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श्रीकृष्णराजी समवाय
ALL INDIA RADIO NEWS



SEPTEMBER 2023 – 1st to 7th



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1 GA IN NEWS

FIRST IN NEWS

S.No	News	Place / Developed by / Launched	Key Facts
1.	First woman to be appointed as Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Railway Board- Jaya Varma Sinha	-	<p>Jaya Varma Sinha's appointment approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.</p> <p>She succeeds Anil Kumar Lahoti.</p> <p>Alumnus of Allahabad University and 1988 batch IRTS officer earlier served as Member of the Railway Board.</p>
2.	Indian Navy's first indigenously designed and built guided missile destroyer- INS Delhi	Built by: Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL)	<p>Commissioned in November 1997.</p> <p>Arrived at Colombo, Sri Lanka as part of India's 'Arogya Maitri' initiative to provide quality medical supplies to friendly countries.</p> <p>The Raksha Mantri handed over medical bricks indigenously developed under project BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri), onboard INS Delhi.</p>
3.	India's first gorilla glass manufacturing facility	Developed by: Corning Inc.	<p>To come up in Telangana.</p> <p>New York based company will manufacture cover glass for smartphones at an investment of ₹934 crore through a joint venture with its India partner Optimus Infracom Ltd.</p>
4.	Statue of First Finance Minister of Independent India unveiled - RK Shanmugam Chetty	-	<p>At the South Indian Mills Association complex (SIMA) in Coimbatore which was founded by RK Shanmugam Chetty.</p>
5.	First state in North Eastern Region to commence Aadhaar linked birth registration (ALBR) - Nagaland	-	<p>Initiative facilitates birth registration for children aged 0-5 years with aim to ensure that no child is deprived of social welfare schemes.</p>

			The Directorate of Economics and Statistics in Nagaland has been on boarded by UIDAI .
6.	India's first solar city – Sanchi (Madhya Pradesh)	–	<p>Currently 3 MW solar plant caters to the city's energy needs and 5 MW plant, dedicated to fulfilling agricultural requirements, is under construction.</p> <p>Once completed, Sanchi is poised to generate surplus energy compared to its consumption and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 14,324 tonnes annually.</p>
7.	India's First AI-Powered Anti-Drone System- Indrajaal	Developed by: Grene Robotics	<p>World's only wide-area Counter-Unmanned Aircraft System (C-UAS) that can provide a comprehensive security mechanism against moving threats like drones that cannot be tackled with static defense systems.</p> <p>It provides 360-degree protection over an area of 4,000 square kilometres, with the ability to detect, identify, classify, track, and neutralize threats in real time.</p>
8.	India's first and largest indigenously developed nuclear power plant unit has started operations at full capacity- Kakrapar Atomic Power Project Unit-3 (KAPP3)	Developed by: The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL)	<p>KAPP3 in Gujarat is country's first 700 MWe unit and the biggest indigenously developed variant of the Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR).</p> <p>In July 2020 unit achieved its 'first criticality' that signifies the initiation of a controlled, but sustained nuclear fission reaction and on June 30 this year, the unit had started commercial operations.</p>
			<p>About PHWRs: The PHWRs uses natural uranium as fuel and heavy water as moderator. It constitutes the mainstay of India's nuclear power fleet. Till now, the biggest reactor of indigenous design was the 540 MWe PHWR, two of which have been deployed in Tarapur, Maharashtra.</p>
9.	India's first Solar Mission - Aditya L1	ISRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective - To observe the photosphere, chromosphere and the outermost layers of the Sun (the corona) using

			<p>electromagnetic and particle and magnetic field detectors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission Director - Nigar Shaji
<p>10.</p>	<p>First Card Sandbox</p>	<p>Paytm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One97 Communications Limited (OCL) that owns the brand Paytm, announced the launch of Card Sandbox <p>About Card Sandbox</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It empowers merchants to accept both mobile and card payments across all Visa, Mastercard, American Express and RuPay networks. • This solves 2 problems for merchants — accepting card payments along with getting instant audio alerts for all payments. • Provides both audio and visual payment confirmation through an LCD display to the merchant and the customer. • It combines Soundbox with NFC or contactless debit and credit card payments with mobile payment. • It has a built-in 'tap and pay' functionality through which merchants can accept card payments up to ₹5,000. • It is powered by 4G network and offers alerts in 11 languages. • Merchants has to pay ₹99 per month to use the device.
<p>11.</p>	<p>World's First Portable Hospital (Aarogya Maitri Cube)</p>	<p>India (Ministry of Defence)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed indigenously under Project BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri). • The project was officially inaugurated during the MedTech Expo in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. • Aarogya Maitri Cube is packed in 72 cubes. • The special cage can hold 36 mini-cubes filled with supplies needed for 100 people to survive for 2 days. • There are 2 of these cages, referred to as master cubes, which can be joined together to support up to 200 survivors. • Each master cube, consisting of 36 mini-cubes, boasts a total weight of less than 750 kg.

12.	First bowler from Associate Nations to claim 100 wickets in women's T20Is	--	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nattaya Boochatham (Thailand) • Spinner achieved this feat during the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Asia Region Qualifier match against Kuwait in Bangi, Malaysia
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SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

INTERNATIONAL SUMMITS

S.No	Focus Area	Venue	Key Facts
1.	The 2 nd Berlin Forum on Chemicals and Sustainability	Berlin, Germany	<p>Organized by: The German Federal Ministry for the Nature, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety, and Consumer Protection (BMU).</p> <p>Theme: 'Just Transition Towards a Pollution-free Planet'.</p> <p>Four high-level dialogues focused on food security, human health and the environment, labor and occupational health, and innovation for a just transition.</p>

NATIONAL SUMMITS

S.No	Focus Area	Venue	Key Facts
1.	"Manthan – North Eastern Skills & Entrepreneurship Conclave 2023"	Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra, Guwahat, Assam	<p>Organiser: Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship</p> <p>Residential Skill training programs under the strategic partnership between the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) and IIT Guwahati was launched during the event.</p> <p>Millet products crafted by tribal beneficiaries under TRISSAM was introduced during the event.</p>

MOUs AND AGREEMENTS

BANKING/INSURANCE

S.No	Focus Area	Signed Between	Key Facts
1.	For accelerating the growth of renewable energy in India	Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) with Union Bank of India (UBI) and Bank of Baroda (BoB)	IREDA encouraging partnerships with financial institutions to leverage its techno-financial expertise for the development of the renewable energy sector .
2.	To upgrade and support the establishment of at least 7,500 micro food processing units in the state	The Andhra Pradesh Food Processing Society (APFPS) and the State Bank of India (SBI)	This agreement will be executed in the ongoing 2023-24 fiscal under the Prime Minister Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme. SBI will offer collateral-free loans of up to Rs. 10 lakh to eligible beneficiaries .
3.	To upskill 1.50 lakh rural Business Correspondents (BCs)	Fintech company PayNearby and Grameen Foundation for Social Impact (GFSI) , a non-profit to uplift underserved communities	Will launch a 2 year pan-India project 'Scaling Agent Viability and Quality in India' supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) to also enlist 15,000 women BCs . The BCs will provide digital and financial services beyond cash-in/cash-out to the underserved and tech-shy last-mile population .
		Additional Information: PayNearby operates on a B2B2C model , where it partners with neighborhood retail stores and enables them with the tools to provide digital and financial services to local communities .	
4.	To introduce state-of-the-art, mobile-first, contactless, metal co-branded credit cards .	Indian Bank and OneCard	Will enable users with full digital control over their credit card interactions , ranging from real-time transaction tracking, EMI conversion, monthly budget planning to credit limit adjustments and seamless payments, all in-app . This international metal credit card will have lifetime validity with no joining or yearly fees .
5.	Renewable Energy and Decarbonization	NTPC Limited and Oil India Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoU signed to explore collaboration in the areas of renewable energy, green hydrogen and its derivatives, and decarbonization

			initiatives including through use of geothermal energy.
		Additional information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India's target is to achieve Net Zero by 2070. • NTPC is committed to achieve 60 GW of Renewable Energy capacity by the year 2032. 	
6.	Sponsorship deal for Men's Cricket World Cup	International Cricket Council (ICC) and IndusInd Bank	The multi-year deal is valued at \$20-\$24 million (about Rs 160-200 crore) .
7.	Digital payment, Culture and Cooperation in agriculture	India and Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prime Minister Modi meets Bangladesh Prime Minister H.E. Sheikh Hasina. <p>Signed 3 MoUs for strengthening bilateral cooperation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation in Digital Payment mechanisms between National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Bangladesh Bank. • Renewal of the Cultural Exchange Program (CEP) between India and Bangladesh for 2023-2025. • Between Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC).
OTHERS			
S.No	Focus Area	Signed Between	Key Facts
8.	To explore the areas of renewable energy, green hydrogen and its derivatives, and decarbonization technologies such as carbon sequestration through use of geothermal energy	NTPC Limited and Oil India Limited	<p>The two Maharatna giants guided by nation's target of achieving Net Zero by the year 2070.</p> <p>NTPC is committed to achieve 60 GW of Renewable Energy capacity by the year 2032.</p>
9.	For development of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) to reduce pollution of river Ganga	National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) , Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam and M/s. Meerut STP Pvt. Ltd	<p>The STP in Meerut under PPP mode scheduled to be completed by December, 2025.</p> <p>After the completion there will be no discharge of untreated sewage from Meerut city into River Kali.</p>

