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# MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS GK DIGEST

MAY 2023



**BANK  
EXAMS**  
Today

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# MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS GK DIGEST: MAY 2023

## INDIAN AIR FORCE PARTICIPATES IN EXERCISE INIOCHOS-23 IN GREECE

**Current Context:** The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in Exercise INIOCHOS-23, a multi-national air exercise hosted by the Hellenic Air Force.

### DETAILS

- **The exercise is being conducted at the Andravida Air Base in Greece from 24 Apr 2023 to 04 May 2023. The Indian Air Force is participating with four Su-30 MKI and two C-17 aircraft.**
- Apart from India and Greece, the other countries that are participating in the exercise are USA, France, Italy, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.
- These countries are sending various aerial vehicles including fighter jets, drones, helicopters, training planes, and joint terminal attack controller teams
- **The objective of the exercise is to enhance international cooperation, synergy and interoperability amongst the participating Air Forces.**

## BOI LAUNCHES SHUBH ARAMBH FD SCHEME FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

**Current Context:** Shubh Arambh FD scheme for senior citizens offered by Bank of India (BOI). This is a special type of

term deposit that provides attractive interest rates for senior citizens.

## ABOUT

- **The scheme was launched on April 1, 2023 and is applicable for deposits under Rs 2 crore for a tenure of 501 days.**
- The interest rate for super senior citizens (80 years and above) is 7.80%, for other senior citizens (60 to 80 years) is 7.65%, and for general customers is 7.15%.
- **The scheme also offers additional benefits such as no penalty for premature withdrawal of deposits less than Rs 5 lakh after 12 months, and no penalty for renewing deposits for a longer duration than the original tenure**

## NPCI INTERNATIONAL PAYMENTS PARTNERS WITH PPRO TO EXPAND REACH OF RUPAY AND UPI

**Current Context:** NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) and PPRO, a global digital payments infrastructure provider.

## KEY POINTS

- **This partnership will allow global payment service providers, banks, payment gateways, and enterprises to expand globally and provide international e-commerce merchants with access to Indian consumers.**
- Indian consumers will be able to shop online with merchants worldwide and pay safely and easily using RuPay cards and Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- **UPI is India's fastest-growing, real-time payment system that processes 60% of all domestic payments in India and 40% of instant payments processed globally**

## WHITEOAK CAPITAL MUTUAL FUND LAUNCHES MULTI-ASSET NFO WITH OLD TAX BENEFITS

**Current Context:** WhiteOak Capital Mutual Fund. According to the web search results<sup>123</sup>, it is an asset management company that provides investment management and advisory services for Indian equity.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **It has recently launched a Balanced Advantage Fund, which is a hybrid scheme that invests in a mix of equity and debt instruments.**
- The fund also claims to offer old tax benefits under Section 112A of the Income Tax Act, which means that the long-term capital gains from equity investments are taxed at 10% only if they exceed Rs. 1 lakh in a financial year.

## IFSCA SIGNS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH IHUB-DATA AND IIIT HYDERABAD

**Current Context:** The MoU was signed on April 28, 2023 at IIIT Hyderabad campus. This MoU will enable cooperation and collaboration on diverse initiatives regarding FinTech, such as accessing IFSCA's Regulatory and Innovation Sandbox and applying to the IFSCA (FinTech Incentive) Scheme 2022

## KEY FACTS

- **This MoU aims to put in place a framework for cooperation and understanding between IFSCA and IHub-Data, IIIT Hyderabad to collaborate in supporting and facilitating FinTech and TechFin entities.**
- FinTech and TechFin are terms that refer to the use of technology to provide or enhance financial services

## (LIC) HAS LAUNCHED A GROUP POST RETIREMENT MEDICAL BENEFIT SCHEME

**Current Context:** LIC (Life Insurance Corporation of India) has launched a new Group Post-Retirement Medical Benefit Scheme with effect from May 2, 2023.

## DETAILS

- This is a non-linked, non-participating, life, group savings insurance product that helps employers to provide post-retirement medical benefits to their employees.
- **The scheme also offers a fixed life cover benefit (sum assured) to each member who dies while still in service before retirement.**

- Any employer with 50 or more employees can adopt the scheme.

## INDIA AND ISRAEL HAVE SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

**Current Context:** India and Israel have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Industrial Research and Development Cooperation.

### ABOUT

- The MoU was signed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under the Ministry of Science and Technology of India and the Directorate of Defense Research and Development (DDR&D) under the Ministry of Defense of Israel.
- The MoU aims to enable joint industrial research and development projects in various high-tech fields such as artificial intelligence, quantum and semiconductors, synthetic biology, healthcare, aerospace, sustainable energy and agriculture.
- The MoU was signed on May 4, 2023, marking the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Israel

## NTPC AND NPCIL STRUCK A DEAL TO BUILD NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

**Current Context:** NTPC Ltd. has signed a supplementary joint venture agreement with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) for development of nuclear power projects. The agreement was signed on May 2, 2023 in New Delhi.

### KEY FACTS

- The joint venture company will develop two pressurized heavy-water reactor (PHWR) projects, which are Chutka Madhya Pradesh Atomic Power Project of 2x700 MW and Mahi Banswara Rajasthan Atomic Power Project of 4x700 MW.
- The joint venture company is called ASHVINI and it will have equal (50:50) partnership/shareholding of NTPC and NPCIL
- These projects were identified as a part of fleet mode nuclear projects

## PANDIT RAMKISHAN, A SOCIALIST, IS NAMED MAN OF THE CENTURY AT THE AGE OF 97

**Current Context:** Pandit Ramkishan, a former Lok Sabha MP and a renowned socialist leader in India. He was recently awarded the title of Shatabdi Purush (Man of the Century) in New Delhi for his contributions to the socialist movement.

### KEY POINTS

- He is considered the most senior and iconic figure in Indian socialism and has been recognized as the “Socialist Shatabdi Purush”.
- He played an active role in the movements led by other socialist leaders such as Jayaprakash Narayan and Lohia.
- He was imprisoned multiple times, including during the Emergency period. He also served as a member of the Rajasthan Assembly four times and fought for the rights of tribals, Dalits and the poor

## INDIA SLIPS IN ‘2023 WORLD PRESS FREEDOM INDEX’, RANKS 161 OUT OF 180 NATIONS

**Current Context:** According to the 2023 World Press Freedom Index – which evaluates the environment for journalism in 180 countries and territories and is published on World Press Freedom Day (3 May) – India ranks 161 out of 180 nations.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- This is a drop of five places from its previous rank of 156 in 2022.
- The top three countries that enjoy the most protective freedom of the press are Norway, Ireland and Denmark. Norway has a self-regulated press and it is for the seventh time that this Northern European country remained dominant
- The index shows that the situation for press freedom in India is very serious and has deteriorated due to increased aggressiveness on the part of the authorities, growing animosity towards journalists on social media and in the physical world, and the rapid effects of the digital ecosystem’s fake content industry

## IA’S MES INKS MOU WITH IIT KANPUR FOR MAKING CANTONMENTS CARBON-NEUTRAL

**Current Context:** The two institutions have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Earth Day 2023 to



establish a demonstrable model for achieving carbon neutrality in Army stations.

## ABOUT

- **The MoU aims to convert five campuses under the MES Jhansi cantonment into NetZero Carbon, Net Zero Energy, Net Zero Water, and Net Zero Waste campuses in a phased manner.**
- **The partnership between IIT Kanpur and MES Jhansi** is a welcome move towards achieving a sustainable future. It will not only help in reducing carbon emissions but also in conserving natural resources
- Carbon neutrality means having a balance between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon from the atmosphere. This is in line with India's goal of becoming a net-zero-emissions country by 2070.

## A COMPENDIUM, 2023' IN COLLABORATION WITH UNDP

**Current Context:** latest compendium released by NITI Aayog and UNDP: This compendium showcases 75 best practices in the social sector from different states and union territories and central ministries in India.

## DETAILS

- **The compendium covers 14 key social sectors such as education, health, agriculture, women empowerment, etc.**
- The aim of this compendium is to highlight and laud the efforts of innovations taking place in the social sector and to facilitate peer learning among states. The compendium was released on May 1, 2023 to commemorate 75 years of India's independence

## BHARTI AIRTEL & DIALOG AXIATA SIGNS BINDING TERM SHEET

**Current Context:** Dialog Axiata Plc and Bharti Airtel Limited have signed a binding term sheet to combine their operations in Sri Lanka.

## KEY FACTS

- The deal will grant Airtel a stake in Dialog, representing the fair value of Airtel Lanka, Airtel's wholly-owned subsidiary.

- **The transaction is subject to regulatory and shareholder approvals and is expected to benefit both parties by providing access to a large customer base and enhancing network coverage and service capabilities**
- **The merger will likely have a significant impact on the competition in the telecommunications sector** in Sri Lanka, as it will create the largest operator in terms of market share and customer base. According to a report by Analysys Mason.

## INDIA'S CSIR AND ISRAELI COUNTERPART SIGN MOU

**Current Context:** India and Israel have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on industrial research and development cooperation to collaborate more closely in various sectors, including aerospace, healthcare, and startups.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MoU was signed between Israel's Directorate of Defense Research and Development (DDR&D) and its Indian counterpart Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).**
- The MoU aims to strengthen each other's domestic industrial sectors and export their joint developments to other countries.

## INDIAN-ORIGIN AJAY BANGA CONFIRMED AS THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF WORLD BANK

**Current Context:** Ajay Banga, the former CEO of Mastercard and a naturalized US citizen, has been confirmed as the next president of the World Bank for a five-year term starting from June 21.

## KEY POINTS

- **He was nominated by US President Joe Biden and was the sole candidate for the top job.**
- **He will take over from David Malpass who is stepping down early amid criticism over his stance on climate change.**
- Banga has said that he wants to see greater private sector funding to help tackle global problems such as climate change and poverty

## MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN AFFAIRS SIGNS MOU WITH RITES

**Current Context:** This MoU was signed on May 2, 2023 for technical assistance for Solid Waste Management (SWM) and Used Water Management (UWM) under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0.

### ABOUT

- **The MoU aims to enable states and urban local bodies to implement the mission initiatives efficiently and provide safe and sustainable sanitation access universally.**
- RITES will provide technical support for standards, specifications, engineering design and procurement in the field of sewage, wastewater management and solid waste management.

## INDIAN ARMY CONDUCTED BULAND BHARAT TRAINING EXERCISE

**Current Context:** It was a divisional-level integrated training exercise conducted by the Indian Army in the high-altitude ranges of the eastern theatre in Arunachal Pradesh.

### DETAILS

- **The purpose of the month-long exercise was to verify plans for reducing integrated firepower through coordinated firing of artillery guns and fire support components of Infantry towards the destruction of designated targets.**
- The exercise also involved the synergised application of surveillance and firepower capabilities of the Artillery and Infantry in close coordination with Special Forces, Aviation and Central Armed Police Forces.
- **The training culminated in a test exercise in which troops and equipment were tested under simulated war conditions in high altitude areas and extreme weather conditions**

## RBI AND BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS (BIS) LAUNCH G20 TECHSPRINT

**Current Context:** RBI and BIS have launched the fourth edition of the G20 TechSprint Initiative, a global technology competition to promote innovative solutions aimed at

improving cross-border payments, under India's G20 presidency.

### KEY FACTS

- **The competition is open for developers from around the world and will focus on three problem statements on cross-border payments.** The results will be announced at a final event in August or September 2023.
- The winners for each problem statement will receive an award of INR 40,00,000 (approximately US\$ 50,000).

