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## 24 May 2023 Daily Current Affairs

### Important Days

#### 23 May 2023 - World Turtle Day

- ❖ World Turtle Day is annually observed across the globe on May 23 to help people celebrate and protect turtles and tortoises and their disappearing habitats around the world.
- ❖ 23rd May 2023 marks the observance of the 23rd World Turtle Day.
- ❖ **Theme "I Love Turtles".**
- ❖ In 2000, the American Tortoise Rescue (ATR), a non-profit organization based in Malibu, California, United States of America (USA), launched World Turtle Day.
- ❖ The day is being annually celebrated across the globe on May 23 since 2000.
- ❖ ATR and World Turtle Day were established by a husband and wife duo, Susan Tellem and Marshall Thompson, who saved two Russian tortoises named Peggy Sue, in 1990.



#### 23 May 2023 - International Day to End Obstetric Fistula

- ❖ United Nations (UN)'s International Day to End Obstetric Fistula is annually observed across the globe on May 23 to raise awareness about obstetric fistula and to promote actions towards its prevention, treatment, and eventual elimination.
- ❖ **Theme "20 years on - progress but not enough! Act now to end fistula by 2030!"**.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/67/147 on 20th December 2012 and proclaimed May 23 of every year as International Day to End Obstetric Fistula.
- ❖ The 1st ever International Day to End Obstetric Fistula was observed on 23rd May 2013.



#### United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- ❖ United Nations Population Fund began operating in 1969 as the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.
- ❖ United Nations Population Fund is the UN's sexual and reproductive health agency.
- ❖ Executive Director- Dr Natalia Kanem
- ❖ Headquarters- New York, United States of America (USA)



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## People in the news

### A full bust of Sister Nivedita will be unveiled at Wimbledon in July.

- ❖ A full-length statue of Sister Nivedita will be unveiled on July 1 at the Resort Lodge High School campus in Wimbledon to commemorate her contribution to the advancement of women in India.
- ❖ Designed by Swami Viswamayanandaji, Secretary of Sarkachi Sri Ramakrishna Ashram, West Bengal, the 6.2 feet tall statue of Sister Nivedita is made of bronze and sculpted by renowned sculptor Niranjana.



#### Sister Nivedita

- ❖ Born in Ireland in 1867 and brought up in England, Sister Nivedita's maiden name was Margaret Elizabeth Noble.
- ❖ Sister Nivedita, who started a school for poor people in Wimbledon, arrived in India accepting Swami Vivekananda as her spiritual master.
- ❖ She spent her entire life in India playing an important role in various social works like women's progress and freedom struggle.

## Places in the news

### Drainage System in Gangaikonda Cholapuram Excavation

- ❖ In the 3rd phase of excavation work which is going on from the 6th of last month, a structure like a channel made of brick has been found in the village of Maligapuram near Gangaikonda Cholapuram, Ariyalur district.
- ❖ This canal-like structure is 315 cm from east to west. Length, 45 cm. is wide.
- ❖ Also, the archeology department officials said that the work to find out the length of the canal is going on.



## Awards and Honours

### Narendra Modi Conferred With Papua New Guinea And Fiji's Highest Honour

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the highest honours of Papua New Guinea and Fiji, an unprecedented acknowledgement of a non-resident in the two Pacific island nations.
- ❖ During his maiden visit to Papua New Guinea, Modi hosted a significant summit between India and 14 Pacific island countries to bolster bilateral ties.



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- ❖ Governor-General of Papua New Guinea, Sir Bob Dadae, awarded Modi with the Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu (GCL), which is the country's highest civilian award.



## International Awards PM Modi Has Received

- ❖ Prime Minister Modi has been the recipient of multiple prestigious international awards, such as The Order of Abdulaziz Al Saud,
- ❖ The State Order of Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan,
- ❖ The Grand Collar of the State of Palestine Award, and
- ❖ The Order of Zayed Award.
- ❖ These awards are the highest honours awarded to non-Muslim dignitaries by Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Palestine, and the United Arab Emirates respectively.
- ❖ Additionally, Prime Minister Modi has been honoured with the Order of St. Andrew Award (Russia's highest civilian honour),
- ❖ The Order of the Distinguished Rule of Nishan Izzuddin (the highest honour awarded to foreign dignitaries by the Maldives),
- ❖ The King Hamad Order of the Renaissance (a top honour bestowed by a Gulf country).

## Commonwealth Foundation Announced 2023 Commonwealth Short Story Prize Regional Winners

- ❖ The regional winners of the 2023 Commonwealth Short Story Prize have been announced.
- ❖ The Commonwealth Foundation named the winning writers from five continents such as Hana Gammon (South Africa, Africa) Agnes Chew (Singapore, Asia), Rue Baldry (United Kingdom, Canada and Europe), Kwame McPherson (Jamaica, Caribbean) and Himali McInnes (New Zealand, Pacific).
- ❖ The Commonwealth Short Story Prize which is a cultural initiative of the Commonwealth Foundation is awarded annually since 2012 for the best piece of unpublished short fiction from the Commonwealth.
- ❖ The regional winners of 2023 have been selected from 6,642 entries.



