 percent stake in the housing finance company.
- Before being promoted by Poonawalla Fincorp, the housing financier was a part of the Magma Group.
- US-based alternative asset management firm TPG has committed total capital of ₹1,000 crore of which it infused ₹538 crore in Q2 FY24 under the first tranche.



**Chapter 15: Committee**

**Chapter 16: Defence News**

**1. Amritsar to Host Military Literature Festival Next Year.**

- **The Military Literature Festival is coming back for its second district-level edition in Amritsar.** This event is organized by the Military Literature Festival Association and led by Lt. Gen TS Shergill (retd.). It aims to raise awareness about the important role of the armed forces and inspire the youth.
- **The festival is planned for early 2024, considering student's exam schedules and other logistical factors.** The next edition, set to start in Chandigarh on December 2 with Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann inaugurating.
- This edition focuses a lot on Punjab and its history. It looks at the military history of the region discussing Maharaja Ranjit Singh's strategy and how he added places like Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir, Baltistan, and Ladakh to India through conquest.

**2. Gen. Anil Chauhan inaugurated Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. Avionics Expo**

- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Anil Chauhan has inaugurated the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Avionics Expo 2023 in New Delhi.
- Chauhan said the aviation sector needs to keep up with a rapidly changing world and new technological innovations.
- He added that military affairs are headed to convergence warfare where different technologies converge to make battles more automated and autonomous.

Defence Exercise	Between	About
<b>The Mitra Shakti 2023 joint military exercise</b>	<b>The Indian and Sri Lankan Armies</b>	The 12-day exercise aimed to help both <b>armies understand each other's strategies and tactics better.</b>
<b>Indian Army conducted a Table-Top Exercise (TTX)</b>	<b>Indian Army</b> conducted for the Women Officers of Association of South- East Asian Nations (ASEAN)	The Exercise is part of <b>ongoing efforts of Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK)</b> to strengthen international cooperation and <b>capacity-building in peacekeeping missions</b> , with specific focus on <b>empowering women</b> in the field.
<b>A two-phased exercise 'Prasthan'</b>	<b>The Indian Navy</b> , along with other <b>defence state and civil agencies</b>	The 'Prasthan' is conducted to <b>validate measures and procedures</b> to address various contingencies that may arise in the <b>oil production platforms.</b>
<b>4th edition of the Joint Military Exercise VINBAX-2023</b>	India and Vietnam	A <b>contingent of 45 personnel</b> from the <b>Indian Armed Forces</b> has arrived in <b>Hanoi, Vietnam</b> , to participate in the <b>fourth edition of the Joint Military Exercise VINBAX-2023.</b>

**Chapter 17: Sports News**

**1. West Indies' Dowrich announces retirement from cricket**

- Former West Indies wicketkeeper-batsman Shane Dowrich (32-year) has retired from international cricket.
- He played in 35 tests, scoring 1570 runs with a high score of 125 not out against Sri Lanka in 2018.
- Dowrich made his Test debut against Australia in 2015 and went on to play 35 Tests. His only ODI came against Bangladesh in 2019, and he was set to add to it in the upcoming ODI series against England.

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**2. Ruturaj Gaikwad becomes the fastest Indian to 4,000 T20 runs**

- Ruturaj Gaikwad has become the fastest Indian to accomplish 4,000 runs in men's T20 cricket. He accomplished this remarkable feat in only 116 innings.
- He achieved the feat in the fourth T20I against Australia at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur.
- The fastest to achieve this landmark is the legendary Chris Gayle, who accomplished it in just 107 innings.

**3. Vaishali Rameshbabu becomes India's 84th grandmaster**

- Vaishali Rameshbabu has become India's 84th grandmaster after surpassing 2500 rating during the 2023 IV Elllobregat Open.
- Vaishali is now the third female grandmaster from India after Koneru Humpy and Harika Dronavalli.
- Vaishali and her younger brother R. Praggnanandhaa is now the first sister- brother pair to be grandmasters.
- She is now the current world number 11 in women's ranking with a live rating of 2501.5 and India's number two.

**4. Amazon acquires ICC cricket rights for Australia till 2027**

- E-commerce giant Amazon's streaming service Prime Video has signed a four- year deal with the International Cricket Council (ICC) to provide exclusive live broadcast rights in Australia for ICC cricket, which will be available on Prime Video Australia.
- The partnership will see Prime Video Australia exclusively stream all men's and women's events, including the Men's and Women's Cricket World Cups, T20 World Cups, Champions Trophy, U19s, and the World Test Championship Final.
- The deal includes streaming rights in Australia for 448 live games from 2024 to 2027.

**5. India bags 3 gold, 5 silver, and 1 bronze medals in IBA Junior World Boxing**

- India bagged three gold, five silver, and one bronze medals at the IBA Junior World Boxing Championship 2023 in Yerevan, Armenia.
- Akansha won gold in 70 kg category, Pari clinched gold medal in 48 kg weight category, while Nisha won gold in 52 kg category.
- In 52 kg weight category, Vini won silver medal, while Srishti Sathe won silver medal in 63 kg weight category.

