

**❖ India's index of industrial production jumps to 5.2% in May 2023**

- According to the data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), the index of industrial production (IIP) in India has increased by 5.2% in May 2023 from 4.2% in April 2023.
- In May 2022, the factory output was at all time high-growth of 19.6%.
- India's industrial production growth (IIP) declined to its lowest level in five months at 1.1% in March 2023.
- The lowest growth rate was observed in October 2022 when it contracted by 4.1%.

**❖ Israel parliament approves bill that limits Supreme Court power**

- Israel's parliament has approved a bill that limits some Supreme Court power.
- The new bill seeks a curb on the Supreme Court's power to void decisions made by the government, ministers, and elected officials by ruling them unreasonably.
- It now returns to the committee for discussion and could be altered before being brought for the final votes.
- Capital of Israel: Jerusalem
- Prime Minister: Benjamin Netanyahu
- Official language: Hebrew

**❖ India's top table tennis league UTT tournament is being organized in Pune**

- India's top table tennis league Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) tournament is being organized at the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, Pune from July 13 to 27, 2023.

- It is being organized under the aegis of the Table Tennis Federation of India, after a gap of four years.
- The event is joined by India's table tennis player Sharath Kamal.
- He will be leading the Indian team to the 26th Asian Championships to be held from 3-10 September 2023 in South Korea.
- ❖ **PM Modi embarks on two-nation tour of France and United Arab Emirates**
- PM Modi has embarked on his two-nation tour of France and the United Arab Emirates.
- During his visit to France, he will be the Guest of Honour at the Bastille Day Parade, where a tri-services Indian armed forces contingent would be participating.
- This year (2023) also marks the 25th anniversary of the India - France Strategic Partnership.
- During his visit to UAE, he will hold talks with the UAE President and Ruler of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- ❖ **India's Vizhinjam railway tunnel adopts Austrian tunneling method**
- The third longest railway tunnel in India, the Vizhinjam railway tunnel will adopt the New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM) for undertaking the tunneling works.
- This tunnel connects the under-construction Vizhinjam International Seaport.
- It is being developed by the Adani Port with the railway mainline at Balaramapuram near Thiruvananthapuram.
- India's largest 12.75 km long railway tunnel (T-49) is built as part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramula Rail Link (USBRL).

## ❖ ICC historic decision for women's cricket

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has taken a historic decision regarding women cricketers in its annual meeting.
- Meeting in Durban, South Africa, the ICC announced that equal prize money will now be given to women and men cricketers.
- According to ICC Chairman Greg Barclay, it is an important moment in the history of our game that male and female cricketers competing in ICC's global competitions will now be rewarded equally.

### **ICC working in this direction since 2017:**

- Since 2017, the ICC has been working towards equal prize money.
- Prize money has been increased in women's competitions every year.
- From now on, this decision of ICC will be applicable in all formats of cricket, whether it is Cricket World Cup, T20 World Cup or Under-19 World Cup tournament, the same prize money will be given as ICC male cricketers.

### **Difference in prize money of male and female cricketers:**

- In the 2019 Men's Cricket World Cup, Champions England got 28.4 crores while runners-up New Zealand got 14.2 crores.
- In comparison, the Women's ODI World Cup winning team got \$1.5 million (Rs 12.30 crore) from the 2017 tournament in England.

## ❖ Bard Chatbot: Google's AI-powered Conversational Tool

- Alphabet, the parent company of Google, has introduced Bard Chatbot, an advanced artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot.
- Google's parent company Alphabet is launching its artificial intelligence chatbot Bard in Europe and Brazil.

- Users can communicate with Bard Chatbot in 40 different languages, including nine Indian languages.
- Bard allows users to personalise the tone and style of its responses.
- Users can choose from options such as simple, long, short, professional, or casual, tailoring the chatbot's communication style to their preference.

### **Enhanced Functionality:**

- Users can pin or rename conversations, enabling easy access and organisation.
- The Export code feature allows users to integrate Bard's capabilities into various platforms.
- Users can incorporate images into prompts, expanding the chatbot's capabilities beyond text-based interactions.

