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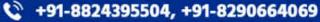
ACSA

## WEEKLY Current Affairs

**8th to 14th June 2023**

For **UPSC / RPSC** and All Other Competitive **EXAMS**

- India, France and UAE Maritime Partnership Exercise
- Air Defender 23
- ESA's Experiment on Frying in Space
- RBI Guidelines on OTS
- EU Deal on Equitable Refugee Hosting
- Derailment in Indian Railways
- Supreme Court Order on Manglik
- Sagar Samriddhi

esa
European Space Agency

# Current Affairs 8 to 14 june

## Briefs:-

- **India, France and UAE Maritime Partnership Exercise**

- **Exploration of Coal and Lignite Scheme Extended**

- **Devankanam Charuharitham (Beautiful Green Abodes of God)**

- **Air Defender 23**

- **Ignoring Red Lines: Violence Against Health Care in Conflict 2022**

- **ESA's Experiment on Frying in Space**

- **Source of Solar Wind**

- **UGC Introduces New Degree Nomenclatures**

- **RBI Guidelines on OTS**

- **RBI Guidelines on Default Loss Guarantee**

- **Atlantic Declaration**

- **EU Deal on Equitable Refugee Hosting**

- **District Good Governance Index (DGGI) of Arunachal Pradesh**

- **HPCL Tests E27 Fuel**

- **2nd Edition of Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman**

- **Sagar Samriddhi**

- **Tactical LAN Radio**

- **Cochin Fishing Harbour Modernization Project**

- **Derailment in Indian Railways**

- **Supreme Court Order on Manglik**

- **Prerna: The Vernacular School**

- **NICE Endorses Rimegepant**

- **Electromagnetic Field (EMF) Radiation**

## India, France and UAE Maritime Partnership Exercise

The first-ever India-France-UAE Maritime Partnership Exercise recently took place in the Gulf of Oman. This exercise marked a significant milestone in strengthening trilateral cooperation among the navies of India, France, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). With the objective of improving joint strategies and ensuring maritime security, the exercise witnessed the participation of several naval assets and the execution of various operations.

The exercise unfolded in the Gulf of Oman, a strategic maritime region known for its crucial trade routes and geopolitical significance. Indian Navy's INS Tarkash, a powerful frigate, played a pivotal role in the exercise alongside the French Navy's Surcouf. Adding to the exercise's prowess, advanced Rafale fighter jets were deployed to demonstrate the airpower capabilities of the participating nations.

### Naval Operations and Exercises

The India-France-UAE Maritime Partnership Exercise encompassed a wide range of naval operations, including surface warfare and helicopter cross-deck landing operations. These operations tested the coordination, interoperability, and tactical skills of the naval forces involved. Additionally, advanced air defense exercises were conducted, highlighting the joint efforts in safeguarding the skies above the maritime domain.

### Objective and Collaborative Focus

The primary objective of this maritime partnership exercise was to improve trilateral cooperation among the Indian, French, and UAE navies. The exercise aimed to foster greater understanding, trust, and synergy among the participating forces. The development of joint strategies to address both traditional and non-traditional threats in the maritime environment was a key focus. Moreover, the exercise emphasized collaboration to ensure the safety of mercantile trade and the freedom of navigation in the high seas.

## Exploration of Coal and Lignite Scheme Extended

The government has given its approval for the continuation of the 'Exploration of Coal and Lignite Scheme.' The central sector scheme aims to explore coal and lignite resources in the country, estimate their availability, and prepare detailed project reports for coal mining. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has granted an estimated expenditure of ₹2,980 crore for the extension of the scheme.

The scheme will be extended from the fiscal year 2021-22 to 2025-26, aligning with the 15th Finance Commission cycle. This extension ensures sustained efforts and investments in the exploration of coal and lignite resources for the benefit of the country's energy sector.

### Exploration Stages and Allocated Outlays

The 'Exploration of Coal and Lignite Scheme' involves two main stages: Promotional (Regional) Exploration and Detailed Exploration in non-Coal India Limited (CIL) blocks. A significant allocation of ₹1,650 crore has been made for promotional (Regional) exploration, which aims to cover an area of approximately 1,300 sq km. Additionally, ₹1,330 crore has been earmarked for detailed drilling in non-CIL areas, covering about 650 sq km.

### Objective and Utilization of Geological Reports

The primary objective of exploring coal and lignite resources is to assess their presence, quantity, and quality within the country. This information is crucial for preparing detailed project reports that guide coal mining activities. The geological reports, generated through these explorations, play a vital role in the auctioning of new coal blocks. The cost incurred during exploration is subsequently recovered from successful allocatees, ensuring a sustainable financing model for the scheme.

## Devankanam Charuharitham (Beautiful Green Abodes of God)

The Kerala government has taken a unique approach to tackle climate change and its negative impacts in the state. In an ambitious project, the government aims to enhance the green cover of over 3000 temples managed by five Devaswom Boards under its control.

On June 5, which is celebrated as World Environment Day, the project, named 'Devankanam Charuharitham' (Beautiful Green Abodes of God), was inaugurated. This project will encompass more than 3800 temples across Kerala that fall under the management of the five Devaswom Boards.

**Objective of the Project**
The primary focus of the project is to improve the green cover around the temples. The idea is to utilize the land banks possessed by the Devaswom Boards and grow trees on these lands, thereby enhancing the overall greenery in the state. Additionally, the project envisions the planting of various flowering plants and fruit-bearing trees within the temple compounds. This will not only contribute to the aesthetics but also ensure a sustainable supply of flowers and fruits for daily temple use, making the temples self-reliant.

**Renovation of Temple Ponds and Preservation of Sacred Groves**
Alongside the green cover enhancement, the project also includes the renovation of abandoned temple ponds, recognizing their significance as a primary source of water in various areas. The dilapidated temple ponds will be restored and preserved with funding from the government, ensuring their sustainable utilization.

Moreover, the project emphasizes the protection of sacred groves, which are places of worship with serpent deities kept in the open within protected natural forests. The existing sacred groves will be safeguarded, and as more temples develop their green cover, the overall greenery in the state will witness a substantial improvement.

**Collaborative Implementation**
The implementation of this project involves the cooperation of multiple Devaswom Boards. Along with the Travancore Devaswom Board, the Kochi, Malabar, Guruvayur, and Koodalmanickam Devaswom Boards are actively participating in this endeavor. Additionally, the properties owned by the Devaswom Boards will also be included in the project, expanding its reach and impact.

**Promoting Environmental Protection and Awareness**
The underlying objective of this project is to make temples symbols of environmental protection. Temples have long embraced eco-friendly practices by using organic materials derived from nature for rituals and ceremonies. By extending their commitment to environmental consciousness, these temples aim to raise awareness among the public about the importance of safeguarding the environment.

## Air Defender 23
The multinational exercise, Air Defender 23, is set to make history as the largest air force deployment exercise conducted by NATO. This joint endeavor involves 25 nations coming together to train in the airspace above Europe in a display of transatlantic solidarity.

Air Defender 23 is expected to witness the articipation of approximately 10,000 servicemen and women from 25 nations. With a fleet of 250 aircraft, including 23 different types, this exercise showcases the diverse capabilities and cooperation among allied air forces.

**The German Air Force Takes the Lead**
Under the leadership of the German Air Force, the exercise is scheduled to take place from June 12 to 23. Germany has assumed the role of the logistical hub for the operation, facilitating the coordination and smooth execution of the exercise.

**Training Areas and Airspaces**

Air Defender 23 will primarily focus on three key training areas in Germany: Jagel/Hohn in Schleswig-Holstein, Wunstorf in Lower Saxony, and Lechfeld in Bavaria. These locations will serve as the main hubs for the participating nations to conduct their air operations and training exercises.

