arihant
SUCCESS AND NOTHING LESS

Adv. No.
CEN No.
01/2024

STUDY PACKAGE

Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs)

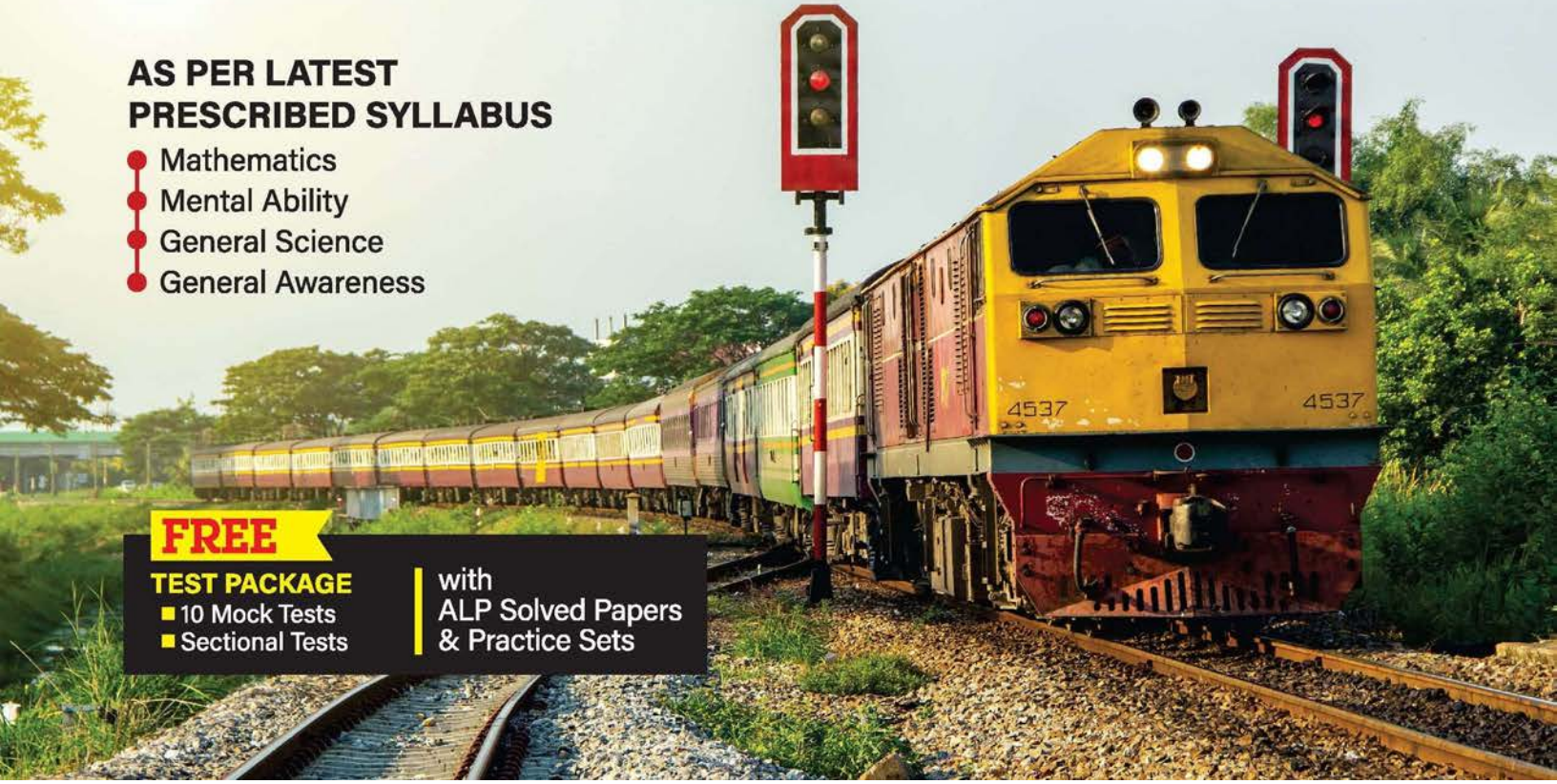
Assistant Loco Pilot (ALP)

COMPUTER BASED TEST 2024

STAGE-I

AS PER LATEST PRESCRIBED SYLLABUS

- Mathematics
- Mental Ability
- General Science
- General Awareness



FREE
TEST PACKAGE
- 10 Mock Tests
- Sectional Tests

with
ALP Solved Papers
& Practice Sets

STUDY PACKAGE

Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs)

Assistant Loco Pilot (ALP)

COMPUTER BASED TEST 2024

STAGE-I

STUDY PACKAGE

Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs)

Assistant Loco Pilot (ALP)

COMPUTER BASED TEST 2024

STAGE-I

Authors
Pradeep Srivastava,
Deepali, Shweta

arihant
SUCCESS AND NOTHING LESS

(RRBs) Assistant Loco Pilot (ALP)

Key Features

Chapterwise/Sectionwise Notes

The complete syllabus RRB ALP is given in Chapterwise-sectionwise pointer notes alongwith charts, tables and diagrams.

Current Affairs and Railway : An Overview

In Current Affairs, all important events of National and International Level are covered. Railway : An overview is a special section providing in depth Knowledge about Indian Railways.

Latest Solved Papers

Latest Solved Papers 2018, 2014, 2013 have been also included to facilitate knowledge of level and knowledge of examination.

Free Online Mock Tests

10 Free Online Mock Tests are provided to facilitate real-time practice before examination.

arihant
SUCCESS AND NOTHING LESS

ARIHANT PUBLICATIONS (INDIA), LIMITED

All Rights Reserved

© Publisher

No part of this publication may be re-produced, stored in a retrieval system or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning, web or otherwise without the written permission of the publisher. Arihant has obtained all the information in this book from the sources believed to be reliable and true. However, Arihant or its editors or authors or illustrators don't take any responsibility for the absolute accuracy of any information published and the damage or loss suffered thereupon.

All disputes subject to Meerut (UP) jurisdiction only.

Administrative & Production Offices

Regd. Office
'Ramchhaya' 4577/15, Agarwal Road, Darya Ganj, New Delhi -110002
Tele: 011- 47630600, 43518550

Head Office

Kalindi, TP Nagar, Meerut (UP) - 250002
Tel: 0121-7156203, 7156204

Sales & Support Offices

Agra, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bareilly, Chennai, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jhansi, Kolkata, Lucknow, Nagpur & Pune.

PRICE ₹445.00

PO No : TXT-XX-XXXXXXX-X-XX

Published by Arihant Publications (India) Ltd.

For further information about the books published by Arihant, log on to www.arihantbooks.com or e-mail at info@arihantbooks.com

Follow us on

CONTENTS

Current Affairs 1-32

Assistant Loco Pilot Solved Paper 2018 1-16

Assistant Loco Pilot Solved Paper 2014 17-24

Assistant Loco Pilot Solved Paper 2013 25-32

MATHEMATICS 1-112

1. Number System 3-10
2. Simple & Decimal Fractions 10-14
3. Simplification 14-18
4. HCF and LCM 19-22
5. Square Root and Cube Root 23-27
6. Indices and Surds 28-33
7. Average 33-37
8. Ratio, Proportion and Partnership 37-42
9. Problems Based on Ages 42-46
10. Percentage 47-51
11. Profit, Loss and Discount 51-57
12. Simple & Compound Interests 58-63
13. Time and Work 64-69
14. Pipes and Cisterns 70-73
15. Time, Speed and Distance 74-79
16. Clock and Calendar 79-83
17. Algebra 83-86
18. Geometry 87-93
19. Area and Perimeter 94-98
20. Volume and Surface Area 98-103
21. Trigonometry 104-108
22. Statistics 108-112