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Winner Name	Region	Story
Hana Gammon	South Africa (Africa)	The Undertaker's Apprentice
Agnes Chew	Singapore (Asia)	Oceans Away From My Homeland
Rue Baldry	United Kingdom (Canada & Europe)	Lech, Prince, and the Nice Things
Kwame McPherson	Jamaica (Caribbean)	Ocoee
Himali McInnes	New Zealand (Pacific)	Kilinochchi

## Environment

### Gekko Mizoramensis

- ❖ Researchers from the Mizoram University and the MaxPlanck Institute for Biology, Tubingen, Germany, found a new species of gecko in Mizoram along the Indo-Myanmar border.
- ❖ There are 13 species of them throughout the world.
- ❖ They are found in Southeast Asia.
- ❖ The species found inhabiting Mizoram.
- ❖ It has previously been discovered in parts of South Asia including Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, and Cambodia.
- ❖ Geckos are small, mostly carnivorous lizards found in warm climates throughout the world.





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- ❖ The new species, which is around 20 cm in length, is an arboreal that lives on trees.

## A tigress has recently given birth to four cubs in the Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve.

- ❖ It is situated in Gondia and Shandara Districts of Maharashtra.
- ❖ It was declared a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1970.
- ❖ In 2012, state government announced to merging this sanctuary with another national park to include in Tiger Project.
- ❖ Now it is called as Nagzira Navegoan Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ It is connected with many surrounding tiger reserves like Pench, Kanha, Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, Indravati Tiger Reserve etc.



## Decline in Global Lake Water Storage

- ❖ The study is aimed at finding statistically significant storage declines for 53 percent of these water bodies over the period 1992–2020.
- ❖ More than half of the world's largest lakes and reservoirs are drying up.
- ❖ Climate change and human activities are endangering lakes, which hold 87 percent of the world's liquid surface fresh water.
- ❖ The findings suggest that 53 per cent of lakes and reservoirs saw a decline in water storage, at a rate of approximately 22 giga tonnes a year.
- ❖ During the entire study period, 603 cubic kilometres of water were lost.
- ❖ It is 17 times the amount of water in Lake Mead.
- ❖ Lake Mead is the largest reservoir in the United States.



## Science and Technology

### ASTR Verification

- ❖ The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched the Artificial Intelligence and Facial Recognition powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification (ASTR) tool.
- ❖ It aims to detect and block fraudulent mobile connections.



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- ❖ The ASTR project was developed by the DoT's unit in Haryana between April 2021 and July 2021.
- ❖ It is capable of detecting all SIMs against a suspected face in less than 10 seconds from a database of 1 crore images



## Economics and Banking

### Google Pay & NPCI Collaborate To Integrate RuPay Credit Cards with UPI

- ❖ Google pay has partnered with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to enable the integration of RuPay credit cards with Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- ❖ The users could avail the feature by linking the RuPay credit cards with Google Pay to pay at all online and offline merchants where RuPay credit cards are accepted.



## Tamilnadu News

### 4 new judges sworn in at Madras High Court

- ❖ Four newly appointed additional judges of the Madras High Court bench took oath.
- ❖ Chief Registrar P. Thanapal, Krishnagiri District Primary Sessions Judge R. Sakthivel, Madras Labor Court Chief Judge C. Kumarappan, Coimbatore District Primary Sessions Judge K. Rajasekhar appointed four additional judges of the Madras High Court





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by President Draupadi. Murmu had given orders.

- ❖ Still 11 Judge posts are vacant.
- ❖ Increase to 64: new judges' he said. With these, the number of Madras High Court Judges increased to 64.
- ❖ Kandasamy Rajasekhar, Chinnasamy Kumarappan, Thanapal, Ramasamy Sakthivel took oath along with Chief Justice D. Raja who administered the oath to the new judges of the Madras High Court.

## State News

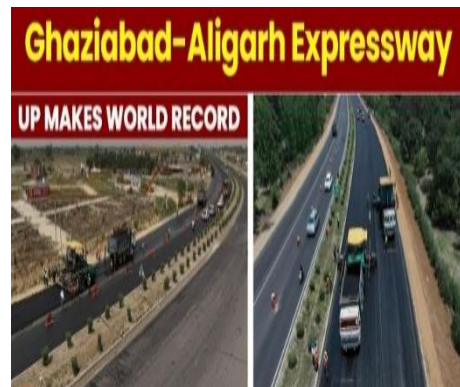
### Pahal initiative

- ❖ The online rural education initiative 'Pahal' was launched by the Uttar Pradesh Government.
- ❖ This program was developed through a partnership between the Department of Secondary Education and IIT Kanpur
- ❖ It aims to provide education to rural communities through online platforms.
- ❖ The rural online education program was started in 10 government schools in Uttar Pradesh.