**Enhancing Joint Response Capability**

The exercise aims to enhance the joint response capability of the air forces involved, particularly in crisis situations. By simulating a NATO Article 5 assistance scenario, the participating nations can strengthen their cooperation and optimize their operational effectiveness.

**Participating Nations**

A total of 25 nations are actively participating in Air Defender 23. These include Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

**A Historic Demonstration**

Air Defender 23 marks a significant milestone in NATO's history, reflecting the alliance's commitment to collective defense and joint operations. As the largest air force deployment exercise to date, it showcases the strength, capabilities, and cooperative spirit of NATO member nations.

## Ignoring Red Lines: Violence Against Health Care in Conflict 2022

A report titled "Ignoring Red Lines: Violence Against Health Care in Conflict 2022" was released recently by the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC). It revealed that the incidence of violence against healthcare workers in Mali increased by more than two-fold in 2022 in comparison to the previous year, 2021. A staggering total of 46 such incidents were identified, highlighting the heightened risks faced by those on the front lines of medical services.

**Global Insights: A Wider Perspective on Violence in Conflict Zones**

The SHCC's report extended beyond Mali, documenting 1,989 attacks and threats against healthcare facilities and personnel across 32 countries and territories plagued by armed conflict and political instability in 2022. Among these nations, Ukraine and Myanmar reported the highest number of attacks on healthcare infrastructure and personnel, underscoring the dire situation faced by healthcare workers worldwide.

**Trends and Challenges: Understanding the Impact**

According to the report, there was an overall increase in reported incidents of violence against healthcare in conflict zones in 2022 compared to 2021. While violence decreased in some regions like the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, and Syria, it rose in countries across West and Central Africa, including Mali. This highlights the complex challenges faced by healthcare workers in regions grappling with ongoing conflicts and instability.

**Mali's Troubled Regions: Kidnappings and Looting**

The Mopti region in Mali witnessed a distressing number of health worker kidnappings, with at least 26 healthcare professionals abducted in 11 incidents while traveling to or from work, non-profit bases, or remote areas to provide vital healthcare services. Additionally, regions such as Gao, Mopti, Sikasso, and Tombouctou experienced frequent looting of essential medicine supplies and equipment. Armed groups targeted health centers and communities, exacerbating the limited availability of healthcare services in these areas.

**Consequences on Research and Activities**

The impact of violence against health workers extends beyond immediate risks and physical harm. The SHCC report highlighted how international non-profit organizations suspended planned activities, including crucial research and health surveys aimed at identifying disease prevalence. The difficulties in conducting research and surveys due to violence not only hinder public health policies but also impede the provision of targeted healthcare services to vulnerable populations.

## ESA's Experiment on Frying in Space

The European Space Agency (ESA) has undertaken an intriguing study to investigate the effects of microgravity on culinary methods like frying. Conducted during parabolic flights that simulate weightlessness, this pioneering research aims to understand the dynamics of frying in space. By exploring these culinary techniques, scientists strive to enhance food options and security for astronauts on long-duration missions, such as those to the Moon and Mars.

Led by ESA, the study involved frying food in a microgravity environment to evaluate the behavior of bubbles and their interaction with the surface of the food. The researchers used parabolic flights, which ascend and descend in arcs, to create brief periods of weightlessness. These flights, known as parabolic flights, offered a unique opportunity to simulate microgravity conditions and observe the frying process in space.

### Capturing the Dynamics: Insights from High-Speed Cameras

During the experiment, a high-speed, high-resolution camera meticulously documented the evolution of bubbles during the frying process. It captured crucial details, including their growth rate, size, distribution, and escape velocity from the surface of the potato. This comprehensive analysis provided valuable insights into the behavior of bubbles in microgravity and their impact on the frying process.

### Defying Buoyancy: Frying in the Absence of Gravity

In a significant breakthrough, the researchers observed that even in the absence of buoyancy, bubbles detached from the surface of the potato. This remarkable phenomenon defied conventional expectations since buoyancy, which causes oil bubbles to rise, does not occur in microgravity. The absence of gravity, however, did not hinder the contact between the hot oil and the potato surface. Consequently, the researchers successfully achieved frying, highlighting the adaptability of culinary methods in space.

### Experimental Evidence and Astronaut Food Security

The study's findings provide experimental evidence that frying can indeed occur in space. This breakthrough holds significant implications for astronauts embarking on extended missions, such as those to the Moon and Mars. Perfecting cooking techniques allows astronauts to enjoy a wider variety of food options and ensures better food security throughout their missions. With the ability to cook and fry in space, astronauts can relish familiar and comforting meals that positively impact their mental and physical well-being.

### Advancing Culinary Techniques for Space Exploration

The research conducted by ESA paves the way for advancements in cooking skills and techniques for space exploration. By better understanding the dynamics of frying in microgravity, scientists can refine methods and develop specialized equipment to facilitate food preparation and enhance the quality of space cuisine. Such developments play a vital role in ensuring the success and well-being of future astronauts during prolonged missions.

## Source of Solar Wind

The Parker Solar Probe, a pioneering solar mission, has ventured closer to the sun to unravel its mysteries. This groundbreaking mission has made a remarkable discovery—the source of the solar wind. Understanding the solar wind is of great significance as it carries particles and energy from the sun's corona towards Earth.

Researchers from the University of California-Berkley, utilizing data collected by the Parker Solar Probe, have shed light on the origin of the solar wind. This stream of particles, originating from the sun's corona, constitutes an essential component of space weather that can impact our planet.

### Predicting Space Weather and Solar Storms

The discovery of the solar wind's source is a breakthrough moment for scientists. It enables more accurate predictions of space weather and solar storms, which can have profound effects on Earth's technological infrastructure and communication networks. By understanding the mechanisms behind the sun's wind, scientists can anticipate and mitigate the potential risks associated with these space phenomena.

**Unraveling the Mechanism of Coronal Holes**
The data collected by the Parker Solar Probe has revealed fascinating insights into the workings of coronal holes. These regions resemble showerheads on the sun's surface, characterized by jets appearing as bright spots. The probe's findings indicate that these coronal holes are associated with the supergranulation flows within the sun's atmosphere. Magnetic fields passing in and out of the photosphere create these supergranulation cells, resulting in intensified magnetic energy within the funnel structures.

**The Role of Magnetic Reconnection**
Within these funnel structures of coronal holes, the process of magnetic reconnection plays a crucial role. It serves as the energy source for the fast solar wind. Magnetic reconnection occurs when magnetic fields realign and release energy, fueling the solar wind in these specific regions. This discovery provides valuable insights into the dynamics of the solar wind and its relationship with magnetic phenomena.

**Practical Implications and Protection of Communication Networks**
Understanding the mechanisms behind the solar wind has practical implications. Knowledge of energy release mechanisms and the driving force behind geomagnetic storms aids in the protection of critical communication networks. By comprehending the solar wind's origin and behavior, scientists can develop improved models and predictive capabilities to safeguard our technological infrastructure.

## UGC Introduces New Degree Nomenclatures
In a move aligned with global norms and the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the higher education regulator in India, the University Grants Commission (UGC), is set to introduce a fresh range of college degree names. These changes aim to enhance the flexibility and alignment of degree programs with contemporary educational requirements.

Section 22 of the UGC Act has the provisions to empower the Universities Grants Commission to notify new degree nomenclatures. It is in line with this provision that the UGC is planning to introduce new names that align with the aspirations of the NEP 2020.

**Introducing New Degree Names**
Traditionally, Bachelor of Science (BSc) degrees have been associated with science subjects in India, while Bachelor of Arts (BA) degrees have encompassed arts, humanities, and social sciences. However, considering the restructuring proposed by the NEP 2020, a committee appointed by the University Grants Commission (UGC) has recommended the introduction of Bachelor of Science (BS) degrees for all four-year undergraduate honours programs, regardless of the discipline. This change emphasizes a more comprehensive understanding of the evolving academic landscape.