## UNION MINISTER PARSHOTTAM RUPALA LAUNCHES VCI PORTAL

**Current Context:** Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala launched the Veterinary Council of India (VCI) portal on April 29, 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The event was held to celebrate World Veterinary Day-2023 with the theme of "Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness in the veterinary profession".**
- The minister also released the draft of Minimum Standards of Veterinary Practice Regulations (MSVPR), 2023 and a list of outstanding veterinarians.
- **The event was attended by around 1500 veterinary officials from different states and union territories**

## INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS' DAY 2023

**Current Context:** It is a day to honor the firefighters who risk their lives to protect people and property from fire.

### KEY POINTS

- It is also a day to raise awareness about fire safety and prevention.
- **International Firefighters Day is annually observed on May 4, and this year is no different. Fire is a potent force and has a reputation for being destructive, but it is capable of so much more.**

- It provides vital energy in the form of heat and illumination for our survival.
- **The theme for International Firefighters Day 2023 is “Honoring the Heroes Who Protect Us.”** This theme reflects the importance of recognizing the bravery and dedication of firefighters who risk their lives to keep us safe

## INDIA, RUSSIA AGREED TO EXPLORE RUPAY AND MIR CARDS FOR EASY PAYMENTS

**Current Context:** India and Russia have agreed to explore the possibility of accepting each other’s payment cards, RuPay (India) and Mir (Russia), for hassle-free payments between the two countries.

### DETAILS

- **This will facilitate transactions in Indian rupees and Russian rubles, making it easier for citizens of both countries to carry out cross-border payments.**
- They also agreed to explore the possibility of interaction between India’s Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Russia’s Faster Payments System (FPS).
- **This is necessary to minimize the impact of sanctions imposed on Russia by the West.**

## INDIAN EMBASSY IN NEPAL INK MOU WITH STMHF

**Current Context:** The Embassy of India, Kathmandu and the Sushila Thakur Memorial Health Foundation (STMHF) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) the on May 4, 2023 for the distribution of LPG gas stoves and cylinders in Mahottari District, Nepal with the Indian grant assistance of Rs 50 million (approx) under India-Nepal Development Cooperation.

### ABOUT

- **This project will benefit nearly 8,000 underprivileged and marginalised families of five municipalities in Mahottari District, Madhesh Pradesh of Nepal.**
- **The project is inspired by the Government of India’s Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana which is a flagship scheme** with an objective to make clean cooking fuel such as LPG available to rural

and deprived households which were otherwise using traditional cooking fuels such as firewood, coal, cow-dung cakes

## HDFC BANK LAUNCHES PROGRAMME FOR CUSTOMERS IN SEMI-URBAN AND RURAL

**Current Context:** HDFC Bank’s new programme for customers in semi-urban and rural areas, the programme is called Vishesh and it aims to onboard around 1 lakh new customers by offering customized financial solutions and tailor-made products.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The bank **also plans to add more than 675 branches in these regions** in the fiscal year 2024.
- **Some of the features of the programme include a dedicated personal banker, discounts on processing fees, health benefits, and agritech services**
- The Vishesh Debit Card will be issued to Vishesh Customers only. Both Residents and NREs can apply.

## AHDF KCC CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TO PROVIDE KCC TO ALL ELIGIBLE FARMERS

**Current Context:** This is a campaign launched by the Union Cabinet Minister for Fisheries, Animal husbandry and Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala on 3rd May 2023 as part of AazadiKaAmritMahostav.

### KEY FACTS

- The campaign aims to provide Kisan Credit Card facility to all eligible Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fishery Farmers in the country.
- **This will help them to access organizational credit facility to meet their working capital requirement. The campaign will run from 1st May 2023 to 31st March, 2024.**
- **Farmers can get an ATM cum credit card that can be used to withdraw cash from ATMs and acquire funds on credit** and a convenient repayment period of up to 12 months to easily pay off the loan amount.

## UNION MINISTER FOR MSME NARAYAN RANE LAUNCHED THE IHD PLATFORM IN HEALTH SECTOR

**Current Context:** The IHD platform stands for India Health Dialogue, which is a global initiative of India Chamber of Business and Commerce in partnership with Indian Council of Medical Research, Indian Medical Association and supported by Ministry of MSME, GOI to build a robust ecosystem to revolutionize health and health care sector for the future.

### KEY POINTS

- The platform aims to enhance MSMEs in healthcare with advanced manufacturing capabilities and boost exports in order to promote self-reliance and reduce healthcare or medical imports in the country
- It was launched by Union Minister for MSME Narayan Rane on 3rd May 2023 in New Delhi.

## BEL SIGNS MOU WITH EMJAY CONTROL SYSTEMS

**Current Context:** Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL), a Navratna Defence PSU, has signed an MoU with Emjay Control Systems Pvt Ltd to jointly manufacture and develop business for state-of-the-art, electro-mechanical bollards for use in various Defence, Homeland Security, Paramilitary, and export projects.

### DETAILS

- The bollards are designed to safeguard vital installations by pre-empting the unauthorised entry of heavy vehicles.
- They are built to withstand the impact of IED-laden vehicles weighing from 24,000 to 1,50,000 kg and coming in at alarming speeds of 80 to 100 km/h.
- The bollards are indigenously designed, keeping with the government's Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat policies.

## INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (ISRO) HAS UNVEILED A NEW ONLINE TRAINING PROGRAM

**Current Context:** It is a new introductory-level online training programme launched by ISRO to provide students with training in Space Science and Technology.

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### ABOUT

- The program is aimed at postgraduate and final-year undergraduate students of Physical Sciences and Technology.
- The training modules will cover topics such as Astronomy, Planetary Science, Heliophysics, Atmospheric science, Microgravity related studies and space technology.
- The training programme is tentatively scheduled to be conducted during June-July 2023

## BHARATPE REBRANDS MULTI-BRAND LOYALTY PROGRAM PAYBACK INDIA AS 'ZILLION'

**Current Context:** BharatPe Group, a fintech startup in India, has rebranded PAYBACK India, the country's largest multi-brand loyalty program, to Zillion.

### KEY POINTS

- The new brand identity aims to target customers across age groups and add a new dimension to their shopping experience across categories and brands.
- The Zillion program will allow members to earn Zillion Coins on purchases across its portfolio of partners across India.
- The new web address for Zillion is <https://zillionrewards.in/>

## MOODY'S EXPECTS THAT INDIA'S ECONOMY WOULD REBOUND WITH 5.5% GDP GROWTH IN 2023

**Current Context:** Moody's Investor Service has raised India's economic growth forecast to 5.5% in 2023 from 4.8% pegged earlier, due to higher capital expenditure proposed in the Budget and a sustained economic momentum.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- It has, however, revised downwards India's growth estimate for 2022 to 6.8% from 7% pegged earlier.
- India's growth rate in 2023 is the highest among G20 countries, according to Moody's projection

## DEFENCE MINISTER RAJNATH SINGH TO INAUGURATE INDIAN AIR FORCE HERITAGE CENTRE IN CHANDIGARH

**Current Context:** The Heritage Centre is being built with state-of-the-art technology and is the IAF's first Heritage Centre. Its exhibits will be a source of inspiration for future generations and will showcase the indomitable spirit of the Indian Air Force.

### KEY FACTS

- He will inaugurate the first-of-its-kind Indian Air Force Heritage Centre in Sector 18 today.
- **The centre will also house five vintage aircraft and will provide visitors with cockpit exposure and an experience with flight simulators.**
- The Defence Minister **will also unveil the plaque for the Centre for Cyber Operations and Security at the heritage centre**

## IIT ROORKEE UNVEILS NEW LABS TO DRIVE INDIA'S CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION

**Current Context:** IIT Roorkee's Department of Hydro and Renewable Energy has inaugurated two new labs - Renewable Grid Integration Laboratory and Green Hydrogen Laboratory - to advance reliable and resilient clean energy grids in India.

### DETAILS

- The establishment of the labs **aims to significantly reduce carbon emissions and increase the use of renewable energy sources and envisages making India a global hub for green hydrogen production and export**
- The institute's Director KK Pant inaugurated them on May 8

## YOGI ADITYANATH, CHIEF MINISTER OF UTTAR PRADESH, RECEIVED THE DR. AMBEDKAR AWARD

**Current Context:** Former President of India Ram Nath Kovind honoured Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday with the Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award for creating a fear-free Uttar Pradesh, an official statement said.

### ABOUT

- The **Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award of the Republic of India, conferred in recognition of "exceptional service/performance of the highest order",** without distinction of race, occupation, position, or sex.
- The Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award is named after Dr Babasaheb Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, who was a Dalit icon and the Father of Indian Constitution.

## ROCKET LAB LAUNCHES 2 NASA SATELLITES TO STUDY TROPICAL STORMS AND HURRICANES

**Current Context:** Rocket Lab launched the first set of NASA's TROPICS satellites on Sunday (May 7), from its New Zealand site.

### KEY POINTS

- **The TROPICS satellites are cubesats that will study the formation and progression of tropical cyclones and hurricanes with enhanced specificity.**
- They will provide hourly observations of storm intensity and precipitation structure. The TROPICS constellation will consist of four cubesats in low Earth orbit.
- **Rocket Lab will launch the other two satellites about two weeks from now**

## UTTAR PRADESH BECOMES FIRST STATE TO MAKE DIGITAL HEALTH CARDS

**Current Context:** Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in India to make digital health cards for children studying in municipal schools.

### KEY FACTS

- **The cards will provide them with health insurance worth Rs 25,000 and a digital health report card based on 130 parameters.**
- The project is launched by the Urban Development Department and Lucknow Smart City and is likely to be implemented in other smart cities as well

- **People can get access to verified health professionals and health services information through the app.**

## VISTARA BECOMES THE FIRST INDIAN AIRLINE TO USE SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL

**Current Context:** Vistara is the first Indian airline to use sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) on a commercial domestic flight on a wide-body aircraft.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The airline operated a Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner from Delhi to Mumbai using a blend of 17 per cent SAF with 83 per cent conventional jet fuel.**
- This helped the airline reduce approximately 10,000 pounds of CO2 emissions.
- **The airline said that this initiative is part of its efforts to minimize carbon footprint and support a sustainable future for the aviation industry**

## MOHUA AND MOR JOINTLY INK MOU WITH JICA FOR PROJECT SMART

**Current Context:** Project SMART is a collaboration between MoHUA, MoR and JICA was signed on May 8, 2023 to develop the surrounding areas of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Railway (MAHSR) stations to enhance accessibility, convenience and economic activities.

### DETAILS

- The MoU was signed for four stations: Sabarmati, Surat, Virar and Thane. The project **aims to facilitate and enhance the institutional capacity of state governments, municipal corporations and urban development authorities to plan, develop and manage the station areas**
- The project **would also facilitate and enhance the institutional capacity of state governments, municipal corporations and urban development authorities to plan, develop and manage the station area.**

## AU SMALL FINANCE BANK PARTNERS WITH RUPAY TO OFFER CASHBACK RUPAY CREDIT CARD

**Current Context:** Business Cashback RuPay credit card offered by AU Small Finance Bank. This card is designed for self-employed customers and provides benefits such as up to 2% cashback, 48 days interest-free credit, instant loans, and insurance coverage.

### ABOUT

- **The card also offers lifestyle and travel benefits such as discounts at restaurants, railway lounge access, and fuel surcharge waiver.**
- The card was launched in May 2023 in collaboration with RuPay, a payment network by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

## KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK BECOMES INDIA'S 1ST TO RELOCATE MAURITIUS DOMICILED FUND

**Current Context:** Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited has announced that it has successfully re-domiciled Alchemy India Long Term Fund from Mauritius to GIFT City in Gandhinagar, which houses India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).

