



# ACE

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# ESE-2023

## (Preliminary Examination)

### Current Issues

(January - 2023)

**ACE is the leading institute for coaching in ESE, GATE & PSUs**

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**27 All India 1<sup>st</sup> Ranks in ESE**

**67 All India 1<sup>st</sup> Ranks in GATE**

# Current Issues

(January - 2023)

## POLICY OF GOVERNANCE

### DAY-NRLM LAUNCHED PRAJJWALA CHALLENGE



### KEY POINTS

- The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) has launched the Prajjwala Challenge.
- It is the platforms where ideas are invited from individuals, Social Enterprises, Start up, Private Sector, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Academic Institution, Start-ups, Incubation centres, Investors etc having potential to transform the rural economy.
- The Mission is looking for ideas and solutions around Innovative Technology Solution, Inclusive Growth, Value Chain Interventions, Enhanced Women Entrepreneurship, Cost effective Solutions, Sustainability, place-based employment, localized models etc.
- The broad contours fall into following categories:
  1. Focus on Women and Marginalized section of community
  2. Localised Model
  3. Sustainability
  4. Cost Effective solutions
  5. Multi sectoral ideas and solutions etc.

## INDIA'S FIRST UNDERWATER METRO SERVICE



### KEY POINTS

- India's first underwater metro service, the East-West Metro Corridor project is expected to be completed by December 2023, the Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation (KMRC)
- It is worth mentioning that the East-West corridor of the Kolkata Metro is 15 Km-long and spans from Salt Lake Stadium to Howrah.
- It costs about ₹120 crore per kilometre to build the tunnel but the manufacturing cost of the tunnel underwater which is deep in the Hooghly river costs increased to around 157 crores by per kilometer.

## PARAKH



### Why in News?

Recently, it is notified by NCERT that PARAKH is India's first national performance assessment regulator

### KEY POINTS

- PARAKH stands for Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development.
- NCERT notify that PARAKH is going to be the First National Performance Assessment Regulator.
- PARAKH will work on setting norms, standards, and guidelines for student assessment and evaluation for all recognized school boards in the country
- A new regulator is also being set up to oversee the process and conduct periodic tests like the National Achievement Survey (NAS) and State Achievement Surveys.
- PARAKH will also aims to do away with rote learning, as mentioned in the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- The first (National Achievement Survey) NAS will conduct by 2024.

### FIRST CONSTITUTION LITERATE DISTRICT



### KEY POINTS

- Kollam, Kerala has become India's first constitution literate district.
- As a part of the seven month campaign around 16-3 lakh people in the district above the age of 10 have been educated on various aspects of the constitution.
- The campaign aims at to provide constitution literacy to 23 lakh citizens belonging to 7 lakh families in the district.
- To achieve this goal, awareness classes were organized for the people in Kollam.
- Kollam is also known as Quilon is an ancient port city located on the banks of the Ashtamudi Lake in the Indian state of Kerala.

## FIRST UNION TERRITORY IN INDIA TO COMPLETELY SWITCH TO A DIGITAL METHOD



### KEY POINTS

- Jammu and Kashmir has become the first union territory (UT) in India to have entirely shifted to digital mode of administration.
- All governmental and administrative services in the UT are currently only offered digitally.
- The UT administration constituted a 'Coordination Cell' for monitoring the progress on implementation of online services in Jammu and Kashmir.

## JAL JEEVAN MISSION (JJM)



### KEY POINTS

- Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) over 11 Crore rural households of the country have access to tap water connection and 123 districts and more than 1.53 lakh villages of India have reported 'Har Ghar Jal' which means every household has access to clean drinking water through tap.
- Jal Jeevan Mission was announced by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 15th August, 2019 to provide every rural household with tap water connection by 2024.



## M-SAND PROJECT



### KEY POINTS

- Coal India intends to produce sand using overburden rocks lying at its various coal mines and the operation of five such sand plants is likely to commence by next year,
- Under the 'overburden (OB) rocks-to-manufactured sand' initiative, Coal India Ltd (CIL) facilitates processing of waste overburden at its open cast mines.
- Coal India Ltd has envisaged processing the overburden rocks for sand production in mines where OB material contains about 60 per cent sandstone by volume which is harnessed through crushing and processing of overburden.
- OB to Manufactured-Sand initiative of CIL is facilitating the processing of waste overburden in its OC Mines.