MENTAL ABILITY 1-140

1. Word Formation, Alphabet and Number Test 3-7
2. Analogy 8-12
3. Symbolic/Number Analogy 12-18
4. Classification 18-20
5. Alphabet/Number/Figure Classification 21-27
6. Letter Series 27-30
7. Series 30-38
8. Coding-Decoding 39-44
9. Blood Relation 45-50
10. Direction Sense Test 51-58
11. Mathematical Operations 58-62
12. Inserting the Missing Character 63-66
13. Venn Diagram 67-73
14. Drawing Inferences 73-80
15. Statement and Conclusions 80-85
16. Statement and Arguments 86-90
17. Statement and Assumptions 91-97
18. Data Interpretation and Sufficiency 98-104
19. Mirror and Water Images 105-113
20. Paper Folding and Cutting 114-118
21. Counting of Figures 119-125
22. Embedded Figures 126-132
23. Figure Completion 133-140

GENERAL SCIENCE 1-106

1. Physics 3-38
2. Chemistry 39-70
3. Life Sciences 71-106

GENERAL AWARENESS 1-90

1. Indian History 3-24
2. India and World Geography 25-43
3. Indian Polity 44-56
4. Indian Economy 57-67
5. General Knowledge 68-90

- **Railway : An Overview 1-10**
- **Practice Sets (1-3) 1-14**

Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs)

Assistant Loco Pilot (ALP)

COMPUTER BASED TEST 2024

Opening date of application	20.01.2024
Closing date for Submission of Application	19.02.2024 (23.59 hours)
Dates for Modification window for corrections in application form with payment of modification fee (Please Note: Details filled in 'Create an Account form and Chosen RRB cannot be modified)	20.02.2024 to 29.02.2024

Post	Pay Level in 7th CPC	Initial pay (Rs.)	Medical Standard	Age as on 01.07.2024	Total Vacancies (All RRBs)
Assistant Loco Pilot (ALP)	Level-2	19900	A-1	18-30 years	5696

RRB WISE RAILWAY WISE SUMMARY OF VACANCIES

S. No.	RRB	Rly	UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS	Total	EXSM
1	AHMEDABAD	WR	95	37	17	65	24	238	24
2	AJMER	NWR	86	32	13	72	25	228	22
3	BENGALURU	SWR	186	72	35	127	53	473	47
4	BHOPAL	WCR	145	25	19	21	9	219	22
		WR	35	5	0	18	7	65	7
5	BHUBANESWAR	ECoR	104	42	51	65	18	280	28
6	BILASPUR	CR	57	0	13	44	10	124	12
		SECR	483	179	89	322	119	1192	119
7	CHANDIGARH	NR	42	2	4	12	6	66	6
8	CHENNAI	SR	57	33	15	29	14	148	15
9	GORAKHPUR	NER	18	7	3	11	4	43	4
10	GUWAHATI	NFR	26	9	4	17	6	62	6
11	JAMMU-SRINAGAR	NR	15	6	3	11	4	39	4
12	KOLKATA	ER	155	37	19	23	20	254	26
		SER	30	11	23	20	7	91	9
13	MALDA	ER	67	19	20	25	30	161	16
		SER	23	8	4	15	6	56	6
14	MUMBAI	SCR	10	4	2	7	3	26	3
		WR	41	16	8	30	15	110	11
		CR	179	58	37	95	42	411	41
15	MUZAFFARPUR	ECR	15	5	3	11	4	38	4
16	PATNA	ECR	15	6	3	10	4	38	4
17	PRYAGRAJ	NCR	163	13	10	27	28	241	25
		NR	21	7	3	12	2	45	5
18	RANCHI	SER	57	32	10	38	16	153	16
19	SECUNDERABAD	ECoR	80	30	15	54	20	199	20
		SCR	228	85	40	151	55	559	56
20	SILIGURI	NFR	27	10	5	18	7	67	7
21	THIRUVANANTHAPURAM	SR	39	14	14	1	2	70	7
			2499	**804**	**482**	**1351**	**560**	**5696**	**572**

RECRUITMENT PROCESS & SYLLABUS

RECRUITMENT PROCESS

(a) A candidate can apply to only one RRB and only ONE ONLINE application has to be submitted.

(b) The recruitment process shall comprise of the following stages
   (i) First Stage CBT (CBT-1)
   (ii) Second Stage CBT (CBT-2)
   (iii) Computer Based Aptitude Test (CBAT)
   (iv) Document Verification (DV) and
   (v) Medical Examination (ME)

(c) Information on examination schedule and venues will be given in due course through officers RRB websites, SMS and email.

(d) Request for postponement of any of the stages or for change of venue, date and shift will not be entertained under any circumstances.

FIRST STAGE CBT (CBT-1)

(a) CBT-1 will only be a screening exam for shortlisting eligible candidates for CBT-2 based on their normalised marks and merit.

(b) The marks of CBT-1 shall not be counted while preparing the final panel.

(c) Candidates belonging to OBC/SC/ST who are shortlisted for CBT-2 by availing relaxed standards of age shall continue to be treated as candidates of their respective reserved communities only for all subsequent stages of this recruitment process.

(d) **Pattern & Syllabus of CBT-1**
   (i) Duration: 60 minutes
   (ii) Number of questions: 75, Maximum marks: 75 (@1 mark per question)
   (iii) There shall be negative marking @1/3rd marks for each wrong answer.
   (iv) Normalisation of marks will be done for CBTs held in multiple shifts.
   (v) Minimum pass percentage for eligibility: UR & EWS-40%, OBC (NCL)-30%, SC-30% ST- 25%
   (vi) The standard of questions for CBT-1 will generally be in conformity with the educational standards and/or minimum technical qualifications prescribed for the post. Questions will be of objective type with multiple choice answers and are likely to cover topics pertaining to the following syllabus.
      (A) **Mathematics**: Number system, BODMAS, Decimals, Fractions, LCM, HCF, Ratio and Proportion, Percentages, Mensuration, Time and Work, Time and Distance, Simple and Compound Interest, Profit and Loss, Algebra, Geometry and Trigonometry, Elementary Statistics, Square Root, Age Calculations, Calendar & Clock, Pipes & Cistern etc.
      (B) **Mental Ability**: Analogies, Alphabetical and Number Series, Coding and Decoding. Mathematical operations, Relationships, Syllogism, Jumbling, Venn Diagram, Data Interpretation and Sufficiency, Conclusions and Decision Making, Similarities and Differences, Analytical reasoning, Classification, Directions, Statement-Arguments and Assumptions etc.
      (C) **General Science**: The syllabus under this shall cover Physics, Chemistry and Life Sciences of 10th standard level.
      (D) **General Awareness**: Current affairs, Science & Technology, Sports, Culture, Personalities, Economics, Politics and other subject of importance.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

National

India Celebrated Its 75th Republic Day

On 26th January, 2024, India celebrated its 75th Republic Day. President Droupadi Murmu unfurled the National Flag at Kartavya Path. The theme of this year's Republic Day was 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Loktantra ki Matruka'. The chief guest of the event was French President Emmanuel Macron.

Grand Pran Pratistha Ceremony of Shri Ram Lalla in Ayodhya

The Pran Pratishtha ceremony of Ramlalla was held on January 22, 2023 in Ayodhya with PM Narendra Modi leading the rituals in the newly constructed magnificent temple. The PM also unveiled the Ramlalla idol in the sanctum sanctorum at the temple designed by Arun Yogiraj. UP Governor Ananadiben Patel, CM Yogi Adityanath and RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat also offered prayers to Ramlalla during the ceremony.



PM Suryodaya Yojana Announced

PM Narendra Modi on January 22, 2024 announced 'Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana' under which one crore households will get rooftop solar system.
PM Modi said that the people of the country should have their own solar roof top system. This will not only reduce the electricity bill of the poor and middle class, but also make India self-reliant in energy sector.

Wings India 2024 Organised

The largest event in the Civil Aviation sector in Asia 'Wings India 2024' was held at Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad between January 18-21, 2024. It was organised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India and FICCI. The theme for the show was 'Connecting India to the World in Amrit Kaal : Setting the Stage for India Civil Aviation @2047'. Several deliberations, panel discussion, B2B meetings, exhibitions, static display of flights and air shows marked the event.