### KEY FACTS

- **This is the first FPI license issued to a fund incorporated in GIFT by any custodian bank/ Designated Depository Participant (DDP) in the country to relocate an existing fund.**
- The move is expected to provide a solid foundation for many years of growth and expansion of service offerings in GIFT City

## MAX LIFE, IIA JOIN HANDS TO OFFER LIFE INSURANCE ACCESS

**Current Context:** They have joined hands to offer life insurance access to 11 lakh MSME workforce in Uttar Pradesh. Max Life is the appointed lead insurer for the state of Uttar Pradesh under this plan.

### KEY POINTS

- This is under the IRDAI's State insurance plan, which aims to enhance accessibility and drive affordable insurance penetration across UP.

- The partnership will also help in creating awareness around the need for life insurance among the MSME sector

## UNION SHIPPING MINISTER SARBANANDA SONOWAL INAUGURATES SITTWE PORT IN MYANMAR

**Current Context:** Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Myanmar's Deputy Prime Minister Admiral Tin Aung San jointly inaugurated the Sittwe Port in Rakhine State, Myanmar on Tuesday, May 9, 2023. They also received the first Indian cargo ship which was flagged off from Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The Sittwe Port has been developed as part of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP) funded by the government of India.
- The project aims to provide an alternative route for the northeastern states of India to access international sea routes via the port.
- The port has a maximum capacity of 20,000 DWT and will reduce the cost and time of transportation of goods between Kolkata and Agartala and Aizawl by 50 per cent

## TELANGANA GOVT LAUNCHES INDIA'S 1ST STATE ROBOTICS FRAMEWORK

**Current Context:** Telangana Government launched the 'Telangana State Robotics Framework', a first of its kind policy in India, on May 9, 2023.

### DETAILS

- The framework is a comprehensive roadmap that outlines the state's vision for the development of the robotics ecosystem in the state and contributing to the growth of the industry in the country.
- The framework focuses on leveraging robotics technology to drive growth and development across four key domains - agriculture, healthcare, industrial automation and consumer robotics

## PUNJAB BECOMES 1ST STATE TO ENFORCE 'RIGHT TO WALK'

**Current Context:** Punjab has become the first state in India to enforce the "right to walk" by making it mandatory for road-owning agencies, including the NHAI, to provide footpaths and cycle tracks in all future expansion of roads and construction of new ones.

### ABOUT

- The state government has issued these directions following two court orders after PILs were filed at Punjab and Haryana HC and another in the Supreme Court.
- The move is aimed at reducing deaths related to road accidents and promoting safety, equity and sustainability

## YES BANK LAUNCHED SOLAR FINANCING SCHEME 'YES KIRAN' FOR MSMES

**Current Context:** It is a new lending scheme launched by Yes Bank to offer financial assistance to MSMEs that want to install solar power panels on their buildings or premises.

### KEY POINTS

- The scheme aims to help MSMEs adopt sustainable energy practices, reduce their operational costs, and achieve their sustainability goals.
- The bank has partnered with leading solar panel manufacturers like Tata Power Solar Systems, Goldi Solar, Loom Solar, Panasonic Solar Power System for smooth transition to solar power solutions.
- MSMEs can avail a term loan of up to INR 3 crore for six years, with a moratorium of six months

## PTC INDIA INKS MOU WITH BROOKFIELD

**Current Context:** PTC India and Brookfield Renewables signing a MoU for 100 MW solar power in Rajasthan. Brookfield Renewables is developing a 400 MW solar power project at the Bikaner solar park in Rajasthan, which is expected to be commissioned in phases starting from December 2023.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **PTC India will market the power to various utilities and commercial and industrial consumers on a long-term/ medium-term and short-term basis.**
- The agreement also includes an option to increase the power capacity to 200 MW at the time of project commissioning based on mutual confirmation by the two parties.
- **PTC India will provide Brookfield Renewables with an assured tariff and payment security**, thus playing a vital role in the development of this renewable energy project

### THE SIXTH INDIAN OCEAN CONFERENCE (IOC) WILL BE HELD IN BANGLADESH

**Current Context:** Bangladesh is hosting the 6th Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) 2023 in Dhaka on May 12-13. The theme of the conference is "Peace, Prosperity and Partnership for a Resilient Future".

## KEY FACTS

- **The conference is organised by India Foundation in association with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh and S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore.**
- The conference **aims to bring together key stakeholders to chart the roadmap for strengthening the Indian Ocean Region.**
- Some of the prominent speakers at the conference include Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, External Affairs Minister of India S Jaishankar, Deputy Secretary of State of USA Wendy R. Sherman, Foreign Minister of Oman Sayyid Badr Bin Hamnad Bin Hamood Albusaidi, and others

### ASSAM CM HIMANTA BISWA SARMA LAUNCHED AYUSHMAN ASOM SCHEME

**Current Context:** Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the Ayushman Assam Scheme under the Mukhya Mantri Jan Arogya (MMJA) in Guwahati on the second anniversary of his government . The scheme will be available in more than 300 hospitals

## ABOUT

- The Ayushman Assam Scheme under the Mukhya Mantri Jan Arogya (MMJA) provides cashless medical treatment up to Rs 5 lakh per family .
- **The beneficiary can get treatment in more than 300 empaneled hospitals in Assam as well as in all Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) empaneled hospitals across the country**
- To be eligible for the Ayushman Assam Scheme under the Mukhya Mantri Jan Arogya (MMJA), applicants must be permanent residents of Assam State and must have an Aadhar Card for registration

### 35TH INDO-THAI COORDINATED PATROL (CORPAT) HELD AT IMBL

**Current Context:** The 35th Indo-Thai Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) was a bi-annual maritime exercise conducted by the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy from May 3 to May 10, 2023.

## DETAILS

- **The exercise involved the participation of INS Kesari, an indigenously built LST (L), and HTMS Saiburi, a Chao Phraya Class Frigate, along with Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both navies.**
- The exercise was held along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) in the Andaman Sea.
- **The main objective of the CORPAT was to reinforce maritime linkages between India and Thailand and to ensure the safety and security of the international trade route in the Indian Ocean.**
- The exercise also aimed to enhance the interoperability and cooperation between the two navies and to prevent and suppress unlawful activities like Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, piracy and armed robbery.

### UNION MINISTER SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI LAUNCHES "POSHAN BHI, PADHAI BHI"



**Current Context:** Union Minister for Women and Child Development (WCD), Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, launched “Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi”, that is “Education along with nutrition”, for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) at Vigyan Bhavan on 10th May 2023.

#### KEY FACTS

- **The program aims to ensure that India has the world’s largest, universal, high-quality preschool network, as suggested by the National Education Policy.**
- The program is a pathbreaking ECCE program to strengthen early childhood care and education and is an important component of Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0.
- The event was attended by over 800 Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) functionaries from different states and was chaired by Union Minister for Women and Child Development

#### UNNATI SUBSIDIARY ORA FINANCE RECEIVES NBFC LICENCE

**Current Context:** Unnati, a fintech-driven agritech firm, announced that its subsidiary Ora Finance has become the first firm to receive NBFC licence in agritech space.

#### KEY POINTS

- **The move will allow the company to meet the financial requirements of those in the agricultural sector, like farmers, retailers, traders, brands, and food processors.**
- Ora Finance will target its services to farmers, retailers, traders, distributors, food processors, manufacturers and brands focused on the agriculture sector.
- **Unnati has a network of over one lakh registered retailers and traders who use its uStore app to engage with the farmers and manage their agri-business on a day-to-day business.**

#### THE HEALTH MINISTRY'S INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH (ICMR) AND THE MINISTRY OF AYUSH SIGNS (MOU)

**Current Context:** Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the AYUSH ministry have signed an agreement for Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest May 2023

collaboration and cooperation for research in the field of integrated medicine.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Integrated medicine refers to using alternative medicine systems such as ayurveda, yoga, naturopathy, unani, siddha and homeopathy with orthodox systems as part of a treatment plan.
- **This cooperation will focus on promoting high-impact scientific research in identified areas of national importance in healthcare.**
- One of the important aspects of this MoU is related to building research capacity, which will be led by ICMR for Ayush researchers

#### SURVEY REPORT ON DATA GOVERNANCE QUALITY INDEX

**Current Context:** According to the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog, DGQI is an exercise to assess the data preparedness of Ministries Departments on a standardized framework to drive healthy competition among them and promote cooperative peer learning from best practices.

#### ABOUT

- **DGQI covers three key steps of data preparedness: Data Strategy, Data Systems and Data driven Outcomes.**
- DGQI also has a website where you can log in and access training material and user manuals

#### TELANGANA CM KCR LAUNCHED GEETA KARMIKULA BIMA SCHEME

**Current Context:** It is a new initiative by the Telangana government to provide an insurance cover of Rs. 5 lakh to toddy tapers in case of death for any reason. The scheme was announced by CM KCR on 2 May 2023.

#### DETAILS

- **The aim of the scheme is to support the families of the toddy tapers who are losing their bread-earners due to accidental falls from palm trees while tapping toddy.**

- **The insurance amount would be directly deposited into the bank accounts of the family members without any delay.**
- The scheme is similar to the existing Rythu Bima scheme for farmers. The CM instructed ministers to formulate guidelines for the scheme and Chief Secretary to initiate immediate steps

- The solution also promises higher success rates and seamless payouts for businesses. **Escrow account is an ideal solution for digital lending, P2P lending, gaming, e-commerce, marketplace & other such businesses that receive funds on behalf of others or operate under a partnership model**

## MINISTRY OF AYUSH AND ICMR SIGN MOU

**Current Context:** It reports that the Ministry of Ayush and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote and collaborate on integrative health research.

### KEY FACTS

- **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. The signing ceremony was attended by several ministers and officials from both ministries
- **The MoU was signed by Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, secretary, Ministry of Ayush and Dr. Rajiv Bahl, Director General, ICMR & secretary, Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.**

## RAZORPAYX INTRODUCES AUTOMATED ESCROW+ SOLUTION POWERED BY AXIS TRUSTEE SERVICES

**Current Context:** RazorpayX, the business banking platform of Razorpay, has launched a solution that provides automated, compliant, and secure money transfer experience on Escrow accounts to businesses.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The solution is powered by Axis Trustee Services Ltd., RBL Bank & ICICI Bank.** The solution aims to address the pain points of businesses that receive funds on behalf of others or operate under a partnership model.

## BANK OF BARODA LAUNCHES ELECTRONIC BANK GUARANTEE ON ITS BARODAINSTA PLATFORM

**Current Context:** Bank of Baroda launching electronic bank guarantee on its digital platform. This is a start-to-end digital process across the complete lifecycle of a bank guarantee (BG) including issuance, amendment and closure resulting in substantial reduction in the turnaround time in issuing a BG, while at the same time bringing in greater security and accessibility.

### KEY POINTS

- **The bank has partnered with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL), India's first and only Information Utility regulated by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) under the provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).**
- **This initiative will benefit individual contractors, SMEs and large corporates who are major applicants for bank guarantees**

## KARNATAKA DGP IPS OFFICER PRAVEEN SOOD APPOINTED CBI DIRECTOR

**Current Context:** Praveen Sood is a 1986 batch IPS officer of the Karnataka cadre and the current Director General of Police (DGP) of Karnataka. He was appointed as the CBI Director for a period of two years by a high-level committee comprising of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and Leader of Opposition Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **He has worked on various assignments such as traffic police, state reserve police, home**

department, police housing corporation and Mauritius police.

