

### **INTERNATIONAL**

# 1) Start-up exchange programme

- India and Bangladesh have initiated a start-up exchange programme to foster collaboration and partnership. The programme aims to explore opportunities, share knowledge, and enhance cooperation in various sectors.
- The exchange programme includes start-ups from sectors such as e-commerce, health, transport and logistics, energy, education, and skill development.

## 2) ASEAN Tourism Forum

• Laos is set to host the annual ASEAN Tourism Forum in January 2024. The theme for the forum is "Quality and Responsible Tourism — Sustaining ASEAN Future," which reflects the focus on sustainable and responsible tourism practices.



### **NATIONAL**

# 1) 'Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar'

- Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep S Puri launched his Ministry's mega campaign 'Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar', in New Delhi.
- This campaign aims to champion, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle (RRR) concept of waste management.
- Under this nationwide campaign, RRR Centres or one-stop collection centres will be set up where citizens can give their used clothes, shoes, old books, toys and plastic to be reused or recycled.













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## 2) UTSAH Portal

- The University Grants Commission has launched a new website, the UTSAH (Undertaking Transformative Strategies and Actions in Higher Education) Portal, and the Professor of Practice Portal to promote quality education in India.
- The launch of these new initiatives is a significant step by the UGC in its efforts to promote quality education in India.
- The new website, UTSAH Portal, and PoP Portal will provide valuable resources to students, faculty, and universities, and will help to improve the quality of higher education in India.

### **BUSINESS AND ECONOMY**

## 1) Spring 2023 Economic Forecast

- The European Commission recently revised its growth outlook for the European continent for the years 2023-2024, demonstrating remarkable resilience in the face of various challenges.
- On May 15, 2023, the European Commission upgraded its growth estimate for the 20 countries with the Euro as their currency. The forecast increased from the previous prediction of 0.9 percent to 1.1 percent, reflecting a more positive outlook for the European economy.



#### STATE NEWS

## 1) Odisha Millet Mission

The Odisha government has achieved an impressive milestone by procuring over 600,000 quintals of ragi under the Odisha Millet Mission.













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Farmers have adopted the System of Millet Intensification (SMI) method to enhance their ragi yield. Traditionally, ragi was grown in barren and less fertile land, resulting in a yield of only 2.5 quintals per acre. However, with the SMI method, farmers can now harvest about 5-6 quintals per acre.

#### **BOOKS AND AUTHORS**

# 1) 'Supreme Court on Commercial Arbitration'

- The book titled 'Supreme Court on Commercial Arbitration' was authored by Dr. Manoj Kumar and fore worded by Shri.R. Venkataramani was released.
- There has been substantial jurisprudence laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Country on Commercial Arbitration spanning over multiple statutory frameworks.

### **IMPORTANT DAYS**

# 1) The International Day of Light

- Every year on May 16th, the International Day of Light is observed to commemorate Theodore Maiman's successful operation of the laser in 1960.
- The International Day of Light is an annual event that recognizes the crucial significance of light in science, culture, art, education, and sustainable development.



## **APPOINTMENTS**

#### 1) Ravneet Kaur

The government has appointed Ravneet Kaur the chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI).













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• There has been no full-time chairperson at the CCI for the past seven months since Ashok Kumar Gupta's departure in October 2022.

## 2) Manoj Soni

• Educationist Manoj Soni took oath as the chairman of Union Public Service Commission. Soni, who joined the Commission as the member on June 28, 2017, has been performing the duties of the UPSC chairman since April 5, 2022.

### 3) Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit

- Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit took over as the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff.
- Mr Dixit is a qualified flying instructor as well as an experimental test pilot, with over 3,300 hours of flying experience on fighter, trainer and transport aircraft. He participated in operations 'Safed Sagar' and 'Rakshak'.

## 4) Amy Pope

- Amy Pope of USA set to become the first woman to head International Organisation for Migration.
- Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration.



#### AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

## 1) South Asian Film Festival

• The documentary "Gauri", directed by Kavitha Lankesh, has received the "Best Long Documentary Award" at the South Asian Film Festival of Montreal 2023. The film is about journalist and activist Gauri Lankesh, who was assassinated in 2017.













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