			Kali (East) meets Ganga near Kannauj and the completion of this project will ultimately help reduce pollution in River Ganga.
10.	To help children develop creative expression in classrooms using the application Adobe Express.	Union Ministry of Education and Adobe	Training and certification in creativity and digital literacy will be provided to about 20 million students and 5, 00,000 teachers by 2027 using Adobe Express-based curriculum.
11.	To finance renewable energy projects	Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) and India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL)	<p>MoU will enable a synergy of green financing expertise of IREDA and Infra financing expertise of IIFCL.</p> <p>IREDA and IIFCL to engage in Co-Lending for all categories of Renewable Energy projects.</p> <p>Both will fix interest rates for IREDA borrowings, IIFCL to invest in the IREDA issued bonds.</p>
<p>Additional information: IREDA is a PSU under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) and IIFCL is a wholly-owned Government of India company set up in 2006 to provide long-term financial assistance to viable infrastructure projects.</p>			
12.	To enhance e-commerce exports by leveraging India Post's extensive presence and reliable shipping solutions.	Department of Posts and e-commerce enablement platform Bigfoot Retail Solution Pvt. Ltd. (Shiprocket)	<p>Will lead to technical integration between Dak Ghar Niryat Kendra (DNK) and Shiprocket.</p> <p>It Will enable India based sellers, using Shiprocket, to directly generate electronic Postal Bill of Export (e-PBE) and shipping labels from Shiprocket platform itself.</p> <p>The exporters can avail packaging, label printing, pickup facility and induct their shipments to the nearest DNK in the country.</p>
<p>Additional information: The online order processing, export documentation, compliances and Customs clearance has been made easy through e-PBE filed on DNK portal.</p>			

BANKING AND FINANCE

BANKING INITIATIVES

S.No	Program / Initiative / Landmarks	Launched / Developed by	Key Facts
1.	PNB GST Sahay App	Punjab National Bank (PNB)	<p>End-to-end digital product for the lending using GST invoices making entire loan process digitized.</p> <p>With this PNB has become the first public sector bank to facilitate frictionless credit flow to MSME using GST invoice.</p> <p>Here all GST-registered MSMEs having an active account with PNB will be able to access the bank's GST Sahay service for loans.</p> <p>Loans starting from Rs 10,000 to Rs 2 lakh per invoice, subject to capping of Rs 10 lakh per borrower.</p> <p>Allow borrowers option of pre-payment.</p>
2.	Project Paradise Initiative	Indian Bank and IBM	<p>Project Paradise refers to Performance Augmentation by Resource Aggregation in Distributed Environment.</p> <p>The collaboration with IBM will accelerate the bank's modernization path and provide a flexible and secure infrastructure for deploying new front-end banking applications.</p>
3.	Card Soundbox	Paytm	<p>It is a device that allows merchants to accept mobile and card payments from Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and RuPay network.</p>
4.	Simply SAVE Merchant SBI Card	SBI Card	<p>Launched a new credit card SimplySAVE Merchant SBI Card for MSMEs to cater to their short-term credit requirements.</p> <p>Available on RuPay network, the card be linked to UPI for payments through various UPI-enabled third-party apps.</p>

MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

S.No	Acquirer	Acquiree	Key Facts
5.	Tata SIA Airlines (Vistara), Singapore Airlines	Air India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competition of Commission of India (CCI) has approved merger of Tata SIA Airlines (TSAL)/Vistara into Air India, and acquisition of certain shareholding by Singapore Airlines (SIA) in Air India. The merger is expected to be completed by March 2024.
		<p>About Tata Sons Private Limited (TSPL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's an investment holding company, registered as a core investment company with the RBI and classified as a "Systemically Important" Non-Deposit Taking Core Investment Company. <p>Additional information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This said consolidation will make Air India, India's largest international carrier and 2nd largest domestic carrier (Indigo is at 1st position). Air India is fully owned by Tata Sons Private Limited (TSPL) while Vistara which started its operations in January 2015 is a 51:49 joint venture between Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines. 	

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

S.No	Initiatives/Programs in News	Launched by/Developed by	Key Facts
1.	Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM)/ Moon Sniper	Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japan launched a lunar exploration spacecraft on a homegrown H-IIA rocket from Tanegashima Space Center. If successful, it will become the world's 5th country to land on the moon early next year.

DEFENCE

DEFENCE EXERCISES

S.No	Exercise	Countries / Forces Involved	Key Facts
1.	Trishul	Indian Air Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual mega training exercise as part of which its Western Air Command (WAC) will activate all its combat assets from Leh in Kashmir to Nal in Rajasthan. Timeline - September 4 to 14 2023

2.	Bharat Drone Shakti 2023	Indian Air Force/ Drone Federation of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event to be held on 25th & 26th September 2023 will be hosted at the IAF's airbase in Hindan (Ghaziabad) 'Bharat Drone Shakti 2023' will give a fillip to India's commitment to becoming a Global drone hub by 2030.
3.	Varuna	Indian and French Navy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase II of the 21st edition Conducted in the Arabian Sea Exercise was conducted over 3 days. 1st phase of 'Varuna-2023' was conducted off India's Western Seaboard in 20 Jan 23.
About Varuna:			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian & French Navy bilateral naval exercise was initiated in 1993. The exercise was later christened as 'Varuna' in 2001

DEFENCE INITIATIVES AND TECHNOLOGIES

S.No	Initiative / Missile / Technology	Launched / Developed by	Key Facts
4.	Stealth frigate Mahendragiri	<p>Launched by: Wife of Indian Vice-President</p> <p>Developed by: Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)</p> <p>Designed by: Warship Design Bureau</p>	<p>The seventh and last stealth frigate of Project 17A.</p> <p>Earlier on 17th August its sister ship Vindhyagiri was launched.</p>
<p>About Project 17A: Launched in 2019 to construct 7 stealth guided-missile frigates, follow-on class of the Project 17 (Shivalik Class) Frigates. Under it four ships were built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MDL) and three at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE). The ships are named after the names of hill ranges in India. Five ships 'Nilgiri', 'Himgiri', 'Udaygiri', 'Dunagiri' and Taragiri have been launched between 2019 and 2022. 75% of the orders for equipment and systems of Project 17A ships are from indigenous MSME firms.</p>			

SPORTS

S.No	Tournament	Venue	Winner / Loser	Key Facts
1.	The inaugural Men's Hockey 5s Asia Cup 2023	Salalah, Oman	India beat Pakistan	India won in penalty shootout in the final.

				Subsequently, India qualified for the FIH Men's Hockey5s World Cup Oman 2024.
2.	The inaugural Women's Hockey 5s Asia Cup 2023	Salalah, Oman	India defeated Thailand	Subsequently, India qualified for FIH Women Hockey 5s World Cup Oman 2024.
3.	Asian Table Tennis Championships	Pyeongchang, the Republic of Korea	Indian men's team clinch bronze medal They lost 0-3 to Chinese Taipei in the semi-finals.	Sharath Kamal, Sathiyam Gnanasekaran, and Harmeet Desai represented India in the tournament. Indian women's team finished 6th.
4.	Diamond League 2023	Zurich (Switzerland)	Jakub Vadlejch/ Neeraj Chopra	1 st position Jakub Vadlejch's - 85.86m (Javelin throw event). 2 nd position Neeraj Chopra - 85.71m (Javelin throw event)
			--	Sreeshankar finish at 5th place in the Long Jump men event.
Additional information:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before Zurich, Diamond League was held in London. • Next Diamond League venue is Xiamen, China 				
5.	Italian Grand Prix 2023	Milan (Italy)	Won by - Max Verstappen (10th win in a row) Runner Up - Sergio Pérez	--
6.	ISSF World Championship 2023	Baku, Azerbaijan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India's shooting contingent finished with 14 medals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 6 Gold ○ 8 Bronzes 	--
7.	Tata Steel Chess India Rapid Women	National Library, Kolkata	▪ Divya Deshmukh/ Koneru Humpy	Divya Deshmukh was crowned the women's rapid champion held in Kolkata.

AWARDS

S.No	Award/Milestone	Category	Awardee	Key Facts
1.	'A+' rating in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023	-	Shaktikanta Das	The RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das at the top of the list of three central bank governors who have been rated 'A' .

