

**WEEKLY**  
**Current Affairs**

**1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

For

**UPSC / RPSC**

*and All Other Competitive*

**EXAMS**

**WIR2023**  
World Investment Report



Investing in sustainable energy for all



UNITED NATIONS  
UNCTAD

- ◆ Tejas Mk-1 Completes 7 Years of Service
- ◆ 132nd Edition of Durand Cup
- ◆ Tomato Grand Challenge Hackathon
- ◆ Dark Patterns
- ◆ Akshar River Cruise
- ◆ Regional Symposium on Child Protection, Safety and Child Welfare
- ◆ China's Newly Amended Anti-Espionage Law
- ◆ World Investment Report 2023



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# AGRASEN CIVIL SERVICES ACADEMY, JAIPUR

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- World Investment Report 2023
- China's Newly Amended Anti-Espionage Law
- ONE LINER

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# AGRASEN CIVIL SERVICES ACADEMY, JAIPUR

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## Tejas Mk-1 Completes 7 Years of Service

The Tejas Mk-1, India's indigenously developed fighter aircraft, has marked a significant milestone as it completes seven years of service with the Indian Air Force (IAF). Since its induction in 2016, the Tejas Mk-1 has showcased its capabilities in various missions, reflecting India's prowess in the aviation industry.

The Tejas program was initiated in the early 1980s, with the aim of replacing the Mig-21 fighters. Years of research and development culminated in January 2001 when the first prototype of Tejas took its maiden flight. This momentous event laid the foundation for a homegrown marvel in the aviation domain.

### Induction and Squadrons

In 2016, the Indian Air Force officially inducted the Tejas Mk-1, with the No. 45 squadron 'Flying Daggers' becoming the first squadron to operate this indigenous fighter aircraft. Since then, the Tejas Mk-1 has been tirelessly serving the nation's defense needs, accumulating over 4,000 hours of incident-free flying.

### Versatility in Missions

The Tejas Mk-1 boasts an impressive array of capabilities, making it a versatile multirole aircraft. It excels in air-defense, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), air-interdiction, as well as maritime strike and reconnaissance missions. This versatility ensures its effectiveness in safeguarding India's airspace and providing strategic support.

### Advanced Features of the Tejas Mk-1A

The upcoming Tejas Mk-1A variant showcases numerous advancements that further enhance its capabilities. Equipped with an active electronically-scanned array radar, the aircraft can detect enemy aircraft at greater ranges while resisting jamming attempts. Additionally, the Tejas Mk-1A features an advanced self-protection jamming suite, a digital flying control computer, and faster turnaround times for increased operational efficiency.

### Forty Major Improvements

Compared to the Tejas Mk-1, the Tejas Mk-1A incorporates 40 major improvements that elevate its performance and functionality. These enhancements contribute to its overall effectiveness on the battlefield, demonstrating India's commitment to continuously enhance its indigenous defense capabilities.

### IAF's Order and Future Prospects

The Indian Air Force has placed an order for 83 Tejas Mk-1A aircraft from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), reflecting the confidence in this homegrown fighter jet. This significant order worth Rs 48,000 crore signifies the IAF's commitment to indigenous defense production and paves the way for further advancements in the Indian aviation industry.

## 132nd Edition of Durand Cup

The Durand Cup, known as Asia's oldest and the world's third-oldest football tournament, is set to captivate football enthusiasts once again as the 132nd edition commences on August 3rd, 2023. Organized by the Indian Armed Forces, this prestigious event embodies excellence, sportsmanship, and fierce competitiveness.

General Manoj Pande, along with Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari and Mr. Kalyan Chaubey, President of the All India Football Federation (AIFF), ceremoniously flagged off the "Trophy Tour" of the Durand Cup. This signifies the beginning of a captivating journey leading up to the highly anticipated tournament.

### The Durand Cup's Rich Legacy

Originating as an Army Cup in 1888, the Durand Cup has emerged as a remarkable event in the world of football. With its esteemed history, it holds the distinction of being Asia's oldest football tournament and the world's third-oldest. The tournament has witnessed the evolution of the sport and has been a breeding ground for India's best footballing talents.