### **❖ A new book 'Prism: The Ancestral Abode of Rainbow' by Vinod Mankara released**

- National Award winning filmmaker-writer Vinod Mankara's new book titled "Prism: The Ancestral Abode of Rainbow" was released from the rocket launchpad of Satish Dhawan Space Center (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- The book release coincided with preparations for India's upcoming moon mission, Chandrayaan-3, at SDSC-SHAR.
- ISRO Chairman S Somnath released the book by handing it over to Vikram Sarabhai Space Center (VSSC) Director S Unnikrishnan Nair.
- The book launch was attended by several prominent personalities including SDSC-SHAR Director A Rajarajan, LPSC Director V Narayanan, former ISRO Director K Radhakrishnan, Lipi Akbar, Managing Director of Lipi Prakashan (publisher of the book) and many other space scientists.
- The book, "Prism: The Ancestral Abode of the Rainbow", is a collection of science articles, providing readers with unique insights and perspectives.

## ❖ **Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor awarded to Prime Minister Modi**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded the highest French award 'Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour' by the President of the Republic of France, Emmanuel Macron
- Prime Minister Modi was honored at an award ceremony held at the Elysee Palace in Paris.
- The Prime Minister thanked President Macron on behalf of the people of India for this distinguished honour.
- This is the sixth visit of Prime Minister Modi to France.

## ❖ **Harshvardhan Bansal appointed President of NAREDCO Delhi Chapter**

- According to an announcement made by the National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO), Unity Group Director Harshvardhan Bansal has been appointed as the President of NAREDCO Delhi Chapter.
- NAREDCO, a premier national organization representing the real estate sector, functions under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- The establishment of NAREDCO Delhi Chapter has been announced recently, which will further expand the reach of the organization.
- Presently, NAREDCO already has state branches in Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Rajasthan.
- The successful launch of the Delhi Chapter reflects NAREDCO's commitment to be actively involved in real estate development in the capital city.
- Additionally, NAREDCO is in the process of setting up a chapter in Uttarakhand, indicating its plans for further expansion.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, headed by Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, oversees the functioning of NAREDCO.

## ❖ India won six medals in the Asian Athletics Championships

- India's Jyoti Yaraji won the gold medal in the 100m hurdles.
- Abdullah Abubakar won the gold medal in the men's triple jump category.
- In the men's 1500m race, Ajay Kumar Saroj emerged victorious and secured another gold medal for India.
- Tejaswin Shankar put up a stellar performance, winning bronze in the long jump and 400m events.
- Abhishek Pal and Aishwarya Kailash Mishra also won bronze medals in men's 10,000m and women's 400m respectively.

## ❖ Chandrayaan-3 vs. Chandrayaan-2: A Comparison of India's Moon Missions

- India's third mission to the moon Chandrayaan-3 will take off on 14th July, 2023.
- The mission aims to achieve what its predecessor Chandrayaan-2 could not land softly on the lunar surface and explore it with a rover. A last minute glitch led to the failure of the lander's (Vikram) soft landing attempt after a successful orbital insertion.
- Chandrayaan-3 ("mooncraft") is a planned 3rd lunar exploration mission by the ISRO to demonstrate end-to-end capability in safe landing (through the lander Vikram) and roving (through the rover Pragyan) on the lunar surface.
- Unlike Chandrayaan-2, it will not have an orbiter, and its propulsion module will behave like a communications relay satellite.

### Comparing Chandrayaan 2 and 3 Missions:

- Chandrayaan-2 and Chandrayaan-3 have similar objectives of landing on the moon and exploring its surface with a rover.

➤ However, there are several changes and improvements in the mission design of Chandrayaan-3 based on the lessons learned from Chandrayaan-2's failure.

### ❖ **Defense Ministry, FSSAI sign MoU to promote the use of millets**

➤ The Ministry of Defense and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) signed an MoU to promote the use of millet & healthy eating practices among the Armed Forces and ensure safe & nutritious food.

➤ The MoU was signed in the presence of Rajnath Singh (Defense Minister) and Dr Mansukh Mandaviya (Minister of Health).

➤ During the event, both ministers also unveiled a book titled 'Healthy Recipes for Defence'.

➤ FSSAI CEO: G Kamala Vardhana Rao

### ❖ **India to host ASEAN Countries Conference on Traditional Medicines**

➤ India would host the Conference on Traditional Medicines for ASEAN Countries on 20th July 2023.