India International Science Festival 2023 Organised

The 9th edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF) 2023 was held in Faridabad (Haryana) from January 17-20, 2024. The theme of the IISF 2023 was 'Science and Technology Public Outreach in Amrit Kaal'.

The IISF 2023 aimed to inspire a wide range of people and provide a platform for individuals with diverse levels of interests such as students, teachers, scientists, researchers, industry professionals, entrepreneurs and science communicators.

Boeing India Engineering and Technology Center Inaugurated

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the new 'Boeing India Engineering and Technology Center' and launched the 'Boeing Sukanya' programme in Bengaluru on January 19, 2024.

The PM pointed out that the Boeing facility in Bengaluru strengthens the 'Make in India-Make for the World' resolution and reinforces the World's trust in India's talent.

Boeing Sukanya programme will create STEM Labs at 150 locations. The programme will also provide scholarships to women who are training to be pilots.

India, Cuba Signed MoU on Digital Public Infrastructure

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology signed an MoU with the Ministry of Communications of the Republic of Cuba on Cooperation in the field of Sharing Successful Digital Solutions Implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation in New Delhi on January 19, 2024. The MoU intends to promote digital transformation through capacity-building programs, exchange of best practices, and other collaborative activities to mutually benefit the digital ecosystems of both countries.

Installment of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin Inaugurated

PM Narendra Modi released the first installment to one lakh beneficiaries of PM Awas Yojana - Gramin under the PM-JANMAN via video conferencing on January 15, 2024. The PM-JANMAN, with a budget of around ₹24000 crore, focuses on 11 critical interventions through 9 Ministries. The initiative aims to enhance socio-economic conditions for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) by providing essential facilities like housing, education, healthcare etc.

India's First Dark Sky Park Announced

Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra has made history on January 14, 2024 by securing recognition as India's inaugural Dark Sky Park, marking its position as the fifth in Asia. The reserve is located in the Southern reaches of the Satpura hills in the Seoni and Chhindwara districts in Madhya Pradesh. The hills continue in

Nagpur district in Maharashtra as a separate sanctuary.

Mumbai Trans Harbour Link Inaugurated

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) on January 12, 2024, also known as Atal Setu, marking the opening of India's longest sea bridge to date. The 21.8 km link built at a cost of over ₹17840 crore aims to reduce travel time between South Mumbai and Navi Mumbai from 120 minutes to just 20 minutes.

'Engendering Land Ports in India' Report Released

The Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) released a report titled 'Engendering Land Ports in India' in New Delhi on January 11, 2024. The primary goal of the report is to create a framework for promoting gender-inclusive cross-border trade and tourism through land ports in the country. The report aims to foster a gender-positive environment.

India will be a $ 30 Trillion Economy by 2047

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced on January 11, 2024 that India will become a $ 30 trillion economy by 2047. She said the country will become a $ 5 trillion economy by 2028. India has received $ 919 billion in foreign direct investment in 23 years till 2023. Total 65% of the investments came in the last 9 years.

Vibrant Gujarat Trade Show Organised

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show at Gandhinagar on January 9, 2024. A total of 100 countries were participated in the five-day trade show as visiting countries, while 33 countries were joined as partners. Trade show focused on emerging sectors such as electric vehicles, green hydrogen, renewable energy, semiconductors and cyber-security.



Indian Railways Construction Manual, 2023 Launched

Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw unveiled the Indian Railways Construction Manual, 2023 in New Delhi on January 9, 2024. The construction manual will help in many activities including Land acquisition, forest clearance, bridge design, contract management, construction of tunnels and under bridges. This manual will also help in achieving the world's fastest growing rail network.

Country's First Smart Lab Started

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi has started the country's first smart lab in its OPD block to provide test facilities under one roof on January 5, 2024. This facility is seamlessly integrated, offering a wide range of laboratory testing services including hematology, biochemistry, serology, endocrinology and various immunoassays. The smart lab of AIIMS gets the report of 90% on the same day the sample is received.

Ayodhya Airport Renamed

The Centre approved Ayodhya airport of Uttar Pradesh will be named 'Maharishi Valmiki International Airport, Ayodhyadham' on January 5, 2024. It reflecting the historical and cultural significance of the region.The decision aligns with the government's vision to position Ayodhya as a key economic hub and a prominent pilgrimage destination.

Country's First All-Girl Sainik School in Mathura

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the first all-girl Sainik School in Vrindavan (Mathura), Uttar Pradesh on January 2, 2024. Its name is 'Sanvid Gurukulam Girls Sainik School' and capacity of nearly 870 students of this school. Affiliated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), the school will provide education and training under the guidance of ex-servicemen. The session of this school will start from April 2024 and 100 such schools will be opened in the country.

ISRO Launched Maiden X-ray Polarimeter Satellite

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) aboard Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C58 on January 1, 2024. The satellite was launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. Ten other scientific payloads were also launched along with XPoSat. Now, India has become the second country in the world after the United States to send a specialised astronomy observatory to study black holes and neutron stars in our galaxy.

16th Finance Commission Constituted

The Centre constituted 16th Finance Commission with Dr Arvind Panagariya as its Chairman on December 31, 2023. IAS officer Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey will be the secretary of the Commission. The Commission may review the present arrangements on financing Disaster Management initiatives and make appropriate recommendations thereon. The Finance Commission has been requested to make its report available by October 31, 2025 covering a period of five years commencing on the April 1, 2026.

Historic Tripartite Peace Accord Signed

A Tripartite Peace Accord has been signed between the Centre, the Assam Government, and the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) in New Delhi on December 30, 2023. The deal is intended to bring lasting peace to the North East region. According to Home Minister Amit Shah that after the formation of the NDA Government in 2014, violent incidents in Assam have declined by 87%, deaths by 90% and kidnappings by 84%.

First Oral Leukemia Drug for Children Introduced

Doctors from Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, introduced the first and only oral suspension of 6-mercaptopurine (6-MP) in India on December 29, 2023. This Hospital and the Advanced Centre for Training, Research and Education in Cancer (ACTREC), Navi Mumbai, collaborated with IDRS Labs, Bangalore, to develop this drug. 6-MP is a chemotherapy drug used in the treatment of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL), the most common type of blood cancer afflicting children.

India-Australia 2 Plus 2 Ministerial Dialogue Held

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh co-chaired the 2nd India-Australia 2 plus 2 Ministerial Dialogue with Australian

Deputy PM Richard Marles in New Delhi on November 20, 2023.

External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar and Minister for Foreign Affairs Ms Penny Wong were also present in the meeting. During the meet, the two countries discussed wide-ranging issues of mutual interest.

Digital Advertisement Policy, 2023 Approved

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has approved a path-breaking Digital Advertisement Policy, 2023 on November 10, 2023.

It aims to enable and empower the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) which is the advertising wing of the GoI to undertake campaigns in the Digital Media Space.

The Policy will enable CBC to empanel agencies and organisations in the OTT and Video on Demand Space.

Gwalior and Kozhikode Joined UNESCO Creative Cities Network

Indian cities of Gwalior and Kozhikode are among the 55 new cities which have joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) on November 9, 2023.

Kozhikode is the first city in India to receive the prestigious title of 'City of Literature' by UNESCO. Gwalior is the second city in India to be designated as the 'City of Music' by UNESCO, after Varanasi in 2015.

Mahadev App Banned

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on November 5, 2023 blocked 22 illegal betting apps and websites including Mahadev Book and Reddyannaprestopro.

The Ministry took the step on the recommendation of the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

The ED recommended to the Centre for restricting illegal betting app after investigation and subsequent raids on Mahadev Book in Chhattisgarh.

World Food India 2023 Organised

PM Narendra Modi Inaugurated the 2nd edition of 'World Food India 2023' in New Delhi on November 3, 2023.