- He is an alumnus of IIT Delhi, IIM Bangalore and Syracuse University in New York.
- **He has received several awards such as Chief Minister's Gold Medal, Police Medal for Meritorious Service and President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service.**
- He will replace the current CBI Director Subodh Kumar Jaiswal when his tenure ends on May.
- He had a tussle with Karnataka Congress chief DK Shivakumar who had called him a "nalayak" and vowed action against him once his party is voted to power.

### QUANT MUTUAL FUND LAUNCHED AN OPEN-ENDED EQUITY SCHEME 'QUANT BUSINESS CYCLE FUND'

**Current Context:** Quant Business Cycle Fund is an open-ended sectoral or thematic fund scheme that seeks to generate long-term capital appreciation by investing with a focus on riding business cycles through allocation between sectors and stocks at different stages of business cycles.

#### ABOUT

- The New Fund Offer (NFO) opened on May 12, 2023 and will close for subscription on May 25, 2023.
- **The performance of the scheme will be benchmarked against NSE 500 TRI24. The scheme will be managed by Sandeep Tandon, Anikt Pande, Sanjeev Sharma, and Vasav Sahgal.**
- **The minimum subscription amount for investment in this scheme is Rs 5,000 and the minimum additional purchase/switch in this scheme is Rs 1,000.**
- The scheme would follow the top-down approach of portfolio construction to identify the stage of the business cycle, through domestic and global risk appetite and liquidity analytics, to arrive at a risk on/risk off assessment for sectors and stocks

### PROF. JAYANT VISHNU NARLIKAR AWARDED THE FIRST ASI GOVIND SWARUP LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**Current Context:** Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar. He is a renowned Indian astronomer and cosmologist who founded the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) in Pune. He has also contributed to various aspects of astrophysics including the Narlikar-Hoyle theory.

#### DETAILS

- **He has recently received the first Astronomical Society of India (ASI) Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award in Pune.** The award was announced earlier this year at the 41st meeting of the ASI held at IIT Indore, but Prof. Narlikar was unable to travel to receive it.
- The President of the ASI, Prof. Dipankar Banerjee, personally handed over the award to Prof. Narlikar and felicitated him.
- **The award is named after Prof. Govind Swarup, another eminent Indian astronomer and instrument builder who founded the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) in Pune.** He passed away in 2020 at the age of 91.

### HIMACHAL PRADESH CM SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU UNVEILED THE 'HIM DATA PORTAL'

**Current Context:** Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched 'Him Data Portal' on May 12, 2023 at the Indian School of Business (ISB) in Punjab's Mohali during the first Governance Summit organised by the Bharti Institute of Public Policy of the ISB.

#### KEY POINTS

- **The portal is a digital platform to integrate data of all government wings for the delivery of welfare schemes.**
- It aims to serve as a one-stop platform to provide easy access to more than 200 datasets with all State-specific information available at the highest spatial granularity including block and village-level information.
- **The portal was developed in collaboration with the Department of Information Technology, Government of Himachal Pradesh.**
- The Chief Minister also spoke of launching 'Him Parivar' project from July 2023, which would give a special digital identity to the people of the

State and strengthen the State's benefit delivery systems.

### DGQI ASSESSMENT FOR Q3 FY23: MOPSW RANKED 2ND AMONG 66 MINISTERIES WITH SCORE 4.7

**Current Context:** DGQI stands for Data Governance Quality Index, which is an exercise initiated by the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) under NITI Aayog to assess the data preparedness of Ministries/Departments on a standardized framework.

#### KEY FACTS

- **MoPSW stands for Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, which is responsible for the development of 12 Major Ports and other related sectors.**
- It seems that MoPSW has ranked second among 66 Ministries with a score of 4.7 in the DGQI assessment for Q3 FY23.

### REMC LTD LAUNCHES NATIONAL ENERGY MANAGEMENT CENTRE FOR INDIAN RAILWAYS

**Current Context:** The centre will focus on optimizing scheduling and forecasting, integrating the generation profiles of both conventional and renewable power sources, and advising real time schedule, declared capacity revision and exchange power.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The centre will also be pivotal for energy data collection from the 17 State Energy Management Centres (SEMCs) operating across the Railways.
- **The centre was inaugurated by Naveen Gulati, Member Traction & Rolling Stock of Railway Board, on Saturday in the presence of Rahul Mithal, CMD RITES and Chairman REMC Ltd, and Additional Member, Traction, Railway Board.**
- This is a significant step towards improving the energy efficiency and sustainability of Indian Railways

### SAMUDRA SHAKTI 23: 4TH INDIA-INDONESIA BILATERAL NAVAL EXERCISE

**Current Context:** The 4th edition of India-Indonesia Bilateral exercise Samudra Shakti-23 is taking place at Batam, Indonesia from 14-19 May 23. The exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability, jointness and mutual cooperation between both the navies.

#### DETAILS

- **The Indian Navy is represented by INS Kavaratti, a Dornier Maritime Patrol aircraft and a Chetak helicopter, while the Indonesian Navy is represented by KRI Sultan Iskandar Muda, a CN 235 Maritime Patrol Aircraft and an AS565 Panther Helicopter.**
- The exercise **will include weapon firing, helicopter operations, anti-submarine warfare and air defence exercises** and boarding operations. Samudra Shakti-23 will showcase the high level of interoperability between the two navies and their shared commitment towards peace and stability in the region

### ICICI PRUDENTIAL LIFE INSURANCE LAUNCHES NEW DEBT FUND 'ICICI PRU CONSTANT MATURITY FUND'

**Current Context:** ICICI Pru Constant Maturity Fund is a new debt fund launched by ICICI Prudential Life Insurance on May 15, 2023. It is available with the insurer's Unit-linked insurance plans (Ulips) and has a lock-in of five years.

#### ABOUT

- **The fund invests in government securities having a constant maturity of 10 years and has a relatively high interest rate risk and relatively low credit risk.**
- The fund has an expense ratio of 0.39% for the regular plan and 0.23% for the direct plan.
- **The fund has given an annualized return of 8.14% for one year and 8.56% for five years for the regular plan and 8.31% for one year and 6.9% for five years for the direct plan**

### INDIA AND BANGLADESH LAUNCH '50 START-UPS EXCHANGE PROGRAMME'

**Current Context:** This is a programme where 50 Start-ups from Bangladesh and 50 Start-ups from India will exchange visits to each other's countries for exploring partnerships, expanding business relations, sharing experience and knowledge and expanding youth and entrepreneurial cooperation.

#### KEY FACTS

- **The framework of the programme was decided by the Prime Ministers of the two countries during their recent bilateral summits.**
- The first group of 10 start-up companies from Bangladesh visited India from 8-12 May and participated in various interactive sessions focused on establishing a start-up and business model creation process, role of incubator, marketing of projects and services, cyber security and artificial intelligence including data protection, start-up evaluation and methods to secure funding.
- **They also learned about India's 'Start-up India' initiative. This visit has kick started the 50 Start-ups exchange programme and has the potential of augmenting cooperation in new and emerging areas, cutting edge technology, entrepreneurship and innovation.**

#### MP CM SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN FLAGS OFF 406 VETERINARY AMBULANCES

**Current Context:** This is a new initiative by the Madhya Pradesh government to provide emergency treatment services for cows and other animals in the state. The ambulances will operate in urban areas and all development blocks of the state.

#### KEY POINTS

- **The CM also announced a toll-free number (1962) that would be used to avail the service. He also announced Rs 900 per month to farmers for rearing cows, and 90 per cent subsidy for tribal people to buy cows.**
- He also stressed on the need to make profitable the byproducts related to cow rearing, such as cow dung, cow urine and CNG. He also promised strict action against cattle smuggling and slaughter

#### KERALA BECOMES 1ST INDIAN STATE TO LAUNCH WELFARE FUND FOR WORKERS

**Current Context:** Kerala has become the first State in India to launch a welfare fund board for the workers registered for the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and the State's urban job guarantee scheme — Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **This will facilitate the workers to get a monthly pension from the board once they turn 60 and also provide financial assistance for medical treatment, education, marriage, etc.**
- The Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan, inaugurated the initiative on May 15, 2023. He said 27 lakh people in the State depend on the MGNREGS and the Left government intends to make use of the scheme for the social development of Kerala
- **The welfare fund has been formed as per the Kerala Employment Guarantee Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 2021.**

#### HIMACHAL PRADESH CM LAUNCHED 'HIMCARE' SCHEME

**Current Context:** Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched the 'Himcare scheme' for jail inmates on Monday, 15th May 2023. He distributed Himcare cards to the prisoners at Model Central Jail Kanda in Shimla.

#### DETAILS

- **The Himcare scheme aims to provide Rs 5 lakh medical cover to the inmates lodged in jails and juvenile homes in the state.**
- The state government will cover the cost of premiums for inmates in prisons.

#### AP LAUNCHES 'E-CHITS' APP TO REGULATE FUNDS THROUGH ONLINE TRANSACTIONS

**Current Context:** E-Chits app launched by the Andhra Pradesh government the app is aimed at financially protecting chit fund companies' subscribers amid alleged scams and regulating and ushering in transparency in the sector.

## ABOUT

- **The app will enable the registration department officials to verify subscribers and only then give approval.**
- The app will also allow the subscribers to verify whether a chit run by a company is registered with the authorities or not, and to file an online complaint in case of any problem.
- **The app was developed by the Registration and Stamps Department and launched by the Revenue Minister Dharmana Prasada Rao on Monday. The app can be accessed from <https://echits.rs.ap.gov.in>**

### IIP'S 57TH FOUNDATION DAY: IIP SIGNED MOUS WITH VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS

**Current Context:** Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP) 57th Foundation Day, the IIP celebrated its 57th Foundation Day on May 14, 2023 at Hotel The Lalit, Andheri, Mumbai. It was a historic day as the institute signed official MOUs to collaborate with various prestigious institutions, universities and government bodies, inspired by Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Textile, Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

## KEY POINTS

- **The IIP also released a special book on the packaging designs developed by the institute for ODOP project, Government of India as a special achievement.**
- The event also witnessed a special panel discussion on Sustainable Packaging Towards Green Future: Challenges & Expectation where leading industry experts shared their thoughts and vision.
- **The chief guest was Prof. (Dr.) Mahesh Verma, Vice Chancellor Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi.** The guest of honour was Shri Rajendra Tapadia, CEO & Managing Director, Safepack Industries Limited and the special guest was AVPS Chakravarthi, Global Ambassador, World Packaging Organization (WPO)

### NSE INDIA LAUNCHED RUPEE-DENOMINATED NYMEX WTI CRUDE

### OIL & NATURAL GAS FUTURES CONTRACTS

**Current Context:** NSE India launching Rupee-Denominated NYMEX WTI Crude Oil & Natural Gas Futures Contracts, this is a recent development that happened on Monday, May 15, 2023.