				<p>Joining Shaktikanta Das in the elite category are Thomas J. Jordan from Switzerland and Nguyen Thi Hong from Vietnam.</p> <p>Additional information: The Central Banker Report Cards have been published annually by Global Finance since 1994 to provide a comprehensive assessment of the performance of central bank governors.</p>
2.	World Innovation Award	-	Dr. Shanta Thoutam	<p>She is Telangana's Chief Innovation Officer (CIO).</p> <p>Received it at the 1st BRICS Innovation Forum hosted in Moscow for her contribution to the SDG-4 to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education.</p> <p>The award instituted by World Organization for Development, an international NGO.</p>
3.	National Awards to Teachers 2023		<p>Total – 75</p> <p>Prominent names are:</p> <p>Dr. Yashpal Singh (Eklavya Model Residential School teacher)</p> <p>Satyapal Singh Vijay Kumar Amritpal Singh Arti Qanungo Dr. S. Brinda Ms. Mehta Zankhana Dilipbhai Ramesh Rakshit Raman Kumar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conferred by the President of India on Teachers Day (5th of September) Each awardee will receive a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certificate of merit, Cash prize of ₹50,000, Silver medal, and An opportunity to interact with Prime Minister Award has been extended to teachers from - Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
				<p>Additional information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers' Day is celebrated on 5th September to commemorate the birthday of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. He served as the 1st Vice President of India (1952-1962) as well as 2nd President (1962-1967). He was awarded first Bharat Ratna award in 1954.
4.	'Green Railway Station' certification with the highest rating of Platinum	-	Vijayawada Railway Station	<p>2nd in the South Central Railway (SCR) zone after Secunderabad to have bagged (2017) the platinum rating.</p> <p>Additional information: The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) with the support of Environment Directorate of Indian Railway has developed this rating system. It is a voluntary and consensus based programme to address environmental sustainability in railway stations.</p>

		The rating is based on six environmental categories.		
5.	65 th Ramon Magsaysay Award 2023		<p>Korvi Rakshand (Bangladesh)</p> <p>Eugenio Lemos (Timor-Leste)</p> <p>Miriam Coronel-Ferrer (Philippines)</p> <p>Dr. Ravi Kannan R. (India)</p>	<p>Korvi has developed inclusive education for the underprivileged children through non-profit organization JAAGO Foundation.</p> <p>Lemos is an agriculture expert who has helped the Timorese community embrace new ways to appreciate agriculture and nature preservation.</p> <p>As a peace negotiator Ferrer has contributed in settling war disputes and resisting Philippines's martial rule and drafting first 'National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security'.</p> <p>The Assam-based surgical oncologist revolutionized the treatment of cancer in Cachar Cancer Hospital through his people-centered and pro-poor programmes.</p>
		<p>Additional information: The Magsaysay Award, established in 1957, seeks to reward individuals for integrity in governance, courageous service to the people, and pragmatic idealism in democratic societies. It is often referred to as the Nobel Prize of Asia.</p>		

APPOINTMENT

S.No	Person	Position	Organization / Country / State / Company	Key Facts
1.	Major General Ignatius Delos Flora	Additional Director General	Military Nursing Service (MNS)	She is an alumnus of the School of Nursing, Army Hospital Delhi Cantonment.
2.	Manish Desai	Principal Director General	Press Information Bureau (PIB)	He is a 1989 batch Indian Information Service Officer.
3.	Dr. Vasudha Gupta	Principal Director General	Akashvani and News Services Division	She is a 1989 batch Indian Information Service Officer.
4.	Mahindra Singh Dhoni	Brand ambassador	Swaraj Tractors	Swaraj Tractors established in 1974 Owned by Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.

5.	Sato Kilman	Prime Minister	Vanuatu	Vanuatu: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is a South Pacific Ocean nation made up of roughly 80 islands that stretch 1,300 kilometers. Capital – Port Villa
6.	Rajesh Nambiar	Chairperson	NASSCOM	Rajesh Nambiar succeeds Anant Maheshwari (former president, Microsoft India). Rajesh Nambiar is presently chairman and managing director, Cognizant India
Additional Information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) was Founded in 1988 as a Non-governmental organization. It is a trade association and advocacy group that primarily serves the Indian technology industry. 				
7.	Lokesh Suji	Membership Committee	International Esports Federation (IESF)	Term – 3 years
8.	Ranveer Singh	Brand ambassador	Krafton India, Battlegrounds Mobile India (BGMI).	With this collaboration, Krafton will launch the Play Pure campaign that aims to celebrate the pureness in players through the lens of superstar Ranveer Singh.
About FTII: Established in 1960, it is a film institute under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and aided by the Central Government of India. It is situated on the premises of the erstwhile Prabhat Film Company in Pune.				

PERSONS IN NEWS

S.No	Personality	Profession	Key Facts
1.	Tharman Shanmugaratnam	Statesman and Economist	Recently elected as the President of Singapore. He shares Indian-Origin from his Tamil ancestry.
2.	RS Shivaji	Tamil Actor and Comedian	Passed away recently.
3.	Piloo Reporter	Former International Umpire	Passed away recently. In 1986, Piloo and another Indian V K Ramaswamy became the first

			pair of neutral umpires in the world.
4.	Jan Jongbloed	Former Netherlands goalkeeper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Runner-Up In Two FIFA World Cup Finals Passed Away at the age of 82. • He has played 24 times for his national team.
5.	Uday Kotak	Banker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resigns as Managing Director & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank • Dipak Gupta, the Joint Managing Director, will carry out the duties of the Managing Director & CEO until December 31, 2023
6.	Heath Streak	Former Zimbabwe cricket team captain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passed away at the age of 49 after losing a long battle with cancer. • He has coached Kolkata Knight Riders in IPL
7.	Praveena Anjana	Chartered Accountant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crowned as Miss International India 2023 • Belongs to Udaipur
8.	Malini Rajurkar	Hindustani vocalist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passes away at the age of 82. • She was one of the foremost exponents of Gwalior Gharana. • Famous for her tappa recital, her Khayal renditions and her Natya sangeet.
9.	Arun Kumar Sinha	Special Protection Group (SPG) Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passes at the age of 61. • A 1987 batch Kerala cadre IPS officer, Sinha was granted a one-year extension in service on May 31. • He had been appointed SPG chief in March 2016 as its 12th director. <p>About SPG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SPG provides the prime minister with proximate armed security cover. • Raised in 1985, it has an estimated strength of about 3,000 personnel at present.
10.	Professor Satyajit Majumdar	Dean of School of Management and Labour Studies from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will receive the 'Dr V G Patel Memorial Award-2023 for Entrepreneurship Trainer, Educator and Mentor.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For his work in promoting and strengthening entrepreneurship in India. ● Dr Patel is widely acknowledged as the Father of Entrepreneurship Movement in India.
11.	Danielle McGahey	Cricketer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Set to become the 1st transgender cricketer to participate in an international match. ● Belongs to Canada ● Inclusion will occur during a regional qualifying tournament for the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup in Bangladesh.
12.	N Valarmathi	Scientist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ISRO scientist ● Voice behind the Indian Space and Research Organisation's rocket countdown which launched Chandrayaan-3.

FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

S.No	Festival	Country / State	Key Facts
1.	Kathmandu-Kalinga Literary Festival	Lalitpur, Nepal	<p>Organized for exchange of culture in the South Asia (India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka)</p> <p>Prof. Avadhesh Pradhan, actress Divya Dutta, Prof. Madhav Prasad Pokharel and actress Manisha Koirala's were awarded 'Yashaswi Sahitya Samman'.</p> <p>'Yashaswi Book Prize' initiated from this year.</p>

PLACES IN NEWS

S.No	Place	Why in News	Key Facts
1.	Gandhi Darshan Museum, New Delhi	The President of India , Smt Droupadi Murmu unveils 12 Feet High Statue of Mahatma Gandhi and Inaugurates Gandhi Vatika	--

2.	Bharat Mandapam (New Delhi)	<p>The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has remarked that the magnificent Nataraja statue at Bharat Mandapam brings to life aspects of India's rich history and culture.</p> <p>About Bharat Mandapam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is the International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) complex in New Delhi's Pragati Maidan and has been developed as India's largest MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) destination. It draws inspiration from "Lord basaveshwara's concept of Anubhav Mandapam It is the venue of the G20 Summit. Constructed with investment of ₹2,700 Crores. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 27-ft-tall bronze statue of Nataraja (World's largest Nataraja), made of Ashtadhatu and weighing about 18 tons, was installed at Bharat Mandapam Statue is made with 8 metals namely, copper (87%), zinc (10%), lead (3%) with trace amounts of tin, silver, gold, and even a minute quantity of mercury. Iron is used as support material. Statue has been made using lost wax technique. Radhakrishnan Sthapaty and his team completed this sculpture in a record 7 months.
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DAYS IN NEWS