**Flexibility Across Disciplines**
The committee's recommendations extend beyond undergraduate programs. They suggest that universities can adopt the Master of Science (MS) nomenclature for postgraduate programs, even in non-science disciplines like arts, humanities, management, and commerce. This move acknowledges the evolving nature of knowledge domains and highlights the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in today's world.

**Harvard's Example and Differentiating Degrees**
Harvard University, known for its academic excellence, offers both BA and BS degrees in engineering sciences. The differentiation lies in the curriculum and requirements. A BA engineering student earns fewer credits and has more

flexibility to explore other fields of interest, while a BS engineering student receives a more specialized and technically rigorous education. This approach recognizes the diverse aspirations and preferences of students, allowing them to tailor their education accordingly.

### Four-Year Honours Degrees and Research

The committee's recommendations also include the introduction of the 'Hons' designation for four-year undergraduate honours programs. For instance, degrees like BA (Hons), BCom (Hons), or BS (Hons) will signify the additional depth and research components incorporated into these programs. This step acknowledges the importance of research-oriented education and promotes a spirit of inquiry among students.

### Scrapping the 'MPhil' Degree

Aligned with the NEP 2020's directive, the committee recommends discontinuing the 'MPhil' degree. This move aims to streamline the educational landscape and reduce redundancies in academic programs, aligning them with global practices.

### Flexibility in Program Completion

Acknowledging the varying pace of learning, the committee suggests that if a student has earned all the required credits for a program before its official duration, they should be eligible for the award of the respective qualification. This recognizes individual progress and encourages lifelong learning.

## RBI Guidelines on OTS

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently introduced significant changes to the regulations governing one-time settlements (OTS) and technical write-offs of loans. The RBI has issued detailed guidelines aimed at streamlining the process and ensuring greater accountability in these areas for all regulated entities.

The primary objective of the detailed guidelines provided by the RBI is to establish a comprehensive framework for OTS and technical write-offs. These guidelines aim to define the process, set precedents, and outline a graded framework for staff accountability, all within specific timelines. The guidelines also emphasize the need for a settlement policy that includes permissible sacrifices for different exposures and focuses on maximizing recovery while minimizing expenses.

### Approval and Reporting Requirements

The RBI mandates that compromise settlements for fraud or wilful defaulters must receive approval from the board of the regulated entity. In cases where the payment period for a compromise settlement exceeds three months, it will be treated as a restructuring. Such compromise settlements, along with technical write-offs, need to be approved either by the Managing Director and CEO or a board level committee, and subsequently reported to the board.

### Cooling Period and Judicial Proceedings

Borrowers opting for an OTS are subject to a cooling period of at least 12 months for farm credit exposures. During this period, regulated entities cannot assume fresh exposures with these borrowers. Additionally, when there are ongoing judicial recovery proceedings against a borrower, any settlement reached must be approved by the judicial authorities, as specified by the RBI.

### Expansion of OTS Framework

An important development is the extension of the OTS framework to include urban co-operative banks (UCBs). Previously, this framework was limited to commercial banks. This expansion acknowledges the growing reliance of commercial banks on OTS as an effective means of recovery, particularly in light of the delays and complexities associated with other recovery routes such as the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

## RBI Guidelines on Default Loss Guarantee

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken a significant step by allowing a 'first loss default guarantee' (FLDG) arrangement between regulated entities and lending service providers. This move aims to enhance the digital lending sector and mitigate credit risks associated with it.

Synthetic securitisation is a structure used to transfer credit risk in part or whole through credit derivatives or guarantees. It involves hedging the credit risk of an underlying pool of exposures, while the lender retains the portfolio on its balance sheet.

**Default Loss Guarantee Arrangements**
Regulated entities, such as banks and NBFCs, can now enter into default loss guarantee (DLG) arrangements with lending service providers or other regulated entities. These arrangements offer a credit-risk sharing agreement where a third party guarantees to compensate up to a certain percentage of default in the loan portfolio of the regulated entity.

**Forms of Default Loss Guarantees**
The guidelines issued by the RBI specify various forms of default loss guarantees allowed for regulated entities. These include cash deposits with such entities, fixed deposits maintained with a lien marked in favor of the entity, and bank guarantees in favor of the entity.

**Key Requirements and Responsibilities**
Regulated entities must ensure that the total amount of default loss guarantee cover on any outstanding loan portfolio does not exceed five percent of that portfolio. It is the responsibility of the regulated entity to recognize individual loan assets in the portfolio as non-performing assets and make the necessary provisions accordingly.

Furthermore, the RBI has directed regulated entities to establish a board-approved policy before entering into any DLG arrangement. It is important to note that the DLG arrangement cannot act as a substitute for credit appraisal requirements. Robust credit underwriting standards must be maintained irrespective of the guarantee cover.

## Atlantic Declaration
On June 8, the United States and the United Kingdom forged a new strategic pact to address pressing global challenges. This pact, known as the Atlantic Declaration, was adopted by US President Joe Biden and UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. The focus of this agreement is to tackle the rising influence of China, the aggressive actions of Russia, and economic instability that threatens both nations.

During the White House summit, President Biden and Prime Minister Sunak engaged in crucial discussions on two primary topics. The first was Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has raised significant concerns among global leaders. The second topic centered around the rapid development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its impact on various sectors.

The UK plans is to host the world's first AI summit in Britain. This summit will gather "likeminded" countries to discuss and exchange ideas on Artificial Intelligence. However, there are headwinds to Sunak's AI aspirations. The United States and the European Union are already engaged in their own dialogue on an AI code of conduct, prompting the need for coordination and harmonization among these initiatives.

**Challenges to International Stability**
The Atlantic Declaration explicitly recognizes the challenges that threaten international stability. The agreement acknowledges the rise of authoritarian states, the disruptive influence of advanced technologies, the impact of non-state actors, and the transnational challenges posed by climate change. By addressing these concerns head-on, both nations aim to foster a more stable and secure global environment.

## EU Deal on Equitable Refugee Hosting

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ACSA Jaipur

Mobile No.- 8824395504, 8290664069
Mail ID-acsajaipur@gmail.com

https://t.me/ACSAJAIPUR4IAS
https://www.instagram.com/acsajaipur/
https://www.facebook.com/acsajaipur

The European Union (EU) has achieved a significant breakthrough in its efforts to revise rules for the equitable sharing of hosting asylum seekers. The deal was reached on June 8, during a day of intense negotiations between EU interior ministers in Luxembourg.

**Reaching the Majority and Population Threshold**

In order for the deal to be approved, it required the endorsement of a majority of countries representing at least 65% of the EU's population. After years of contentious debates and disagreements over asylum policies, this agreement marks a decisive step forward.

**Compulsory Help and Two Approaches**

The proposal presented at the meeting called for compulsory assistance between EU member states, offering two options for implementation. The focus was on sharing the hosting of asylum seekers, particularly those arriving in countries located on the EU's outer rim, such as Italy and Greece.

**Financial Consequences and Voting Results**

According to the agreed-upon terms, countries that refuse to host refugees will be required to pay 20,000 euros (USD 21,000) per person. This financial contribution will be directed to a fund managed by Brussels. Notably, Poland and Hungary voted against the proposals, while Bulgaria, Malta, Lithuania, and Slovakia abstained from voting.

**The Path Ahead**

This preliminary agreement paves the way for negotiations with the European Parliament, aiming to establish legislation that could be adopted before the European elections scheduled for June next year.

**Addressing a Growing Challenge**

The number of asylum seekers has risen recently, following a pause caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, the issue has become a top priority on the EU's agenda. In 2020, the European Commission presented a new pact proposal based on a quota system, which faced objections from countries like Hungary and Poland.