## KEY FACTS

- **The launch of these contracts will provide effective trading and hedging opportunities to the market participants, with the availability of key energy products on a single trading platform.**
- The NYMEX WTI Crude Oil and Natural Gas contracts are among the world's most traded commodity derivatives contracts generating interest from across the globe.
- **On Monday, the price of WTI Crude was trading at \$70.32, while the Brent Crude was trading at \$74.42 on New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX). On the other hand, Natural Gas was trading at \$2.3 on NYMEX**

### MOC MINISTER ASHWINI VAISHNAW LAUNCHES SANCHAR SAATHI PORTAL

**Current Context:** MoC Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launches Sanchar Saathi Portal to Prevent Frauds by Misusing Mobile Phones on May 16, 2023. The portal is an artificial intelligence-based portal that will enable telecom users to trace and block their lost or stolen phones, even if a new SIM is inserted.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The portal also allows citizens to check the connections registered on their names, report fraudulent or unrequired connections, check IMEI genuineness before buying a mobile phone.
- **The portal is part of the government's vision of Digital India and user safety. The link of the portal is <https://sancharsaathi.gov.in>**

### HDFC AMC LAUNCHES INDIA'S FIRST MUTUAL FUND FOCUSED ON DEFENCE SECTOR

**Current Context:** HDFC Asset Management Company Ltd has announced the launch of the country's first mutual fund

focussed on defence sector. The new fund offering (NFO) of HDFC Defence Fund, an open-ended equity scheme, would open on May 19 and close on June.

## ABOUT

- The fund will invest at least 80 per cent of its net assets in defence and allied sector companies. Defence and allied sector stocks include stocks forming part of aerospace and defence; explosives, shipbuilding and allied services.
- **The fund aims to provide investors an opportunity to participate in the growth potential of this space, as defence expenditure globally is set to increase as countries enhance their defence capabilities.**
- The fund's focus would be on growth and quality at reasonable valuations by investing across large, mid and small cap stocks

## ZOMATO UPI: ZOMATO INKS PACT WITH ICICI BANK

**Current Context:** Zomato UPI is a third-party payments application provider for the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), a real-time payment system in India. With Zomato UPI, users can create a new UPI ID and make payments by staying on the Zomato app itself, without being redirected to another app like Google Pay, PhonePe, or others.

## DETAILS

- This is expected to make the payment process more seamless and convenient for Zomato customers. Zomato UPI is currently available for select users and may expand to more users and banks in the future

### Some of the benefits of using Zomato UPI are:

- You can pay directly to both businesses and people using Zomato UPI.
- You won't be required to complete KYC to use Zomato UPI.
- You can customize your UPI ID according to your preference.
- You can make payments by staying on the Zomato app itself, without being redirected to another app.
- You can secure your account by adding a security PIN to Zomato UPI.

- You may also get cashback offers from Zomato or its partner banks when you use Zomato UPI

## MUKHYAMANTRI KRISHAK BYAAJ MAAFI YOJANA-2023

**Current Context:** Mukhyamantri Krishak Byaaj Maafi Yojana-2023 is a scheme launched by the Madhya Pradesh government to waive off the interest on farm loans for the defaulting farmers.

## KEY FACTS

- **The scheme aims to benefit more than 11 lakh farmers who have outstanding loans of up to Rs. 2 lakh as on 31 March 2023.**
- The scheme will cost Rs. 2,123 crore to the state exchequer. The scheme is intended to improve the economic condition and self-reliance of the farmers.
- **The farmers who are eligible for the scheme can apply online or offline through the official website which will be launched soon**

## INDIA & BANGLADESH LAUNCHED A '50 START-UPS EXCHANGE PROGRAMME'

**Current Context:** India and Bangladesh have launched a startup exchange programme that enables cooperation and partnership between their startup communities. The programme was created to build a startup ecosystem among the entrepreneurial community within both countries.

## KEY POINTS

- **This would expand partnerships to build business relations among their startup sectors.**
- The programme includes e-commerce, health, transportation, logistics, energy, transport, education, and skill development to provide guidance and mentorship to startups.
- **This is to encourage collaboration between industry experts, entrepreneurs, and investors. Through this, the programme envisions creating a startup ecosystem in the economy and strengthening bilateral relations.**
- The Startup 50 programme provides a framework for the exchange of best ideas and practises, and they seek to connect and

collaborate with companies through a common platform.

**10 per cent of the paid-up share capital or voting rights of the bank at all times.**

## AIR MARSHAL ASHUTOSH DIXIT TAKES OVER AS DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF

**Current Context:** Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit is an officer of the Indian Air Force who has recently taken over as the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff. He is the 47th officer to hold this position and he succeeded Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari. As the deputy chief, he will be looking after new procurements and also the acquisitions to be made for the service under the emergency powers.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Pune and he was commissioned as a fighter pilot in 1986. He has flown various fighter aircraft, including the Mirage 2000, MiG-21 and MiG-295.**
- He has also served as India's Defense Attaché to France. He has participated in Operation Rakshak and Operation Safed Sagar during the Kargil War.
- He has been awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Vayu Sena Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal for his service.. **He was previously serving as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Southern Air Command before taking over as the deputy chief.**

## RBI GIVES NOD TO SBIFML TO ACQUIRE 9.99% STAKE IN HDFC BANK

**Current Context:** RBI (Reserve Bank of India) has given its approval to SBI Funds Management (SBIFML) to acquire up to 9.99% stake in HDFC Bank, the private sector lender.

### DETAILS

- **The approval has been granted with reference to the application made by SBIFML to RBI, HDFC Bank said in an exchange filing.**
- SBIFML has been advised by the central bank to complete the said stake acquisition in the bank within a period of six months i.e. by November 15, 2023.
- **Further, SBIFML must ensure that the aggregate holding in the bank remains below**

## MP CABINET APPROVED 'CM LEARN AND EARN' SCHEME FOR UNEMPLOYED YOUTHS

**Current Context:** 'Learn and Earn' scheme for unemployed youths in Madhya Pradesh, the state cabinet has approved this new scheme on Wednesday, May 18, 2023.

### ABOUT

- The scheme aims to provide training and stipend to youths who have passed class 12th, ITI, graduation and post graduation in various sectors such as engineering, hotel management, tourism, travel, hospital, ITI, software development sector, banking, insurance, accounting, chartered accountant and other financial services related work, industries, MSME industry or other service sector.
- **The registration of the institutions and the youths will start from June 7 and June 15 respectively. The youth will start working from August . The Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has called it a historical and revolutionary scheme.**

## UGC LAUNCHES 2 NEW PORTALS: "UTASH" TO TRACK IMPLEMENTATION OF NEP 2020 & "POP"

**Current Context:** UGC has launched two new user-friendly portals, UTASH and PoP, on May 16, 2023. UTASH stands for Undertaking Transformative Strategies and Actions in Higher Education and it is designed to share and track the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020.

### KEY FACTS

- **The portal will provide detailed information about UGC's initiatives for qualitative reforms in higher education, such as learner-centric education, digital learning, industry-institute collaboration, academic research, internationalisation, and the Indian Knowledge System.**
- PoP stands for Professors of Practice and it is designed to manage the recruitment process of



experienced professionals by the academic institutions of India. The portal will enable universities to find the right Professor of Practice and vice versa.

- **The aim is to bring real work practice and experiences into the classrooms and benefit the educational institutions and society from the skills of trained professionals.**

## IRDAI FORMS TASK FORCE TO FACILITATE EASE OF DOING KYC USING AADHAAR

**Current Context:** IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India) has formed a task force to facilitate ease of doing KYC (Know Your Customer) by insurers using Aadhaar, the 12-digit individual identification number.

### KEY POINTS

- **The task force has been asked to suggest measures to ease the onboarding of customers using Aadhaar, and to develop safeguards for preventing frauds at underwriting and claims stages.**
- It has also to suggest measures for improving the traceability of customers and beneficiaries to reduce unclaimed amounts of policyholders. The task force has been asked to submit its report within one month.

## ISRAEL & INDIA PARTNERS TO ESTABLISH CENTER OF WATER TECHNOLOGY

**Current Context:** India and Israel have signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) to jointly develop a Center of Water Technology at IIT Madras. The center will focus on water resources management and water technologies, and will collaborate with MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The center aims to implement the best practices of Israel, which is a leader in integrated water resources management,** in a tailor-made context for the Indian requirements and to ensure water security for the country
- **The center will also facilitate the exchange of technology,** scientific information, literature and

experts between the two countries. This is a significant partnership that will benefit both nations.

## MOUS SIGNED FOR 2 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN NEPAL UNDER GOI GRANT ASSISTANCE

**Current Context:** According to the Embassy of India, Kathmandu12, the MoUs were signed on May 17, 2023 between the Embassy of India, Kathmandu and the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, Government of Nepal for undertaking two High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) in Nepal under the grant assistance of Government of India.

### DETAILS

**The two projects are:**

- Construction of Malagiri Shanti Yogashram, Ramechhap District
- Construction of Kedar Jyotipunja Multiple Campus, Doti District
- The total estimated cost of these two projects is NRs. 80.33 million.
- The construction of these two projects aims at providing better health care and education facilities for the local community and improving the quality of life for people in Nepal.

## PAYTM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SBI CARD, NPCI LAUNCHES CO-BRANDED RUPAY CREDIT CARDS

**Current Context:** Paytm, SBI Card and NPCI have launched the next-generation Paytm SBI Card on the RuPay network to boost credit inclusion in India.

### ABOUT

- The card offers exclusive privileges worth up to 75,000 with a complimentary Paytm First Membership that includes OTT platform membership, flight tickets discounts through Paytm app.
- The card also offers cashback of 3% on Paytm SBI Card on booking movie and travel tickets through Paytm app, 2% cashback on all other purchases

through Paytm app, and 1% cashback on spends elsewhere.

- The card is designed for the digitally savvy customers who are new to credit.
- The card will soon enable customers to make UPI payments by scanning QR codes.

## PM MODI LAYS FOUNDATION STONE, INAUGURATES RAILWAY PROJECTS WORTH OVER RS 8000 CRORE

**Current Context:** He laid the foundation stone and inaugurated several railway projects worth over Rs 8000 crore in Odisha through video conferencing on 18th May 2023. Some of the projects include:

### KEY POINTS

- **The Vande Bharat Express between Puri and Howrah, which is a semi-high speed train that can run at a speed of up to 180 kmph and has features like automatic doors, bio-vacuum toilets, GPS-based passenger information system, etc.**
- The redevelopment of Puri and Cuttack railway stations, which will enhance the passenger amenities, safety and security, and aesthetic appeal of the stations. The Puri station will also have a multi-modal hub with facilities for pilgrims visiting the Jagannath Temple.
- **The gauge conversion project from Rupsa to Bangiriposi13, which will improve the connectivity and accessibility of the mineral-rich areas of Mayurbhanj district.**
- The electrification of Sambalpur-Angul line, which will reduce the carbon footprint and operational cost of the railways.
- **These projects are expected to boost the trade and commerce, tourism and socio-economic development of Odisha and neighbouring states.**

## INDIAN NAVY AND ROYAL SAUDI NAVAL FORCE COLLABORATE

**Current Context:** The Indian Navy and the Royal Saudi Naval Force have been cooperating on many fronts, such as training exchanges, hydrographic cooperation and participation in the annual Admirals Cup Sailing Regatta.

### KEY FACTS

- Recently, **they have collaborated for the maiden afloat training of Saudi cadets who arrived in Kochi, India on 16 May 2023.** The cadets underwent 24 days of afloat training on various aspects of seamanship, navigation, fire fighting and emergency drills onboard the Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (1TS) ships.
- **This was the first-ever training of its kind between the two navies and a major stride towards mutual cooperation. The two navies also carried out a joint exercise in the Persian Gulf in April 2021.**

## UTTARAKHAND CM LAUNCHES MOBILE APP TO REPORT POTHOLE

**Current Context:** Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama launched a mobile app called Patch Reporting App on Thursday, which will help make the roads of Uttarakhand pothole-free.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Using the app, mobile phone users can record pictures of potholes and register their complaints with Public Works Department (PWD) authorities seeking their repair by giving details such as its location.
- **The complainants will be given updates about action taken for the redressal of their complaints along with pictures.**
- The CM instructed PWD officials to redress the complaints lodged through the app within a week and also to monitor the app regularly
- **To download the app, you can visit the official website of Uttarakhand Public Works Department (PWD) and click on the Patch Reporting App link. Alternatively, you can search for the app on Google Play Store or Apple App Store and install it on your mobile device.**

## NGEL & HMEL SIGNS MOU

**Current Context:** NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) and HPCL Mittal Energy Limited (HMEL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 19 May 2023 to collaborate in the field of renewable energy and green hydrogen initiatives.