➤ The conference would be conducted by the Ministry of Ayush, the Ministry of External Affairs, the Indian Mission to ASEAN, and the ASEAN Secretariat.

➤ Aim: To strengthen the platform between India and ASEAN Countries to share their best practices and draw a roadmap for future cooperation in the field of Traditional Medicines

➤ ASEAN founded: 8 August 1967, HQ: Jakarta

### ❖ **INS Sunayna participated in CMF Ex 'Op Southern Readiness-2023'**

➤ INS Sunayna has participated in the 'Op Southern Readiness 2023' exercise conducted by Combined Maritime Forces(CMF) in Seychelles from 10-12 July 2023.

➤ Aim: To strengthen multilateral ties and enhance cooperation

➤ It is a multinational initiative aimed at enhancing maritime security, countering piracy to ensure the region's safety and freedom of navigation.

➤ Participating Navies: USA, Italy, UK, Seychelles Defence Forces & Marine Police, EU NAVFOR members.

### ❖ **Justice Alexander Thomas appointed as acting Chief Justice of Kerala HC**

➤ The Central Government has notified the appointment of Justice Alexander Thomas as acting Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court.

➤ He has replaced Chief Justice SV Bhatti, who was transferred to the Supreme Court.

➤ He was appointed additional judge of the Kerala High Court on January 23, 2014, and was made a permanent judge on March 10, 2016.

➤ He served as a government pleader (1996-1998) and senior government pleader (1998-2001) in the High Court of Kerala.

### ❖ **DAC Approves procurement of 26 Rafale Marine Aircraft from France**

➤ The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), headed by Defense Minister, Rajnath Singh, approved three proposals.

1. Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for procurement of 26 Rafale Marine aircraft from France.

2. The procurement of three additional Scorpene submarines under the Buy (Indian) category constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)

3. Endorsed a proposal to establish guidelines that promote indigenous content in all categories of capital acquisition cases.

### ❖ **Jyothi Yarraji wins gold medal at 2023 Asian Athletics C'ships**

➤ Jyothi Yarraji has won India's first gold medal in the Asian Athletics Championships 2023, held at the Supachalasai Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand.

- She won the gold medal in the women's 100m hurdles race.
- She clocked 13.09 seconds to win the final race ahead of two Japanese runners Terada Asuka (13.13s) and Aoki Masumi (13.26s).
- She holds a national record of 12.82 seconds.
- While Abhishek Pal had opened India's medal account with a bronze in the men's 10,000m race.

### ❖ **Razorpay launches first international payment gateway in Malaysia**

- Fintech unicorn Razorpay has launched its first international payment gateway for the Malaysian market with Curlec.
- In February 2022, Razorpay acquired a majority stake in the Malaysia-based startup which is now known as Curlec by Razorpay.
- Aim: To widen its reach in the international markets and make its capabilities available in emerging markets.
- As per the report, digital trade in Malaysia contributes 22.6% to the country's GDP and is expected to rise to 25.5% by 2025.

### ❖ **China launches world's first methane-fuelled space rocket**

- A private Chinese company has launched the world's first methane-liquid oxygen space rocket into orbit.
- The Zhuque-2 carrier rocket was launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center.
- The rocket successfully delivered a test payload into sun-synchronous orbit (SSO), the first in the world to make such an achievement.
- Methane-powered engines, with their high performance and low operational costs, are particularly suited for the developing trend of reusable rockets.

## ❖ Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission bags SKOCH Award 2023

➤ The Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) has bagged the SKOCH Award 2023 under the theme “State of Governance India 2047” in the Gold category.

➤ Reason: For its outstanding efforts in creating marketing avenues for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in the Union Territory

➤ The SKOCH award marks a significant milestone for JKRLM, being the first award received since the inception of the scheme.

➤ It represents a remarkable accomplishment for the organization.

## ❖ J&K CS launches 'Mobile Dost App'

➤ Jammu & Kashmir Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta has launched a path-breaking Mobile-Dost-App in sync with the vision of Apka -Mobile-Hamara-Daftar.

➤ It is a pioneering initiative for mobile-based delivery of citizen-centric services in the UT.

➤ Aim: To enhance accessibility and convenience ensuring that every individual of J&K will get benefited from government services at their fingertips

➤ It will provide access to all the Government Services directly.