**Swedish Compromise Texts**

Sweden proposed two compromise texts to address these concerns. The first suggested a hosting-or-cash approach, allowing member states to choose between hosting refugees or providing financial contributions. The second text focused on implementing fast-track mechanisms at the borders for arrivals from countries considered safe, facilitating their return.

## District Good Governance Index (DGGI) of Arunachal Pradesh

The District Good Governance Index (DGGI) has emerged as a significant tool in assessing and benchmarking governance at the district level in India. Arunachal Pradesh, a state in the northeast region, has implemented this innovative approach to evaluate the effectiveness of governance in its 25 districts.

**DGGI: A Path to Next-Generation Administrative Reforms**

The District Good Governance Index, is a comprehensive assessment developed jointly by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) and the Government of Arunachal Pradesh. This index signifies a leap towards next-generation administrative reforms by providing a standardized framework for evaluating governance practices.

**Arunachal Pradesh's Leading Role**

Arunachal Pradesh has taken the lead in embracing the DGGI as the first state in the northeast region to implement this initiative. The index benchmarks governance across the state's 25 districts, covering various sectors and indicators, with a total of 65 indicators used to assess the districts' performance.

**Ranking and Divisions**

The districts of Arunachal Pradesh have been categorized into three divisions: East, West, and Central. This division-wise ranking enables a better understanding of the governance landscape within the state and facilitates targeted interventions to address specific challenges and gaps.

### Promoting Effective Governance

The District Good Governance Index serves as a valuable tool for providing guidance to the state government and district administration in addressing existing gaps and formulating strategies for improvement. By promoting healthy competition among districts, the index fosters a citizen-centric approach to administration and encourages good governance practices.

### Enhancing Decision-Making

The DGGI's comprehensive assessment enables decision-makers to make informed choices by analyzing the performance of districts across multiple sectors. It facilitates evidence-based decision-making, aiding policymakers in developing effective strategies and interventions to bridge gaps and improve governance outcomes.

### Gaula River Mining

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has given permission to the Uttarakhand government to continue mining activities in the Gaula River in Nainital district. The extension allows mining work to be carried out until June 30, extending the previous deadline of May 31. This decision is expected to have significant implications for the state's economy and local communities.

### Boost to State's Income and Employment Opportunities

With the approval to continue mining operations in the Gaula River, the Uttarakhand government anticipates a profit of up to Rs. 50 crore. This additional revenue will contribute to the state's income, providing a much-needed economic boost. Furthermore, the extended permission is also expected to create employment opportunities for the local population. This will have a positive impact on the livelihoods of individuals and help to stimulate economic growth in the region.

### Access to Affordable Construction Materials

In addition to the economic benefits, the extension of mining activities in the Gaula River will ensure the availability of construction materials at a lower cost. The mining operations will provide access to essential resources needed for construction projects, contributing to the development and infrastructure growth of the area. This will not only benefit the government but also benefit the community by making construction materials more affordable and accessible.

### The Gaula River: Origin and Significance

The Gaula River, also known as the Gola River, originates in the Paharpani Village of Uttarakhand and flows through various regions, including Kathgodam, Haldwani, Kichha, and Shahi. It stretches for approximately 500 kilometers, making it a significant water source for Haldwani and Kathgodam. The river is also referred to as Kichha and Baigul in certain sections. Ultimately, the Gaula River joins the Ramganga River in Uttar Pradesh, which is a tributary of the Ganges.

### HPCL Tests E27 Fuel

Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) has embarked on an ambitious pilot study, becoming the first Oil Marketing Company in India to conduct comprehensive research on vehicles utilizing E27 fuel and Ethanol Blended Diesel Fuel. This initiative aligns with the ethanol blending roadmap outlined by the Indian government, which aims to achieve 20% Ethanol Blended Gasoline (E20) by 2023 and ensure its widespread availability.

The ethanol blending roadmap in India sets forth a clear vision for a greener and more sustainable future. By April 2023, the roadmap proposes the introduction of E20 material-compliant and E10 engine-tuned vehicles, signaling a significant shift toward ethanol blending. This endeavor supports the government's goal of reducing carbon emissions and promoting cleaner fuels.

**Promising Emissions Reduction**

Preliminary studies on vehicles fueled with E27 have demonstrated noteworthy reductions in emissions, particularly carbon dioxide, compared to traditional gasoline. HPCL's pilot study on E27 fuel aims to assess its performance and emissions in engines and vehicles through extended mileage accumulation. Passenger cars will undergo trials with a target mileage accumulation of 20,000 km, allowing for a comprehensive evaluation of the fuel's efficiency and environmental impact.

**Compliance with Fuel Specifications**

The ethanol trials conducted by HPCL will strictly adhere to IS 1460:2017 fuel specifications, ensuring the quality and compatibility of the fuel. These trials will further contribute to understanding the efficacy of E27 fuel and its potential for widespread adoption in the transportation sector.

**Continuing the Ethanol Blending Program**

India's ethanol blending program has set its sights on achieving 27% blending, surpassing the milestone of E20 fuel. This progressive approach reflects the commitment to reducing dependency on fossil fuels and embracing cleaner alternatives. HPCL's pilot study on E27 fuel is a stepping stone toward this ambitious target.

**HPCL's Success with E20 Fuel**

In February of this year, HPCL successfully launched E20 fuel across 23 retail outlets in India. With a current presence of 350 E20 outlets across 21 states, the company has already made substantial progress in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. To date, the use of E20 fuel has resulted in a reduction of approximately 3000 MT of GHG emissions. These numbers highlight the significant environmental impact of transitioning to ethanol-blended fuels.

## 2nd Edition of Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has announced the second edition of the Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman, an initiative to acknowledge outstanding media coverage of yoga. With a total of thirty-three Sammans to be awarded across three categories, this recognition aims to honor the significant role played by the media in promoting yoga and its numerous benefits.

The Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman 2023 will be conferred under three distinct categories: Best Media Coverage in Yoga in Newspaper, Best Media Coverage in Yoga in Electronic Media (TV), and Best Media Coverage in Yoga in Electronic Media (Radio). These categories ensure comprehensive recognition for exceptional coverage across print, television, and radio platforms.

**Role of the Media in Yoga Promotion**

Media plays a crucial role in disseminating awareness and showcasing the transformative potential of yoga. The media has played a pivotal role in presenting yoga as a universal practice accessible to people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. Their dedication and commitment have helped yoga transcend borders and cultures, making it a global phenomenon.

**Recognition and Responsibility**

The Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman recognizes the instrumental role that the media plays in spreading awareness and understanding of yoga, both within India and abroad. This recognition aims to commend the media's contributions in disseminating the outreach of yoga and promoting it as a universal language of wellness. The Samman serves as an acknowledgment of the immense power and responsibility that the media holds in promoting this ancient practice.

**Submission Guidelines and Jury**

To be eligible for the Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman, media houses are required to submit their details and relevant clippings or audio/visual content telecast or published during the period of 10th June 2023 to 25th June 2023. An independent Jury will be responsible for recommending the Samman winners based on the submissions received. The winners will receive a special media/plaque/trophy and a citation.

## Sagar Samriddhi

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) has launched the 'Sagar Samriddhi' online dredging monitoring system, a significant development in the maritime sector of India. This state-of-the-art system, developed by the National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC), aims to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of dredging operations in the country's ports. This system marks a substantial improvement over the previous Draft and Loading Monitor (DLM) system, offering advanced capabilities and functionalities for dredging operations.

The 'Sagar Samriddhi' monitoring system processes various reports, including daily dredging reports and pre- and post-dredging survey data. By integrating multiple input reports, it produces real-time dredging reports, bringing greater synergy and efficiency to the monitoring process. The system allows for visualizations of daily and monthly progress, dredger performance, downtime monitoring, and location track data, contributing to enhanced project management.