The event aims to showcase India as the 'Food Hub of the World' and celebrate 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

The PM distributed seed capital assistance to over one lakh Self Help Groups (SHGs) members in this event. This support will help the SHGs to get better value in the market through better packaging and quality manufacturing.

Indian Donors Report Released

Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2023 was released on November 1, 2023. HCL Technologies founder and chairman Shiv Nadar is India's largest philanthropist and he donates ₹ 5.6 (₹ 2042 crore) crore every day.

Shiv Nadar is followed by Wipro chief Azim Premji (donated ₹1774 crore), Mukesh Ambani and Kumar Mangalam Birla.

'Mera Yuva Bharat' Platform Launched

PM Narendra Modi launched 'Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)' platform for youth of the country on October 31, 2023 at Kartavya Path on the National Unity Day.

This momentous initiative aims is to empower and uplift the country's youth. Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) serves as a 'Phygital Platform,' seamlessly blending physical and digital elements.

It includes physical activities complemented by digital connectivity, creating an engaging and comprehensive experience.

India's First Home-produced Reference Fuel Launched

Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched India's first home-produced Reference Fuel in New Delhi on October 26, 2023.

Reference Fuel is used for developing engines and assessing their performance. Earlier, India used to exclusively import it from other nations.

Namo Shetkari Mahasanman Nidhi Yojana Launched

PM Narendra Modi launched the 'Namo Shetkari Mahasanman Nidhi Yojana' at Shirdi in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra on October 26, 2023.

It will benefit over 86 lakh people registered under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana in Maharashtra. This scheme will provide an additional amount of ₹6000 per year to the beneficiaries.

Two Whole-Time Directors Mandated for Indian Banks

The RBI on October 25, 2023 introduced a crucial requirement for Indian banks, stating that they must now have a minimum of 2 whole-time directors (WTDs) on their boards.

This move aims to help banks navigate the growing complexity within the banking sector and effectively tackle emerging challenges.

Replace 'India' with 'Bharat' in Upcoming NCERT Books

The NCERT on October 24,2023 has given its approval to replace the term 'India' with 'Bharat' in all textbooks across the country.

The idea behind this recommendation is to emphasise the historical and cultural significance of the name 'Bharat' while acknowledging the nation's rich heritage. This change aims to provide a more nuanced and comprehensive understanding of India's historical evolution.

Gaganyaan TV-D1 Mission Launched

The Test Vehicle-D1 (TV-D1), designed for the ISRO's Gaganyaan programme, successfully took flight from Sriharikota Island in Andhra Pradesh on October 21, 2023.



The TV-D1 launch aimed to achieve several critical mission objectives, bringing India closer to realizing its dream of sending humans into space.

This Test Vehicle uses existing liquid propulsion technology and features innovations, including a throttleable and restartable L110 Vikas engine.

India's First RRTS Launched

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the priority section of Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS Corridor at Sahibabad

RapidX Station in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh on October 20,2023.

He also flagged off the Namo Bharat RapidX train connecting Sahibabad to Duhai Depot, marking the launch of the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) in India.

With a remarkable design speed of 180 km/h, the RRTS aims to provide high-speed trains for intercity commuting every 15 minutes.

Compensation Mandatory for Sewer Deaths and Disabilities

The Supreme Court of India on October 20, 2023 has taken a strong stance on the issue of sewer deaths in the country.

The compensation amount has been set at ₹ 30 lakh for the kin of the deceased and ₹ 20 lakh for those who suffer permanent disabilities due to sewer cleaning.

Additionally, if a cleaner sustains other disabilities, they will be entitled to receive up to ₹ 10 lakh in compensation.

'Apna Chandrayaan' Web Portal Launched

The Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan unveiled a web portal named 'Apna Chandrayaan' on October 17, 2023.

This web portal, developed by the NCERT under the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education. It aims to provide activity-based support materials (quizzes, puzzles, coloring books, jigsaw puzzles) related to Mission Chandrayaan-3.

Tradable Green Credit Programme Launched

The government on October 16, 2023 launched a national Green Credit programme, incentivising eco-friendly actions through market-based mechanisms.

This programme aims to encourage positive environmental contributions through market-based incentives. The programme promotes a competitive market-based approach for green credits to incentivize environmental actions.

'Navratna' Status to 'RITES Ltd.'

RITES Ltd, a prominent Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Railways, has achieved the prestigious 'Navratna' status on October 13, 2023.

RITES Ltd. ecame the 16th CPSE in India to be granted this distinction. The achievement of Navratna status acknowledges its contribution to the nation's growth and development.

2023 Forbes List of India's 100 Richest

Mukesh Ambani reclaimed the No. 1 position on the 2023 Forbes list of India's 100 Richest on October 11, 2023.

The collective wealth of India's 100 Richest was flat at $799 billion this year (2023). Ambani is followed by Gautam Adani ($68 billion), Shiv Nadar ($29.3b), Savitri Jindal ($24b), Radhakishan Damani ($23b), Cyrus Poonawalla ($20.7b) and Hinduja Family ($20b).

India Re-elected as President of AIBD

India has been elected as President of Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) General Conference (GC) for the 3rd successive term to lead the prestigious international organisation on October 6, 2023.



India had already served two terms as President, AIBD GC from 2018-21 and 2021-23. AIBD, established in 1977 under the auspices of UNESCO, is a unique regional intergovernmental organisation, currently has 92 member organisations from across 44 countries.

Constitution of the 'National Turmeric Board'

The Government of India on October 4, 2023 notified the constitution of the National Turmeric Board. The National Turmeric Board will focus on the development and growth of turmeric and turmeric products in the country.

The National Turmeric Board will provide leadership on turmeric related matters, augment the efforts, and facilitate greater coordination with Spices Board and other Government agencies in development and growth of the turmeric sector.

PM Modi Launched PM Vishwakarma Scheme

Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially launched the central sector scheme 'PM Vishwakarma' at New Delhi on September 17, 2023.

On August 16, 2023, the Union Cabinet of India gave its nod to implement PM Vishwakarma Yojana throughout India for end-to-end support to traditional artisans & craftsmen or 'Vishwakarmas' to grow their business.

Provisions have been made under the scheme for training, technology, credit and market support for the traditional artisans and craftsmen to give impetus to their endeavour.

India International Convention and Expo Centre Launched

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the Phase 1 of the India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC), known as Yashobhoomi, in Dwarka (New Delhi) on September 17, 2023.

Built across a total project area of over 8.9 lakh square metres and total built up area of more than 1.8 lakh square metres, the IICC boasts of one of the world's largest MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) facilities, and the largest LED media facade in the country.

It is the second convention centre with world-class infrastructure for exhibitions and conferences after the Bharat Mandapam.

Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill, 2023 Passed

The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023, was passed by the Indian Parliament on August 2, 2023.

It will enable the private sector to undertake mining operations for 6 out of 12 atomic minerals, including lithium, as well as deep-seated minerals like gold and silver.

PM Modi Launched 'Urea Gold'

PM Modi launched a new type of urea called 'Urea Gold' during his visit to Rajasthan on August 1, 2023.

Urea Gold is also known as Sulphur Coated Urea (SCU). It is coated with sulphur, which can enhance soil quality and reduce farmers' expenditure.

Amazon India Launched First Floating Store

Amazon India launched its first floating store on Dal Lake in Srinagar, Kashmir on August 1, 2023. This is in line with the company's dedication to providing reliable and convenient delivery services to customers. It will help small businesses take advantage of profitable earning opportunities.

ISRO Launched Six Co-passenger Satellites

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) launched the PSLV-C56 rocket from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota on July 30, 2023. The PSLV-C56 mission carried 6 co-passenger satellites along with a DS-SAR satellite from Singapore.

The DS-SAR satellite, weighing 3600 kg, has been developed by DSTA and ST Engineering, representing the Government of Singapore.

Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam 2023 Organised

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 29, 2023 inaugurated the 'Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam 2023' at Bharat Mandapam in Delhi.

The event coincides with the third anniversary of the launch of National Education Policy 2020. PM Modi also released the first installment of funds under the PM SHRI scheme.

