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English Medium

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Coverage from 1ST MAR.2023 to 25TH MAR.2023

Current Affairs



95th Academy Awards (Oscars 2023)

India Wins Oscars With RRR (Best Original Song) & The Elephant Whisperers (Best documentary short)



8th edition of Raisina Dialogue

Italian Prime Minister **Giorgia Meloni** attended as the chief guest of the three-day Dialogue held in New Delhi.



Women's Premier League (WPL) 2023

Mumbai Indians won the inaugural Women's Premier League after defeating Delhi Capitals by 7 wickets.



The World Happiness Report 2023

India ranked 126 among 146 countries in the report, Finland tops



Global Terrorism Index 2023

India ranked 13 among 163 countries in the Index, Afghanistan tops



LVM3-M3 rocket

ISRO successfully launched India's largest LVM3 rocket with 36 satellites



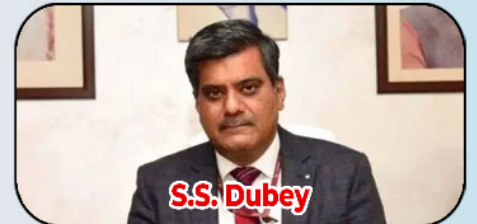
INS Dronacharya

INS Dronacharya Receives Prestigious President Droupadi Murmu's Colour Award



Mirabai Chanu

Mirabai Chanu won BBC Indian Sportswoman of The Year for 2022



S.S. Dubey

S.S. Dubey took charge as 28th Controller General of Accounts (CGA)

Best Coaching for

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“If four things are followed – having a great aim, acquiring knowledge, hard work, and perseverance – then anything can be achieved.”

– Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

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RRR creates history by winning prestigious international awards so far

Director: s s Raja mouli
 Producer: D.V.V. Danayya
 Music: M M Keeravani
 Story: Vijendra Prasad
 Top cast: Ram charan, Jr.NTR, Ajay Devgn, Alia Bhatt, Shriya saran, etc..

List of awards 'RRR' has won so far

95th Academy Awards (Oscars 2023)

- ◆ Best original song for 'Naatu Naatu'
- Music: MM Keeravani Lyrics: Chandra Bose
 Sung by: Khala Bhirava, Rahul spiligunj
 choreographer: prem Rakshit

Golden Globes Awards, USA 2023

- ◆ Best original song for 'Naatu Naatu'

Austin Film Critics Association Award 2023

- ◆ Best Stunt Coordinator - Nick Powell

Hollywood Critics Association Award 2023

- ◆ Best Action Film ◆ Best International Film

Critics Choice Awards 2023

- ◆ Best Foreign Language Film
- ◆ Best Song For "Naatu Naatu"

Dada Saheb Phalke Award 2023

- ◆ Film of the Year

Columbus Film Critics Association Award 2023

- ◆ Best Film Editing - A. Sreekar Prasad

Georgia Film Critics Association Award 2023

- ◆ Best International Film

Iconic Gold Awards 2023

- ◆ Outstanding Achievement in Indian Cinema

Zee Cine Awards 2023

- ◆ Pride of Indian Cinema

North Carolina Film Critics Association 2023

- Best Foreign Language Film
- Best Stunt Coordination - Nick Powell
- Best Original Song - "Naatu Naatu"

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WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT 2023

First published in 2012, WHR is based on people's own assessment of their happiness + certain socioeconomic data

PUBLISHED BY

- UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network

6 KEY FACTORS



HAPPINESS SCORE

- 0-10 (10 being best)
- Based on an avg of **data of a 3-year period**

World Happiness Day - 20th March

GLOBAL PERFORMANCE

- Finland - World's happiest country (6th time in a row)
- Ukraine** - Performance improved despite the War (92nd), Russia ranked 70th
- Top 5 Countries:** Finland > Denmark > Iceland > Israel > Netherlands
- Afghanistan** - Bottom spot since 2020

Dystopia (in contrast to Utopia) - An imaginary country that has the world's least-happy people

INDIA'S RANK

- 126 out of 137** (2022 ranking - 136/146)
- Below **China** (74), **Pakistan** (108), **Sri Lanka** (112), **Myanmar** (117), **Bangladesh** (118) and **Nepal** (119)





Oscars awards 2023

On March 12, 2023, the 95th Academy Awards 2023/Oscars 2023 held at Dolby Theatre at Ovation Hollywood in Los Angeles, United States. It has honoured movies released in 2022 in 23 categories. The ceremony for the same was held by the US' Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS).