### Supporting National Visions

The 'Sagar Samriddhi' system is in accordance with the objectives of Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) and Make in India, which have been advocated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. By leveraging advanced technology, the system strengthens the government's focus on self-reliance and promotes the use of indigenous technological solutions in the maritime sector.

### Dredging Guidelines and Waste to Wealth

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways issued the 'Dredging Guidelines for Major Ports' to streamline and improve dredging processes. In 2021, an addendum was introduced to the guidelines, emphasizing the concept of 'Waste to Wealth.' This provision allows for the effective disposal and utilization of dredged material, reducing dredging costs and promoting environmental sustainability.

### Ports Embracing 'Sagar Samriddhi'

Cochin Port and Mumbai Port have already adopted the 'Sagar Samriddhi' online dredging monitoring system, recognizing its value in optimizing their dredging operations. Additionally, New Mangalore Port and Deendayal Port are currently running trials with the system. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has directed all Major Ports and the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) to utilize the customized 'Sagar Samriddhi' system developed by the NTCPWC for monitoring their dredging operations.

### Driving Research and Development

The NTCPWC, which played a crucial role in the development of the 'Sagar Samriddhi' system, was established under the Sagarmala Programme of MoPSW. With a focus on research and development, the center contributes to the growth and optimization of the marine sector in India. Equipped with world-class capabilities, the NTCPWC enables research in various areas such as ocean modeling, coastal engineering, autonomous platforms, and more.

## Tactical LAN Radio

The Indian Army has recently signed a contract with Astrome Tech Pvt Ltd, a Bengaluru-based company, to procure the indigenously-developed "tactical LAN radio." This state-of-the-art high-bandwidth backhaul wireless radio equipment is aimed at providing reliable communication for the armed forces. The contract signing ceremony, held in New Delhi, was attended by Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar, the Vice Chief of Army Staff.

The procurement of the "tactical LAN radio" falls under the framework of Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX). Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April 2018, iDEX aims to foster innovation and technological development in the defence and aerospace sector.

## Reliable Communication

The primary purpose of the "tactical LAN radio" is to provide reliable communication for the Indian Army. With its state-of-the-art features, it offers an enhanced range of communication, ensuring seamless connectivity in critical situations. This development is crucial in enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of military operations.

## Key Features

The "tactical LAN radio" incorporates several cutting-edge features. One such feature is its embedded frequency hopping mechanism, which helps prevent interception and ensure secure communication channels. The system also boasts enhanced safety features, prioritizing the confidentiality and integrity of the transmitted data. Additionally, the "tactical LAN radio" can operate continuously for 48 hours on a single set, without any breakdown, ensuring uninterrupted communication during extended operations.

## Astrome Tech Pvt Ltd

The Indian Army has chosen Astrome Tech Pvt Ltd as the supplier for the "tactical LAN radio." This Bengaluru-based company has demonstrated its expertise in developing indigenously-made defense equipment. The partnership between the Indian Army and Astrome Tech Pvt Ltd represents a crucial collaboration in advancing indigenous defense capabilities.

## Cochin Fishing Harbour Modernization Project

The Cochin Fishing Harbour in Kerala is set to undergo a comprehensive modernisation project aimed at enhancing its infrastructure and boosting the fishing industry.

**Sagarmala Programme: Benefiting Fishermen**
**Estimated Cost and Funding Sources**
The Cochin Fishing Harbour modernisation project is estimated to cost 169.17 crore. Funding for the project comes from two significant sources. The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), a scheme under the Department of Fisheries, contributes Rs 50 crore, while the Sagarmala Project scheme of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) provides an additional Rs 50 crore. The remaining investment of Rs 55.84 crore comes from the public-private partnership (PPP) operator.

## Infrastructure Improvements

The modernisation project focuses on various infrastructure improvements. These include the construction of three air-conditioned auction halls, one non-air-conditioned hall, fish dressing units, internal roads, loading and unloading platforms, waste management areas, and other ancillary units. These enhancements aim to bring the harbour's basic infrastructure up to international standards and maintain high hygienic standards.

## Increased Capacity

One of the significant developments of the project is the construction of four temperature-controlled auction halls, measuring 60mx18m each, equipped with mechanical retrieval and conveyance systems. This upgrade is expected to increase the fishing harbour's capacity by a remarkable 415 tonnes of fish per day. The new auction halls will significantly improve the processing and auctioning of fish, streamlining operations for the benefit of fishermen and traders alike.

## Major Fish Items Landed

The Thoppumpady Harbour, where the Cochin Fishing Harbour is located, witnesses a robust fishing activity for around 10 months, with a peak season from August to November. The fishing harbour receives arrivals of a wide range of

significant fish species, such as shrimps, cuttlefish, carangids, ribbon fish, seer fish, tuna, and marlins. These diverse species contribute to a daily catch averaging 250 tonnes.

**Sagarmala Programme: Benefiting Fishermen**
The modernisation of fishing harbours aligns with the Sagarmala Programme, initiated by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW). Under this program, the MoPSW has completed fishing harbour projects worth Rs 620 crore, benefitting around 30,000 fishermen. The Cochin Fishing Harbour modernisation project is an integral part of this program, contributing to the overall development and prosperity of the fishing community.

## Derailment in Indian Railways

A report titled "Derailment in Indian Railways" was released in 2022 by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG). This report flagged several shortcomings and provided multiple recommendations to improve the safety of the railways.

One of the significant shortcomings highlighted in the CAG report was the failure in conducting proper inspections. The report revealed that inspections by Track Recording Cars, which are crucial in assessing the geometrical and structural conditions of railway tracks, experienced shortfalls ranging from 30-100%. This raised concerns about the accuracy and effectiveness of track assessments.

Additionally, the report flagged failures in submitting and accepting inquiry reports after accidents. This lack of proper documentation and analysis hindered the ability to learn from past incidents and implement necessary preventive measures.

Another concerning aspect was the inadequate utilization of the dedicated railway fund. The report pointed out that the fund, meant for priority tasks related to safety, was not fully utilized. This raised questions about the allocation and management of resources within the railway system.

The report also highlighted a decline in funding for track renewal, which was linked to a significant number of derailments. Approximately 289 derailments, accounting for 26% of the total incidents from 2017 to 2021, were attributed to track renewals. This called for a reevaluation of investment priorities to ensure the maintenance and upgrade of railway tracks.

**Derailments and the Role of Bad Driving**
Among the factors contributing to derailments, the report emphasized the role of bad driving and overspeeding. It stated that 154 accidents, out of a total of 1129 derailments, were attributed to the loco pilots. This underscored the need for better training, monitoring, and strict adherence to safety protocols by the train drivers.

**Operational Challenges in the Track Management System (TMS)**
The CAG report raised concerns about the non-operational status of the Track Management System (TMS), which is a web-based application for monitoring track maintenance activities. The in-built monitoring mechanism of the TMS portal was found to be inactive, and important information, such as closure of inspection notes, was not properly recorded. This highlighted the need for an efficient and functional system to oversee track maintenance operations.

**Recommendations for Enhanced Safety**
In light of the findings, the CAG report presented several recommendations to improve the safety of India's train system. It stressed the importance of strict adherence to scheduled timelines for accident inquiries to ensure timely resolution and implementation of preventive measures. The report also emphasized the adoption of fully mechanized methods of track maintenance and the use of improved technologies to enhance safety operations.

## Supreme Court Order on Manglik

In a significant development, the Supreme Court of India has intervened and stayed the order of the Allahabad High Court that directed the examination of a rape complainant's horoscope to determine her "manglik" status.

The Supreme Court took a decisive step by staying the implementation of the Allahabad High Court's order. This intervention ensures that the legal proceedings focus on the substantive merits of the case, setting aside any reliance on superstitious beliefs.