### The Three Coveted Trophies







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The winning team in the Durand Cup receives three prestigious trophies. The Durand Cup itself, a rolling trophy and the original prize, symbolizes the pinnacle of achievement. The Shimla Trophy, also a rolling trophy, was first presented by the residents of Shimla in 1904, adding a touch of regional pride. Lastly, the President's Cup, presented by India's first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, in 1956, is awarded for permanent possession.

## **Trophy Tour Across India**

Prior to the grand event, the three trophies embark on an extensive Trophy Tour, traversing numerous cities across the country. These include Shimla, Udhampur, Jaipur, Mumbai, Pune, Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Kokrajhar, Guwahati, and Shillong. This tour serves to build excitement and anticipation among football enthusiasts nationwide.

## **Foreign Teams and Participants**

The 132nd edition of the Durand Cup promises to be truly international, with the participation of foreign teams from Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan. This marks a significant return of foreign teams after a gap of 27 years, adding a new level of competition and fostering regional collaborations.

## **Tomato Grand Challenge Hackathon**

The government's recent announcement of the Tomato Grand Challenge (TGC) hackathon has sparked excitement and enthusiasm within the agricultural and innovation sectors. Led by the Department of Consumer Affairs and in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (Innovation Cell), the TGC aims to revolutionize the tomato value chain in India.

The primary objective of the TGC hackathon is to promote innovation and affordability throughout the tomato value chain. By inviting creative ideas and interventions, the government aims to ensure the availability of tomatoes at reasonable prices for consumers and facilitate increased value for tomato farmers.

## **Participation and Application**

Interested participants can take part in the TGC through two distinct tracks. The first track welcomes students, research scholars, and faculty members, encouraging the young minds of the country to contribute their ideas. The second track invites industry individuals, start-ups, MSMEs, LLPs, and professionals with valuable insights and experience in the field. Applications for the TGC can be submitted through the dedicated portal.

## **Focus Areas for Interventions**

The TGC emphasizes comprehensive and focused interventions within the tomato value chain. These interventions include cropping and market insights, identification of appropriate cultivars for fresh and processing purposes, improvements in shelf-life, transportation enhancements, innovative packaging, and advanced storage solutions.

## **Potential Impact and Evaluation**

Winning ideas generated through the TGC will undergo rigorous evaluation by experts. Promising concepts will then be developed into prototypes and implemented on a large scale, with careful consideration given to usability, scalability, and pricing. This process ensures that innovative solutions have a practical impact on the tomato value chain.

## **Dark Patterns**

In the world of digital interfaces, the term "dark patterns" has gained significant attention. Coined by Harry Brignull, a renowned user experience designer, dark patterns refer to deceptive tactics employed by websites and apps to manipulate user behavior.

Dark patterns are user interface design choices deliberately created to mislead or trick users into making decisions they may not have intended to make. They exploit psychological biases and play on users' emotions to achieve the desired outcome. An example of a dark pattern is encountered when users struggle to close annoying advertisements due to the intentionally small 'X' mark.





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## Exploring Manipulative Techniques

Confirm shaming is a dark pattern that employs guilt to pressure users into conforming to a particular belief or viewpoint. Subscription traps make it easy for users to sign up for a service but deliberately difficult to cancel or quit. These patterns exploit users' inertia and reluctance to go through complicated processes.

## Legislation to Combat Dark Patterns

To protect consumers from the manipulative effects of dark patterns, several countries have implemented regulations. The United States and the United Kingdom have passed legislation to curb dark pattern practices. California, for instance, banned dark patterns that hinder consumers from exercising their data privacy rights. In the UK, guidelines were issued to prohibit companies from using "nudges" to influence underage users' privacy settings.