## LADLI BAHNA YOJANA



### KEY POINTS

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister announces to start Ladli Bahna Yojana
- Under this Ladli Bahna Yojana scheme poor women irrespective of caste/category will be given Rs 1,000 a month to women.
- The Overall estimated cost for this scheme is 60000 crore for 5 years.

- This scheme is being started to financially empower all those sisters, whose families do not pay income tax and who come from poor and middle class families.
- Even if the woman is already benefited from any scheme, she will also get the benefit of this scheme.

## **FIRST STATE IN THE COUNTRY TO GO FULLY DIGITAL IN ITS BANKING SERVICE**



### **KEY POINTS**

- Kerala as the first state in the country to go fully digital in its banking service.
- In 2021 Thrissur become the first district in the State to implement digital banking under the “Expanding and Deepening of Digital Payments Ecosystem’ scheme of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The government had undertaken, through local bodies, a programme to raise digital literacy.
- Kerala had won three awards at the recent Digital India Awards instituted by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, showed the State’s commitment to implementing efficient digital mechanisms

## **NORTHERN INDIA'S LARGEST FLOATING SOLAR POWER PROJECT**



### **KEY POINTS**

- UT Administrator Banwari Lal Purohit inaugurated northern India's largest floating solar power project of 2000kWp worth Rs 11.70 crore at waterworks in Chandigarh.
- The project is estimated to be worth over ₹3000 crores.
- The floating solar plant includes 10 years of operations and maintenance.
- These projects were designed and executed by CREST (Chandigarh Renewable Energy and Science & Technology Promotion Society) and are expected to generate a minimum of 35 lakh units (kWh) of solar energy per year with 20% module efficiency.

## **INDIA'S FIRST GREEN ENERGY-BASED SOLAR PANEL**



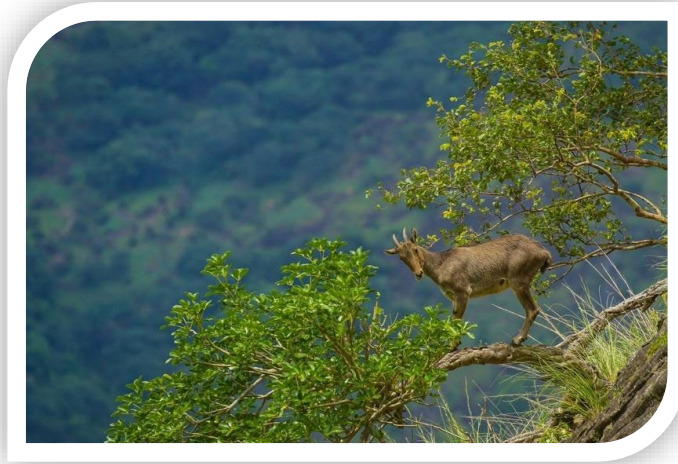
### **KEY POINTS**

- Luminous Power Technologies announced its plan to build the country's first green energy-based solar panel manufacturing facility in Uttarakhand.
- The new manufacturing plant located in Rudrapur it is expected to be fully operational by the end of this year.



- This facility spread across 4-5 lakh square feet/10 acres will help enable a solar production capacity of 500 MW per annum expandable up to 1 GW, producing a range of solar panels with a power output of 40W to 600W.

## **NILGIRI TAHR PROJECT**



### **KEY POINTS**

- The Tamil Nadu government operationalised the 'Nilgiri Tahr project'
- The project aims at restoring the original habitat of the state animal and stabilising its population.
- The budgetary outlay of Rs 25.14 crore it is the five-year initiative to deal with the conservation of the species.
- In the past few decades, Nilgiri Tahr has become locally extinct in around 14% of its traditional habitat.
- Nilgiri Tahr Day will be celebrated on October 7 in honour of Dr ERC Davidar

## INTERNATION ISSUES

### WORLD LARGEST RIVER CRUIES



### KEY POINTS

- India's prestige project Ganga Vilas project, was announced in November 2022 which involves the commencement of a cruise service with a travel course of 4,000 kilometres.
- This is a unique cruise in the world and a reflection of growing cruise tourism in India.
- The passengers aboard the cruise will travel across 50 significant tourist destinations, witnessing the iconic Varanasi Ganga Aarti and protected areas like Kaziranga National Park and the Sundarbans Delta.
- The luxury boat will have a route from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh to Dibrugarh in Assam via Bangladesh.
- The recreational vessel will travel along 27 river systems in India, including the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly, Brahmaputra, and West Coast Canal, in a span of 50 days.