## Unveiling the Belief of Misery Associated with Manglik
The belief surrounding being manglik is steeped in superstition, where people associate it with the potential to bring misery, ill-health, and even death to a non-manglik spouse. This belief lacks scientific evidence and predominantly stems from cultural traditions and astrological practices.

## The Reason for Refusal: Manglik as a Justification
In the case at hand, the man provided the reason for refusing to marry the woman based on her manglik status. This underscores the significance attributed to astrology and the weight it holds in certain cultural contexts.

## Determining Manglik Status: Analyzing Planetary Influence
Manglik status is determined by assessing the position of the planet Mars in an individual's horoscope or birth chart. The influence of Mars on various houses in the chart is believed to have the potential to cause disharmony and conflict in one's life.

## Supreme Court's Focus: Subject Matter Pertaining to the Case
The Supreme Court made it clear that it was primarily concerned with the subject matter relevant to the case. While respecting the beliefs associated with astrology, the court aimed to ensure that legal proceedings are not influenced by superstitious practices but instead emphasize fair and just evaluation.

## Prerna: The Vernacular School
Prerna (inspirational): The Vernacular School, located in Vadnagar, holds great significance as the alma mater of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This historic school, established in 1888 and functional until 2018, is undergoing a remarkable redevelopment project. The initiative aims to inspire students and preserve the rich historical heritage of Vadnagar.

## Development of an Archaeological Experimental Museum
## Inspiring Students as Catalysts of Change
The objective of the school redevelopment project is to serve as an inspiration for students, encouraging them to become catalysts of change in society. Prerna: The Vernacular School envisions instilling education, values, and a sense of responsibility in students. By offering a week-long study tour to two students from each district across the country, the project aims to provide them with a unique and inspiring educational experience.

## Restoration Efforts by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)
The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is actively involved in the restoration of Prerna: The Vernacular School as part of Vadnagar's redevelopment. This initiative is not only about reviving the physical structure but also preserving the cultural and historical essence of the school.

## Vadnagar's Historical Significance
Vadnagar holds a prominent place in history as one of the earliest fortified towns and a renowned Buddhist learning center. The restoration efforts and the revival of Prerna: The Vernacular School are not only significant for education but also contribute to the preservation of Vadnagar's rich cultural heritage.

## Development of an Archaeological Experimental Museum

In addition to the school redevelopment, the Gujarat government is undertaking the development of an Archaeological Experimental Museum in Vadnagar. This museum aims to showcase the artifacts and historical significance of the region, providing visitors with a deeper understanding of Vadnagar's cultural legacy.

## Nand Baba Milk Mission Scheme

In an effort to bolster milk development and production in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched the Nand Baba Milk Mission. With a budget of Rs 1,000 crore, this initiative aims to empower milk producers and provide them with opportunities to sell their milk at reasonable prices through dairy co-operative societies.

The primary objective of the Nand Baba Milk Mission is to empower milk producers in Uttar Pradesh. By establishing dairy co-operative societies, the mission aims to provide producers with a fair and reasonable price for their milk, thereby ensuring their economic well-being.

## Establishment of Dairy Farmer Producer Organizations (Dairy FPOs)

As part of the Nand Baba Milk Mission, there is a proposed plan to set up Dairy Farmer Producer Organizations (Dairy FPOs) in 5 districts of the state. These organizations will play a crucial role in facilitating the sale of milk directly in producers' villages. The involvement of women in Dairy FPOs is an important aspect of the plan, promoting gender inclusivity and empowerment.

## Strengthening Rural Economy and Agro-based Infrastructure

The Dairy Development Department is leading the efforts to strengthen the rural economy and ensure remunerative prices for farmers' milk. Through the establishment of Dairy FPOs, the mission aims to enhance the sale of milk in villages, contributing to the growth of the agro-based infrastructure in Uttar Pradesh.

## NICE Endorses Rimegepant

Migraine is a debilitating neurological disorder affecting millions of people worldwide. In England, approximately 5.6 million individuals experience episodic migraines, with a staggering 190,000 migraine attacks occurring daily. To address the challenges faced by migraine sufferers, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (Nice) has endorsed rimegepant, also known as Vydura, as a preventive treatment. However, while the approval has been welcomed, charities have expressed disappointment regarding its limited use for acute cases of migraines.

The regulatory body, Nice, has given its endorsement for rimegepant to be made available on the NHS for migraine sufferers in England. To be eligible for this medication, adults must have experienced failure with at least three previous preventive treatments, highlighting the importance of finding effective solutions for those who have not responded to conventional therapies.

## A Convenient Oral Medication

Rimegepant stands out as the first oral medication specifically recommended by Nice for preventing migraines. It offers a convenient form of treatment through a dissolvable wafer placed under the tongue. This innovative delivery method provides an alternative to injections and promises greater convenience and ease of administration for migraine sufferers.

## Understanding the Mechanism of Rimegepant

Rimegepant works by blocking calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP), a protein responsible for causing intense inflammation and severe pain during migraine attacks. By preventing CGRP from binding to its targets in the brain, rimegepant effectively reduces the severity and frequency of migraines, offering hope for individuals affected by this neurological disorder.

## Current Treatment Options and Disappointment

Migraine treatment typically involves a combination of acute and preventive approaches. Commonly used medications include beta-blockers, antidepressants, and epilepsy medications. However, these options may not be effective for

everyone and can have significant side effects. This makes the endorsement of rimegepant particularly significant, offering a new preventive treatment option for those who have not responded to conventional therapies.

However, charities have expressed disappointment that rimegepant has not been approved for the acute treatment of migraines. They emphasize the importance of effective treatment to prevent medication overuse headaches, which can occur when migraine treatment is ineffective or inadequate.

## Electromagnetic Field (EMF) Radiation

Recently, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Delhi LSA, organized a webinar focused on raising awareness about Electromagnetic Field (EMF) radiation. The event aimed to address misconceptions surrounding the potential harmful effects of EMF radiation from mobile towers. Experts shed light on the nature of EMF emissions, safety measures, and the role of international organizations in setting limits.

The EMF radiation emitted from mobile tower antennas and mobile handsets is in the form of RF or Electromagnetic energy. It is important to note that this type of energy is non-ionizing and has very low levels of energy.

**Debunking Misconceptions**
Based on scientific evidence and studies, DoT emphasized that there is no conclusive proof of any health hazards associated with EMF radiation from mobile towers. In fact, the EMF emissions from mobile towers in India adhere to safe limits prescribed by the International Commission on Non Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) and recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO). This information was shared to dispel misconceptions and provide assurance regarding the safety of mobile tower emissions.

**Ensuring Compliance and Safety**
The responsibility of maintaining safe limits for EMF radiation lies with the Department of Telecommunication (DoT) and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs). These entities have adopted stricter norms for safety, which are 10 times more stringent than the norms prescribed by ICNIRP as recommended by WHO. Regular testing of radiation from working mobile towers is carried out by the field units of DoT Delhi on a sample basis, covering up to 5 percent of the total working mobile towers (BTS) annually.

**Access to Information**
To promote transparency and accessibility, DoT provides information on mobile tower radiation on their official website. The website serves as a valuable resource for the public, offering insights into the journey of EMF awareness, safety measures, and related guidelines.

**Target Stakeholders and Objectives**
The webinar aimed to address concerns among various stakeholders, including public representatives, government departments and agencies, Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), urban local bodies, municipalities, and the general public. The primary objective was to debunk myths surrounding EMF radiation, clarify its impact on health, and ensure that the development of mobile towers faces no hindrance.