As many as 6,207 schools received the first instalment with a total sum amounting to 630 crore rupees.

Status of Tigers Report 2022 Released

On the occasion of the Global Tiger Day celebrated at the Corbett Tiger Reserve on July 29, 2023, Government of India has released the 'Status of Tigers Report 2022'. The number of tigers in India has increased from 2967 in 2018 to 3682 in 2022, an annual rise of 6%.

The upper limit of the tiger population is estimated to be 3925 and the average number is 3682 tigers.

With this, India currently harbors almost 75% of the world's wild tiger population.

Semicon India 2023 Organised

PM Narendra Modi Inaugurated Semicon India 2023 on July 28, 2023 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

It focuses on Investment Opportunities in India's Semiconductor Sector with Expert-led Discussions. The theme of conference was 'Catalysing India's Semiconductor Ecosystem'.

Inauguration of 'Bharat Mandapam'

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the international exhibition-cum- convention Centre (IECC) complex named Bharat Mandapam at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on July 23, 2023.

This monumental project, developed as a national endeavor at an estimated cost of approximately ₹ 2700 crore. It aims is to showcase and promote India as a global business destination.



'Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar' Initiative Launched

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has launched a unique initiative 'Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar' (MGMD) as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav on July 26, 2023.

The main objective the project is to culturally map India's 6.5 lakh villages, spanning 29 States and 7 Union Territories, on a comprehensive virtual platform.

India's First Fisheries Atal Incubation Centre

Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) will set up India's first Atal Incubation Center (AIC) in fisheries.

It is announced on July 25, 2023 after receiving a grant of ₹ 10 crore from NITI Aayog. NITI Aayog provided a grant to KUFOS to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the fisheries sector.

First Private Hill Station is Lavasa

India's first private hill station Lavasa was sold to Darwin Platform Infrastructure for ₹ 1.8 thousand crore on July 23, 2023.

The primary objective of Darwin Platform Infrastructure's resolution plan is to address claims of home buyers.

It also objective is to ensure delivery of completed homes within five years, subject to obtaining environment clearance, with a total claim amount of ₹ 6642 crore.

World's Largest Office Building 'Surat Diamond Bourse'

Surat, Gujarat, the gem capital of India, has surpassed the United States by hosting the world's largest office building – the 'Surat Diamond Bourse' on July 21, 2023. Replacing the iconic Pentagon in the US, this interconnected office structure features nine rectangular buildings emanating from a central 'spine'.

The Surat Diamond Bourse will house over 4200 offices, ranging from 300 to 75000 square feet each, offering a plethora of diamond-related activities and infrastructure.

First ever Credit Guarantee Scheme for Livestock Sector Launched

The Indian government has introduced a pioneering 'Credit Guarantee Scheme' on July 20, 2023. It is first ever 'Credit Guarantee Scheme' for Livestock Sector launched for rebooting rural economy by leveraging MSMEs.

It aim to provide credit guarantee coverage to eligible lending institutions, enabling improved access to finance for the underserved livestock sector.

Ground Water Law Implemented in 21 States and Union Territories

The Union Ministry of Jal Shakti informed the Parliament on July 20, 2023 that 21 states and union territories have implemented the Ground Water Act.

In this law, provision has been made for rain water harvesting. India is mainly dependent on groundwater for irrigation.

Union Minister Launched 'Bharat Dal'

Union Minister Piyush Goyal launched sale of subsidised Chana Dal under the brand name 'Bharat Dal' at affordable prices on July 19, 2023.

The objective of subsidised chana dal is to make pulses available to the consumers at affordable prices. The government's stock of gram is converted into chana dal for distribution.

'Export Preparedness Index 2022' Report Released

The NITI Aayog released the 3rd edition of 'Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2022' for the States/UTs of India on July 19, 2023.

The report highlights that Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat

emerged as the 4 top-performing states in the EPI.

The EPI report emphasizes the importance of exporting firms, noting that they are more productive than domestic firms.

PM Modi Inaugurated Port Blair Airport Terminal Building

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the New Integrated Terminal Building of Veer Savarkar International Airport, Port Blair via video conferencing on July 18, 2023. The terminal was built at a cost of approximately ₹ 710 crore.

It is a crucial step in enhancing connectivity for the island union territory. Terminal Building will cover a total built-up area of around 40800 sqm. The terminal has the capacity to handle about 50 lakh passengers annually.

Gomti Declared as a 'Non Perennial River'

The Uttar Pradesh government on July 17, 2023 issued a Government Order (GO) that declared the Gomti River as a 'non-perennial river'.

The GO was issued regarding floodplain zoning for 12 rivers, including Gomti. The GO stated that Gomti is a non-perennial river, and environmental flow cannot be maintained throughout the year.

Chandrayaan-3 Launched

India successfully launched Chandrayaan-3 with LVM3-M4 rocket from Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota on July 14, 2023.

The Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft has accomplished a noteworthy achievement by entering the moon's sphere of influence. Chandrayaan-3 is India's third lunar mission.

PM Modi Lead International Day of Yoga Celebrations

Prime Minister Narendra Modi leaded the ninth International Day of Yoga celebrations on June 21, 2023 from UN Headquarters at its North Lawn.

The 9th International Day of Yoga observed in a grand fashion at the United Nations headquarters in New York City. The theme of Yoga Day this year was 'Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.

India's First armoured Light Specialist Vehicle Launched

Mahindra Defence has begun deliveries of the 'Armado' from June 17, 2023. It is India's first Armoured Light Specialist Vehicle made for the country's armed forces.

The fully-indigenous modular vehicle has ballistic protection up to the B7 level and STANAG Level II.

It comes with multi-layered ballistic glass and a gun hatch. Armado's maximum speed is 120 kmph and acceleration is 0-60 kmph in 12 seconds.

NITI Aayog and UN Signed UN SDC Framework 2023-27

NITI Aayog and the United Nations in India signed the Government of India-United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-27 in New Delhi on June 16, 2023.

The GoI-UNSDCF was signed by CEO NITI Aayog BVR Subrahmanyam and UN Resident Coordinator India Shombi Sharp.

GoI-UNSDCF 2023-2027 represents the UN development system's collective offer to the Government of India for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals promoting gender equality, youth empowerment and human rights.

Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society Renamed

Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society renamed as Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society on June 16, 2023. The decision was taken at a special meeting of Memorial Museum and Library Society.

The meeting was presided over by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who is the vice president of the Society.

For over 59 years it has been a global intellectual landmark and treasure house of books & archives.

Jettwings Airways Got Approval to Fly

The civil aviation ministry provided a no objection certificate (NOC) to regional airline Jettwings Airways on June 15, 2023.

It aim is to operate scheduled commuter air transport services in India under the government's regional connectivity scheme, UDAN.

Once granted approval, Jettwings Airways will become the first-ever airline to operate from India's North-East region.



Jettwings Airways is a new airline in the aviation sector. The Guwahati-based airline is aiming to begin its services in October this year.

Akashvani and Doordarshan Emerged as Most Trusted Electronic Media

Akashvani and Doordarshan emerged as most trusted electronic media on June 14, 2023 in Reuters Institute's Digital News Report 2023.

DD India and All India Radio have been recognised as the most trusted electronic media organisations in the country.

Both have been specifically described as electronic media organisations with the highest degree of trust. The report highlights that although overall trust in news has decreased marginally by 3%.

Public broadcasters and print brands have managed to maintain a relatively high level of trust among the public.

Union Minister Flagged-Off Gabon's First Agri-SEZ Project

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan flagged-off Gabon's first Agri- SEZ project from New Delhi on June 14, 2023.

The project will be implemented by AOM group, with Centurion University as the technical and knowledge partner.

AOM group is a leading company on promoting agricultural development and innovation. Centurion University is a state university in Odisha.

In the first phase of the program, 30 farmers and 20 B.Sc./M.Sc. students from Gajapati district will be travelling together.

They are travelling as agri-technical and technical consultants for the agriculture SEZ.