- ✓ The ceremony was hosted by American Television host Jimmy Kimmel (James Christian Kimmel) for the 3rd time, who previously hosted the Oscars in 2017 and 2018.
- ✓ Indian Actress Deepika Padukone was one of the presenters at Oscars 2023. She is the third Indian ever to present an Oscar after Persis Khambatta in 1980 and Priyanka Chopra in 2016.
- ✓ American Film 'Everything Everywhere All at Once' was the 2023's most-nominated film, with 11 total nominations. It was followed by All Quiet on the Western Front and The Banshees of Inisherin with 9 nominations each.
- ✓ The sci-fi film 'Everything Everywhere All at Once' won 7 awards out of 11 nominations. The film won the Best Picture, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actor, Best Supporting Actress and

Best Director awards apart from other technical nods for Original Screenplay and Editing.

- ✓ It's become the most-awarded best-picture winner since Danny Boyle's "Slumdog Millionaire" at the 2009 Oscars.
- ✓ Michelle Yeoh from Malaysia won the Oscar 2023 for Best Actress in Leading Role category for her role in the movie 'Everything Everywhere All at Once'. She became the first Asian actress to win in the category.
- ✓ Oscars 2023 witnessed the replacement of the red carpet with a champagne-coloured one, breaking a 62 year record.

About Academy Awards/Oscars:

- ✓ This Awarded annually by the US' AMPAS, these awards acknowledges artistic and technical merit for the global film industry. The winners are awarded a copy of a golden statuette as a trophy, officially called the "Academy Award of Merit".
- ✓ The 1st Academy Awards were held in 1929.
- ✓ The person with the most Oscars ever is Walt Disney, who took home 26 in his lifetime.
- ✓ The most awarded woman in Oscar history is American costume designer Edith Head, who won 8 Academy Awards.

List of Winners at 95th Academy Awards 2023

| Category | Winner |
|----------------------------|--|
| Actor in Leading Role | Brendan Fraser (Movie- The Whale) |
| Actor in Supporting Role | Ke Huy Quan (Movie- Everything Everywhere All at Once) |
| Actress in Leading Role | Michelle Yeoh (Movie- Everything Everywhere All at Once) |
| Actress in Supporting Role | Jamie Lee Curtis (Movie- Everything Everywhere All at Once) |
| Best Picture | Everything Everywhere All at Once,(Producers- Daniel Kwan , Daniel Scheinert, and Jonathan Wang) |
| Documentary Short Film | The Elephant Whisperers (Director- Kartiki Gonsalves Producer- Guneet Monga) |
| Animated Feature Film | Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio (Director- Guillermo del Toro, Mark Gustafson Producers- Gary Ungar and Alex Bulkley) |
| Short Film (Animated) | The Boy, The Mole, The Fox And The Horse (Director- Charlie Mackesy Producer Matthew Freud) |
| Short Film (Live Action) | An Irish Goodbye (Directors- Tom Berkeley and Ross White) |
| Cinematography | All Quiet on the Western Front (Cinematographer- James Friend) |
| Music (Original Song) | Naatu Naatu(from RRR; Music by M.M. Keeravaani; Lyric by Chandrabose) |
| Music (Original Score) | All Quiet on the Western Front (Composer- Volker Bertelmann) |
| Costume Design | Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (Costume Designer- Ruth E.Carter) |
| Best Director | Everything Everywhere All at Once (Directors- Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert) |
| Documentary Feature Film | Navalny (Director- Daniel Roher Producers- Odessa Rae, Diane Becker, Melanie Miller and S.Boris) |
| Film editing | Everything Everywhere All At Once (Editor- Paul Rogers) |
| International Feature Film | All Quiet on the Western Front (Country- Germany) |
| Makeup and Hairstyling | The Whale (Make Up Artist- Adrien Morot, Judy Chin (Hairstylist- Annemarie Bradley) |
| Production Design | All Quiet on the Western Front (Production Design- Christian M. Goldbeck Set Decoration- Ernestine Hipper) |
| Sound | Top Gun: Maverick (Recipients- Mark Weingarten, James H. Mather, Al Nelson, Chris Burdon and Mark Taylor) |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Visual Effects | Avatar: The Way of Water (Recipients- Joe Letteri, Richard Baneham, Eric Saindon and Daniel Barrett) |
| Writing (Adapted Screenplay) | Women Talking (Screenplay by- Sarah Polley) |
| Writing (Original Screenplay) | Everything Everywhere All At Once (Written by Daniel Kwan & Daniel Scheinert) |

