

**IACE**

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**14<sup>th</sup> Mar 2023**

**DESCRIPTIVE**

## ❖ Naatu Naatu, The Elephant Whisperers bring home 2 Oscars

- Naatu Naatu song from the movie RRR, composed by M.M.Keravani and penned by Chandrabose brings home Oscar in the 95<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards presentation, in the Best Original Song Category.
- This song also recently received the prestigious Golden Globe Award in the Best Original Song Category in California on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023.
- Singers : Kaala Bhairava and Rahul Sipligunj
- The song was also performed live by the original singers at the 95<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards presentation, which took place in Dolby Theater in Los Angeles.
- It is the fourth non-English song to win an Oscar in the category and the first song in a foreign language since Jai Ho in 2009 to bag the prize.
- Indian presenter Deepika Padukone introduced the song to loud cheers
- 'The Elephant Whisperers' directed by Kartiki Gonsalves and produced by Gunnet Monga, received Oscar in the Best Documentary Short Category
- This documentary highlights the bond that develops between humans and an abandoned elephant calf in Tamil Nadu's Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.
- It is India's first win the Documentary Short Category.

## ❖ History of Academy Awards

- Academy Award, in full Academy Award of Merit, by name Oscar awards are presented annually by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, located in Beverly Hills, California, U.S.
- The awards were first presented in 1929.
- The winners receive a gold plated statuette, commonly called as Oscar.
- Winners are chosen from 24 categories: best picture, actor, actress, supporting actor, supporting actress, directing, original screenplay, adapted screenplay, cinematography, production design, editing, original score, original song, costume design, makeup and hairstyling, sound mixing, sound editing, visual effects,

foreign-language film, animated feature film, animated short, live-action short, documentary feature, and documentary short.

### ❖ Oscar eligibility

- To be eligible for an award in a given year, a film must be publicly exhibited for paid admission for at least one week at a commercial theatre in Los Angeles between January 1 and midnight of December 31 of that year.
- Documentaries and short films have different eligibility requirements and are officially submitted by their producers, whereas music awards require the musical artist to file a submission form.
- Only members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will nominate and vote for candidates for the Oscars.

### ❖ India's Oscar history

- In 1983, Bhanu Athaiya made history by becoming the first Indian to bag the Academy Award. She won the award in the category of Best Costume Design for her work in *Gandhi* movie(1982), the historical drama based on the life of Mahatma Gandhi. It was shared with John Mollo.
- Satyajit Ray, one of India's most proclaimed filmmakers, was awarded Oscar at the 64th Academy Awards in 1992. Ray was given an Honorary Award for his lifetime of achievement in filmmaking.
- Until today, Ray is the only Indian to have received that award.
- Resul Pookutty, Indian sound designer won the Academy award in 2009 for the Best Sound Mixing along with British counterparts Ian Tapp and Richard Pryke for their work in the film *Slumdog Millionaire*.
- In 2009 Oscars, A.R.Rahman became the first Indian to win two Academy Awards for his work in *Slumdog Millionaire*. He bagged the Best Original Song for the song "Jai Ho" and Best Original Score.
- Indian presenters at the Academy Awards:
- In 1980, Persis Khambatta became the first Indian to be chosen for the honour of presenting Oscars.
- In 2016, it was Priyanka Chopra and recently in 2023 it is Deepika Padukone.

### ❖ Oscar awards 2023

- Best Picture: Everything Everywhere All At Once
- Actor in leading role: Brendan Fraser (The Whale)

- Actress in a leading role: Michelle Yeoh (Everything Everywhere All At Once)
- Animated feature film: Guillermo Del Toro's Pinocchio
- Director: Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert (Everything Everywhere All At Once)
- Documentary feature film: Navalny
- Documentary short film: The Elephant Whisperers (Kartiki Gonsalves and Guneet Monga)
- International feature film: All Quiet On The Western Front
- Best original song: Naatu Naatu from RRR
- Visual effects: Avatar –The Way Of Water

### ❖ **Saudi Arabia- Iran to renew ties**

- Saudi Arabia and Iran announced the restoration of diplomatic ties and agreed to re-open embassies.
- China's role in brokering the agreement, has major global implications.
- The agreement has been welcomed by United Nations, France, Jordan and West Asian countries while it is a bad news for India because it is worried that it will enhance China's role as power broker.
- Capital of Iran: Tehran ; Currency: Iranian Rial
- Capital of Saudi Arabia: Riyadh; Currency: Saudi Riyal

### ❖ **CAG chairs first Supreme Audit Institution 20(SAI-20) meeting in Guwahati**

- Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) are public bodies responsible for the audit of government revenue and expenditure.
- By scrutinizing public financial management and reporting they provide assurance that resources are used as prescribed.
- This meeting is chaired by the Indian CAG: Girish Chandra Murmu.
- Theme: 'Blue Economy' and 'Responsible Artificial Intelligence'.
- **Blue Economy** is the Sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of our ecosystem.
- **Responsible AI** is a governance framework aimed at what data can be collected and used, how AI models should be evaluated, and how to best deploy and monitor models.

- The venue, Guwahati, known as the Gateway to the Northeast India, is the major cultural, political, educational and commercial hub.
- The delegates from G20 member countries, guest countries and other International Organizations would attend the SAI20 event.
- SAIs of Australia, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Oman, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, and UAE are the participating nations.
- SAI meeting symbioses the global cooperation and collective efforts of the G20 member countries, to ensure inclusive development and wellbeing of all.

### ❖ **INS Sahyadri joins maritime exercise with French Navy**

- Indian Navy's guided missile frigate INS Sahyadri joined two frontline warships of France in carrying out a two-day maritime partnership exercise in the Arabian Sea on March 11 and 12, 2023.
- The aim of the exercise is to reaffirm the interoperability and high level of cooperation between the two navies of India and France.
- Indian Navy Ship Sahyadri is fitted with state-of-the-art weapons and sensors, which makes her capable of detecting and neutralizing air, surface and sub-surface threats.
- The ship is a part of Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet based at Visakhapatnam.
- The current Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) is Admiral R. Hari Kumar

### ❖ **Sickle cell anemia screening slowdown**

- Sickle cell disease is a genetic disorder in which the red blood cells of the patient turn into a sickle shaped crescents, become rigid and sticky.
- They get clogged in the blood vessels and reduce the capacity of red blood cells to carry oxygen to the organs which results in excruciating pain and organ damage in the affected patients.
- There is currently no definitive cure for this disease.
- The National Health Ministry aims to maintain a central registry of SCD patients.
- The Ministry plans to screen 7 crore persons in 17 highly affected States by 2025-26.
- One crore screenings has been scheduled for 2022-23 but so far a little over one lakh persons have been screened.
- India seeks to eliminate the sickle cell disease by 2047.

## ❖ Net direct tax receipts rise by 16.8% during 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023

- According to the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) the net direct tax collection grew by 16.8% during April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 10<sup>th</sup>, which is 83% of the revised target for FY22-23.
- The direct tax is a tax that a person or organization pays directly to the entity that imposed it. Examples include income tax, property tax and corporate tax.
- CBDT is a statutory authority functioning under the Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963. It is headed by a chairman and comprises six members.

## ❖ Govt, Seeks Rs. 1.5 lakh crore in supplementary demands for grants

- The government has sought a final tranche of supplementary demands for grants for 2022-23 from parliament, amounting to a net cash outgo of about Rs. 1.5 Lakh crore, primarily to provide for fertiliser subsidies, defence pensions and GST compensation.
- Approval of the parliament is sought to authorise gross additional expenditure of Rs. 2.7 lakh crore.
- Of this, the proposals involving net cash outgo amount to Rs. 1,48,133 crore and gross additional expenditure, matched by saving of the ministers / departments or by enhanced receipts / recoveries aggregates to Rs. 1,22,374 crore.

## ❖ Signature Bank becomes next casualty of banking turmoil after SVB.

- State Regulators closed New York – based signature bank, the third largest failure in U.S. banking history, two days after authorities shuttered silicon valley bank in a collapse that stranded billions in deposits.
- The Federal deposit Insurance corporation (FDIC) took control of signature, which had Rs. 110.36 billion in assets and Rs. 88.59 billion in deposits at the end of last year, according to new York state's department of financial services.

### ❖ **NMDC's Amitava Mukherjee gets additional charge as CMD**

➤ National Mineral Development corporation (NMDC) rose 1.62% to Rs. 116.30 after the company announced that Amitava Mukherjee, director (finance) has been assigned the additional charge of chairman and Managing director (CMD) for a period of 3 months upto 31 May, 2023.

➤ NMDC was established in 1958

➤ Head Quarters: Hyderabad

### ❖ **IT Department says Rs. 1,250 crore tax collected via updated returns.**

➤ The Income Tax Department has collected on additional Rs. 1,250 crore in 2022-23 when assesses updated their tax returns for previous years under a facility offered to encourage voluntary compliance.

➤ Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) chairman – Nitin Gupta

➤ H.Q. : New Delhi

### ❖ **LIC Increases shareholding in Dr. Reddy's Labs to 9.69%**

➤ LIC Increased its stake in Dr. Reddy's Labs by 2% through open market purchase of more than 33.61 Lakh shares over five months from October at an average price of Rs. 4,403.02 each.

➤ The holding increased from 7.676% to 9.695%

### ❖ **Feb retail Inflation remains virtually unchanged at 6.44%**

➤ India's retail inflation remained above the central bank's 6% tolerance threshold for the second successive month in February at 6.44%, Virtually unchanged from 6.52% in January as per the National Statistical office.

➤ Rise in food prices, which account for nearly half of the CPI basket, moderated last month to 5.95% from 6% in January.

### ❖ **Japan's Nobel – winning novelist kenzaburo dies.**

- Nobel prize winner Kenzaburo oe – Known for his books on pacifism.
- Oe became the second Japanese author to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, after Yasunari Kawabata in 1994.
- Some of his famous books are “The catch”, “A personal Matter” etc.,

### ❖ **Border – Gavaskar Trophy – 2023**

- India win the border – Gavaskar Trophy for the fourth successive time.
- India have also qualified for the World Test champion ship final where they will face Australia at the oval.
- First Edition of Border – Gavaskar Trophy: 1996 – 97

### ❖ **Centre clears disaster relief to five states**

- A high level committee chaired by home minister Amit Shah approved additional central assistance totalling over Rs. 1,816 crore to five states.
- These five states are: Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Meghalaya and Nagaland. That were affected by floods, landslides or cloudburst during 2022.

### ❖ **India remains World' largest importer of Arms: SIPRI report**

- India remains World's Largest Arms Importer between 2018-2022. Despite 11% decline in overall imports.
- The report named “Trends in International Arms Transfers, 2022” released by Stockholm International peace. Research Institute (SIPRI) (a Swedish think tank).
- Russia was India's largest arms supplier in both 2013-17 and 2018-22, however, its share of overall Indian arms imports declined from 64% to 45% with France emerging as the second largest supplier between 2018-22.
- The five largest arms importers in 2018-22 were India, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Australia and China.

➤ The five largest arms exporters were US, Russia, France, China and Germany.

❖ **Deadline to Opt for higher pension extended to May 3 for certain members (Retired employees)**

➤ All eligible pensioners under the Employees pension scheme 1995 (EPS 95) who retired before September 2014 can apply to opt for a higher pension.

➤ The Deadline was extended by EPFO from March 3, 2023 to May 3, 2023.

❖ **K. Vijayarama Rao Passes Away**

➤ Former Director of central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and former Minister K. Vijayarama Rao passed away at Apollo Hospital in Hyderabad. He was 87 years old.

➤ Vijayarama Rao was handpicked by former P.M. P.V. Narasimha Rao to head the CBI at a crucial Juncture of his term.

❖ **Indian Immunologicals, CIFA to for Fish Vaccine**

➤ Vaccine maker Indian Immunologicals (IIL) announced a partnership with the central institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA) for commercial development of a vaccine against hemorrhagic septicaemia in freshwater fish.

➤ IIL MD: K. Anand Kumar

➤ CIFA Director : Pramoda Kumar Sahoo

➤ IIL Head Quarters – Hyderabad

➤ CIFA Head Quarters – Bhubaneswar

❖ **Work on Indigenous Marine Engines Underway for Warships:**

❖ **Navy Chief**

➤ The Navy had got a sanction for the design and development of a diesel engine for maritime purposes and it was expected to be ready in four years, said by Navy Chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar.

➤ He also said that there were no plans at present to add more countries to the Malabar Naval exercise involving India, Australia, Japan and the U.S.

### ❖ **International Day of Action for Rivers 2023**

➤ Every year on March 14, the International Day of Action for Rivers is observed to promote awareness of the Importance of the river systems on the planet earth.

➤ The day tries to focus on the uneven access to clean water and the pollution occurring due to human activities. This is the reason behind the increase in the pollution of freshwater.

➤ This year marks the 26<sup>th</sup> International Day of action for Rivers.

### ❖ **Pi Day 2023, Theme:**

➤ Pi Day (or) World Mathematics day is celebrated on 14 March.

➤ Pi Day has been celebrated since 1988 when physicist Larry shaw Organized the first Pi Day celebration at the San Francisco Exploratorium.

➤ Theme for 2023 – “Mathematics for everyone”

➤ The approximate value of Pi is 3.14.