Fourth Warship of Indian Navy 'Sanshodhak' Launched

The 4th SVL of the Indian Navy, named 'Sanshodhak', was launched at Kattupalli, Chennai on June 13, 2023.

The Survey Vessel Large (SVL) ships are designed to replace the existing Sandhayak Class survey ships.

The ship's name, meaning 'Researcher', reflects its primary role as a Survey Vessel.

These ships have a length of 110 m, a width of 16 m and a displacement of 3400 tonnes.

Equitas Holdings Surrendered NBFC Licence

Equitas Holdings Ltd has voluntarily surrendered its NBFC licence to the RBI on June 12, 2023.

As a result, the RBI has cancelled Equitas Holdings' registration.

Equitas Holdings Ltd is a prominent non-banking financial company (NBFC) in India.

It had been operating in the Indian financial market for several years.

Sagar Samriddhi Launched

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched the 'Sagar Samriddhi' online dredging monitoring system on June 12, 2023. This will help in making the seas and port clean. With this, real time information on dredging will be available.

This system has been developed by National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC). NTCPWC is the technological arm of Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW).

SIDBI Launched EVOLVE Mission

SIDBI launched the Electric Vehicle Operations and Lending for Vibrant Ecosystem (EVOLVE) mission on June 10, 2023.



The mission has been launched in collaboration with

- NITI Aayog
- World Bank
- Korean-World Bank
- Korean Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF)

Its main objective is to provide financial assistance to MSMEs in the electric vehicle sector.

The EVOLVE mission contributes to the promotion of sustainable transportation solutions in India. Its primary objective is to provide funds for the purchase of 50,000 Electric Vehicles (EVs).

RBI Monetary Policy Announcement

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das announced the 2nd monetary policy of this financial year on June 8, 2023.

There has been no change in the repo rate for the 2nd time in a row.

According to RBI, the repo rate would remain unchanged at 6.5%.

Monetary Policy Committee's Decision

- Policy repo rate remains unchanged at 6.5%.
- Standing Deposit Facility (SDF rate) remains at 6.25%.
- Marginal Standing Facility and bank rates stand at 6.75%.

4 Important Initiatives for Urban Co-operative Banks Announced

RBI has introduced 4 crucial measures to bolster the strength of 1,514 Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) in India on June 7, 2023.

UCBs now have the opportunity to expand their reach by opening new branches without prior approval from the RBI. UCBs can also do One Time Settlement at par with Commercial Banks.

Revised timelines for PSL targets given to UCBs and also Designating a Nodal Officer in RBI is also included in 4 initiative.

'Agni Prime' Ballistic Missile Successfully Flight-Tested

New Generation Ballistic Missile 'Agni Prime' was successfully flight-tested by DRDO on June 7, 2023.

It is tested from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha. DRDO's successful test flight of 'Agni Prime' missile marks a significant achievement.

This was the first pre-induction night launch by the users after 3 successful developmental trials.

'Agni Prime' Missile is a two-stage canisterised missile. The missile has a diameter of 1.2 m and a height of 10.5 m.

RBI Governor Launched Financial Inclusion Dashboard Antardrishti

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das launched a financial inclusion dashboard named 'Antardrishti' on June 6, 2023.

It will provide necessary insights to assess and monitor the progress of financial inclusion by capturing relevant parameters. The progress of financial inclusion will be assessed against set parameters through this.

Along with this, it will also help in monitoring.

The areas of lack of financial services on a large scale in the country can be detected by this.

Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research Launched

The government launched MAHIR in the power sector on June 6, 2023. It is the Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research in the power sector.

The objective of the mission is to identify emerging technologies. It develops them indigenously for use within and outside the country.

The mission is planned for an initial period of five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28.

'Exploration of Coal and Lignite Scheme' Launched

CCEA has approved 'Exploration of Coal and Lignite Scheme' on June 6, 2023. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by PM Narendra Modi.



The scheme will be implemented from 2021-22 to 2025-26. It will require an estimated expenditure of ₹ 2980 crore.

The scheme focuses on the exploration of coal and lignite through two main stages:

- Promotional (Regional) Exploration
- Detailed Exploration in Non-Coal India Limited (CIL) blocks.

First AIIMS in Country to get NABH Accreditation

AIIMS Nagpur first AIIMS in country to get NABH accreditation on June 6, 2023. AIIMS Nagpur is the branch of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Nagpur.

This accreditation places at par with the world's leading hospital

standards in terms of quality and patient care. The NABH accreditation serves as validation of their efforts in these fields.

NABH is the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals.

SBI Launched Project Kuber

SBI, Bengaluru Circle, launched 'Project Kuber' on June 5, 2023 to meet the banking needs of customers.

'Project Kuber' aims to facilitate, and cater to various banking requirements of customers.

The project includes the establishment of

- four Transaction Banking Hubs
- one Corporate Salary Package Hub

These hubs will focus on increasing SBI's market share in liability products.

India's First Carbon Neutral Village in Thane

India's first carbon-neutral village announced on June 4, 2023 in Bhiwandi Taluka, Thane. Union Minister of State Kapil Patil announced this development.

The government is actively working towards developing a carbon-neutral village in Bhiwandi.

This initiative aims to minimise carbon emissions. It also promotes sustainable practices for a cleaner and greener environment.

Govt Banned 14 Fixed-dose Medicines

Government has notified on June 3, 2023 to banned 14 fixed-dose drugs. They have been found to lack therapeutic justification and may pose risks to health.

It is necessary to prohibit the manufacture, sale and distribution of the fixed dose medicines in larger public interest. They are usually manufactured in a fixed ratio and distributed.

The 14 FDCs include combinations such as

- Nimesulide Paracetamol dispersible tablets
- Amoxicillin Bromhexine
- Pholcodine Promethazine

India Conducted Asia's First Performance-Based Navigation for Helicopters

India conducted Asia's first demonstration of performance-based navigation for helicopters for a flight from Juhu to Pune using GAGAN satellite technology on June 1, 2023.

GAGAN refers to GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation. It is a space-based augmentation system for providing the best possible navigational services over the Indian FIR (Flight Information Region) with the capability of expanding.

Successful Training Launch of Agni-1 Ballistic Missile

A successful training launch of a Medium-Range Ballistic Missile, Agni-1 was carried out by the Strategic Forces Command from APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha on June 1, 2023.

Defence Ministry announced, the missile is a proven system, capable of striking targets with a very high degree of precision. The user training launch successfully validated all operational and technical parameters of the missile.

Approval for World's Largest Food Storage Scheme

The Indian government has approved a groundbreaking scheme worth ₹ 1 lakh crore on May 31, 2023.

It aimed at significantly expanding the foodgrain storage capacity in the cooperative sector.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur has hailed this scheme as the 'world's largest foodgrain storage programme' in the cooperative sector. To ensure the effective implementation of the scheme, an inter-ministerial committee will be established.

Inauguration of New Parliament House

Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially inaugurated the new Parliament House on May 28, 2023. The New Parliament House is located in the Central Vista area of New Delhi.



It has been designed to accommodate the growing size and needs of the Indian Parliament. The building has seating arrangements for **888 members** of the Lok Sabha and **384 members** of the Rajya Sabha.

It also includes six committee rooms equipped with state-of-the-art audio-visual systems. Covering an area of approximately **65000 sq m**, the new building has a **triangular shape** to optimise space utilisation. It is a four storied building constructed at an estimated cost of **₹ 970 crore**.

SAMARTH Abhiyan Launched

Union Minister Giriraj Singh launched the SAMARTH campaign on May 28, 2023. It aim is to promote digital transactions at the Gram Panchayat level. The campaign aims to empower women and promote digital transactions in rural areas.

The campaign was launched in Lucknow as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Rural Development.

Special Coin of ₹ 75 Launched

The Center launched a new ₹ 75 coin on May 28, 2023 to mark the inauguration of the new Parliament.

The coin will be unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 28, 2023 and coincides with the celebration of 75 years of India's independence.