### DETAILS

- **The MoU aims to source 250 MW of round-the-clock renewable energy power from NGEL to meet**

the requirement of HMEI and also explore opportunities in the green hydrogen business and its derivatives such as green ammonia and green methanol.

- **This is a significant step towards realizing the green energy and green hydrogen objectives and the Government of India's efforts towards energy transition.**

## 100 E-BUSES TO START OPERATIONS IN JAMMU

**Current Context:** 100 e-buses will start operations in Jammu from August this year under the Smart Urban e-Mobility Project of Jammu Smart City Limited. The project is being implemented by Tata Motors under the Gross Cost Contract model, which requires the operator to procure e-buses as well as implement the charging infrastructure.

### ABOUT

- **The e-buses will be operated from Jammu to Kathua, Jammu to Udhampur and Jammu to Katra and a bus depot is being constructed at Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu.**
- The work on the project is in full swing and Tata Motors has been asked to start delivery of the vehicles from mid-June
- **The Kathua administration has given land for the establishment of charging station for electric buses.** In Udhampur, land has been identified and formalities for the transfer of the same to Jammu Smart City Limited are going on.

## MADHYA PRADESH BECOMES FIRST STATE TO PROVIDE AIR TRAVEL FOR PILGRIMS

**Current Context:** Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in India to provide the facility of free air travel to the elderly for pilgrimage to holy places under the Mukhyamantri Teerthdarshan Yojana.

### KEY POINTS

- **The scheme was launched by the BJP government in 2012 and so far, 7.82 lakh senior citizens have availed the benefit of the pilgrimage scheme.**
- The first batch of 32 pilgrims left for Prayagraj from Bhopal on Sunday, May 21, 2023. The Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan flagged off the service and

said that it was a dream come true for him and the elders.

- He also said that the **air travel facility will continue along with railway journeys for pilgrimage and will cover other destinations like Shirdi, Mathura-Vrindavan, Gangasagar.**

## JAMMU AND KASHMIR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MANOJ SINHA INAUGURATED THE JHELMUM RAJBAGH RIVERFRONT

**Current Context:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the Jhelum Rajbagh Riverfront in Srinagar on Saturday, May 20, 2023. The riverfront project is part of the Srinagar Smart City initiative and has been developed by the department of irrigation and flood control.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The project has transformed the six-kilometre stretch of the riverfront into a world-class public space with facilities like walkways, cycling, green space, free wifi, universal access and numerous activities along the way.**
- The project also aims to preserve the cultural heritage and unlock the huge untapped potential of the river.
- **The Lt Governor said that the riverfront is a model of urban excellence and it will enhance the quality of life of the citizens, contribute to socio-economic growth and provide much needed support in developing cultural and business infrastructure.**

## NPCI INTRODUCES CVV-LESS PAYMENTS FOR TOKENIZED CARDS

**Current Context:** NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India) has announced a new feature for RuPay cardholders that allows them to make online payments without entering the CVV (Card Verification Value) if they have tokenized their debit, credit or prepaid cards on the merchant application or webpage.

### KEY FACTS

- Tokenization is a technology that improves card transaction security by replacing the actual card details with an alternate code called the "token".

- **This protects the card details of the customer from cyber frauds as real details are not saved with the merchant.**
- This new feature is meant to make the payment experience more convenient and seamless for the customers, as they do not have to reach out to their wallet or remember any card details for subsequent transactions. They only need to enter the OTP (one-time password) to complete the payment.
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had made it mandatory for all credit and debit card data used in online, point-of-sale, and in-app transactions to be replaced with unique tokens.**

- **Speculation:** You can profit from your view on the direction of the market or a particular stock by buying or selling F&O contracts.

## ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL LAUNCHES 'UDYOG PLUS'

**Current Context:** Aditya Birla Capital, the financial services business of the Aditya Birla Group, launched Udyog Plus, an innovative one-stop business platform for MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) on May 17, 2023.

### DETAILS

- **Udyog Plus offers a wide range of solutions for MSMEs, including financing, protection, investments, advisory and value-added services for managing and growing their businesses.**
- Udyog Plus is an open marketplace that can be accessed through the financing section of the Aditya Birla Capital website by both existing as well as new customers of Aditya Birla Finance.
- **The platform is live and offers a completely paperless digital journey for business loans of up to Rs 10 lakh.**
- Udyog Plus also provides a host of value-added services to the MSME customers such as free access to business networking platforms, digital commerce including registration on the ONDC seller network, corporate travel solutions, zero balance bank account, accounting, payroll, and tax filing tools and specialized knowledge content hub.

## NIRAMAYA HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME: VIZAG LAUNCHES AP'S FIRST HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME

**Current Context:** Niramaya Health Insurance Scheme is a scheme that provides affordable health insurance to persons with disabilities such as autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities.

### KEY POINTS

- **The scheme covers up to Rs. 1 lakh of medical expenses on reimbursement basis** for various treatments, therapies, surgeries and alternative medicine.
- **The scheme is available in the entire country and does not require any pre-insurance medical tests.** The enrolment and renewal of beneficiaries

## SEBI INTRODUCED RISK DISCLOSURE FRAMEWORK

**Current Context:** SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) has introduced a risk disclosure framework for individual traders for trading in the equity Futures & Options (F&O) segment. The stock brokers will have to display the risk disclosures on their websites and to their clients upon login into their trading accounts.

### ABOUT

- **The risk disclosures will inform the investors about the high probability of losses** in trading in equity F&O segment.
- **The circular also requires the Qualified Stock Brokers (QSBs) to maintain the Profit and Loss (P&L) data of their clients on continuous basis.** The new framework will come into force from July 01, 2023

**Trading in equity F&O segment has some benefits, such as:**

- **Leverage:** You can trade with a small amount of margin money and take positions bigger than your capital.
- **Risk transfer:** You can transfer the risk of price fluctuations to someone who is willing to accept them.
- **Hedging:** You can protect your portfolio from adverse market movements by taking opposite positions in F&O contracts.

under Niramaya is done online through registered organisations

an RBI-regulated PPI license holder, to launch India's first recycled PVC (rPVC) Rupay card.

#### Some of the benefits of Niramaya are:

- Same premium irrespective of the age of the person
- Same coverage for all irrespective of the type of disabilities covered under by The National Trust
- Insurance of Rs. one lakh per beneficiary
- Insurance is guaranteed. No "selection" will be made
- No pre-insurance medical tests required
- Facility for OPD treatment including the medicines, pathology, diagnostic tests, etc
- Regular Medical checkup for non-ailing disabled

### PAYTM MONEY LAUNCHES BOND INVESTING ON ITS PLATFORM

**Current Context:** Paytm Money has launched a bond platform for retail investors in India, making it easier for them to invest in three types of bonds – government, corporate and tax-free.

#### KEY FACTS

- **The platform consolidates relevant information, converts it into yield, and provides a user-friendly interface** for investors to analyse potential returns.
- **Paytm Money believes that bonds are the best way for first-time investors to enter capital markets and diversify their portfolio**
- Bonds tend to offer higher and more stable cash streams than other investments. You can receive a fixed coupon payment on the investment made, which can be useful for those who need to live off their investment income.

### TIDE AND TRANSCORP LAUNCH INDIA'S-FIRST RECYCLED PVC RUPAY CARD

**Current Context:** It is about a new initiative by Tide, a UK-based fintech company, and Transcorp International Limited, Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest May 2023

#### KEY POINTS

- **This card is made from 99% recycled plastic and will save on carbon emissions and plastic waste.**
- The card is also certified by global testing agencies and compliant with ISO standards. The move is part of Tide's commitment to becoming a more sustainable company and reaching Net Zero by 2030
- **To get an rPVC Rupay card, you need to apply online or offline through one of the banks that offer this card.** Some of the banks that offer rPVC Rupay cards are Tide and Transcorp International Limited.

### WHO LAUNCHES GLOBAL NETWORK TO DETECT AND PREVENT INFECTIOUS DISEASE THREAT

**Current Context:** World Health Organization (WHO) and its efforts to prevent infectious disease threats, the WHO has launched a global network called the International Pathogen Surveillance Network (IPSN) to help detect and respond to disease threats before they become epidemics and pandemics.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The **network will use pathogen genomics to analyze the genetic code of viruses, bacteria** and other disease-causing organisms to understand how they spread and how to treat them.
- **The network will also improve systems for collecting and analyzing samples, using these data to drive public health decision-making, and sharing that information more broadly.**
- The IPSN will have a secretariat within the WHO's Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence.

### GOOGLE PAY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NPCI ALLOWS UPI PAYMENTS USING RUPAY CREDIT CARDS

**Current Context:** Google Pay has partnered with the NPCI to allow UPI payments using RuPay credit cards. This is a new feature that was launched on May 23, 2023. It aims to provide more flexibility and choice to Google Pay users and boost the adoption of digital payments in India.

#### ABOUT

To use this feature, you need to link your RuPay credit card to Google Pay by following these steps:

- Go to your profile settings on Google Pay and select the “RuPay credit card on UPI” option.
- Choose the bank that issued your RuPay credit card.
- Set a unique UPI PIN by entering the last six digits of your card number, expiry date, and an OTP from your bank.
- Once the setup is complete, you can make UPI payments with your RuPay credit card by entering the UPI PIN you set.
- You can also link your RuPay credit card on UPI via other apps such as BHIM, Mobikwik, PhonePe, and Paytm

## INDIA AND AUSTRALIA SIGN MIGRATION PACT; TO OPEN NEW CONSULATE IN BRISBANE

**Current Context:** India and Australia have signed a migration and mobility partnership agreement to boost student and professional exchange between the two countries. The deal was signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s ongoing visit to Australia.

### DETAILS

- **This was the sixth meeting between the two leaders since Albanese took office in May last year.**
- PM Modi also announced India’s intention to open a consulate in Brisbane, a long-pending demand of the Indian community in Australia.
- **As part of their climate agenda, the two nations also finalized the Terms of Reference for the India-Australia Hydrogen Task Force**

## MOPSW SARBANANDA SONOWAL ANNOUNCES ‘PANCH KARMA SANKALP’

**Current Context:** MoPSW Sarbananda Sonowal is the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways of India. He recently announced five major initiatives collectively named as ‘Panch Karma Sankalp’ focusing on green shipping and digitization of the ports during the culmination of MoPSW’s second Chintan Shivir held in Munnar, Kerala.

### KEY FACTS

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest May 2023

The initiatives are:

- **Green Ports:** To promote the use of renewable energy sources and reduce carbon footprint at ports.
- **Green Shipping:** To encourage the adoption of low-carbon fuels and technologies for ships and vessels.
- **Digital Ports:** To leverage digital technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and internet of things for enhancing port efficiency and transparency.
- **Port Community System:** To create a single-window platform for port users and stakeholders to access various port services and information.
- **Maritime Cluster:** To foster innovation and collaboration among maritime stakeholders such as shipbuilders, service providers, and research institutions.
- These initiatives are aimed at transforming the ports and shipping sector into a modern, sustainable, and competitive one

## GOA AND UTTARAKHAND SIGNED MOU

**Current Context:** Goa and Uttarakhand have signed a MoU to boost tourism between the states as part of the ‘Dekho Apna Desh’ initiative. The MoU was signed in Dehradun on May 24, 2023 in the presence of Goa Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte and Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami.