## Notable Actions and Fines

Companies engaging in dark patterns have faced legal consequences. Trivago, a part of the US-based online travel firm Expedia Group, was fined AUD44.7 million by an Australian court for falsely presenting hotel rooms as the cheapest available. Such actions demonstrate the increasing scrutiny of authorities towards companies using deceptive tactics.

## Akshar River Cruise

Ahmedabad, the vibrant city in Gujarat, India, has recently unveiled its newest pride, the Akshar River Cruise. This remarkable venture, developed collaboratively by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) and the Sabarmati Riverfront Development Corporation Limited, stands as a testament to India's Make in India initiative.

Built at a cost of Rs 15 crore, the Akshar River Cruise showcases impeccable craftsmanship and attention to detail. This masterpiece is designed to comfortably accommodate up to 165 passengers, ensuring an unforgettable experience for all who embark on this journey.

## Exploring the Scenic Riverfront

The cruise voyage along the Sabarmati Riverfront offers an enchanting experience that lasts approximately one-and-a-half hours. Passengers are treated to breathtaking views, serene surroundings, and glimpses of architectural wonders that line the riverbanks.

## Sabarmati Riverfront Project

The Sabarmati Riverfront project was conceptualized by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. During his tenure as the Chief Minister of Gujarat, he envisaged this initiative with the aim of transforming the Sabarmati River into a thriving hub of cultural and tourist activities.

## Ahmedabad's Thriving Tourism Hub

The Sabarmati Riverfront has transformed Ahmedabad into a major center of tourism. This iconic destination has gained popularity not only among locals but also attracts visitors from all over India and the world. The riverfront encapsulates the rich cultural heritage and vibrant atmosphere of Ahmedabad.

## Ensuring Passenger Safety

Passenger safety remains paramount on the Akshar River Cruise. Equipped with 180 life safety jackets, the cruise prioritizes the well-being of its passengers. Additionally, fire safety measures and an emergency rescue boat are available on board, ensuring a secure and enjoyable voyage.

## A Testament to Make in India

The development of the Akshar River Cruise aligns with the Make in India initiative, promoting domestic manufacturing and fostering innovation within the country. This cruise exemplifies the prowess of Indian craftsmanship and technological capabilities.





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## Regional Symposium on Child Protection, Safety and Child Welfare:

The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Government of India, recently organized a one-day Regional Symposium on Child Protection, Safety, and Child Welfare. The symposium aimed to raise awareness and outreach about child protection, safety, and welfare issues.

The symposium witnessed the participation of nine states and union territories (UTs). Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Chandigarh, Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh were among the states and UTs that actively took part in the event.

## Launch of Online Training Module on the Juvenile Justice Act

The MWCD, in collaboration with LBSNAA, Mussoorie, inaugurated and launched an online Training Module on the Juvenile Justice Act. This module, available on the Karmayogi Igot platform, aims to sensitize and build the capacity of all stakeholders involved in child safety, protection, and welfare. It will serve as a vital resource for enhancing their understanding of the provisions concerning child safety.

## Focus on "Mission Vatsalya" and Increased Support

"Mission Vatsalya" aims to provide a security net and service delivery structure to children in difficult circumstances. Under this initiative, the MWCD has increased the monthly support for non-institutional childcare from Rs 2000 to Rs 4000 per month, ensuring better care and support for vulnerable children.

## Fast Track Special Courts for Child Protection

The symposium highlighted the establishment of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) to protect children from offenses of sexual assault and harassment. Among them, 389 Exclusive POCSO Courts have been set up to ensure expeditious trial and disposal of cases related to rape and the POCSO Act, 2012. These specialized courts play a crucial role in delivering justice and safeguarding the rights of children.

## NIMHANS' Role in Providing Mental Health Support

NIMHANS, the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, has been actively involved in providing psycho-social care and mental health interventions for children in distress. Their contribution is instrumental in addressing the psychological well-being of children and offering the necessary support they require.

## World Investment Report 2023

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) recently released its World Investment Report 2023, providing valuable insights into foreign direct investment (FDI) trends in developing countries.