India's Wins at Oscars 2023

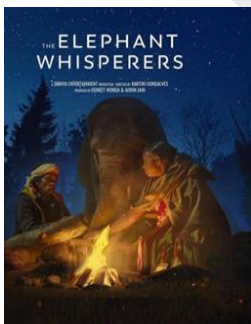
RRR

- ✓ The song Naatu Naatu from Telugu film RRR (Rise, Roar, Revolt) directed by S. S. Rajamouli has made history by becoming the first Indian film song to win an Oscar. It won Best Original Song at the 95th Academy Awards 2023.
- ✓ The song is composed by the music director M.M. Keeravani. Its lyrics were written by Chandrabose
- ✓ It is sung by Kaala Bhairava and Rahul Sipligunj while the dance scene was choreographed by Prem Rakshith.



The Elephant Whisperers

- ✓ The Elephant Whisperers became the first Indian film to win an Oscar in the 'Best Documentary Short film' category. It was produced by Guneet Monga and directed by Kartiki Gonsalves.
- ✓ The plot of documentary revolves around a family who adopts two orphan baby elephants in Tamil Nadu's Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.



List of Indians who won the Oscars

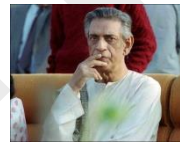
1. Bhanu Athaiya - Best Costume Design

- ✓ At the 55th Academy Awards, Bhanu Athaiya became the first Indian to win an Academy Award for designing the costumes. Ravi Shankar was nominated for Best Original Score for the same film. She won an Academy Award for "Best Costume Design" for her work in the movie Gandhi (1982).



2. Satyajit Ray - Honorary Award

- ✓ He is considered one of the finest directors of Indian and Bengali cinema, and his legacy remains even today. At the 64th Academy Awards, in 1992, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences awarded Ray an Honorary Oscar for Lifetime Achievement. He could not attend the ceremony personally because of his ill health. His video message was shown at the ceremony in the Dolby Theatre.



3. Resul Pookutty - Best Sound Mixing

- ✓ He is an Indian film sound designer, sound editor, and audio mixer. He received an Oscar for his work in the Oscar-winning film Slumdog Millionaire at the 81st Academy Awards in 2009. He won the award along with Ian Tapp and Richard Pryke.

4. A R Rahman - Best Original Score and Best Original Song

- ✓ In 2009, Indian composer A.R. Rahman's 'Jai Ho' won the Oscars for original song as well as for the Original Score in Danny Boyle's U.K. production 'Slumdog Millionaire'.



5. Gulzar- Best Original Song

- ✓ Gulzar Sahab, a famous personality who also needs no introduction, is an Indian poet, lyricist, author, screenwriter, and film director. At the 81st Academy Awards, he won an Oscar for "Best Original Song" for "Jai Ho."

INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL

Egypt joins BRICS bank as new member

- ✓ After President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi visited India as a chief guest for the Republic Day celebrations, Egypt has become a member of the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB).
- ✓ Egypt officially joined the NDB on February 20, with a formal notification issued on March 22.
- ✓ The African-Arab nation intends to enhance its infrastructure, and NDB funding can make a significant contribution toward achieving this goal.
- ✓ Following President El-Sisi's visit to India for the Republic Day celebrations, the Egyptian Parliament approved the agreement that permitted Egypt to join the NDB. The lawmakers welcomed the move, recognizing it as a means of reducing the need for US dollars.
- ✓ The upcoming BRICS Summit, scheduled to be hosted by South Africa in August, is anticipated to promote intra-BRICS trade using national currencies, allowing member nations to safeguard their foreign exchange reserves.



About BRICS New Development Bank (NDB)

- ✓ It is a multilateral development bank jointly founded by the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) at the 6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza, Brazil in 2014.
- ✓ It was formed to support infrastructure and sustainable development efforts in BRICS and other underserved, emerging economies for faster development through innovation and cutting-edge technology.
- ✓ It is headquartered at Shanghai, China.
- ✓ In 2018, the NDB received observer status in the United Nations General Assembly, establishing a firm basis for active and fruitful cooperation with the UN.

- ✓ Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates, and Uruguay joined the NDB in September 2021. Egypt was welcomed as a new member of the NDB in December 2021.

Bangladesh commissions its first submarine base 'BNS Sheikh Hasina'

- ✓ Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the first submarine base of Bangladesh 'BNS Sheikh Hasina' at Pekua in Cox's Bazar. Hailing the newly inaugurated naval base as an 'ultra modern submarine base', Prime Minister called the event a proud chapter in the history of Bangladesh navy.
- ✓ This is the first ever full-fledged submarine base of Bangladesh Navy. Built at a cost of \$1.21 billion.
- ✓ The base can accommodate a total of six submarines and eight warships at a time.
- ✓ It will allow for safe and swift movement of the submarines in case of emergency, as the base is located at the Bay of Bengal.
- ✓ The Government of Bangladesh signed an agreement with China in September 2019 for the construction of the submarine base.
- ✓ The government of Bangladesh is working on 'Forces Goal 2030' to transform its military force into a modern organization appropriate for the times.



India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline to be jointly inaugurated by PM Modi and Sheikh Hasina

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina, will inaugurate the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline via video conference. It is first such pipeline through which refined diesel will be supplied to Bangladesh from India. The project is built under grant assistance from the government of India.

- ✓ The project involves construction of 130-kilometre long pipeline that will connect Siliguri in West Bengal and Parbatipur in Dinajpur district of Bangladesh.



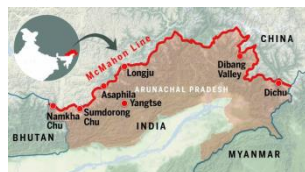
✓ Of the total stretch, six-kilometre will be in Indian side and remaining 124

kilometres will in Bangladesh. Indian leg of the pipeline project will be implemented by Assam-based Numaligarh Refinery Limited and Bangladeshi leg will be implemented by Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.

- ✓ The pipeline has capacity of 1 million metric tons per annum. It will supply refined diesel will be supplied to Parbatipur depot from Numaligarh of Assam in India.
- ✓ Initially, it will supply Bangladesh 2.5 lakh tonnes of diesel every year and gradually it will be increased to 4 lakh tonnes.
- ✓ The project will replace existing practice of sending diesel by rail covering distance of 510 kilometers. The estimated this pipeline project is Rs. 346 crore and it will be completed in 30 months' timeframe.

US recognized McMahon Line as international border

- ✓ A bipartisan resolution was passed by the US, formally recognizing the McMahon Line as the international boundary between China and India's Arunachal Pradesh. The resolution rejected China's claim that the state belongs to its territory and instead acknowledged Arunachal Pradesh as an integral part of India. Furthermore, the resolution expressed support for India's sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- ✓ The resolution, titled 'Reaffirmation of Arunachal Pradesh as Indian territory and condemnation of China's provocative activities in South Asia', came after a major clash between the Indian and Chinese forces in Arunachal's Tawang in December last year.