### KEY POINTS

- The MoU **aims to promote bilateral cooperation in the travel and tourism sector and facilitate travel** between the states to increase the number of tourists visiting Goa and Uttarakhand respectively.
- The **MoU will also help in connecting “The Arabian Sea with river Ganga”, showcasing the rich cultural diversity of India**, and offering various tourism products, including adventure tourism activities, ecotourism, spiritual tourism, and wellness tourism
- **Direct flight connectivity between Uttarakhand and Goa, which reduces the travel time from 7 hours to 2.5 hours**, making it easier for tourists to travel between the two states.

## SBI GENERAL LAUNCHES 'SURETY BOND BIMA'

**Current Context:** SBI General Insurance, the non-life insurance arm of State Bank of India (SBI), has launched a new insurance product called 'SBI General Surety Bond Bima (Conditional & Unconditional)'.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- This product is **designed to provide protection against breach of terms and conditions** by the contractors either during the bidding stage or during the performance stage of an infrastructure project.
- It also provides an assurance to the project owner that the contractor would complete the project as per the agreed terms and conditions.
- The product was developed in response to the government's vision to upscale infrastructure development.

## ODISHA GOVT PARTNERED WITH INFOSYS & NASSCOM

**Current Context:** The Higher Education Department of Odisha Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Infosys Limited and Nasscom for undertaking up-skilling and developing the employability of students of Higher Education Institutions in Odisha.

### DETAILS

- This collaboration aims to provide learning and employment opportunities for students and promote equal access to education for passionate individuals, equipping them for the future.
- Infosys Springboard, a free virtual platform that delivers corporate-grade learning experiences, will be used to enhance the skills of around 800,000 students across 1,100 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) under the Higher Education Department of the Government of Odisha

## SEBI APPROVES HDFC BANK AS NEW OWNER OF HDFC AMC

**Current Context:** According to a regulatory filing by HDFC Ltd1, SEBI has granted its approval for the change in control

of HDFC AMC, which is a subsidiary of HDFC Ltd and the asset management company of HDFC Mutual Fund (HDFC MF), through a letter dated April 21, 2023.

### ABOUT

- The change in majority control was part of the amalgamation of Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) into HDFC Bank.
- The merger of HDFC with HDFC Bank is in the final stages and is expected to be completed in few months.
- This approval will help pave the way for the merger of HDFC into HDFC Bank, expected to be finalised by the third quarter of the next financial year.

## PLOTCH, IDFC FIRST BANK COLLABORATES AND LAUNCHES ONDC FOCUSED PAYMENT SOLUTION NODEPE

**Current Context:** Plotch is a leader in ONDC enablement and has built-in technology support for businesses to launch their ecommerce buyer or seller app nodes on ONDC quickly.

### KEY FACTS

- ONDC stands for Open Network for Digital Commerce, which is a government-backed platform to democratise ecommerce and benefit small merchants.
- Plotch, along with IDFC First Bank, has launched an ONDC-focused payment solution called NodePe, which can route payments between buyer and seller apps based on transaction level contracts agreed upon by network participants.

## UP GOVT INAUGURATED AN ONLINE EDUCATION PROGRAMME 'PAHAL'

**Current Context:** Pahal is a new initiative by the Uttar Pradesh government to provide free online education to rural students in collaboration with IIT Kanpur.

### KEY POINTS

- The programme was inaugurated by the chief secretary Durga Shankar Mishra on May 15,

**202331 at Government UP Sainik Inter College, Sarojini Nagar in Lucknow.**

- The programme **aims to bridge the education gap between rural and urban areas and provide latest information** related to science and mathematics.
- The **teachers for this programme are mostly from the department of secondary education of the Uttar Pradesh government and some faculty members from IIT Kanpur.** They are trained and qualified to teach online classes to rural students using digital technology
- **It will be extended to 40,000 schools in the state in the coming days**

transform young graduates into banking professionals within one year.

#### ABOUT

- The programme **offers a mix of classroom sessions, guest lectures, group discussions, role plays, and field work**, as well as eight months of paid internship and on-the-job training at HDFC Bank branches.
- Upon successful completion of the course, **students will get a Postgraduate Diploma in Sales & Relationship Banking from Manipal Academy of BFSI** and an assured job opportunity as a personal banker at the grade of Deputy Manager with HDFC Bank.
- **The annual salary for these positions can reach up to Rs.5.59 lakh.**

### TN GOVERNMENT SIGNED 6 MOUS WITH SINGAPORE INSTITUTIONS

**Current Context:** The Tamil Nadu government signed six MoUs with various institutions and companies based in Singapore on 24th May 2023.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MoUs cover areas such as research and development, technology transfer, skill development, and electronics manufacturing.**
- The chief minister of Tamil Nadu, M K Stalin, was present at the event and invited businessmen to participate in the Global Investors Meet in January 2024
- They **will attract more investment and trade opportunities from Singapore**, which is one of the leading partners of Tamil Nadu in various sectors
- **They will create more employment opportunities and income generation for the people of Tamil Nadu.** For example, one of the MoUs with Hi-P International Pvt. Ltd. will establish an electronics factory that will employ over 700 people

### HDFC BANK PARTNERS MANIPAL GLOBAL ACADEMY OF BFSI LAUNCHES “FUTURE BANKERS 2.0”

**Current Context:** New recruitment programme launched by HDFC Bank in collaboration with Manipal Global Academy of BFSI. The programme, called Future Bankers 2.0, aims to

### WMO APPROVED FOR A GLOBAL GREENHOUSE GAS TRACKER

**Current Context:** According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the World Meteorological Congress has approved a new greenhouse gas monitoring initiative called the Global Greenhouse Gas Watch (G3W) on 24 May 2023.

#### DETAILS

- **The G3W will provide an integrated, operational framework that combines space-based and surface-based observing systems**, as well as modelling and data assimilation capabilities, to fill critical information gaps and support urgent action to reduce heat-trapping gases which are fuelling temperature increase.
- The G3W will build on WMO’s experience in coordinating international collaboration in weather prediction and climate analysis and on long-standing activities in greenhouse gas monitoring and research under the auspices of the Global Atmosphere Watch established in 1989 and its Integrated Global Greenhouse Gas Information System.
- **The G3W will also provide valuable, timely and authoritative information on greenhouse gas fluxes to the UNFCCC Parties, which will help them in their efforts to mitigate climate change**



## CENTRE FORMS STEERING COMMITTEE TO REVIEW, MONITOR CHEETAH TRANSLOCATION PROJECT

**Current Context:** The Cheetah Project Steering Committee was formed by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to review, progress, monitor and advice on the Cheetah introduction to the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department and NTCA.

### KEY FACTS

- **The committee was formed after the death of three cheetah cubs at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.**
- The cubs were among the eight cheetahs brought from Namibia under an ambitious project to reintroduce the species in India after 70 years.
- **The project was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 17, 2022 at the Kuno National Park. Five more cheetahs were released into the wild before the monsoon in June 2023.**
- India and South Africa have also signed an MoU to transport a dozen cheetahs from South Africa to Kuno National Park in February 2023.
- **The aim is to acquire 50 African cheetahs over the next 3-4 years**

## AXIS BANK LAUNCHES SARATHI PLATFORM FOR EASY POS ONBOARDING OF MERCHANTS

**Current Context:** Axis Bank has launched Sarathi, a digital onboarding platform for POS terminals, streamlining the merchant acquisition process. Sarathi is a first of its kind digital onboarding journey to enable Electronic Data Capture (EDC) or Point of Sale (POS) for merchants.

### KEY POINTS

- **The platform provides a seamless and hassle-free experience for merchants**, enabling them to complete the onboarding process in just four simple steps.
- The platform also eliminates the field verification process and provides quick installations within 45 minutes of processing the application.

- **Sanjeev Moghe, President & Head - Cards & Payments, Axis Bank, said that Sarathi gives them the immense potential to drive value for both merchants as well as the sales channel, especially at a time when instant gratification is the norm.**

## CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH 6 STATES

**Current Context:** The Union Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the 6 States Governments of Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh (MP), Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh (UP) to initiate the digital crop survey.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The date of signing of the MoU between the Union Government and the 6 States Governments to start the digital crop survey was May 25, 2023**
- This is a part of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) which aims to provide crop insurance to farmers.
- **The digital crop survey will use satellite imagery, artificial intelligence and machine learning to collect accurate data on crop sowing and harvesting.** This will help in faster settlement of claims and reducing human errors

## GOA & UTTARAKHAND SIGNS MOU TO ENHANCE TOURISM

**Current Context:** The officials of the Government of Goa and the Government of Uttarakhand have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate towards enhancing the tourism landscape of both Goa and Uttarakhand.

### DETAILS

- The signing of the MoU was held in the presence of Rohan Khaunte, the Minister for Tourism, IT, E & C, Printing and Stationary, Government of Goa, and Pushkar Singh Dhami, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.
- **The MoU is aimed at promoting bilateral cooperation in the travel and tourism sector and facilitating travel between the states to increase the number of tourists visiting Goa and Uttarakhand respectively.**

- The signing of this MoU between the officials of the two states marks a significant **step towards promoting tourism in Goa and Uttarakhand** and showcasing India's rich cultural diversity to the world, aligned with the 'Dekho Apna Desh' initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The initiative aims to encourage people to witness and experience the rich heritage and vivid culture of India.

## RBI SANCTIONS MERGER OF MARATHA CO-OP BANK WITH COSMOS CO-OP BANK

**Current Context:** The Reserve Bank of India has sanctioned the Scheme of Amalgamation of Maratha Sahakari Bank Ltd., Mumbai, Maharashtra with The Cosmos Co-operative Bank Limited, Pune, Maharashtra.

### ABOUT

- **The Scheme will come into force with effect from May 29, 2023. This merger will help Cosmos Bank to focus in Mumbai market and relieve the depositors of Maratha Sahakari Bank who had been urging the RBI to merge the bank with the Cosmos Cooperative Bank**
- For the customers of Maratha Co-op Bank, the merger will ensure that they have uninterrupted access to banking services, with their accounts and deposits seamlessly transferred to Cosmos Co-op Bank
- **For the customers of Cosmos Co-op Bank, the merger will enhance operational efficiencies, improve customer services, and facilitate the adoption of best practices across various banking functions.**

## DARJEELING TO JOIN THE LIST OF MOST POLLUTED CITIES OF WEST BENGAL

**Current Context:** According to the latest study published in the peer-reviewed journal 'Atmospheric Environment' by Bose Institute, Kolkata, and IIT Kanpur, Darjeeling may soon join the list of cities with air pollution levels higher than the national ambient air quality, rendering escape to the hill station from congested Kolkata to breathe fresher air meaningless.

### KEY FACTS

- **The study analysed PM10 levels in Darjeeling from 2009 to 2021 and found that in summer and winter, the concentration of PM10 particles exceeded the Indian standard of 60g/m<sup>3</sup> (micrograms per cubic meter).**
- The primary cause of this pollution was ultrafine components of PM10, specifically PM1 particles. The study projected that PM10 pollution in Darjeeling would reach about 63g/m<sup>3</sup> of air in 2024, surpassing the Indian standard.
- **It also identified the major sources of ultrafine particulate matter pollution, like vehicular emissions from tourism activities, biomass burning from roadside eateries and dust transport from the Indo-Gangetic Plain**

## CCI APPROVES MULTIPLES FUND III AND CPHI-4 INVESTMENTS IN ACKO TECHNOLOGY

**Current Context:** Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of additional Series E compulsorily convertible preference shares of Acko Technology & Services Private Limited (Acko) by Multiples Private Equity Fund III (Multiples Fund III) and CPP Investment Board Private Holdings (4) Inc.