In 2022, FDI in developing countries in Asia reached a total of \$662 billion, representing no change compared to the previous year. Despite maintaining a flat growth rate, these countries remained significant recipients of FDI, with India and ASEAN highlighted as the most buoyant regions.

## Global FDI Decline

The report also highlighted a global decline in FDI, with a 12% drop to \$1.3 trillion in 2022. However, it is worth noting that the decline followed a strong rebound in 2021 after the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. China was an exception to this decline, as it experienced a 5% increase in FDI.

## Renewable Energy Investment Gap

One pressing concern emphasized by the report is the substantial investment gap in renewable energy in developing countries. The annual investment required to support clean energy transitions amounts to \$1.7 trillion, while developing countries attracted only \$544 billion in FDI for clean energy in 2022. This highlights the need for significant efforts to bridge the investment gap and attract more sustainable energy investments.







## Investment Gaps in Sustainable Development Goals

The report further reveals a substantial investment gap across all sectors of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which has increased to over \$4 trillion per year from \$2.5 trillion in 2015. Particularly, sectors such as energy, water, and transport infrastructure face the largest investment gaps. Addressing these gaps is crucial for achieving sustainable development targets and fostering inclusive growth.

## China's Newly Amended Anti-Espionage Law

China's newly amended security law, which came into effect on July 1, has raised concerns regarding its potential impact on businesses operating in the country. The counter-espionage law, passed by the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, aims to safeguard national security by addressing espionage and spying activities. However, the broad scope and ambiguities of the law have raised uncertainties and potential risks for foreign companies, journalists, academics, and researchers.

The amended law specifies acts of espionage, including carrying out cyber attacks against state organs, confidential organs, or crucial information infrastructure. It broadens the definition of targets of espionage to include all documents, data, materials, and articles related to national security and interests. This expansion has led to concerns about the government's authority to demand access to private information and the classification of research work or due diligence as espionage.

## Risks and Uncertainties for Businesses

The US National Counterintelligence and Security Centre (NCSC) has highlighted potential legal risks and uncertainties for foreign businesses operating in China. Ambiguities within the law can subject any documents, data, materials, or items to be considered relevant to China's national security, creating challenges for companies conducting research or due diligence. The lack of a clear definition of espionage further adds to the concerns, leaving businesses vulnerable to potential legal consequences.

## Incidents Involving Foreign Businesses

Recent incidents involving foreign businesses have heightened concerns regarding the impact of the law. The raid on consultancy firm Bain & Co.'s Shanghai office, detention of Chinese staff from the Mintz Group, and the arrest of a Japanese employee of Astellas Pharma Inc. on alleged spying charges exemplify the risks faced by businesses operating in China.

## ONE LINER:

- Union Consumer Affairs Ministry has decided to issue norms against 'dark patterns' in misleading online advertisements.
- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast "normal" rainfall in July.
- The Appointments Committee of the Union Cabinet approved the reappointment of Tushar Mehta as the Solicitor-General of India.
- India backs 2016 ruling favouring the Philippines in South China Sea.
- National Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission 2047 will be launched in Madhya Pradesh.
- Centre raised interest rates on select saving schemes by up to 0.3% for the July-September quarter.
- Federal Bank appoints former NPCI MD A.P Hota as its Chairman.
- Centre's fiscal deficit at 11.8% of target at May-end.
- India's FY23 external debt rises to USD 624.7 billion: Reserve Bank of India.
- US Supreme Court strikes down President Joe Biden's 400 billion student loan forgiveness proposal.
- U.S. approves sale of ammunition worth USD 440 million to Taiwan.
- Iran to join Shanghai alliance with China, Russia next week.