S.No	Days	Date	Themes & Misc.
1.	Teachers' Day	5th September	<p>The birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (September 5, 1888), a prominent scholar and academician, is celebrated as Teachers Day in India.</p> <p>Since 1962, India has been celebrating Teachers' Day.</p>
2.	World Physiotherapy Day (World PT Day)	8th of September	<p>This day pays tribute to the dedication of physiotherapists and their invaluable services.</p> <p>This year focus is on arthritis to promote the role of physiotherapists in the prevention of arthritis.</p>
3.	World Coconut Day	2nd September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme- Coconuts: Transforming Lives <p>First time celebrated in 2009</p>
4.	International Day of Charity	5th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hungarian civil society initiative to commemorate Mother Teresa's death.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First celebrated worldwide in 2012 when the UN declared it an international holiday.
5.	4th Annual International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies	7 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme - Together for Clean Air
6.	International Literacy Day	8 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme - 'Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies'

MISCELLANEOUS

S.No	Miscellaneous News	Key Facts
1.	Viacom18 has secured exclusive media rights for the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)	<p>Viacom18 has secured rights for International Men's and Women's matches, and domestic first-class competitions for cumulative amount of Rs 5,963 crore for the next five years between September 2023-March 2028.</p> <p>Star Sports India had rights for the period of 2018 to 2023.</p>
2.	Bajaj Auto Consumer Finance Limited has received the Certificate of Registration (CoR) from the RBI to start the business of the Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC)	<p>It is wholly-owned subsidiary of Bajaj Auto Limited.</p> <p>It received CoR under section 45-IA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.</p>
3.	One Nation One Election' committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Law Ministry issued a notification on the 'One Nation One Election' 8-member committee. Composition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairman - Former President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind 7 other members.
4.	Tabreed to set up Asia's largest district cooling project in Hyderabad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tabreed, an Abu Dhabi-based cooling-as-a-service provider, will invest \$200 million to develop 1,25,000 refrigeration tons (RT) of cooling infrastructure for the Hyderabad Pharma City.
5.	Kokborok language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several tribals organised demonstration demanding the adoption of the Roman script for the tribal Kokborok language in Tripura
	<p>About Kokborok:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also known as Tripuri, it is an indigenous Tibeto-Burman language spoken primarily in the Indian state of Tripura and neighboring areas of Bangladesh. 	
6.	19th Asian Games 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amul will be the Official Sponsor of the Indian Contingent.

		To be held in Hangzhou, China from September 23 to October 8 2023.
7.	10% reservation for government school students in medical education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Union Home Ministry has approved a proposal from Puducherry to introduce a 10% horizontal reservation for students graduating from government higher secondary schools in undergraduate medical education.
8.	GI Tag	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rayagada Shawls - Kapdaganda, the handwoven shawls of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) Dongria Kondhs (Rayagada district Odisha). Kala jeera rice also known as prince of rice of Koraput district (Odisha).
9.	INS SUNAYNA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> INS Sunayna (Saryu-class patrol vessel), based at Southern Naval Command, Kochi, visited Port Victoria, Seychelles.
10.	19th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Coast Guard (ICG) participated in the 19th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) held at Istanbul, Türkiye. A 4-member ICG delegation led by DG Rakesh Pal, Director General Indian Coast Guard took part in the annual event.

2 GA + ESI



SOCIAL SECTORS IN INDIA – HEALTH

2.1 Rashtriya Poshan Maah (National Nutrition Month)

Why in News?

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** is celebrating the **6th Rashtriya Poshan Maah** throughout **September 2023** under the Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition (**POSHAN) Abhiyaan**
- Main Theme:** "Suposhit Bharat, Sakshar Bharat, Sashakt Bharat" (Nutrition-rich India, Educated India, Empowered India).
- Aim:** to foster nutritional understanding across India through the main theme.
- Objective:** to comprehensively tackle malnutrition through a life-cycle approach, the cornerstone of Mission Poshan 2.0

- **Focal point of Poshan Maah 2023:** to cultivate widespread awareness concerning critical human life stages: pregnancy, infancy, childhood, and adolescence.
- **Events to be organized under 6th Rashtriya Poshan Maah**
 - **Campaigns** focusing on key themes around **Exclusive Breastfeeding and Complementary Feeding.**
 - **Swasth Balak Spardha (Healthy Child Competition)**
 - **Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi (Nutrition as well as Education)**
 - **Improving Nutrition through Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)**
 - **Tribal-Focused Nutrition Sensitization**
 - **Addressing Anemia through Test, Treat, Talk.**

Additional Information

- **Poshan Pakhwada** is celebrated **annually** in the month of **March for 15 days**

2.2 Gujarat Declaration

Why in News?

- Recently, the World Health Organization (**WHO**) has released **Gujarat Declaration**.
- **Gujarat Declaration** is the **outcome document** of **first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit 2023**.
 - It reaffirmed **global commitments towards indigenous knowledges, biodiversity and traditional, complementary and integrative medicine.**
 - It will serve as a **catalyst** to **harness the potential of traditional medicine** through the lens of science.
 - It will **focus on the integration of traditional medicines in national health systems** and **help unlock the power of traditional medicine.**
 - It talks about scaling up efforts to further implement evidence-based TCIM (**Traditional complimentary integrative medicine**) **interventions** and approaches in support of the goal of **universal health coverage (UHC)** and **all health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**

About First Global Summit on Traditional Medicine

- **Organizer:** World Health Organization (WHO); **Co-host:** Ministry of Ayush
- **Theme:** 'Towards Health and Well-being for All'
- **Venue:** Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

SOCIAL SECTORS IN INDIA – EDUCATION

2.3 National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)

Why in News?

- Recently, the **63rd Foundation Day Celebration** of **NCERT** was held in **New Delhi**.

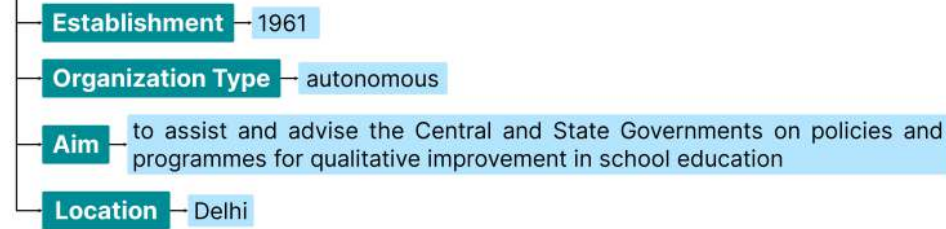
Key Announcement

- **NCERT** has been given the status of a **Deemed-to-be-University**.

Key Information Shared

- **NCERT** has developed **Jadui Pitara-** **-a play-based learning-teaching material tailored for children between the age group of 3-8 years.**

National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)



2.4 Malaviya Mission - Teachers Training Programme

Why in News?

- Recently, the University Grants Commission (**UGC**), in association with the **Ministry of Education** has launched the **Malaviya Mission - Teacher Training Programme**.
- **Aim:** to provide tailored training programmes for teachers.
- **8 themes of the Programme**
 - Holistic and Multidisciplinary Education, Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), Academic Leadership, Governance and Management, Higher Education and Society, Research and Development, Skill Development, Student Diversity and Inclusive Education and Information and Communication Technology.

Key Features of the Programme

- It is a **two-week online programme**.
- **Focus Area:** capacity building of 15 lakh teachers in higher educational institutions.
- **Implementation:** The programme will be implemented across 111 Malaviya Mission centres across India

Additional Information

- Human Resource Development Centres (**HRDCs**) have been **renamed** as **Madan Mohan Malaviya Teachers' Training Centre**.

2.5 Education to Entrepreneurship: Empowering a generation of students, educators and entrepreneurs

Why in News?

- Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship recently launched a **3-year partnership with Meta**, "Education to Entrepreneurship: Empowering a generation of students, educators and entrepreneurs".

About Education to Entrepreneurship

- **Launch year:** August 2023
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Education and Ministry Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.
- **Partnership between:** Ministry of Education, Ministry Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Meta.
- **Objective:** to take **Digital Skilling to grassroots** in order to seamlessly connect **students, youth, workforce & micro-entrepreneurs**, with futuristic technologies.
- **Tenure** of the partnership: **3 year**
- **Features:**

- Letters of Intent (**Lol**) **exchanged between Meta** and National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (**NIESBUD**), All India Council for Technical Education (**AICTE**) and Central Board of Secondary Education (**CBSE**).
- Under the partnership **with the NIESBUD, 5 lakh entrepreneurs will get access to digital marketing skills by Meta.**
- Budding and existing **entrepreneurs will be trained in digital marketing skills** using Meta platforms in 7 regional languages to begin with.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

2.6 Green Hydrogen Pilots in India' Conference

Why in News?