**6. China's Ningbo to host World Weightlifting Championships 2026**

- The Chinese city of Ningbo will host the 2026 World Weightlifting championships, following the 2024 edition in Manama (Bahrain) and the 2025 edition in Forde (Norway).
- The International Weightlifting Federation announced in a statement after a vote by the IWF Executive Board, meeting in Doha, Qatar, that Ningbo has experience in successfully staging international sports events.
- Ningbo, located in China's eastern coastal province of Zhejiang, is not far from the cities of Shanghai and Hangzhou.

**7. ICC launches new vibrant logo for Men's and Women's T20 World Cup 2024**

- International Cricket Council (ICC) has unveiled the logo for the upcoming T20 World Cup in Men's and Women's cricket next year.
- While the men's event is set to take place from June 4 to June 30, 2024 in the West Indies and USA.
- While, Women's T20 World Cup will happen in Bangladesh. Italy won Admiral's Cup 2023 held at Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala
- The 12th edition of 'Admiral's Cup' Sailing Regatta concluded with a glittering closing ceremony at Ettikulam Beach at Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala.
- Team Italy represented by Midshipman Avallone Antonio & Midshipman Creati Carlo Leonardo won the Admiral's Cup 23.
- Team India represented by Midshipman PPK Reddy and Cadet GY Reddy was the Runners-Up and Team United Kingdom & Germany represented by Officer Cadet Lucy Bell and Midshipman Aaron Middleton from United Kingdom and Cadet Beckman Carl & Cadet Hinz Anton from Germany shared the third position.

**8. Kashvi Gautam became most expensive uncapped star of all time in WPL auction**

- India's young player Kashvee Gautam has bagged a huge profit in the star auction ahead of the 2024 season of Women's Premier League (WPL 2024).
- Kashvi became the most valuable uncapped player of all time in the Women's Premier League. The young star, who had a base price of Rs 10 lakh, was acquired by Gujarat Giants for Rs 2 crore.
- The Chandigarh star was snapped up by Gujarat after a fierce bidding war with UP Warriors. Within minutes Gautham owns Vrinda Dinesh's record of fetching Rs 1.3 crore in this auction itself.

**9. Ashwini-Tanisha duo clinches women's doubles title in Guwahati Masters 2023**

- Indian women's doubles pair of Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa have secured their second Super 100 title with a straight-game win over Chinese Taipei's Sung Shuo Yun and Yu Chien Hui at the Guwahati Masters 2023.
- The second-seeded Indian combination, which finished runners-up at the Syed Modi International Super 300 tournament in Lucknow, beat the world no. 81 combination 21-13 21-19 in a 40-minute final.

**10. Asad Shafiq announces retirement from all forms of cricket**

- Pakistan Test batter Asad Shafiq has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket after experiencing a dip in his passion for the game.
- Asad formed the backbone of the Pakistan Test batting line-up from 2010 to 2020 scoring 4660 runs in 77 games at a healthy average of 38.19 including 12 hundreds and 27 fifties.

**11. Travis Head, Nahida Akter won ICC Player of the Month awards for November**

- Australian batter Travis Head and Bangladesh's left-arm spinner Nahida Akter have won the ICC Men's and Women's Player of the Month, respectively for November 2023.
- Nahida is the first Bangladesh women's player to win the award.

**Chapter 18: Book and Author**

Book	Author
"Welcome to Paradise" book	Written and launched by Twinkle Khanna
'Zeba: An Accidental Superhero'	Written by Huma Qureshi
"Naye Bharat ka Samveda"	Launched by Former President Ram Nath Kovind

**Chapter 19: Important Day**

Date	Day	Theme/Importance
1 December	World's AIDS day	Theme 2023- "Let communities lead"
1 December	Nagaland statehood day	<b>Nagaland</b> as it celebrates its <b>61st Statehood Day</b> . Back on <b>December 1, 1963</b> , Nagaland became the <b>16th state of India</b> .
1 December	Border Security Force raising day	This day marks the creation of <b>BSF</b> , which is India's main border-guarding organization established on <b>December 1, 1965</b> .
2 December	World Computer Literacy Day	The theme for 2023 is believed to be: <b>Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies</b> .