### KEY POINTS

- **Acko is a company that provides technology and outsourced services for insurance and vehicle transactions.**
- Multiples Fund III is a Category II Alternative Investment Fund managed by Multiples Alternate Asset Management Private Limited. CPHI-4 is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, a global investment management organization.

## PARMINDER CHOPRA WILL BE THE FIRST FEMALE CEO OF POWER FINANCE CORPORATION

**Current Context:** Parminder Chopra is currently serving as the Director (Finance) of Power Finance Corporation (PFC), India's leading NBFC and Navratna PSU under the Ministry of Power. She took over the charge of Director (Finance) on July 1, 2020.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- She has over 32 years of experience in power sector, serving in key power sector organizations like National Hydroelectric Power Corporation of India (NHPC) and Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL).
- She has been recommended by the Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB) to become the next Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of PFC. If appointed, she will be the first woman to hold the position.

### INDIAN NAVY & ISRO JOINTLY RELEASED 'GAGANYAAN RECOVERY TRAINING PLAN'

**Current Context:** Gaganyaan Mission, India's first human spaceflight programme, the Indian Navy and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have jointly released the Mission Gaganyaan Recovery Training Plan at the Water Survival Training Facility (WSTF) at INS Garuda, Kochi on May 26, 2023.

## ABOUT

- The plan outlines the training requirements for various teams involved in the recovery of the crew module after it returns from orbit.
- The mission is planned to be launched by the end of 2024 with four Indian astronauts on board
- The purpose of the Gaganyaan mission is to demonstrate the capability to launch human beings (three crew members) to low earth orbit and bring them back safely to earth by landing them in either the Bay of Bengal or the Arabian Sea
- The mission will also enhance the capability of the country in developing technology for undertaking scientific human space exploration and help in the progress of affordable human and robotic programs to explore the solar system or beyond.

### UNION HEALTH MINISTER MANSUKH MANDAVIYA LAUNCHED NATIONAL MEDICAL DEVICES POLICY, 2023

**Current Context:** The National Medical Devices Policy, 2023 is a comprehensive outline of how the medical devices industry will be brought under the umbrella of legality, fostered, and aided to grow.

## DETAILS

- The Policy was approved by the Union Cabinet in April 2023 and hopes to reduce import dependence and promote Indian-made products.
- The Policy is expected to help the Medical Devices Sector grow from present \$11 billion to \$50 billion in next five years.
- The Policy also aims to place the medical devices sector on an accelerated path of growth with a patient-centric approach to meet the evolving healthcare needs of patients.

### SEBI SETS UP INTERMEDIARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY FORMER SEBI ED S RAVINDRAN

**Current Context:** SEBI has reconstituted its intermediary advisory committee, which suggests on matters pertaining to changes in legal framework and enhancing transparency in systems and procedures of market intermediaries including stock brokers, depository participants and clearing members.

## KEY POINTS

- The committee is chaired by S Ravindran Jain, former executive director at SEBI. The committee has 21 members, including representatives from the brokerage industry, financial institutions, legal fields and SEBI's members.
- Some of the new members are Nithin Kamath, founder and CEO of Zerodha Broking and Lalit Keshre, CEO of Groww
- The roles and responsibilities of the committee are to suggest measures for improving market safety, efficiency and transparency and advise SEBI on matters required to be taken up for changes in legal framework to introduce simplification and transparency in systems and procedures with regard to market intermediaries.

## TCS-LED CONSORTIUM BAGS RS 15,000 CRORE BSNL CONTRACT FOR 4G DEPLOYMENT

**Current Context:** Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)-led consortium has bagged a Rs 15,000-crore contract from Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to deploy 4G network for the state-run telco.

### KEY FACTS

- **The announcement ends months of speculation around the deal, where TCS was tipped to be the front runner for the contract.**
- The deal has been in the works for many months. The TCS-led consortium that will deploy this order includes the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) and Tejas Networks. BSNL has issued Advance Purchase Order (APO) to TCS as well as ITI for this project.

## TAMIL NADU AND JAPANESE FIRMS SIGN SIX MOUS WORTH 818 CRORES

**Current Context:** The Tamil Nadu government has signed six memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with Japanese companies towards an investment of around Rs 818.9 crores in the State.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MoUs were signed by Guidance Tamil Nadu, which is the state's nodal agency for investment promotion,** in the presence of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin who is in Tokyo, as part of a one-week visit to Singapore and Japan.
- The MoUs cover various sectors such as manufacturing, construction, civil engineering and steel production
- **These Mou's will attract more foreign direct investment and technology transfer from Japan, which is one of the leading investors in Tamil Nadu.**

## NEYVELI LIGNITE CORPORATION INDIA LTD INKED A MOU WITH WATER AND POWER CONSULTANCY SERVICES

**Current Context:** MoU between NLCIL and WAPCOS was signed on May 30, 2023 and it will enable collaboration on technical services and advisories for the development of

various schemes like pumped storage, reservoir storage, and run-of-river hydropower projects in India.

### DETAILS

- NLCIL is a CPSE under the Ministry of Coal and WAPCOS is a PSU under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- **The key officials involved in this MoU are K. Mohan Reddy, Director (Planning and Projects) NLCIL, and Anupam Mishra, Director (Commercial and Human Resources Development), WAPCOS.** They signed the MoU in the presence of senior officials of NLCIL and WAPCOS.
- Pumped storage can provide reliable and flexible energy storage for the power grid, especially when there is a high penetration of intermittent renewable sources like solar and wind.
- **It can also help balance supply and demand, improve grid stability and efficiency, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions**

## SPACE X LAUNCHED A TELECOMMUNICATION SATELLITE NAMED ARABSAT BADR-8

**Current Context:** SpaceX launched the Badr-8 TV broadcast and telecoms satellite on May 27, 2023 for Saudi Arabia-based fleet operator Arabsat. The satellite lifted off at 12:30 a.m.

### ABOUT

- **Eastern on a Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida, and separated from the rocket in geosynchronous transfer orbit about 37 minutes later.**
- The satellite is designed to replace and expand Arabsat's C-band and Ku-band capacity across Europe, Middle East, Africa, and central Asia over its 15-year design life.
- **It also carries an experimental photonics feeder link called Teleo, which is designed to provide space to ground optical communications** at gigabit speeds and is more robust against signal jamming

## ICICI BANK TO RAISE STAKE IN ICICI LOMBARD GENERAL INSURANCE BY UP TO 4%

**Current Context:** According to an exchange filing on May 28, ICICI Bank has decided to increase its shareholding in ICICI Lombard General Insurance by 4 percent in multiple transactions.

#### KEY FACTS

- **The bank currently owns 48.02 percent in the general insurance arm and it plans to acquire at least 2.5 percent of the 4 percent by September 9, 2024.** This would make the general insurance company a subsidiary of the bank
- **It could enable ICICI Bank to leverage the synergies between its banking and insurance operations and offer more integrated products and services to its customers**

#### UBER PARTNERS WITH GEM PORTAL TO OFFER TAXI SERVICES TO GOVT OFFICES, AGENCIES, PSUS

**Current Context:** Uber has partnered with public procurement portal GeM to offer taxi services to government offices, agencies and PSUs at a fixed price. The service will be a kind of corporate service and will be available on a pilot basis initially.

#### KEY POINTS

- The service will also have zero cancellation charges and no surge pricing. The service will be a cashless/cardless ride of the officials and will have additional vehicle categories for government riders.
- **This partnership is expected to save a good amount of money for the government as cab and taxi services are the second highest category of services at the GeM portal**

#### EQUITAS SFB COLLABORATES WITH IBM CONSULTING TO MODERNIZE ITS BANKING PLATFORM

**Current Context:** Equitas Small Finance Bank, one of the leading small finance banks in India, has signed an agreement with IBM Consulting to design and build a digital banking platform that delivers a modern and highly secure experience to the bank's customers and partners.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest May 2023

- **The collaboration aims to boost Equitas' digital products and services offerings as it evolves its business for a digital-first generation.**
- IBM Consulting will develop and deploy modern web and admin portals for Retail Banking and Corporate Banking as well as multi-device banking apps for Retail Banking.
- **This partnership with IBM is just the first step towards engaging customers.** We are confident that this strategic partnership with IBM will help simplify and transform the banking experience for customers across the board."

#### MAHARASHTRA FARMERS TO GET RS 12,000 ANNUALLY UNDER 'KISAN SAMMAN NIDHI'

**Current Context:** Maharashtra government's announcement to provide Rs 12,000 annually to farmers under the 'Kisan Samman Nidhi' scheme, this scheme is on the lines of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi under which farmers get Rs 6,000 a year as minimum income support from the central government.

#### DETAILS

- **The state government will provide an additional amount of Rs 6,000 along with Rs 6,000 to be released by the central government under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi.**
- An amount of Rs 12,000 will be deposited in the farmer's account every year. The scheme is expected to benefit 11.59 million farmers of the state

#### YES BANK UNVEILS NEW LOGO; LAUNCHED 'LIFE KO BANA O RICH' CAMPAIGN TAGLINE

**Current Context:** The bank has unveiled a new logo and a refreshed brand identity on May 30, 2023. The new logo is designed to resonate with the evolving needs and aspirations of customers and to reflect the bank's progressive spirit and core values.

#### ABOUT

- **The new logo has a soaring bird instead of a tick, and the colors are more electric and vibrant.**

- The bank also launched a marketing campaign with the tagline 'Life Ko Banao Rich', which means 'Make your life rich' in Hindi.
- **The campaign aims to encourage customers to spend time and make memories with their loved ones, while the bank takes care of their financial needs**

anniversary of the founding of the World Gastroenterology Organisation

- **The main goal of this health event is to support a healthy lifestyle and explain how the dietary needs of the GI tract change from newborn, through infancy, childhood, and adulthood.**

## INDIA & 13 IPEF PARTNER NATIONS CONCLUDED THE IPEF SUPPLY CHAIN AGREEMENT

**Current Context:** IPEF Supply Chain Agreement, this is a proposed trade deal among 14 countries in the Indo-Pacific region that aims to boost the resilience, efficiency, and sustainability of supply chains by creating early warning systems for supply disruptions, promoting investments in critical sectors and key goods, and enhancing worker rights and skills.

### KEY POINTS

- **The negotiations on the agreement were substantially concluded on May 28, 2023 and it is expected to be signed and ratified by the IPEF partner countries after their domestic processes**
- Ensuring that workers and businesses, especially micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises, in the economies of IPEF partners benefit from resilient, robust, and efficient supply chains by identifying disruptions or potential disruptions and responding promptly, effectively, and, where possible, collectively
- **Identifying opportunities for technical assistance and capacity building in member countries' supply chains.**

## WORLD DIGESTIVE HEALTH DAY 2023 – MAY 29

**Current Context:** According to the World Gastroenterology Organisation, World Digestive Health Day is a day to raise awareness of digestive disorders and the importance of early detection and treatment of gastrointestinal diseases.

### KEY FACTS

- **The theme for 2023 is "Your Digestive Health: A Healthy Gut From The Start".** This day was instituted in 2004 to commemorate the 45th