## CHINA BECOME 1<sup>ST</sup> IN ASIA TO LAUNCHED A HYDROGEN URBAN TRAIN



### KEY POINTS

- China's CRRC Corporation Ltd. Launched a hydrogen urban train, and it is the first in Asia and the second in the world.
- Germany was the first country to introduce hydrogen powered trains in September 2022.
- The train has a top speed of 160 KM per hour and can run without refuelling for 600 Km.
- India will most likely get its first-ever indigenous Hydrogen trains by December 2023

## WORLD OLDEST LIVING PERSON



### KEY POINTS

- As per Guinness World Records (GWR) a woman at the age of 115 became the world's oldest woman living and the world's oldest person living.
- A Spanish woman great-grandmother Maria Branyas Moreira was born in March 1907.

- Branyas Morera has lived through the 1918 flu two world wars and Spain's civil war was not available for interviews.
- Branyas Morera's youngest daughter 78-year-old Rosa Moret attributed her mother's longevity to "genetics".

## **INDIA BECOME THIRD-LARGEST AUTO MARKET GLOBALLY**



### **KEY POINTS**

- India become third largest auto market globally surpassed Japan.
- India's sales of new vehicles totalled at least 4.25 million units, based on preliminary results, topping the 4.2 million sold in Japan.
- New vehicles delivered in India totalled 4.13 million between January and November 2022.
- India's sales volume is expected to rise further with the inclusion of pending fourth-quarter sales figures for commercial vehicles, along with year-end results yet to be released by Tata Motors and other automakers

## 4<sup>TH</sup> INDUSTRIAL RESOLUTION BY WEF 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTER



### KEY POINTS

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) has chosen Hyderabad for establishing its Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution focused on healthcare and life sciences.
- Center for Industrial Revolution Telangana will be the 18<sup>th</sup> centre to join WEF's Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) network that spans four continents. With the centre Telangana is poised to become an important node in the global network of 4IR centres.
- The centre will facilitate, advance and accelerate development and adoption of newer technologies including genomics, personalised medicine and healthcare manufacturing, with a focus on the interplay between life sciences and technology in the region and globally.



## UNGA RESOLUTION “EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRACY”



### KEY POINTS

- The UNGA United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on 18th January 2023 titled as ‘Education for Democracy’ that reaffirms the right of everyone to education.
- The resolution was co-sponsored by India.
- This resolution reaffirms right of everyone to education and recognizes that contributes to the strengthening of democracy.

## AWARDS

### ISA AWARD FOR SERVICE TO HUMANITY



#### KEY POINTS

- Dr Sanduk Ruit Himalayan Cataract Project Co-Founder has won the ISA Award for Service to Humanity a top civilian award of Bahrain.
- The Award carries a cash prize of USD 1 million, a certificate of merit and a gold medal.
- He made modern eye care affordable and accessible to countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.
- He is fondly called as God of Sight.
- He has saved 120000 eyesight who would have otherwise gone blind in absence of treatment.

### BEST SUSTAINABLE GREENFIELD AIRPORT



#### KEY POINTS

- The New Goa Manohar International Airport (MIA) built by the GMR Goa International Airport Ltd (GGIAL) a subsidiary of GMR Airports Infrastructure Limited won the prestigious Best

Sustainable Greenfield Airport award under Aviation Sustainability and Environment at ASSOCHAM 14th International Conference-cum-Awards for Civil Aviation 2023 held at New Delhi.

- The prestigious forum recognizes the companies engaged in Civil Aviation initiatives that adopt best practices and technological advancement in their daily operations.
- The criteria of awards are contribution, innovativeness, applicability, relevance and impact potential in their respective areas.
- New Goa Manohar International Airport is designed to be a zero-carbon footprint airport and will join the elite club of green airports across the world inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 11 last year.