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- India's men's national football team moved up from the 101st to the 100th rank in FIFA World Rankings.
- Dipika Pallikal and Harinder Sandhu win 2023 Asian Squash Mixed Doubles Championships.
- The Indian men's kabaddi team beat Iran 42-32 to defend its Asian Championships title.
- India adds 664 animal species to its fauna database and 339 taxa to its flora.
- The seventh edition of the two-day Mysuru Literature Festival has commenced.
- Britain's King Charles III and Queen Camilla presented the Elephant Family environmental award to Kartiki Gonsalves, director of 'The Elephant Whisperers'.
- Union WCD Minister inaugurates Regional Symposium on Child Protection, Safety and Child Welfare.
- The first batch of the crew recovery team of Mission Gaganyaan completed Phase-1 of training.
- Merger between Housing Development Finance Corporation limited and HDFC Bank comes into effect.
- GST collection rises 12% to ₹1.61 lakh crore in June.
- Jet fuel or Aviation turbine fuel price raised by 1.6% on global cues.
- Payments made using international credit cards (ICC) during overseas visits will not attract Tax Collected at Source (TCS).
- Twitter: Elon Musk introduces limit to viewing tweets to fix data scraping.
- Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez reaches Kyiv to commence Spain's EU presidency.
- Sri Lanka gets Parliament nod for domestic debt restructuring plan.
- Neeraj Chopra has won his second 'Lausanne Diamond League' title.
- India storm into final of SAFF football championship defeating Lebanon 4-2.
- Yuki Bhambri wins maiden ATP doubles title in Mallorca, Spain
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi to host Xi Jinping, Vladimir Putin, Shehbaz Sharif virtually for SCO summit.
- Centre announces scheme to support minor rape victims under the aegis of the Nirbhaya Fund and an amount of ₹74.1 crore has been allocated.
- Twelve-day annual Kanwar Yatra begins in different parts of country.
- Prime Minister inaugurates Sai Hira Global Convention Centre in Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh.
- DAY-NRLM launches Mobile App to Market products made by women of Self-help Groups.
- DoT Launches Bharat 6G Alliance to Drive Innovation and Collaboration in Next-Generation Wireless Technology.
- Startup20 Engagement Group's Gurugram Shikhar Summit marks first major milestone in global Startup Ecosystem.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said that 76% of the ₹2,000 banknotes in circulation.
- IDFC Limited set to merge with lender IDFC First Bank.
- India doubles its share of global commercial services exports between 2005 and 2022: World Bank and WTO report.
- Iran executes 354 people in first half of 2023: Norway-based Iran Human Rights.
- UAE establishes new Ministry of Investment to Boost Economic Competitiveness.
- National Anti-Doping Agency, India (NADA India) signs MoU with South Asia Regional Anti-Doping Organization (SARADO).
- Nadubhagom Chundan of the Nadubhagom Boat Club lifted the Raja Pramukhan Trophy in Kerala.
- Bangabandhu SAFF Championship: Indian men's football team to take on Kuwait in grand finale.
- Zoological Survey of India celebrates 108th ZSI Day with Special Focus on 'Mission Life'.
- Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice will hold a meeting on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).
- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has said that the Southwest Monsoon has covered the entire country six days ahead.







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- Two-day Startup20 Shikhar summit begins in Gurugram, Haryana.
- Under the aegis of Ministry of Culture, the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) to celebrate Ashadha Purnima.
- State Bank of India opens 34 transaction banking hubs.
- Bank of Baroda to divest 49% in credit card arm BOB Financial Solutions.
- Indian Bank rolls out digital services under 'Project WAVE' initiative.
- Over 12000 fake entities in GST; CBIC plans biometric authentication
- U.S. President Joe Biden will host Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson of Sweden for discussions on NATO, Ukraine.
- After Prime Minister, Dutch king apologises for his country's role in slavery.
- French President Emmanuel Macron holds emergency meeting after riots erupt.
- France and UAE collaborate to accelerate shift towards Clean Energy amidst the trilateral initiative with India.
- 13 member boxing team led by Nikhat Zareen & Lovlina Borgohain to represent India at Asian Games 2023.
- Two-time champions West Indies fail to qualify for ICC World Cup 2023.
- Double world champion Max Verstappen ran away with an Austrian Grand Prix sprint race.

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