- Recently a **conference on "Green Hydrogen Pilots in India"** was held in **New Delhi**.
- The conference **showcased various Green Hydrogen Pilots** being implemented by both public and private sector companies of India.
- The conference was **hosted by NTPC Ltd.**

Key highlights

- The **pilot projects** hold the **key to innovation and experimentation.**
- The **pilot projects** have been **allocated Rs. 1,466 crores out of total allocation of 19,744 crores in FY24 budget** for **Green Hydrogen Mission.**
- An amount of **Rs. 456 crores is set aside for steel, Rs. 495 crores for transport, Rs. 115 crores for shipping** and **Rs. 400 crores for other** projects.
- India has notified its **Green Hydrogen Standard** which **limits carbon dioxide emissions to less than or equal to 2 kg per kg of hydrogen.**

EMPLOYMENT GENERATION IN INDIA

2.7 Framework for Revival and Rehabilitation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

Why in News?

- Recently, **Framework for Revival and Rehabilitation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** was mentioned in the Parliament.

About Framework for Revival and Rehabilitation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

- The **Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises** had issued the **framework in 2015.**
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has issued **guidelines on 'Framework for Revival and Rehabilitation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises' to Scheduled Commercial Banks** (excluding Regional Rural Banks) in **2016**
- **Objective:** to provide a simpler and faster mechanism to address the identified stress in the accounts of MSMEs by way of a Corrective Action Plan(CAP) suggested by the "Committee for Stressed Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises".

S.No

Particulars

Key Information

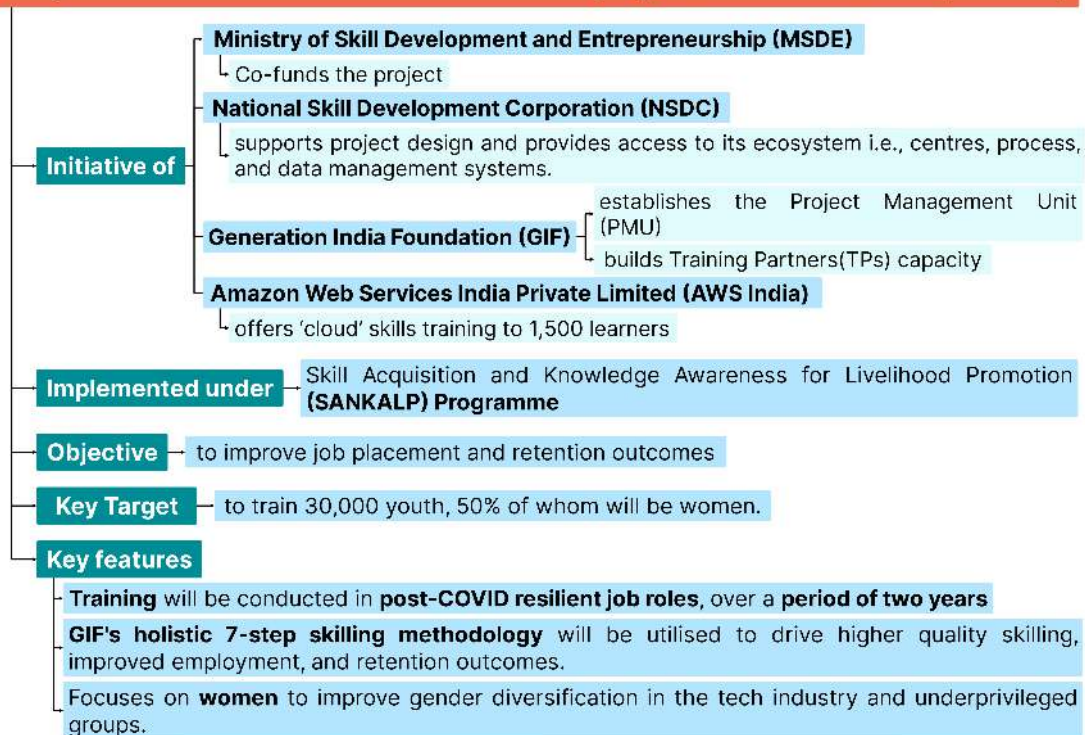
1.	Eligibility	Applicable to all MSMEs having loan limits upto Rs.25 crores including accounts under Consortium or multiple banking arrangements (MBA).
2.	Identification of incipient stress	<p>Special Mention Account (SMA)-0: Principal or interest payment not overdue for more than 30 days but account showing signs of incipient stress</p> <p>SMA-1: Principal or interest payment overdue between 31-60 days</p> <p>SMA-2: Principal or interest payment overdue between 61-90 days</p>
3.	Process	Any MSME borrower may voluntarily initiate proceedings under this Framework, if the enterprise reasonably apprehends failure of its business or its inability or likely inability to pay debts or there is erosion in the net worth due to accumulated losses to the extent of 50% of its net worth during the previous accounting year , by making an application to the branch or directly to the Committee
4.	Composition of Committee for Stressed MSMEs (CSMSMEs)	<p>Chairperson (Circle Head)</p> <p>Convener and member: MSME loans in-charge</p> <p>External Members</p>
5.	Recommended Corrective Actions	rectification, restructuring, recovery and also additional finance if needed

2.8 Project Amber

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has provided an update on **Project Accelerated Mission for Better Employment and Retention (AMBER)**.

Project Accelerated Mission for Better Employment and Retention (AMBER)



GLOBALIZATION

2.9 UK-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

Why in News?

- Recently, the **twelfth round of negotiations for the United Kingdom (UK)-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** took place.

About UK-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

- India and the United Kingdom have launched the UK-India FTA negotiations in **2022**.
- The FTA is expected to facilitate the target of doubling bilateral trade between India and UK by 2030.

2.10 2023 Regional Cooperation and Integration Conference

Why in News?

- India recently **showcased its PM Gatishakti National Master Plan** at the '**2023 Regional Cooperation and Integration Conference: Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Integration through Economic Corridor Development (ECD)**'.
 - Venue: Tbilisi, Georgia**

Key Highlights

- Organized by Asian Development Bank (ADB).**
- The objective of the conference was to-
 - Explore ways to integrate spatial transformation/area-centric approach** with the ECD and strengthen regional cooperation through a broader approach.
 - Knowledge sharing on application of the Economic Corridor Development (ECD) framework and operational guidelines**, onto investable projects.
- India offered its indigenously developed GIS-based technology to ADB and South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) countries** to ensure regional cooperation.

2.11 20th ASEAN-India Summit and 18th East Asia Summit

Why in News?

- Prime Minister recently attended the **20th ASEAN-India Summit** and the **18th East Asia Summit (EAS)**.
 - **Venue: Jakarta , Indonesia**

Key highlights

- **Two Joint Statements adopted**, 1st on **Maritime Cooperation**, and 2nd **Food Security**.
- In ASEAN-India summit, **Timor-Leste participated as an Observer**.
- **Emphasized** the need to **the review of ASEAN-India FTA (AITIGA)** in a time bound manner.
- **PM presented a 12-point proposal for strengthening India - ASEAN cooperation**.
 - Offered to **share India's Digital Public Infrastructure Stack with ASEAN partners**.
 - Announced **ASEAN-India fund for Digital Future**.
 - Announced renewal of **support to Economic and Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)** to act as knowledge partner for enhancing our engagement.
- It was the **first summit** between the two sides **since the elevation of their ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership last year**.

About East Asia Summit (EAS)

- **Established in 2005 as an ASEAN led initiative**.
 - The **first summit** was held in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 14 December 2005**.
- The **EAS** is usually **held alongside ASEAN Leaders' meetings**.
- **Significance: EAS** is the premier **forum in the Asia-Pacific region to deal with issues relating to security and defense**.
- The EAS comprises **18 members**:
 - **10 ASEAN countries** – (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam)
 - **8 dialogue partners** – (Australia, China, **India**, Japan, New Zealand, Russia the United States and Republic of Korea).
- **India has been a founding member** of summit and regularly participates in all its meetings.



2.1243rd Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit

Why in News?

- **The 43rd ASEAN Summit convened recently** under the leadership of President Joko Widodo of Indonesia.
 - **Venue: Jakarta, Indonesia**
 - **Theme: ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth**

About ASEAN Summit

- Under ASEAN charter, the ASEAN Summit is the **supreme policy-making body of ASEAN**.
- It **comprises the heads of state or government of 10 member state**.
- The **Chairmanship of ASEAN rotates annually**, based on the **alphabetical order** of the English names of ASEAN member states.
- The member state assuming the **Chairmanship** holds it **for one calendar year**.
- **For 2023** it is held **by Indonesia, and alphabetically Laos is next in line** for 2024.
- ASEAN Summit Meetings are **held twice annually**, to be **hosted by the member state holding the ASEAN Chairmanship**.
- This year's **first ASEAN Summit (42nd) was held in Labuan Bajo and second (43rd) in Jakarta** both in Indonesia.

INDIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM

2.13 Digital India Experience Zone

Why in News?

- **During the G20 Summit in New Delhi, a 'Digital India Experience Zone'** to be set up to showcase the India's digital advancements.
- Considered to be a 'key attraction' during the summit, **offering delegates the opportunity to experience the transformative impact of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPIs) first hand**.

About Digital India Experience Zone

- The Digital India Experience Zone is a treasure trove of cutting-edge technology **to take visitors through the major milestones of Digital India since 2014**.
- **Seven key initiatives of Digital India have been selected** to showcase the best practices in implementing DPIs:
 - **Aadhaar**: attendees to gain hands-on experience through **LIVE demonstrations of Aadhaar Face Authentication Software**.
 - **Bhashini exhibit**: To demonstrate **real-time speech-to-speech translation** in multiple Indian languages and six UN languages. The '**JugalBandi**' **Telegram Bot** will **allow visitors ask questions and interact** in any language of their choice.
 - **eSanjeevani exhibit**: The digital platform **offers online consultations with doctors, real-time health analysis, and e-prescriptions** to improve healthcare accessibility.
 - **DIKSHA**: A digital platform exhibit offers an immersive experience, allowing **visitors to explore the wealth of educational resources available on DIKSHA**.
 - **DigiLocker**: It is used to **securely store e-documents thereby improving efficiency** education, finance, banking, travel, transport, real estate, legal, and judiciary.

- **UPI exhibit:** This will showcase the global applications of UPI, allowing visitors to make **seamless transactions using QR codes**.
- **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC):** To show how it **collaborates with sellers, customers**, and network providers on a grand scale.
- **G.I.T.A. application:** Created to **provide answers to life-related questions** in alignment with the holy book Shrimad Bhagwad Gita.

GENDER ISSUES

2.14 National Conclave on Enabling 2 Crore 'LAKHPATI DIDIS'

Why in News?

- Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj recently chaired **National Conclave on Enabling 2 Crore 'LAKHPATI DIDIS'**.
- The conclave was **organised by** Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (**DAY-NRLM**) in New Delhi.

Key highlights

- Each **SHG household is encouraged to take up multiple livelihood activities** resulting in a sustainable income of Rupees One Lakh or more per year.
- **DAY-NRLM has adopted 'Whole of Society' approach by collaborating with Government, Private Sector, Multi-lateral agencies** to provide all necessary support **in enhancing income of the SHG Households**.
- The **Mission in its endeavor to empower the SHG women**, have made concerted efforts in-
 - Social Mobilization/Institution Building: **9.54 crore women** have been **mobilized into 87.39 lakh** Self-Help Groups (**SHGs**).
 - Social Capital: With Community driven approach nearly **4 lakh Community Resource Persons have been trained** in multiple interventions.
 - Capitalization Support: Cumulatively, about **Rs. 33,497.62 Crore has been provided as community investment** support under the Mission.
 - SHG-Bank Linkage: Nearly **Rs 6.96 lakh crore of bank credit has been accessed by the SHGs since 2013-14**.
 - SHG members as Business Correspondent Agents (BCAs): to provide last mile delivery of financial services, **more than 1, 00,000 SHG members have been identified and trained as BCAs/ Digipay points**. At present, 1.07 lakh Banking Correspondents Sakhi/Digipay Sakhi have been deployed.

About Lakhpati Didis

- **Initiative** announced by PM **to transform rural economy**.
- Goal is to enable **2 Crore 'LAKHPATIDIDIS'- SHG Didis who earn sustainable income of at least Rs. one Lakh per annum per Household**.
- **For economic empowerment of Women**, the Lakhpati Didi initiative has been **initiated by DAY-NRLM**.

MONETARY AND FISCAL POLICY

2.15 GST revenue collection - August 2023

Why in News?

- According to latest data released by the **Ministry of Finance**, the **gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue** collected in the month of **August, 2023** is **Rs 1,59,069 crore**.
- The revenues for the month of **August, 2023** are **11% higher than the GST revenues in August, 2022**.

Break-up of GST Revenue Collection in August 2023

- **Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST)**- Rs 28,328 crore
- **State Goods and Services Tax (SGST)**- Rs 35,794 crore
- **Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST)**- Rs 83,251 crore ((including Rs 43,550 crore collected on import of goods)
- **Cess**- Rs 11,695 crore (including Rs 1,016 crore collected on import of goods).

Top 5 States/UTs with Maximum GST Collection in August 2023

- **Maharashtra**- Rs 23282 crore
- **Karnataka**- Rs 11116 crore
- **Gujarat**- Rs 9765 crore
- **Tamil Nadu**- Rs 9475 crore
- **Haryana**- Rs 7666 crore

Top 5 states/UTs that registered Maximum Y-o-Y growth of GST Revenue in August, 2023

- **Tripura (40%), Arunachal Pradesh & Ladakh (39%), Nagaland (37%), and Goa (36%)**.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)



INDIAN AGRICULTURE

2.16 The Second Part of Sagar Parikrama started with launch of Phase VIII

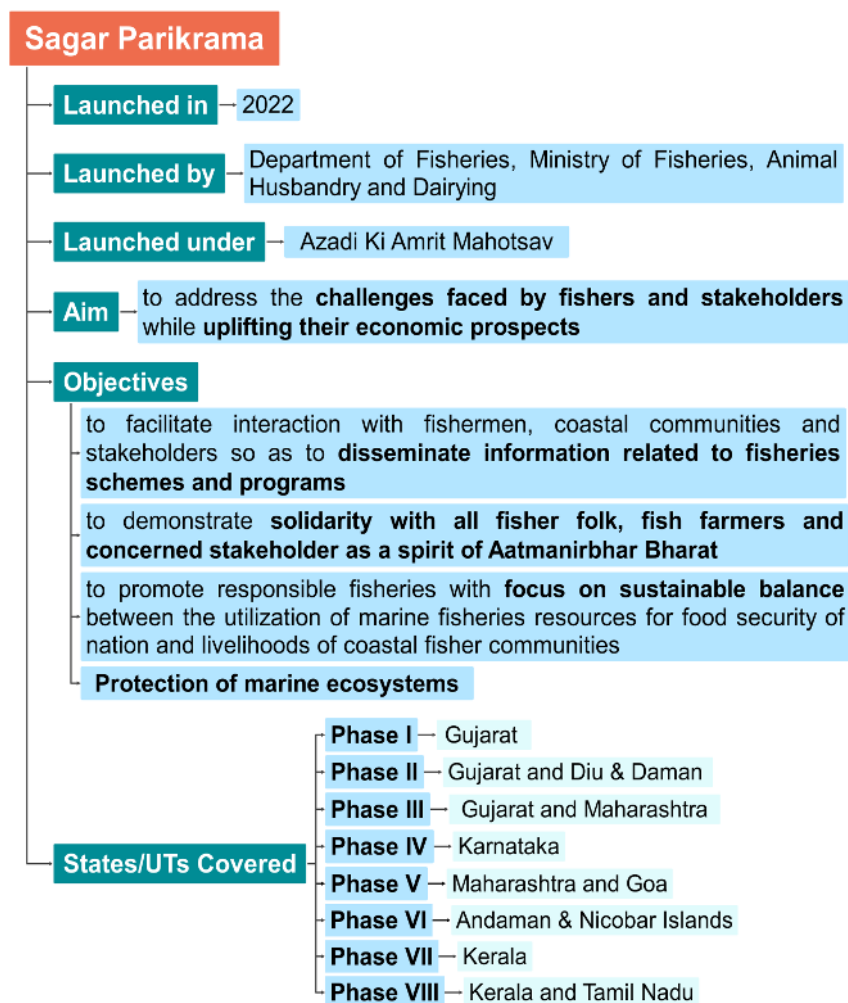
Why in News?

- The Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying recently **launched Phase VIII of Sagar Parikrama Yatra**.
- It is a **coastal visit programme** launched **to address problems facing fishers and allied workers** across the country.

About Sagar Parikrama Phase VIII

- The **1st part of Sagar Parikrama** was launched on 5th March 2022 **from Mandvi, Gujarat (Phase I)** and **completed** on 12th June 2023 **at Vizhinjam, Kerala (Phase VII)** covering key areas on the west coast of the country.