### Ghaziabad-Aligarh Expressway (Uttar Pradesh)

- ❖ A 100-kilometre-long road has been constructed on the Ghaziabad-Aligarh Expressway in a record time of 100 hours.
- ❖ The 118-kilometre-long Ghaziabad-Aligarh stretch of National Highway 34 is an important trade link.
- ❖ The project embraces sustainability and cost-effectiveness through the implementation of Cold Central Plant Recycling (CCPR) technology.



### Men's right activist are opposing the KHADC decision to not grant ST status to people who adopt their husband's or father's surname

- ❖ The Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council (KHADC) of Meghalaya refused to grant Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to people who adopt their husband's or father's surname.
- ❖ KHADC chief executive said that this decision has been taken to preserve the Khasi society's matrilineal customs.



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- ❖ According to Khasi culture, children take their mothers' surnames and the youngest daughters in a family inherit their parents' homes.
- ❖ In the past, KHADC has made many attempts to enforce the Khasi community's matrilineal rules.
- ❖ KHADC tabled a bill in November 2021 which proposed that women and children who adopt their husband's or father's customs should be deprived of their inheritance rights.
- ❖ KHADC is in the process of seeking the Meghalaya government's permission to authorise ST certification themselves.



## Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council:

- ❖ It is an autonomous district council in Meghalaya.
- ❖ It covers the area of West Khasi Hills, Eastern West Khasi Hills, East Khasi Hills and Ri Bhoi districts.
- ❖ The total area of the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council is 11,718 km<sup>2</sup>.

## National News

### Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal announces 'F Shivir in Kerala

- ❖ Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MOPSW) made five major announcements collectively named as 'Panch Karma Sankalp' focusing green shipping and digitization of the ports during the culmination of MOPSW's second Chintan Shivir held in Munnar, Kerala.





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- ❖ These initiatives are poised to make India a global leader in the maritime sector. MoPSW to provide 30% financial support for the promotion of Green Shipping.
- ❖ Jawaharlal Nehru Port (Mumbai, Maharashtra), V.O. Chidambaranar Port (Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu), Paradip Port (Jagatsinghpur, Odisha) and Deendayal Port (Kandla, Gujarat) will procure two tugs each Under the Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP).

## Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MOPSW)

- ❖ Union Minister- Sarbananda Sonowal (Constituency - Majuli, Assam)
- ❖ Minister of State - Shripad Yesso Naik (Constituency - North Goa, Goa),
- ❖ Shantanu Thakur Constituency - Bangaon, Uttar Pradesh)

## Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers launches GAINS 2023 to Promote Innovation in Shipbuilding by Startups

- ❖ Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd launched GAINS 2023' - GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme 2023' in Kolkata, West Bengal (WB) to utilize the eco-system that tackles current and future challenges in the ship design and construction sector.
- ❖ GAINS 2023 is a part of GRSE's drive to identify and promote the development of innovative solutions towards technological advances in shipbuilding by Startups.
- ❖ The scheme was launched by G Surya Prakash, Assistant Manager (Finance), GRSE in the presence of Minister of State (MoS) Rajeev Chandralekha, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity).



## Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd:

- ❖ It is a Category 1 Mini Ratna Company.
- ❖ Chairman and Managing Director- Commodore (Retd) P R Hari
- ❖ Headquarters- Kolkata, West



## Uttarakhand Metro Rail Corporation unveils Rapid Transit Systems; Dehradun gets India's 1st Neo Metro & Haridwar gets Pod Taxi

- ❖ The Uttarakhand Metro Rail Corporation (UKMRC) unveiled the plans for the construction of the state-of-the-art rapid transit systems in Dehradun, Haridwar, and Rishikesh within next four years (by 2027) to overcome the traffic congestion in Uttarakhand.
- ❖ Jitendra Tyagi MD of Uttarakhand Metro Rail Corporation announced that India's first Neo Metro will be implemented on 2 corridors in Dehradun, India's 1st Provide on Demand (Pod) taxi will be introduced in Haridwar and two ropeways in Haridwar and Rishikesh.



### Uttarakhand

- ❖ Chief minister: Pushkar Singh Dhami
- ❖ Governor: Gurmit Singh
- ❖ Official animal: Alpine musk deer
- ❖ Official bird: Himalayan monal
- ❖ Official flower: Saussurea obvallata
- ❖ Official tree: Rhododendron arboreum

### International news

#### 'Little India' is a monument of friendship in Australia.

- ❖ Prime Minister Modi and Australian Prime Minister Antony Albanese laid the foundation stone for the 'Little India' Friendship Memorial at Harris Park, Australia's largest Indian community.
- ❖ It is noteworthy that 45 percent of the people living in the Harris Park area are Indians.
- ❖ The Indian community has various types of shops in the area. Indian cuisine is also widely available here'.





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- ❖ In an interview given by Prime Minister Modi to 'The Australian' magazine said:
- ❖ Bilateral relations in the field of defense will be enhanced. India and Australia will ensure an open and free Indo-Pacific region. The two countries will work together on climate change, counter-terrorism, counter-piracy, etc.

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