### UN WORLD HABITAT AWARD 2023



### KEY POINTS

- Odisha has been recognized by the United Nations-Habitat (UN-Habitat) 2023 for its efforts to empower the lives of slum dwellers and create a slum-free state in India through its 5T 5T (Transparency, Technology, Teamwork, Time, Transformation) initiative Jaga Mission.
- Odisha spread Jaga Mission program to upgrade all 2919 slums targeting to become first slum free state in India
- Earlier in 2019 Odisha's Jaga mission had received World Habitat Awards for its success in providing land tenure security to the slum dwellers

## GREEN RAILWAY STATION CERTIFICATIONS



### KEY POINTS

- East Coast Railways' Visakhapatnam railway station has received the prestigious 'Green Railway Station Certification' with the highest Platinum rating.
- The certificate has been awarded by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for adopting green concepts. It secured 82 out of 100 points in six environmental categories.
- The railway station has performed well in various categories such as – sustainable facilities, health, hygiene, energy and water efficiency, smart green initiatives, innovation, and development.

# SPORTS

## WORLD BLITZ CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS



### KEY POINTS

- Former world rapid champion Koneru Humpy has won India's first-ever Silver medal in the FIDE World Blitz Chess Championships in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- In the past, she has won the title at World Rapid (in 2019).
- Koneru Humpy is the second Indian to win a medal at World Blitz, after Viswanathan Anand.
- In FIDE World Blitz Chess Championships gold medal winner was Bibisara Balabayeva of Kazakhstan.

## INDIA'S 78<sup>TH</sup> GRAND MASTER



### KEY POINTS

- Kolkata-based chess player Koustav Chatterjee became India's 78th Grandmaster.
- Grand Master is the highest title apart from World Champion awarded to Chess players International Chess Federation FIDE.



- India's 1<sup>st</sup> Chess Grand Master was won by Viswanathan Anand at the age of 14 in 1988.
- The first Grand Master titles were awarded to 27 players in 1950.

### **KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAME 2022**



### **KEY POINTS**

- Hockey Haryana's women's team won the Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Women's Under 18 Qualifiers title after defeating Madhya Pradesh 2-0 in the final at Bhubaneswar.
- In Hockey, Madhya Pradesh defeated Odisha to clinch Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Men's Under-18 Qualifiers title in Bhubaneswar.
- With this Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand have qualified for the Khelo India Youth Games (Women) to be held in Madhya Pradesh next year.

## SUMMITS

### PADHO PARDESH SCHEME DISCONTINUED



### KEY POINTS

- Padho pardesh scheme discontinued by ministry of minority affairs.
- The discontinuation of the scheme of interest subsidy on education loans for overseas studies for students belonging to minority communities.
- The objective of the scheme was for the welfare of minorities is to award interest subsidy to meritorious students belonging to economically weaker sections of notified minority communities to provide them better opportunities for higher education at Masters, M.Phil and Ph.D levels abroad and enhance their employability

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

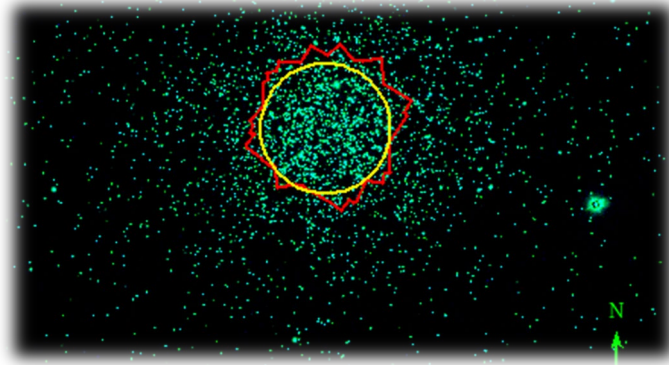
### EARTH'S OZONE LAYER WILL RECOVER IN 4 DECADES



#### KEY POINTS

- The earth ozone layer is on track to completely recover within four decades.
- According to the Scientific Assessment Panel to the Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances quadrennial report if current ozone conservation policies remain in place the ozone layer should recover to values before the appearance of the ozone hole by around 2066 over the Antarctic 2025 over the Arctic and by 2040 for the rest of the world.
- Meteorological conditions have been driving variations in the size of the Antarctic Ozone hole but it has been slowly improving in area and depth since the year 2000.
- This assessment was based on extensive studies, research and data compiled by a large international body of experts that includes members from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and European Commission.

## INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ASTROPHYSICS SCIENTIST DISCOVER GLOBAL CLUSTER OMEGA CENTAURI



### KEY POINTS

- Astronomers and scientists at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) along with their international collaborators while studying the Omega Centauri which is the most massive globular cluster system in our galaxy have found that hot stars and white dwarfs emitted less ultraviolet radiation than expected.
- The team detected strange hot stars in the cluster using the Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (UVIT) images on AstroSat (India's first dedicated space observatory which has been operating since 2015).
- The enhancement in helium could be one of the reasons for the lesser far-ultraviolet radiation emitted by these stars

## HCL HAS SIGNED A MOU WITH IIT DHANBAD



### KEY POINTS

- Hindustan Copper (HCL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology Dhanbad for collaborative and sponsored research projects.
- The present MoU will address HCL's need for technical assistance, guidance and consultancy work from IIT-ISM for enhancing copper ore production through modifying mining methods with application of state-of-the-art technologies, improvement of productivity and safety in mines, environmental clearance issues, various Hydrological & Hydro-geological studies and in areas of unconventional exploration methods like Geophysical exploration, Remote Sensing etc. for depth exploration of copper ore.



## 175 SPECIES OF BIRDS SPOTTED IN SILENT VALLEY



### KEY POINTS

- Silent Valley National Park in the last month identified 141 species of birds of which 17 were new species of birds. A total of 175 species of birds have been spotted in Silent Valley.
- The survey was held in association with the Kerala Natural History Society.
- Among the birds they sighted were Nilgiri laughingthrush, Nilgiri flowerpecker, Brown-cheeked fulvetta, Black-and-orange flycatcher, Grey-headed canary-flycatcher, Greenish warbler, Common chiffchaff, Tytler's leaf warbler, Shaheen falcon, Nilgiri wood pigeon, and Malabar whistling thrush.
- The first bird survey in Silent Valley was conducted in 1990, headed by known bird watchers P K Uthaman and C Sushanth.

## SPACE KIDZ INDIA



### KEY POINTS

- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) launch vehicle will carry a satellite built by 750 girls attending government schools across the nation, according to Space Kidz India, a Chennai-based space tech business.
- They had to remotely build payloads (transport of data across a network) and write codes for the satellite to be launched into space.
- Space Kidz India selected 10 girl students from 75 government schools across the country for this mission. "The selected students are predominantly from class 8 to 12.

## JUPITER ICY MOONS EXPLORER (JUICE)



### KEY POINTS

- The European Space Agency is ready to launch the Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE) an extraterrestrial spacecraft with Airbus Defence and Space serving as the lead contractor in April 2023.
- The mission will focus on three of Jupiter's Galilean moons: Ganymede, Callisto, and Europa.
- Volcanic Io and its icy siblings Europa, Ganymede and Callisto were "the first moons discovered outside of our own.
- JUICE will give a far clearer image of Europa, Ganymede and Callisto, before becoming the first spacecraft to orbit around one of Jupiter's moons.
- the Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE) is in a white room of its manufacturer Airbus in the southwestern French city of Toulouse

## REPORTS

### HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX



#### KEY POINTS

- The Japanese passport is the most powerful among all passports in the world.
- According to Henley Passport Index, Japanese passport holders can visit 193 out of 227 destinations visa-free.
- An Indian passport holder, on the other hand, can visit 59 destinations without a visa.
- The Index ranks all of the world's passports by the number of destinations their holders can access without obtaining a visa in advance.
- The passport index data is also combined with World Bank GDP figures to create the Henley Passport Power Score which indicates widening economic inequality between countries.
- South Korea and Singapore are tied in 2nd place on the index, with a visa-free/visa-on-arrival score of 192. Germany and Spain are joint 3rd, with visa-free access to 190 destinations.