## One liner

- G-20 development ministers' meet begins in Varanasi.
- Odisha Police destroy 2.2 lakh kg of marijuana in the state, after a special drive.
- Centre sets up panel in Manipur to further peace-making process.
- Indian Navy showcases twin-carrier operations in a major upgrade to maritime security.

- CAG to host SAI20 Summit under India's G20 Presidency in Goa.
- Power ministry has asked Central Electricity Regulatory Authority (CERC) to initiate the process of coupling multiple power exchanges.
- Centre announces four important initiatives to strengthen over 1,500 Urban Co-operative Banks
- The four Indigenous children lost for 40 days in Colombian Amazon were found.
- Pakistan proposes Budget, with funds to fight climate change.
- China plans to restrict use of mobile file-sharing services AirDrops and Bluetooth.
- Olympic medallist Sakshi Malik said that the wrestlers will participate in the upcoming Asian Games only if their ongoing issues are resolved.
- Hockey: India records 1-0 win over host Japan and entered the final of the Women's Junior Asia Cup.
- Ravindra Jadeja surpassed Bishan Singh Bedi to become the country's most successful left-arm spinner in Tests.
- Rohit Sharma has become the third Indian opener to cross 13,000 runs across formats.
- Madhya Pradesh to launch 'Ladli Bahna' scheme to make women financially independent.
- WHO report highlights significant impact of 'Har Ghar Jal' programme on public health and economic savings.
- Ministry of Information and Broadcasting announces second edition of Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman.
- 'Very severe' cyclone Biparjoy to intensify in next 24 hours: IMD.
- India, France, and UAE Conclude Successful Trilateral Maritime Exercise in Gulf of Oman, Enhancing Naval Cooperation.
- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) Sarbananda Sonowal launched 'SAGAR SAMRIDDHI' – the online dredging monitoring system.
- Indian Council of Agricultural Research signs a MOU with Amazon Kisan to Empower Farmers.
- Forex reserves jump $5.9 bn to $595 bn: Reserve Bank data.
- RBI notifies 4 key measures to strengthen 1,514 urban co-operative banks.
- Google celebrates Portugal National Day with a special doodle.
- Boris Johnson quits as UK lawmaker after it was told that he will be sanctioned for misleading Parliament.
- The Sudanese government has declared the UN envoy to the country.
- US Vice President Kamala Harris announces more than 100 million US Dollars assistance for Caribbean.
- European Union ministers have agreed on a deal to overhaul the bloc's asylum procedures.
- Saudi Arabia and US announces 24 hours Sudan ceasefire.
- Casper Ruud to face Novak Djokovic in final of French Open men's singles
- Haryana CM Manohar Lal launches integrated Water Resources Action Plan-2023-25.
- J&K maintains first rank in UT category in Food Safety Index 2022-23; for third time in row.
- ISRO chairman S Somnath informs Chandrayaan 3 mission is planned to be launched by mid-July.
- National Conference on Recent Advances in School Education to begin at Dr. B R Ambedkar National Institute of Technology in Jalandhar.
- Severe Cyclonic storm Biparjoy moves northwards of Arabian Sea; Coastal Gujarat kept on high alert.
- The southwest monsoon arrived in Kerala, four days later than the original forecast date of June 4.
- National Exit Test to start from 2024, says Health Ministry.
- DRDO successfully tests ballistic missile 'Agni Prime'.
- Air India jet lands safely in San Francisco carrying 216 passengers and 16 crew members from Magadan in Russia where they were stranded for two days.
- The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided unanimously to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5% for the second time.

- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said cooperative lenders will be able to do write-offs and execute settlements with defaulting borrowers.
- RBI lets banks issue RuPay prepaid forex cards to help widen usage
- India and Serbia agree to set bilateral trade of 1 Billion Euros by end of this decade
- Former U.S. President Donald Trump charged in classified documents probe.
- U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said that an El Nino climate phenomenon has arrived.
- French Open 2023: Carlos Alcaraz to face with Novak Djokovic in the Men's Singles semi-finals.
- Indian contingent of 198 athletes to participate in Special Olympics World Summer Games 2023 in Germany.
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- Indian contingent of 198 athletes to participate in Special Olympics World Summer Games 2023 in Germany.
- Indian Railways conducts first trail run of Patna-Ranchi Vande Bharat Express train.
- A celt, belonging to the neolithic period, was discovered in Poothinatham village in Dharmapuri, Tamil Nadu.
- Indian Air Force (IAF) and Army carry out joint exercise in the central sector.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first National Training Conclave in New Delhi
- Nitin Agarwal, a 1989-batch IPS officer of Kerala cadre, was appointed the new Director-General of the Border Security Force (BSF).
- Two-day national conference of tribal writers held in Jammu and Kashmir.
- India leads global digital payments with 89.5 million transactions in 2022
- Foreign investors pump in nearly Rs 10,000 crores into Indian equities markets in 1st two weeks of June.
- Government asks imported coal-based power plants to operate at full capacity till September.
- The Union Government releases ₹1.2 trillion as third tranche of tax devolution to states.
- Philippines' Mayon volcano spews lava down in a mild eruption.
- Iraq approves record USD 153bn budget aimed at creating jobs.

- A magnitude 6.2 earthquake struck Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido in Japan.
- Novak Djokovic created history on Sunday when he won a record-breaking 23rd Grand Slam title.
- Australia secures its ninth ICC title in men's cricket; Australia is the only team to win an ICC title in all three formats.
- India clinched its maiden Women's Junior Hockey Asia Cup title.
- Cyclone Biparjoy: Gujarat state government has shifted nearly 30,000 people from coastal areas to safer places.
- The government has ruled out the possibility of capping airfares during the ongoing peak travel season.
- Two warships of different classes were launched into the water, and the keel of a third vessel was laid at Larsen & Toubro (L&T) shipyard at Kattupalli in Chennai.
- President Droupadi Murmu has greeted people on the occasion of Odisha's agricultural festival, Raja.
- Second summit of Supreme Audit Institutions of G20 countries concludes in Goa.
- Centre announces three schemes worth over Rs 8000 cr for disaster management in country.
- Guwahati Railway Station awarded 'Eat Right Station' certification by FSSAI.
- RBI chief Shaktikanta Das honoured with 'Governor of the Year' award at Central Banking Awards 2023.
- India's wholesale inflation in May declines to 3-yr-low of (-) 3.48%.
- GST evasion of Rs 30,000 crore using stolen IDs across 16 states uncovered.
- Germany returns remains of Indigenous Maori and Moriori people to New Zealand.
- Meta releases 'human-like' AI image creation model.
- ADB approves USD 400 million to Bangladesh under sustainable economic recovery programme.
- Number of people forcibly displaced around world climbed to record 110 million: UNHCR
- Sindhu and Prannoy make the pre-quarterfinals of the Indonesia Open World Tour Super 1000 event.
- Indonesia Open: Lakshya Sen crushes world no. 11 Lee Zii Jia in straight games.
- Indian archer Aditi Gopichand Swamy scored 711/720 to break the Under 18 world record.
- After an alleged data leak of COVID vaccination beneficiaries, Union IT Ministry says breached data were previously stolen but not from CoWIN portal.
- W20 summit to begin tomorrow at Mahabalipuram near Chennai.
- Madhya Pradesh to transfer Rs 6423 crore in bank accounts of farmers at Kisan-Kalyan Mahakumbh.
- PM Modi distributes over 70 thousand appointment letters to newly inducted recruits at Rozgar Mela.
- Haryana announces monthly pension of Rs. 10,000 for Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan & Padma Vibhushan awardees of State.
- Cyclone Biparjoy likely to cross Saurashtra and Kutch near Jakhau port by noon on 15th June.
- India's retail inflation eased further in May to a 20-month low of 4.25%, from 4.7% in April.
- Industrial Output of India rise to 4.2% in April 2023: MoSPI
- RBI permits banks to settle wilful default, fraud accounts.
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un expresses interest to deepen ties with Russian President Vladimir Putin.
- Pakistan begins importing discounted Russian crude oil.
- U.S. decides to return to UNESCO, after a decade-long dispute sparked by the move to include Palestine as a member.
- Novak Djokovic reaches record 23 grand slam titles after French Open final win.
- World Squash Championship begins at Chennai; India to face Hong Kong on the first day.
- Indonesia Open: PV Sindhu, HS Prannoy advance to second round of Singles event
- Union government approved the second phase of the City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain (CITIIS) project.
- OTT platforms mandated to show anti-tobacco warnings, Union Health Ministry notifies under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2004.