The obverse of this coin has the Lion Capital of Ashoka Pillar and the words 'Satyamev Jayate' below it. The coin also bears the inscription 'Bharat' in Devanagari script on the left and 'India' in English on the right.

It displays the rupee symbol below the Lion Capital and the denomination value of 75 in International Numerals.

Foundation for National Academy of Coastal Policing Campus

Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone for the permanent campus of the National Academy of Coastal Policing in Dwaraka (Gujarat) on May 21, 2023.

The academy aims to provide comprehensive training facilities to over three thousand security personnel annually. Established in 2018, the National Academy of Coastal Policing is the first national academy dedicated to providing intensive training to marine police personnel.

It caters to the training needs of nine coastal states, five Union Territories, as well as the Central Police Forces.

National Capital Civil Services Authority Constituted

Centre promulgated an ordinance on May 19, 2023 to create a National Capital Civil Service Authority. It will have the power to recommend the transfer and posting of all Group A officers serving in Delhi. With a view to constitute this Authority for transfer of 'Group-A' officers of 'DANICS' Cadre, the Central government has issued this Ordinance. 'DANICS' means Delhi, Andaman-Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli (Civil) Services.

UNION BUDGET 2023-24

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented Union Budget 2023-24 on February 1, 2023.



7 Priorities of Budget

1. Inclusive Development
2. Reaching the Last Mile
3. Infrastructure & Investment
4. Unleashing the Potential
5. Financial Sector
6. Green Growth
7. Youth Power

Highlights

- The capital expenditure is almost 3 times of the capital expenditure in FY 2019-20.
- Fiscal Deficit estimated to be 5.9% of GDP in BE 2023-24.
- Tax exemption up to ₹ 7 lakh/year is under new tax regime.
- Agriculture Credit Target to be increased to ₹ 20 lakh crore.
- **PM Vishwa Karma Kaushal Samman :** For the first time package of assistance for traditional artisans and craftspeople has been conceptualised.
- **New sub scheme of PM Matsya Sampada Yojana**, with targeted investment of ₹ 6000 crore, to further enable activities of fishermen, fish vendors and micro and small entrepreneurs, improve value chain efficiencies and expand the market.
- A capital outlay of ₹ 2.40 lakh crore has been provided for the **Railways**.
- This highest ever outlay is about 9 times the outlay made in 2013- 14.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman increased allocation to **Defence Budget** to ₹ 593537.64 crore for 2023-24 from last year's allocation of ₹ 5.25 lakh crore.
- For 2022-23, the budgetary allocation for capital outlay was ₹ 1.52 lakh crore but the revised estimate showed the expenditure at ₹ 1.50 lakh crore.
- A separate amount of ₹ 138205 crore has been allocated for **defence pensions**.
- A one-time new small savings scheme, **Mahila Samman Savings Certificate**, will be made available for a two-year period up to March 2025.
- This will offer deposit facility upto ₹ 2 lakh in the name of women or girls for a tenor of 2 years at fixed interest rate of 7.5% with a partial withdrawal option.
- 157 new nursing colleges to be established in colocation with existing 157 medical colleges set-up since 2014.
- **National Digital Library for Children and Adolescents** to be set up for facilitating availability of quality books across languages, geographies and genres.
- For business establishments required to have Permanent Account Number, the PAN will be used as a common identifier for all Digital Systems of specified government agencies.
- **Aspirational Blocks programme** covering 500 blocks has been launched for saturation of government programmes; **PM Primitive Vulnerable Tribal Groups Development Mission** is being launched to improve conditions of vulnerable tribal groups.
- Outlay for **PM Awas Yojana** is being enhanced by 66% to over ₹ 79000 crore.
- 100 labs for developing applications using 5G services to be set-up in engineering institutions, to realise new range of opportunities, business models and employment potential.
- **National Green Hydrogen Mission** with outlay of ₹ 19700 crore will facilitate transition to economy to low carbon intensity, our target is to reach annual production of 5 MMT by 2030.
- **Phase 3 of e-courts project** to be launched with outlay of ₹ 7000 crore, for efficient administration of justice.
- Government to provide higher limit of ₹ 2 lakh per member for cash deposit and loans by **Primary Agricultural Credit Societies**.

Some Notable Achievements

- 11.7 crore household toilets under Swachh Bharat Mission
- 9.6 crore LPG connections under Ujjawala
- 220 crore Covid vaccination of 102 crore persons
- 47.8 crore PM Jan Dhan bank accounts
- Insurance cover for 44.6 crore persons under PM Suraksha Bima and PM Jeevan Jyoti Yojana
- Cash transfer of ₹ 2.2 lakh crore to over 11.4 crore farmers under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi

ECONOMIC SURVEY 2022-23

The Economic Survey 2022-23 was tabled by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament on January 31, 2023.

Key Features

- India's GDP growth is expected to remain robust in FY23 at 7% (in real terms). The GDP forecast for FY24 to be in the range of 6-6.8%.
- The Gross Tax Revenue registered a Year-on-Year (YoY) growth of 15.5% from April to November 2022.
- Central & State Government's budgeted expenditure on health sector touched 2.2% of GDP in FY22 (RE).
- Social sector expenditure increases to ₹ 21.3 lakh crore in FY23 (BE) from ₹ 9.1 lakh crore in FY16.
- India declared the **Net Zero Pledge** to achieve net zero emissions goal by 2070.
- India achieved its target of **40% installed electric capacity** from non-fossil fuels ahead of 2030.
- **National Green Hydrogen Mission** to enable India to be energy independent by 2047.
- Private investment in agriculture increases to 9.3% in 2020-21.
- **Institutional Credit to the Agricultural Sector** continued to grow to 18.6 lakh crore in 2021-22.
- Overall Gross Value Added (GVA) by the Industrial Sector (for the first half of FY 22-23) rose 3.7%.
- The services sector is expected to grow at 9.1% in FY23, as against 8.4% (YoY) in FY22.
- India's share in world commercial services exports increasing from 3% in 2015 to 4% in 2021.
- India is the **largest recipient of remittances** in the world receiving $ 100 bn in 2022.

International Affairs

54th WEF Summit in Davos

The 54th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum was held at Davos, Switzerland from January 15-19, 2024. The theme was 'Rebuilding Trust', emphasising the focus on exploring the opportunities enabled by the new technologies and their implications on decision-making and global partnership. Issues related to climate change, threats from artificial intelligence, cooperation amid geopolitical fragmentation and other problems across the globe were discussed. Ongoing conflicts like the Ukraine War, Israel-Hamas war were also be part of the agenda.

Crown Prince Frederik X became King of Denmark

Crown Prince Frederik X became the King of Denmark on January 15, 2024, succeeding his mother, Queen Margrethe II, who formally abdicated after 52 years as monarch. 83-year-old Margrethe is the first Danish monarch to voluntarily relinquish the throne in nearly 900 years. She stunned the nation when she announced her plans to step down on television on New Year's Eve. Australian-born wife of King, Mary is the first commoner to become Queen of Denmark.

'William Lai Ching-te'Elected as Taiwanese President

Taiwanese voters have chosen William Lai Ching-te as their President on January 14, 2024, marking a significant departure from China. He is a pro-sovereignty candidate from the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) and the current Vice-President. Lai secured an unprecedented third consecutive term for the DPP by defeating his conservative rival, Hou Yu-ih of the Kuomintang (KMT), by over 900000 votes. China, branding Lai as a 'dangerous separatist,' expressed anger over the election results.

Global Water Monitor Report 2023 Revealed

The Global Water Monitor report 2023 revealed on January 13, 2024 over 77 countries endured their highest average annual temperatures in the last 45 years.The unprecedented heat manifested across all seasons, influencing precipitation patterns along with water budgets.

Study noted that global water cycle last year was affected by an emerging El Nino phase shifting tropical rainfall zones. Despite hotter and drier air, annual soil moisture levels increased by 3.5% above 1998-2005 averages due to multiple possible factors like evolving farm practices.