<b>2 December</b>	National Pollution Control Day	The theme for National Pollution Control Day 2023 is <b>"Sustainable Development for a Clean and Healthy Planet"</b>
<b>2 December</b>	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	Theme 2023 - <b>Fighting Slavery's Legacy of Racism through Transformative Education</b>
<b>4 December</b>	Indian Navy Day	The Indian Navy celebrates Navy Day on December 4, in memory of <b>"Operation Trident"</b> launched by the <b>Indian Navy</b> against <b>Karachi Harbour</b> during the <b>India-Pakistan war</b> in <b>1971</b> .
<b>5 December</b>	World Soil Day	Theme for 2023 - <b>Soil and water, a source of life</b>
<b>5 December</b>	International Volunteer Day	Theme 2023 - <b>The Power of Collective</b>
<b>7 December</b>	International Civil Aviation Day	Theme 2023 - <b>Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development</b>
<b>9 December</b>	International Anti-Corruption Day	Theme 2023 - <b>UNCAC at 20: Uniting the World Against Corruption</b>
<b>9 December</b>	International Day of Commemoration of the Victims of Crime of Genocide	Theme 2023 - <b>A Living Force in World Society: The Legacy of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.</b>
<b>10 December</b>	Human Rights Day	Theme 2023 - <b>Freedom, Equality and Justice for All</b>
<b>11 December</b>	International Mountain Day	Theme 2023 - <b>Restoring Mountain Ecosystems</b>
<b>11 December</b>	UNICEF Day	UNICEF aims to <b>"protect the rights of every child, everywhere"</b> .
<b>12 December</b>	Universal Health Coverage Day	Theme for 2023 - <b>Health For All: Time for Action</b>
<b>12 December</b>	International Day of Neutrality	Objective - To raise awareness regarding the importance of <b>neutrality in intergovernmental relations</b> and to <b>strengthen peace and security</b> at the global level.

## Chapter 20: Science & Technology

### 1. ISRO to launch 'XPoSat' Satellite

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is all set to launch its first X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat); the mission aims to explore the polarization of powerful X-ray sources.
- The primary payload Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays (POLIX) developed by Raman Research Institute in Bengaluru (RRI).
- According to ISRO, while space-based X-Ray astronomy has been established in India, focusing predominantly on imaging, time-domain studies, and spectroscopy, the upcoming XPoSat mission marks a major value addition.
- This research, supplementing traditional time and frequency domain studies, introduces a novel dimension to X-Ray astronomy, generating anticipation and excitement within the scientific community.

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**2. Meta and IBM launched 'AI Alliance' to promote open-source AI development**

- Facebook's parent company, Meta, and IBM have launched a new group called the AI Alliance advocating for an "open-science" approach to AI development that puts them at odds with rivals Google, Microsoft and Chat GPT-maker Open AI.
- These two diverging camps – the open and the closed – disagree about whether to build AI in a way that makes the underlying technology widely accessible.

**3. Google launches its largest and 'most capable' AI model, Gemini**

- Google has introduced to the world its newest language model (LLM) called Gemini.
- This new LLM can seamlessly understand, operate across, and combine different types of information, including text, code, audio, images, and video.
- Google claims that Gemini is their most capable and general-purpose AI model to date. However, there's more to it than meets the eye.
- Gemini isn't just one model; it's actually a family of AI models that come in three sizes: Gemini Ultra, Gemini Pro and Gemini Nano

**4. China launched the world's first Methane powered rocket "Zhuque 2"**

- A Chinese company Land Space Technology became the first in the world to launch satellites with rockets fuelled by methane and liquid oxygen.
- The Zhuque 2 Y-3 blasted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China.
- The rocket was 49.5 metres in length, had a diameter of 3.35m, and had a lift-off mass of 220 tonnes, excluding the payloads.
- Zhuque-2 Y-3 carried two 50kg test satellites developed by Chinese startup Spacety, one of which has adopted technologies from a company named Hongqing.

**Chapter 21: Obituary**

Person	About
Henry Kissinger, Nobel Peace Prize Winner	He played an important role in <b>improving relations with China</b> , making <b>arms control agreements</b> with the <b>Soviet Union</b> , and <b>concluding the Vietnam War</b> .
Former IAS officer Christy Fernandez	A Gujarat cadre IAS officer, Dr. Fernandez, served as the <b>Principal Secretary of Urban Development</b> , at the <b>Government of Gujarat</b> , <b>Special Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce</b> and <b>Secretary, of the Ministry of Tourism</b> .
Former Mr. Universe Shaun Davis	In his <b>bodybuilding career</b> , he won a string of titles including <b>Mr. Britain</b> and <b>Mr. Europe</b> before being named Mr. Universe in 1996.
Naeem Sayyed aka Junior Mehmood	He also known as <b>Junior Mahmood</b> by fans had a <b>prolific career</b> that included many <b>critically acclaimed films</b> .
Former West Indies batter Joe Solomon	Solomon played <b>27 Tests for West Indies</b> between <b>1958 and 1965</b> , scoring <b>1326</b> runs at an average of <b>34</b> .
Exposed AIDS epidemic, Dr. Gao Yaojie	Yaojie was a <b>gynecologist</b> by training and was one of the first doctors who <b>spearheaded the campaign against the AIDS epidemic in China</b> .

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