- The **2nd part of Sagar Parikrama** aims to cover the **East coast of the country**; hence **Phase - VIII** of Sagar Parikrama **resumed from Vizhinjam, Kerala** and will **continue to cover the eastern coastal states** of the country in subsequent phases.
- **The Sagar Parikrama-Phase VIII started on 30th August 2023 from Vizhinjam.**
- **Further it covered the beneficiaries** at fishing harbours and villages **in coastal areas of Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts of Tamil Nadu.**
- Laid the foundation stone of **Multipurpose Seaweed Park at Valamavur, Ramanathapuram district** with a total investment of **Rs 127.7 crore** to promote cultivation and conservation of seaweed benefitting **136 coastal villages of six districts of Tamil Nadu.**
- Participants: **The Department of Fisheries and National Fisheries Development Board of GOI** along with the **Department of Fisheries from Kerala and Tamil Nadu, Indian Coast Guard** and **fisherman representatives.**



INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS /REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

2.17 Group of Twenty (G20)

News 1

- Recently, the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (**DARE**), **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** has organized the **G20 Technical Workshop on “Climate Resilient Agriculture in Hyderabad.**

News 2

- Recently, the **Union Ministry of Tourism**, in collaboration with the **United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)**, unveiled the **G20 Tourism and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Dashboard**.

The Goa Roadmap for Tourism as a Vehicle for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals developed under India's G20 Presidency is built around the five priority areas:

- 1) Green Tourism;
- 2) Digitalization;
- 3) Skills;
- 4) Tourism micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and;
- 5) Destination Management.

- The dashboard has been developed under the leadership of **India's G20 Presidency**.
- **Knowledge Partner: UNWTO**
- **Objective:** to promote initiatives of the G20 countries in advancing SDGs through tourism.
- The dashboard consolidates the **GOA Roadmap**.

About UNWTO

- **Establishment:** 1946; **Headquarters:** Madrid, Spain.

2.18 Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

Why in News?

- Recently, the **10th meeting** of the **Ministers of Law and Justice of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) countries** was held virtually.

Additional Information

- SCO has framed the **SCO development strategy 2025**.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)



MULTICULTURALISM

2.19 Adopt a Heritage 2.0 programme

Why in News?

- Recently, the Archaeological Survey of India (**ASI**) has launched "**Adopt a Heritage 2.0**" **programme** from Samvet Auditorium, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (**IGNCA**), **New Delhi**.
- It is the revamped version of Adopt a Heritage programme launched in **2017**.
- **Objective:** to foster collaboration with corporate stakeholders through which they can contribute to preservation of ASI protected monuments for the next generations.

- The initiative is aligned with the vision of '**Virasat Bhi, Vikas Bhi**'.

Key Features of Adopt a Heritage 2.0 programme

- The programme clearly defines the amenities sought for different monuments as per Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act (**AMASR**) Act 1958.
- Under the programme, **ASI invites corporate stakeholders to enhance the amenities at the monuments** by utilizing their Corporate social responsibility (**CSR**) funds.
- The stakeholders can **apply for adopting a monument or specific amenities** at a monument through a **dedicated web portal 'www.indianheritage.gov.in'**.
- The selected stakeholders will **develop, provide and maintain amenities in hygiene, accessibility, safety and knowledge categories**.
- The term of the appointment will be for a period of five year initially, which may be further extended up to five years.**

Other Initiatives launched during the event

S.No	Particulars	Key Information
1.	'Indian Heritage' mobile app	<p>Initiative of: ASI</p> <p>It showcases the heritage monuments of India.</p> <p>The app features state-wise details of monuments along with photographs, list of public amenities available, geo-tagged location and feedback mechanism for citizens.</p> <p>Phase I launched for ticketed monuments</p>
2.	e-permission portal	<p>Initiative of: ASI</p> <p>The portal has been launched for obtaining permission for photography, filming and developmental projects</p>

3 GA + FINANCE



BANKING SYSTEM IN INDIA

3.1 REC signs USD 100 million Foreign Currency Term Loan Agreement with EXIM Bank

Why in news?

- REC Limited, **the Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power, has recently** signed a Foreign Currency Term Loan Agreement **for** USD 100 Million, with Export Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank).

Important Information

- The **loan will be used towards refinance for on-lending to REC's borrowers** in power, infrastructure and logistics sectors for importing capital equipment.
- The **funds will be raised as part of REC's Market Borrowing Programme** of Rs. 1.20 lakh crore for the year 2023-24.
- This is the **first term loan being extended by EXIM Bank to REC.**
- The **loan has been tied up for a 5-year tenor** and is benchmarked to SOFR (Secured Overnight Financing Rate).

Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR)

- The SOFR is a **benchmark interest rate for dollar-denominated derivatives and loans.**
- It **replaced** the London Interbank Offered Rate (**LIBOR**).
- SOFR took the **place of LIBOR in June 2023.**
- SOFR is **based on transactions in the Treasury repurchase market**
- It is preferable to LIBOR since it is **based on data from observable transactions** rather than estimated future borrowing rates.

Additional Information

- **Established in 1969**, REC Limited is an **NBFC focusing on Power Sector Financing and Development** across India.
- It provides financial assistance to state electricity boards, state governments, central / state power utilities, independent power producers, rural electric cooperatives and private sector utilities.

FINTECH

3.2 Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

Why in News?

- According to recent data shared by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions crossed 10 billion mark for the first time in August 2023.

Additional Information

- NPCI is an **umbrella organization** for all



retail payment systems in India.

Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

- India's flagship digital payments platform
- Launch Year — 2016
- Initiative of — National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- Key Target — to achieve **30 billion transactions per month** or a **billion transactions daily**
- Key Features —
 - an instant real-time payment system
 - enables immediate money transfer through mobile phones 24*7 and 365 days

3.3 Global Fintech Fest, 2023 (GFF 2023)

News 1

- Recently, **Global Fintech Fest, 2023 (GFF 2023) (fourth edition)** was held in **Jio World Centre, Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- **Organizers of the event:** National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Payments Council of India (PCI) and FinTech Convergence Council (FCC).
- **Supported by:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MietY), the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), and the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)
- **Theme:** 'Global Collaboration for a Responsible Financial Ecosystem'.

Key Highlights

- The **Union Finance Minister** released a **report** titled '**The Second Wave: Resilient, Inclusive, Exponential Fintechs**'.
- Unique Identification Authority of India (**UIDAI**) **facilitated an industry meet-up under the theme "reimagine Aadhaar #together"**.
- **UIDAI showcased its improved Face Authentication facility**, powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) engines, developed entirely in-house, under the theme of "**reimagining Aadhaar #authentication**".

Key Information Shared

- **Number of Demat accounts** has increased by 2.5 times (**4.1 crore in 2019-20 to 10 crore in 2022-23**).
- **Assets Under Management (AUM) of the Indian mutual fund industry**- increased from Rs 10 lakh crore in May 2014 to a significant Rs 46.37 lakh crore (July 2023).
- As per **SBI Research**, **Per capita income** is expected to increase by **7.5 times from Rs 2 lakh in FY 2023 to Rs 14.9 lakh in FY 2047** (in USD terms, the corresponding increase comes to ~USD 12,400 in FY47 from ~USD 2500 in FY23).
- **Indian workforce** is expected to increase by **19.5 crore to 72.5 crore in FY 2047 from 53 crore in FY 2022-23**.
- **Workforce share in population** will increase from **37.9% in FY 2023 to 45% in FY 2047**.
- **Taxable Workforce /Workforce eligible to pay taxes** to rise to **85.3%, from the current 22.4%**.
- There would be approximately **48.2 crore IT filers in FY 2047** from approximately 7 crore in FY 2022-23. (seven times more).

News 2

- Recently, **Hitachi Payment Services**, in association with National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**), has launched **India's first ever Unified Payments Interface- Automated Teller Machine (UPI-ATM)- Hitachi Money Spot UPI ATM** at the **Global Fintech Fest, 2023**.
- UPI-ATM is a **white label ATM** that facilitates **cardless cash withdrawals**.
- Customers of participating banks can use it to withdraw cash without an ATM or debit card, using their UPI accounts.

- The **withdrawal limit for the UPI-ATM is Rs 10,000 per transaction**
 - The withdrawal limit will vary depending on limits set by the issuer bank for UPI-ATM transactions.

News 3

- Recently, the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched the following **suite of payments products** developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**) during the **Global Fintech Fest 2023**.
 - **Credit Line on UPI**
 - ✓ It enables pre-sanctioned credit lines from banks via UPI
 - **UPI LITE X**
 - ✓ It will allow users to send and receive money while being completely offline.
 - ✓ Accessible to anyone with a compatible device supporting Near Field Communication (NFC).
 - **UPI Tap & Pay**
 - ✓ Through this product, users can simply tap NFC-enabled QR codes at merchant locations to complete their payments.
 - **Hello! UPI — Conversational Payments on UPI**
 - ✓ It is a voice command feature
 - ✓ Through the new feature, the users will be able to make voice-enabled UPI payments via UPI Apps, telecom calls, and IoT devices in Hindi and English.
 - ✓ **NPCI** has partnered with **AI4Bharat at IIT Madras**, for the **development of the Hindi and English language models** for the service.
 - **BillPay Connect — Conversational Bill Payments**
 - ✓ The facility will allow customers to get and pay their bills by messaging 'Hi' on the Bharat BillPay app.