South Korea Banned Trade of Dog Meat

South Korea's Parliament made history by passing a ground-breaking bill that bans the eating and selling of dog meat on January 11, 2024.

This move marks the end of a centuries-old practice that has been increasingly criticised in the face of growing support for animal welfare. Proposed by the ruling party and enjoying rare bipartisan support, the bill passed with an overwhelming majority of 208 votes and two abstentions in the single-chamber Parliament.

Gabriel Attal Appointed PM of France

President Emmanuel Macron appointed Gabriel Attal as France's new Prime Minister on January 9, 2024. At 34, Attal is the youngest PM in French history and the first openly gay official to hold this prestigious position. Attal's appointment comes in the midst of a Cabinet reshuffle initiated by Macron to breathe new life into his government.

Sheikh Hasina Became PM of Bangladesh

Sheikh Hasina has been elected the PM of Bangladesh for the fifth time on January 9, 2024. Bangladesh's PM Sheikh Hasina has been in power since 2009 and she belong to Awami League party.

Hasina's party Awami League has secured 223 seats in the 300-seat Parliament. The opposition party, Bangladesh Nationalist Party has boycotted the elections.

Bloomberg Billionaires Index 2024 Released

The Bloomberg Billionaires Index released the list of the world's richest people on January 9, 2024. According to this list, Elon Musk is the richest person in the world and his total wealth is 219 billion dollars.

In second place is Jeff Bezos with a net worth of $170 billion and Bernard Arnold of France is the third richest person in the world with a net worth of $167 billion. Mukesh Ambani whose net worth is $97 billion, is the 12th richest person in the world and Gautam Adani is at 14th place in this list.

Leopard Became National Symbol of Kyrgyzstan

Central Asian country, Kyrgyzstan, has declared the snow leopard as the national symbol on January 8, 2024. President Zhaparov's order highlights the important role of snow leopards in maintaining ecological balance. The loss of these magnificent creatures in the wild poses a significant threat to the delicate balance of mountain ecosystems. The Global Snow Leopard Forum was hosted by Kyrgyzstan in the year 2013.

Javier Miley is the New President of Argentina

Javier Miley has been sworn as the new President of Argentina on December 10, 2023 in Buenos Aires.Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky participated in his swearing-in ceremony. Javier Miley has defeated Sergio Massa in the presidential election. Javier Miley replaces President Alberto Fernandez.

China First Country to Accord Diplomatic Status to Taliban

China has become the first country to accord diplomatic status to a Taliban nominated official, Bilal Karimi, as Afghanistan's Ambassador to Beijing on December 6, 2023. In this manner, it has formally recognised the legitimacy of the Taliban-run government in Kabul. No other country has formally recognised the Taliban government, criticising it for human rights violations and oppression of women.

Mohamed Muizzu sworn-in as 8th President of Maldives

Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has been sworn in as the eighth President of the Republic of Maldives on November 17, 2023.

Vice President Hussain Mohamed Latheef also took an oath of office. Their oath was administered by Chief Justice of the Maldives, Ahmed Muthasim Adnan. Dr. Muizzu had defeated outgoing President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in the runoff elections held in September 2023.

US Approved First Chikungunya Vaccine

The US FDA has approved the world's first Chikungunya vaccine, 'Ixchiq'

developed by Valneva on November 13, 2023.

Ixchiq, administered in a single dose, contains a live, weakened version of the chikungunya virus, following the standard approach for vaccines.

The virus, causing fever and severe joint pain, is commonly found in tropical and subtropical regions of Africa, Southeast Asia, and parts of the Americas.

Portugal PM Resigned

Prime Minister of Portugal Antonio Costa has resigned from his post on November 9, 2023.

He has resigned after the allegations of corruption against him. This turn of events happened after the arrest of his Chief of Staff Victor Escaria. Antonio Costa became the Prime Minister of Portugal in the year 2015.

Oldest Black Hole Discovered

In a groundbreaking discovery on November 7, 2023, researchers have identified the most ancient black hole ever detected.

This celestial behemoth came into existence a mere 470 million years after the birth of the universe during the Big Bang. The discovery was made possible through the combined efforts of NASA's James Webb Space Telescope and the Chandra X-Ray Observatory.

Global TB Report 2023 Unveiled

The World Health Organisation (WHO) released its Global TB Report 2023 on November 7, 2023.

The WHO has acknowledged India's success in declining TB incidence by 16 % and TB mortality reduction by 18 % in the year 2022 since 2015.

India has made tremendous progress in improving case detection and reversed the impact of COVID-19 on the TB programme.

Philippines Announced Exit from China's Belt & Road Initiatives

The Philippines has announced its exit from China's Belt and Road Initiatives on November 4, 2023.

The full termination of major infrastructure projects has been announced by the Philippine Department of Transportation in favour of competitors from the West and Japan.

This has led to a new low point in Philippine-China relations, marking a drastic reversal from the six years of warm engagement during the pro-Beijing Rodrigo Duterte presidency.

Israel-Hamas Conflict

As on October 25, 2023 at least 6546 people have been killed in Israel-Hamas war. The armed conflict between Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups and Israel began on October 7, 2023.



The conflict began on the morning of the Shemini Atzeret Jewish holiday, exactly 50 years after the start of the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

After the Arab- Israeli war which was fought in 1948, this Israel Vs Palestine Conflict is the first direct Israel Gaza Conflict which is being fought within Israel's boundaries.

Sultan Ibrahim will be 17th King of Malaysia

Malaysia has officially announced on October 29, 2023 that its next and 17th king will be Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar from the southern state of Johor.

The appointment of Ibrahim Iskandar, who will replace King Al-Sultan Abdullah in this post, will be effective from January 31, 2024. In Malaysia the king serves as the head of Islam and commander-in-chief of its armed forces.

Death Penalty to 8 Indians in Qatar

A lower court in Qatar has sentenced former eight Indian marines to death penalty on October 27, 2023. These former Indian naval officer worked in 'Dahra Global Technologies and Consulting Services' of Qatar.

According to Al Jazeera's report, these eight former officers of the Indian Navy are accused of spying on the submarine program for Israel.

Sri Lanka Announced Free Visas

Sri Lanka has taken a significant step by waiving visa fees for tourists from seven countries, including India on October 24, 2023. This policy will be in effect until March 31, 2024.

The other six countries are China, Russia, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Japan. This move aims to attract more visitors and help the country recover from recent economic challenges.

South Korea, US and Japan Hold Joint Aerial Drills

South Korea, the United States, and Japan conducted their first-ever joint aerial exercises on October 22, 2023.

It aimed at bolstering defence cooperation and preparedness against the increasing missile and nuclear threats posed by North Korea. The drills included a US B-52 bomber capable of carrying nuclear weapons and were held in the skies over the waters south of the Korean Peninsula.

Antarctica's Melting Ice Shelves Raise Concern

A study published in the journal of Science Advances on October 15, 2023, has shed light on the alarming state of Antarctica's ice shelves.

The research reveals that 71 out of the 162 ice shelves surrounding Antarctica have released staggering 7.5 trillion metric tonnes of meltwater into the oceans from 1997 to 2021. The study shows a clear divide between ice shelves on the western and eastern sides of Antarctica.

Global Hunger Index 2023 Released

India has been placed 111th out of 125 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2023 on October 12, 2023, marking a decline from its 107th position in 2022.

According to the GHI 2023 report, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Chile, China are among the top ranked countries (i.e., low level of hunger) and Yemen, Madagascar, Central African Republic are the bottom.

Kuwait to Boost Fossil Fuel Production

Kuwait's oil minister unveiled a bold strategy aimed at enhancing the country's fossil fuel production capabilities on October 9, 2023.

This strategy also involves preparations for the Durra gas field, which is jointly shared with Saudi Arabia, amidst a dispute with Iran over ownership claims.

Largest Hindu Temple in New Jersey

The largest Hindu temple created by Pramukh Swami Maharaj, BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham was