

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

22ND & 23RD Mar 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ **Ranveer Singh Named India's Most Valuable Celebrity of 2022: Kroll Report**

- Actor Ranveer Singh has overtaken cricketer Virat Kohli as India's most valuable celebrity in 2022, according to a Kroll report.
- According to a report by Kroll, a corporate investigation and risk consulting firm, actor Ranveer Singh has been named India's most valuable celebrity of 2022, surpassing cricketer Virat Kohli who held the top spot for five years.
- The Kroll report reveals that Akshay Kumar and Alia Bhatt have maintained their positions as the third and fourth most valuable celebrities in India, with brand values of \$153.6 million and \$102.9 million, respectively.
- Deepika Padukone has moved up two ranks to the fifth spot with a brand value of \$82.9 million, and has since become the brand ambassador of Qatar Airways and Pottery Barn.
- Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra and PV Sindhu tied at the 23rd spot with a brand value of \$26.5 million, according to the report.

❖ **World Bank arm IFC to invest Rs. 600 crore in M&M's new last-mile mobility firm**

- Global development institution IFC (International Finance Corporation) will invest Rs 600 crore in a new last-mile mobility (LMM) company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mahindra & Mahindra that will be newly incorporated company (NewCo).

➤ IFC's first investment in an EV manufacturer in the country, and the first in electric three-wheelers globally, will be in the form of compulsory convertible instruments at a valuation of up to crore Rs 6,020.

➤ The Rs 600 crore investment will result in an ownership of between 9.97 per cent to 13.64 per cent for IFC in NewCo.

➤ Executive Director and CEO (auto and farm sector), Mahindra & Mahindra: **Rajesh Jejurikar.**

❖ **Hero MotoCorp to hike prices by up to 2% from April**

➤ Hero MotoCorp said it will increase prices of its model range by around 2 per cent from next month in order to offset the impact of rise in production cost in order to conform to stricter emission norms.

➤ The company will make an upward revision in the ex-showroom prices of its select motorcycles and scooters, effective from April 1, 2023.

➤ The price revision has been necessitated mainly due to cost increases on account of OBD 2 (on-board diagnostics) transition, the company said.

➤ Hero MotoCorp Chairman and CEO: **Pawan Munjal.**

❖ **Arnab Banerjee to take over as MD & CEO of CEAT**

➤ CEAT Limited has appointed Arnab Banerjee as the new CEO and MD of the tyre major. He will take over from Anant Goenka, who has been appointed as vice chairman.

➤ This appointment is effective from 1st April 2023.

➤ Arnab Banerjee, an alumnus of the Harvard Business School, IIM Kolkata and IIT Kharagpur, joined CEAT in 2005 as Vice President, Sales and Marketing. He has executive experience of over 30 years during which he also worked at Marico and Berger Paints.

➤ Arnab Banerjee has been appointed as CEO and MD for two years, from 2 years from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2025.

➤ Anant Goenka, son of RPG Group Chairman Harsh Goenka, will now take up strategic functions at the group level for its next stage of growth.

❖ **Rani Rampal Becomes First Woman In Hockey To Have Stadium Named After Her**

➤ Indian team's star hockey player Rani Rampal has become the first woman in the sport to have a stadium named after her, in Rae Bareilly. The MCF Rae Bareilly has renamed the hockey stadium as 'Rani's Girls Hockey Turf'.

➤ The 28-year-old had been dealing with an injury since the Tokyo Olympics, where she was the captain of the Indian women's contingent, and was subsequently left out of the World Cup and Commonwealth Games 2022 squads.

➤ Rani was returning to the squad after last playing against Belgium in the FIH Women's Hockey Pro League 2021-22, where she won her 250th cap for India.

❖ **Former Karnataka CM S M Krishna, industrialist Kumar Mangalam Birla get Padma awards**

➤ President Droupadi Murmu conferred Padma awards to former Karnataka chief minister S M Krishna, noted industrialist Kumar Mangalam Birla and famous playback singer Suman Kalyanpur at a ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

➤ Krishna, former External Affairs Minister and former Chief Minister of Karnataka, was awarded the Padma Vibhushan.

➤ Billionaire stock market investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, who passed away last year, was given a Padma award posthumously. Padma Vibhushan was also presented posthumously to Prof Balkrishna Doshi for architecture. Padma Bhushan was awarded to Indian playback singer Suman Kalyanpur, who is known for innumerable hit songs in Hindi, Marathi and 11 other languages during a career spanning four decades.

➤ The President also awarded Padma Bhushan to Prof. Kapil Kapoor for Literature and Education. A former Professor of English at Jawaharlal Nehru University, he is known for striving to indigenise higher education by integrating Indian knowledge systems and establishing dedicated Institutes.

➤ India's top civilian award Bharat Ratna has not been given to anyone since 2019.

❖ **Assam CM Launches Mission LiFE in Guwahati**

➤ Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched Mission Lifestyle for Environment (Mission LiFE) in Guwahati, a global mass movement under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

➤ Under this initiative, week-long activities will be carried out across all districts, addressing seven identified categories, including saving energy and water, reducing plastic and e-waste, and healthy lifestyles, CM Sarma said.

➤ Mission LiFE is a week-long programme which is an initiative of the Science Technology and Climate Change Department to launch Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment).

➤ Capital of Assam: Dispur.

➤ Governor of Assam: **Gulab Chand Kataria.**

❖ **Shaheed Diwas or Martyrs' Day 2023**

➤ Shaheed Diwas or Martyrs' Day is observed in India on **23rd March** every year to pay homage to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of India. This day marks the anniversary of the execution of three Indian freedom fighters- **Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar** and **Shivaram Rajguru** in 1931.

➤ On this day, people in India observe a two-minute silence to remember the sacrifice of these three great freedom fighters and all the other martyrs who laid down their lives for the nation. The President, the Vice-President, and the Prime Minister of India pay tribute to these great freedom fighters at their respective memorials in Delhi.

➤ Notably, Martyrs' Day is also observed in India on January 30 to pay respect to Mahatma Gandhi ji. On January 30, 1948, Gandhi was assassinated by Nathuram Godse in the compound of Birla House.

❖ **HP signs MoU for 817-crore project with French agency**

➤ To improve drinking water and sanitation services in five towns of Himachal Pradesh, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of Rs 817.12 crore project has been signed by the State Government with the French Development Agency Agence Francaise de Development (AFD).

➤ The MoU was signed in the presence of Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri by the Secretary Jal Shakti Vibhag Amitabh Awasthi on behalf of the State Government and country Director AFD Bruno Bosle on behalf of French Development Agency.

➤ The objective of the project is to develop better sewerage facilities in five towns of the state viz. Manali, Bilaspur, Palampur, Nahan and Karsog and to improve drinking water supply in Manali and Palampur towns.

➤ Under the project, Rs 612 crore would be provided by AFD, whereas the State Government would provide Rs. 204.85 crore.

➤ Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh: **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu.**

➤ Governor of Himachal Pradesh: **Shiv Pratap Shukla.**

➤ Capital of Himachal Pradesh: **Shimla** (summer); **Dharamshala** (winter).

❖ **Air Force Veteran Wing Commander Jag Mohan Nath Dies**

➤ Wing Commander Jag Mohan Nath (retd), the Indian Air Force veteran who flew numerous reconnaissance sorties over Tibet and Pakistan in his Canberra aircraft in the 1962 and 1965 wars, died in Mumbai.

➤ The octogenarian, called "Jaggi" by his Air Force colleagues, was twice the recipient of Maha Vir Chakra gallantry honour for gathering information during his missions which proved vital to Indian air efforts during the wars.

➤ Wing Commander Nath retired in 1970 and later joined Air India as a commercial pilot.

➤ Chief of Air Staff: **Vivek Ram Chaudhari**.

❖ **Manmeet K Nanda Given Additional Charge Of MD & CEO Of Invest India**

➤ In the 32nd Board Meeting of Invest India on 20 March 2023, Manmeet K Nanda, IAS, West Bengal Cadre (2000 Batch) is appointed as the Managing Director & CEO (Addl charge) of Invest India until a full time regular appointment.

➤ Nanda takes over after the resignation of Deepak Bagla. The Board placed on record its appreciation to Deepak Bagla for his leadership and commitment in establishing Invest India. He has served the organisation for nearly 8 years and contributed to Invest India's development.

➤ Created under the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of a New India, Invest India today is well acknowledged by stakeholders for its tangible contributions and instrumental role in executing the Government's flagship initiatives including Make in India, Startup India, National Single Window System, Project Monitoring Group, and Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council.

❖ **Hurun Global Rich List 2023**

➤ Chairman of Reliance Industries, Mukesh Ambani is the only Indian to be included again in the list of top 10 billionaires in the world, according to a report compiled by research platform Hurun in coordination with real-estate group M3M titled 'The 2023 M3M Hurun Global Rich List'. Despite experiencing a 20 percent decline in his wealth, Ambani still managed to secure the ninth position globally, with a net worth of \$82 billion.

Rank	Billionaires	Wealth (US\$BN)
1	Elon Musk	205
2	Jeff Bezos	188
3	Bernard Arnault	—
4	Bill Gates	124
5	Warren Buffett	119
6	Sergey Brin	116
7	Larry Page	116
8	Steve Ballmer	107
9	Mukesh Ambani	103
10	Bertrand Puech & Family	102

➤ India secured the third position in the 2023 M3M Hurun Global Rich List in terms of the number of billionaires, with a total of 187 billionaires. The report stated that 30 new individuals joined the billionaire group in India this year. According to Hurun, India's contribution to the global billionaire population has been steadily increasing over the past five years. Currently, India's share of the total global billionaire population is 8 percent, compared to 4.9 percent five years ago.

Global Rank	Name	Wealth \$ bn	Main Company
9	Mukesh Ambani	82	Reliance
23	Gautam Adani & family	53	Adani
46	Cyrus Poonawalla	27	Serum
50	Shiv Nadar & family	26	HCL
76	Lakshmi N Mittal	20	ArcelorMittal
76	SP Hinduja & family	20	Hinduja
98	Dilip Shanghvi & family	17	Sun Pharmaceutical Industries
107	Radhakishan Damani & family	16	Avenue Supermarts
135	Kumar Mangalam Birla & family	14	Aditya Birla
135	Uday Kotak	14	Kotak Mahindra Bank

❖ Erode to get Tamil Nadu's 18th wildlife sanctuary

➤ The Tamil Nadu Government will notify Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, spread over 80,567 hectares in the forest areas of Anthiyur and Gobichettipalayam taluks in Erode district, as the 18th wildlife sanctuary in the state. It will include reserve forest areas in Anthiyur, Bargur, Thattakarai and Chennampatti.

➤ It is close to Malai Mahadeshwara wildlife sanctuary, BRT Wildlife Sanctuary, and Cauvery Wildlife sanctuary in Karnataka.

➤ It also acts as a connecting point between Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve and Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary.

➤ Tamilnadu Chief Minister: **M.K. Stalin.**

➤ Tamilnadu Governer: **R.N. Ravi.**

➤ Tamilnadu capital: **Chennai.**

❖ GDP to grow 7%, inflation to moderate: Finance ministry report

- Indian economy is expected to grow at 7 per cent in FY23 despite global headwinds while retail inflation would moderate in line with wholesale inflation which fell to a 25-month low in January, the Finance Ministry said.
- Supported by the gains from high services exports, the moderation in oil prices, and the recent fall in import-intensive consumption demand, India's current account deficit is estimated to fall in FY23 and FY24, providing a buffer to the rupee in uncertain times, Monthly Economic Review by the ministry said.
- The current account deficit (CAD) of India is estimated to fall in FY23 and FY24.
- Finance Minister of India: **Smt Nirmala Sitharaman**.

❖ I-T dept. launches 'AIS for Taxpayer' mobile app

- The Income Tax Department has launched a Mobile app where taxpayers can view and can request to correct any discrepancy in the Annual Information Statement (AIS) so that they can rectify it or calculate their tax liability accordingly.
- Taxpayers can use the app to view their information related to Tax deducted at Source (TDS), interest, dividends, share transactions, tax payments, Income Tax refunds and other Information, including GST Data and foreign Remittances as available in AIS.
- Earlier this month Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Chairman Nitin Gupta had said that the department has picked up 68,000 income tax returns for e-verification for the assessment year 2019-20 as information by the annual information system (AIS) did not match with the returns filed.

❖ Abel prize 2023 for Mathematics

- Argentinian-born mathematician Luis Caffarelli has won the 2023 Abel Prize.
- It is one of the most coveted awards in mathematics.

- He received the award for his work on equations that are important for describing physical phenomena, such as how ice melts and fluids flow.
- He is the first person born in South America to win this award.
- This award is presented by The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters.
- Abel Prize, is award granted annually for research in mathematics, in commemoration of the brilliant 19th-century Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel.
- The Niels Henrik Abel Memorial Fund was established on Jan. 1, 2002 and it is administered by the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research.
- The only Indian to win Abel prize is Srinivasa Vardhan in the year 2007 for his work on “fundamental contributions to probability theory and in particular for creating a unified theory of large deviations.”

❖ **Exercise Cobra Warrior**

- The Exercise Cobra Warrior is a multilateral Air exercise in which Air Forces from Finland, Sweden, South Africa, United States of America and Singapore would also be participating alongside Royal Air Force and IAF(Indian Air Force).
- The IAF is participating in the exercise this year with five Mirage 2000 fighters, two C-17 Globemaster III and an IL-78 mid air refueller aircraft.
- The aim of the exercise is to participate in diverse fighter aircraft engagements and learn from the best practices of various Air Forces.

❖ **Most silent ship INS Androth launched**

- It is an Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC).
- It is built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata for the Indian Navy.
- Primary Role: To conduct anti-submarine operations in coastal waters, low-intensity maritime operations, and mine-laying operations.

➤ It is also capable of full-scale sub-surface surveillance of coastal waters and various surface platforms and coordinated ASW operations with aircraft.

❖ **Features:**

➤ It is about 77.6 meters long and 10.5 meters wide and requires a draught of only 2.7 meters.

➤ It is propelled by three diesel-driven water jets.

➤ It can attain a maximum speed of 25 knots.

➤ It carries lightweight torpedoes, ASW rockets and mines, a close-in weapon system (with a 30 mm gun), and 16.7 mm stabilized remote-controlled guns.

➤ It will be fitted with hull-mounted sonar and a low-frequency variable depth sonar.

❖ **World water day – March 22nd**

➤ World Water Day is an annual United Nations observance day held on 22nd March that highlights the importance of fresh water.

➤ The day is used to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

➤ The theme of each year focuses on topics relevant to clean water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), which is in line with the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 6.

➤ The UN World Water Development Report (WWDR) is released each year around World Water Day.

➤ The first World Water Day, designated by the United Nations, was in 1993.