News 4

- **Global Fintech Awards (GFA) 2023** were announced during the **Global Fintech Fest 2023**.

Important Winners

S.No	Category	Winner
1.	Fintech Company of the Year	Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)
2.	Fintech Leader of the Year	Bhavesh Gupta, President & COO, One97 Communications Ltd
3.	Fintech CTO of the Year	Kailash Nadh, CTO, Zerodha
4.	Leading Fintech Personality of the Year from the Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC) region	Adeeb Ahamed, Managing Director, Lulu Financial Holdings
5.	Leading Fintech Personality of the Year in Europe	Tom Greenwood, Founder & CEO, Volt.

News 5

- Recently, the State Bank of India (**SBI**) has launched "**RuPay National Common Mobility Card (NCMC). Prepaid Card**" - **Nation first transit card** at the **Global Fintech Fest 2023**.

- It facilitates easy digital ticketing fare payments in metro, buses, water ferries, parking, etc., through a single card.

Note: White Label ATMs discussed in CurrentTap-July 2023 (News 3.4).

FINANCIAL INCLUSION

3.4 Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (**IEPFA**), in collaboration with Institute of Company Secretaries in India (**ICSI**) and National Council of Applied Economic Research (**NCAER**), organized a **conference on “Understanding the Psychology of Scams: How to Avoid Fraudulent Schemes”**, in **New Delhi**.
- The event was organized during the **7th Foundation Day** of **IEPFA**.
- During the event, **“Fundoo-nomics”** board game was unveiled.
 - Fundoo-nomics is an initiative of **IEPFA's Media & Awareness wing**
 - **Aim:** to simplify financial concepts and promote financial literacy across various age groups.

Key Information Shared

- **Female investor participation** increased from 9 to **19% since IEPFA's establishment**.

About IEPFA

- **Establishment:** September 7, 2016; **Established under:** section 125 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- **Function:** administering the Investor Education and Protection Fund for making refunds of shares, unclaimed dividends, and matured deposits/debentures, among other things, to investors.



FINTECH

3.5 SBI allows interoperability of UPI and Central Bank Digital Currency

Why in News?

- The **State Bank of India** (SBI) recently **implemented** Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**) **interoperability in its digital rupee**, called Central Bank Digital Currency (**CBDC**).

About UPI interoperability on CBDC

- Aims at **bridging the gap between CBDC and the extensively used UPI platform**.
- This **feature, accessible through the 'eRupee by SBI' application**.
 - App enables **SBI CBDC users to effortlessly scan any merchant UPI QR code for swift and secure transactions**.

- **HDFC Bank was the first bank in India to make interoperable QR codes** available to its merchants and consumers. **Followed by Canara Bank, Axis Bank, Yes Bank and now SBI.**
- Significance: with the integration of CBDC with UPI, **while accepting payments via UPI or digital wallet, shops will be able to display only one QR code.** It will make it easier to use the Digital Rupee in daily transactions.

About Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)

- The **RBI launched pilots** for **Digital rupee or e-Rupee in the wholesale in November 2022** and in the **retail segment in December 2022.**
- The **RBI issues it as the legal money**, comparable to sovereign paper currency.
- **It is a direct claim on the central bank.**
- It can be used to **carry out transactions or hold value digitally like actual cash or notes.**
- CBDCs are a **digital form of a paper currency and unlike cryptocurrencies that operate in a regulatory vacuum, CBDC are legal tenders issued and backed by a central bank.**
- The **goal of digital currency is to add to and develop an alternative to physical currency, not to replace it.** It is intended to give people more options for handling their money.
- There is **no charges/fees associated with e -Rupee or e-Rupee wallets.**
- There is **no minimum balance required to open/ maintain eRupee wallet.**
- There are however **some limitations on volume and value of transactions** Particulars
 - **Amount Holding capacity for wallet (Amount)-Rs. 1,00,000**
 - **Per day Transfer (Inward / Outward Amount)-Rs. 25,000**
 - **No of transfer (Inward / Outward Count)- 20**
 - **Per transaction (pay/collect)-Rs. 10,000**

3.6 PNB allows interoperability of UPI and Central Bank Digital Currency

Why in News?

- The **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** recently **implemented interoperability of** Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).

About UPI interoperability on CBDC

- **Customers of PNB can now pay** their vendors **using the UPI QR code by scanning it using the PNB Digital Rupee app**, or utilize it to finish a transaction at a vendor outlet.
- **Users of the PNB Digital Rupee App can use their CBDC Wallets** to make purchases on the UPI QR of these **merchants even if they don't have a CBDC Wallet.**
- **The app with this new feature is already live for Android and iOS users.**
- **HDFC Bank followed by Canara Bank, Axis Bank, Yes Bank, Bank of Baroda, and SBI has already** launched UPI interoperability.

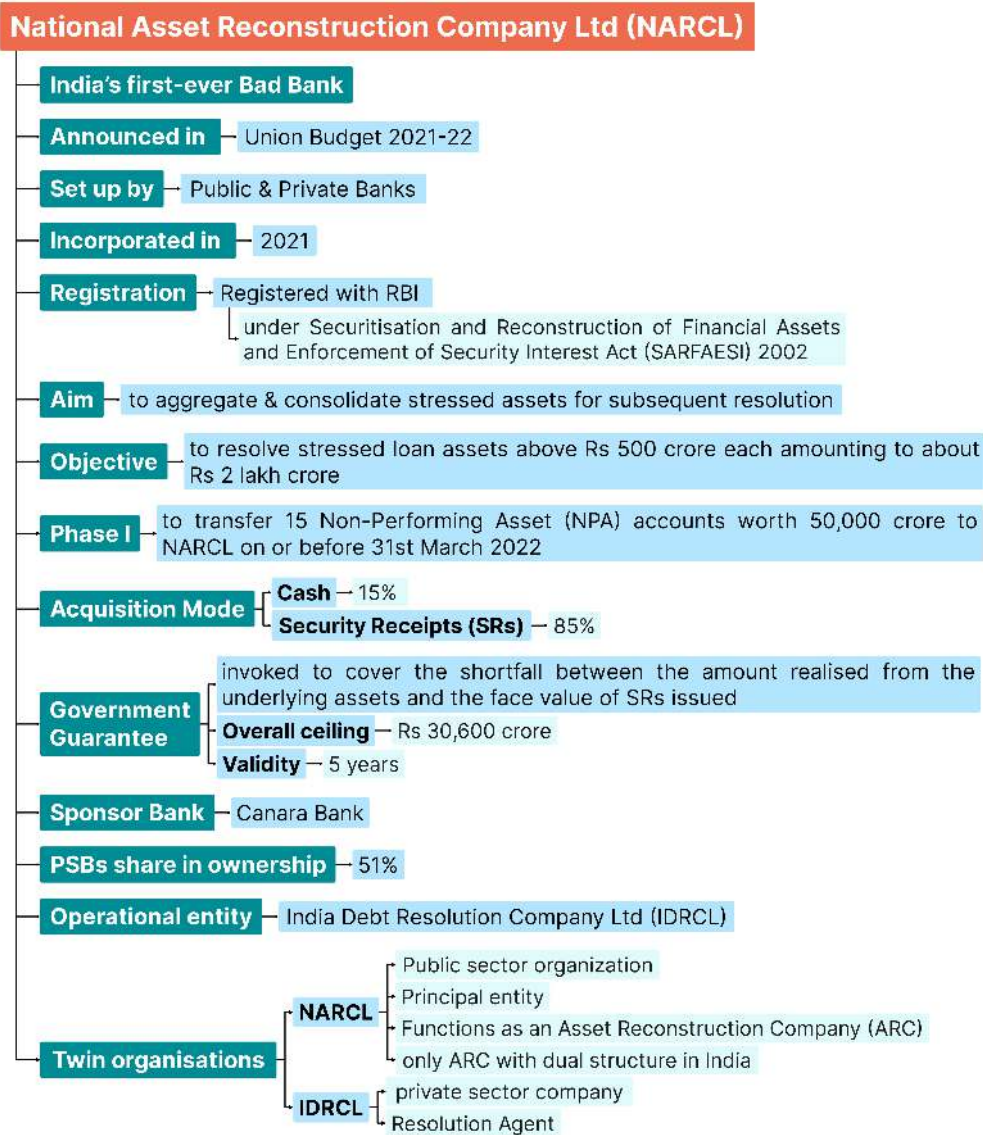
RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN FINANCIAL SECTOR

3.7 Proposal to merge NARCL with IDRCL

Why in News?

- Recently, **Diwakar Gupta**, former Managing Director, State Bank of India has **proposed to merge** National Asset Reconstruction Company of India (**NARCL**) with India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (**IDRCL**).

- The proposal was suggested to the Ministry of Finance to **optimize business opportunities and reduce costs.**
- Karnam Sekar, Chairman of NARCL has resigned due to differences over structure and functioning of the institution.



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