- French rail company, Alstom will manufacture 100 aluminium bodied Vande Bharat trains.
- IAF trainer aircraft crashes in Karnataka during routine training; pilots eject safely.
- Union Cabinet approved constitution of an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) for world's largest grain storage plan in cooperative sector
- Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced that Ahmednagar city would be renamed 'Ahilyanagar' after the 18th century Maratha queen Ahilyabai Holkar.
- Union government will invite applications for setting up semiconductor and display fabrication units in India.
- India's GDP growth accelerated to 6.1% in the January to March 2023 quarter.
- India's GDP growth hits 7.2 per cent for fiscal year 2022-23, as per the Statistics Ministry's provisional estimate.
- Centre's fiscal deficit narrowed to 6.4% of the GDP in 2022-23 from 6.71% in FY22.
- Sri Lanka cuts policy rates to reduce inflation and boost economic recovery.
- India has joined the Centralised Laboratory Network (CLN), which has 15 partner facilities in 13 countries.
- Dubai Successfully Trials Medication Delivery via Drones with collision avoidance technology and real-time monitoring
- India, Vietnam hold 3rd Maritime Security Dialogue in New Delhi.
- French Open: Novak Djokovic, Carlos Alcaraz and Aryna Sabalenka advance to third round.
- French Open: Indian pair of Saketh Myneni and Yuki Bhambri powers into second round of Men's Double.
- Medium-range ballistic missile Agni-1 was successfully test-fired in Odisha.
- Chandrayaan-3 reaches launch port at Sriharikota ahead of next month's launch.
- High Court of Karnataka has upheld constitutional validity of Section 37A of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.
- Telangana to mark 10th year of formation on June 2.
- 100 units of free power for all households announced in Rajasthan
- GST collections cross ₹1.5 lakh crores for the fifth time.
- May's manufacturing PMI rose to 31-month high of 58.7: S&P Global survey.
- Uttar Pradesh govt launches 15-day mega registration drive for MSMEs
- India and Nepal sign pacts on energy, transport; India to import 10,000 MW of electricity from Nepal.
- U.S. and Taiwan sign trade deal aimed at deepening economic relations between both sides, as China issues warning.
- Pakistan posts record inflation for second consecutive month; inflation rose to 37.97% in May.

## Rajasthan special

**Important inscriptions and commendations:**

 Jain Kirtistambh Lekh-Jija was the founder of three inscriptions in Jain Kirtistambh. In this, the description of brother-in-law's dynasty and temple construction and both are found. These are from the 13th century.

 Shringi Rishi's article - It is found at some distance from Ekling at a place called Shringi Rishi, which is of the time of Maharana Mokal.

 Ranakpur Prashasti - The Prashasti of Ranakpur Prashasti was Depak. It is engraved on the pillar of Chaumukh temple of Ranakpur. Its date is 1439 AD. In this, Bapa and Kalbhoj have been described as different persons. It describes the victories of Maharana Kumbh.

 Kirti Stambh Prashasti (1460 AD): Composed by Atri's son Mahesh (Abhishi), it is inscribed on several rocks in the Chittorgarh fort.

 Now only two rocks are available. In this praise, the detailed genealogy of the Guhil dynasty from Bapa to Kumbha and their achievements are described. It also describes Mahesh Bhatt, its prashasti.

 This praise is very useful for understanding the political, religious, social and cultural condition of 15th century Rajasthan.

 Kumbhalgarh Prashasti: In this prashasti found in Kumbhalgarh, there is information about the condition of Mewar around 1460 AD.

 It was engraved on 5 rocks which are in Kumbhshyam Temple (Kumbhalgarh), now called Mamdev Temple.

 Praise of the south door of the temple of Eklingji - This was engraved by Maharana Raimal at the time of renovation of the temple (March, 1488 AD).

 In this, the genealogy of the rulers of Mewar, economic, social, religious status of the then society has been given.

There is also a description of Bapa's retirement in this. The author of this praise is a poet named Amr.

 Sivana's article: This article of 1537 AD is an indicator of Rao Maldev's (Jodhpur) Sivana victory.

 Amer's article: This record of 1612 AD mentions the genealogy of Kachwaha rulers - Prithviraj to Mansingh, Mansingh's achievements and construction works in Jamuvaramgarh.

In this article, the Kachwaha dynasty has been called Raghuvanshtilak.

 Jagannathraya Prashasti: This was engraved in May, 1652 on a black stone at the Jagannathraya Temple in Udaipur.

 It describes the achievements of Bapa to Sanga.

 It has detailed description of Haldighati war, Maharana Jagat Singh's wars, virtuous deeds, construction of this temple and Krishna Bhatt, the author of Prashasti.

 Raj Prashasti: This commendation engraved in Sanskrit on 25 black stones in the nine outposts of Rajsamand Lake was established by Maharaja Rajsingh in 1676 AD.

 Its author was Ranchod Bhatt Tailang. It is mentioned in this commendation that Rajsamand lake was constructed under famine relief works.

 It also mentions the treaty made by Maharana Amarsingh with the Mughals.

 Pratapgarh Rock Edict: It is preserved in Ajmer Museum. There are mentions related to feudal system in this. Some indigenous languages are also mentioned in this inscription.

 Inscription of Mandore: This inscription engraved on a rock in a babri of Mandore throws light on the worship of Vishnu and Shiva around 685 AD.

 This inscription gives information about the rulers of the Pratihara dynasty.

 Manmori's inscription: This inscription, engraved on a pillar on the banks of Mansarovar Lake (Chittor), mentions churning of nectar.

 It is engraved in Sanskrit language.

 This record was thrown into the sea by Colonel Tod while taking it to England.

 Kanaswa's article: This article is engraved in the pagoda of Kanaswa village near Kota. This article is of 738 AD. There is mention of a Maurya king named Dhaval in this.

 Chaksu's praise - In this article of 813 AD in Chaksu (Jaipur), the genealogy of Guhil dynasty kings has been given.

 Inscriptions of Ghatiyala: These inscriptions of 861 AD are engraved on a pillar at Ghatiyala near Jodhpur.

 In these there is a description of Pratihara Naresh Kakkuk. These articles are in Sanskrit.

 Nath Prashasti - This article of 971 AD has been received from Lakulish temple near Eklingji's temple.

 It describes Nagda Nagar and Bapa, Guhil kings.

 Praise of Harshnath - This praise of the temple of Harshnath (Sikar) is of 973 AD. It mentions the construction of the temple by Allat.

 It mentions the genealogy of the Chauhans.

 Kiradu's article: Sanskrit inscription in the Shiv temple of Kiradu (Barmer) in which the origin of the Paramaras has been told from the Abu Yajna of Rishi Vashishtha.

 Inscriptions of Bijolia: This inscription of 1170 AD engraved on a rock near Parshwanath temple of Bijolia was made by Jain Shravak Lolak.

 In this, the genealogy of the Chauhans of Sambhar and Ajmer has been given, describing them as Vats Gautriya Brahmins. Its author was Gunabhadra.

 Inscription of Chittor: This inscription of 1278 AD explains the religious tolerance policy of the then Guhil rulers.