## HINDENBURG REPORT



### KEY POINTS

- As per the Hindenburg report which went public on January 24 accused the Adani Group of “brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud for decades,
- The disclosure sparked a USD 51-billion sell-off in shares of his group companies over two trading sessions, pushing him four places down on the world billionaire index.
- Adani Group is an Indian multinational conglomerate headquartered in Ahmedabad.
- It was founded by Gautam Adani in 1988 as a commodity trading business, with the flagship company Adani Enterprises



# ECONOMIC SCENARIO

## ECONOMIC SURVEY 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



### KEY POINTS

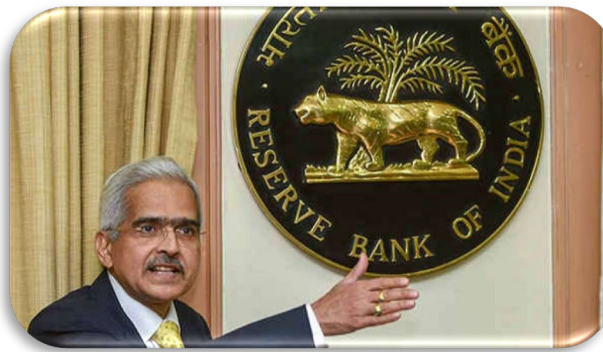
- The Economic Survey 2023 was prepared by Department of Economic Affairs under guidance of Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran.
- It was tabled by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in parliament, India's GDP growth expected to remain robust and the country will remain the fastest growing major economy in the world.

### Important Economic Survey 2022-23 Highlights:

- India will continue to be the world's fastest-expanding major economy.
- It is Recovering from the pandemic-induced recession, the Russian-Ukraine war, and inflation, the Indian economy is undertaking a broad-based recovery across sectors, with the goal of resuming pre-pandemic growth in FY23.
- India's GDP growth is predicted to continue strong in FY24, at 7%. This follows an 8.7% increase in the previous financial year.
- GDP is expected to be in the 6-6.8% range in FY24, depending on global economic and political events.
- Currently it is recovering from pandemic induced contraction, Russian- Ukraine conflict and inflation.
- Indian economy is staging a broad based recovery across sectors, positioning to ascend to the pre-pandemic growth path in 2023.

- Economic growth to be boosted from the expansion of public digital platforms and measures to boost manufacturing output.
- Indian Rupee performed well compared to other Emerging Market Economies in Apr-Dec2022.
- Enhanced Employment generation seen in the declining urban unemployment rate and in the faster net registration in Employee Provident Fund.
- Retail inflation is back within RBI's Target range in November 2022.

### **'UTKARSH 2.0'**



### **KEY POINTS**

- The Reserve Bank of India's Medium-term Strategy Framework for the period 2023-2025 'Utkarsh 2.0' was launched by Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor of RBI.
- The first strategy framework (Utkarsh 2022) covering the period 2019-2022 was launched in July 2019.
- Utkarsh 2.0 has six Vision statements as well as Core Purpose, Values, and Mission statements. Collectively, they create a strategic guiding path.
  - Excellence in performance of its statutory and other functions
  - Strengthened trust of citizens and Institutions in the RBI
  - Enhanced relevance and significance in national and global roles, Transparent, accountable and ethics-driven internal governance.
  - Best-in-class and environment-friendly digital and physical infrastructure.
  - Innovative, dynamic and skilled human resources.

## PERSONS IN NEWS

### DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY



### KEY POINTS

- Praveen Sharma has been selected for appointment as Director in the National Health Authority (Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission) under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- National Health Authority (NHA) implements India's public health insurance scheme called "Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)".
- Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission started on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 to connects digital health solutions of hospitals across the country

## FIRST WOMAN OFFICER TO BE OPERATIONALLY DEPLOYED IN THE SIACHEN GLACIER



### KEY POINTS

- Captain Shiva Chouhan is an officer from the Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers became the first woman officer to be operationally deployed at Kumar Post in the Siachen Glacier which is located at an altitude of 15,632 feet.
- Capt. Chouhan from Rajasthan is a Bengal Sapper Officer commissioned in May 2021.
- The team of Sappers led by her will be responsible for numerous combat engineering tasks and will be deployed at the post for a duration of three months.

### What is Kumar Post?

- Kumar Post is named after late Colonel Narinder ‘Bull’ Kumar (retd.), who was instrumental in the Indian Army launching ‘Operation Meghdoot’ and securing the dominating heights of Siachen Glacier in 1984.
- On April 13, 1984, India launched ‘Operation Meghdoot’ to capture the 76.4 km-long glacier on the Saltoro ridge.
- A platoon of 4 Kumaon Regiment led by then Captain Sanjay Kulkarni planted the Indian flag at Bilafond La.
- The operation on the world’s highest battlefield continues till date, making it the longest continuing operation of its kind in the world
- In his honour, the battalion headquarters on the glacier has been named ‘Kumar Post’.

## UPSC RECOMMEND NEXT DCGI



### KEY POINTS

- UPSC recommended Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission Secretary- cum – Scientific director Rajeev Singh Raghyvanshi as next Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).
- DCGI heads the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) which is responsible for ensuring quality drugs supply across the Country.
- This organization also gives approval to new drugs and regulating clinical trials.

## VICE CHIEF OF THE INDIAN AIR FORCE



### KEY POINTS

- Air Marshal A P Singh has been appointed as the new Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force.
- Air Marshal A P Singh is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Defence Services Staff College and National Defence College.
- Air Marshal A P Singh was before serving as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Central Air Command.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### GLOBAL FAMILY DAY



#### KEY POINTS

- Global Family Day also known as world peace day is an annual celebration observed on January 1st of every year.
- This day evolved through the efforts toward world peace near the end of 20th Century.
- In 1997 the United Nations General Assembly launched the International Decade for the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World.
- Global Family Day was declared an annual event by the U.N. in 2001.

### WORLD BRAILLE DAY



#### KEY POINTS

- World Braille Day is observed on 04<sup>th</sup> January each year.
- This day recognizes and honors the life and work of Louis Braille, the inventor of the Braille system of reading and writing for blind and visually impaired people.



- In Braille system Each letter of the alphabet and each number are represented by six dots in the tactile writing system known as Braille. Additionally, the dots stand for mathematical, scientific, and musical symbols.
- People who are blind or partially sighted can read and write using this system. They are able to read books with the visual font using Braille.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION



### KEY POINTS

- The United Nations General Assembly has dedicated 24 January as International Day of Education.
- The fifth International Day of Education will be celebrated on 24 January 2023 under the theme “to invest in people, prioritize education.
- The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on December 3, 2018, which proclaimed January 24 as the International Day of Education.
- Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay has decided to dedicate the 2023 International Day of Education (January 24) to Afghan girls and women

## INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY 2023



### KEY POINTS

- International Customs Day is celebrated on 26<sup>th</sup> January each year globally.
- The World Customs Organization is dedicating with the theme of 2023 to Nurturing the next generation: promoting a culture of knowledge-sharing and professional pride in Customs.
- The WCO, previously known as the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC), was formed in 1952 in Brussels.

## INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY



### KEY POINTS

- The International Holocaust Remembrance Day, or the International Day in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, is an international memorial day on 27 January that commemorates the victims of the Holocaust.
- The theme 2023 is “Home and Belonging” guides United Nations Holocaust remembrance and education in 2023.
- The date marks the anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau by Soviet troops on 27 January 1945.

- It was officially proclaimed in November 2005 as International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust by the United Nations General Assembly.

## WORLD LEPROSY DAY



## KEY POINTS

- World Leprosy Day is celebrated on the last Sunday of January. In 2023, World Leprosy Day is Sunday 29 January.
- The theme of World Leprosy Day 2023 is “Act Now. End Leprosy.”
- World leprosy day is celebrated to raise the awareness of this disease world wide.
- Leprosy is curable with a combination of antibiotics known as Multi Drug Therapy (MDT). This treatment is available for free across the world.

## WORLD NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES DAY



### KEY POINTS

- This day is observed on 30<sup>th</sup> January globally
- The first World Neglected Tropical Diseases was observed in 2020 informally.
- 2023 theme is “Act Now. Act Together. Invest in Neglected Tropical Diseases”
- NTDs are a group of infections that are most common among marginalised communities in the developing regions of Africa, Asia and the Americas, hence this day is celebrated to raise awareness about neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) as a critical public health challenge.