Japan PM Fumio Kishida Visit to India

- ✓ On March 20-21, 2023, Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister (PM) of Japan, paid a two-day visit to India and held the 'Japan-India Summit Meeting 2023' with PM of India Narendra



- Modi, to discuss ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in a number of fields, including defence and security, trade and investment, and high technology.
- ✓ PM Fumio Kishida met with PM Narendra Modi at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, Delhi, to discuss priorities as Japan assumes the G7 (Group of Seven) presidency in 2023 and India holds the G20 (Group of Twenty) presidency in 2023.
- ✓ This is Kishida's second visit to India as Japan's PM. The year 2022 commemorated the 70th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between India and Japan.
- ✓ Japan's PM, Fumio Kishida, discussed the "Japan-India Special Strategic and Global Partnership" and efforts to realise a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" (FOIP), with a focus on India's rising prominence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- ✓ He has held discussions with PM Modi in light of the upcoming G7 Summit in Hiroshima in May 2023 and the G20 Summit in New Delhi in September 2023.
- ✓ The leaders of Japan and India, PM Fumio Kishida and PM Modi, reaffirmed their commitment to continuing their partnership through the '**Japan-India Act East Forum**' in order to advance the development of India's northeastern region.
- ✓ The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to advancing bilateral cooperation under the "India-Japan Clean Energy Partnership," which was announced in 2022.
- ✓ PM Modi further declared that the year 2023 will be celebrated as "**Japan-India tourism exchange year**" with the theme "Connecting the Himalayas with Mount Fuji".

- ✓ India & Japan Sign 2 MoU On Cooperation On Japanese Language & Bullet Train
- ✓ In conjunction with Japan's PM Fumio Kishida visit to India on March 20, 2023, two agreements were signed between India and Japan. They are as follows:
- ✓ Exchange of Notes concerning the FY2022 Yen Loan for the "Project for Construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (IV)" [loan provision of up to 300 billion yen]
- ✓ India-Japan Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in the Field of Japanese Language Education in India.

ICC issues arrest warrant for Vladimir Putin over Ukraine war crimes

- ✓ The International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin over the forced transfer of children to Russia after the Kremlin's invasion of Ukraine. Ukrainians accuse Russia of attempting genocide against them and seeking to destroy their identity — partly through deporting children to Russia.
- ✓ The ICC issued the warrant for Putin's arrest on suspicion of unlawful deportation of children and unlawful transfer of people from the territory of Ukraine to the Russian Federation.
- ✓ This is the first time the ICC has issued warrants in relation to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which began last February.
- ✓ Moscow has previously said it did not recognize the court's authority.



Indonesia's Mount Merapi volcano erupted

- ✓ Mount Merapi, one of the world's most active volcanoes, erupted, spewing out smoke and ash that covered villages near the crater. There were no immediate reports of casualties, the the National Disaster Mitigation Agency said. The images broadcasted shows ash-covered houses and roads at a village near the volcano, in Yogyakarta.

- ✓ The Merapi Volcano Observatory estimated the ash cloud reached 9,600 feet (3,000 metres) above the summit.
- ✓ Authorities established a restricted zone of seven kilometres from the crater after the eruption, which was recorded at 12:12 pm (0512 GMT).
- ✓ The volcano's last major eruption in 2010 killed more than 300 people and forced the evacuation of some 280,000 residents. It was Merapi's most powerful eruption since 1930, when about 1,300 people were killed. An eruption in 1994 left about 60 people dead. The volcano's alert status has remained at the second-highest level since 2020 after showing renewed activity.

5th ASEAN-India Business Summit 2023

- ✓ The 5th Asean-India Business Summit took place on 6 March 2023 in Kuala Lumpur. Speakers and participants from Asean and India convened to discuss how business linkages, connectivity and supply chain resilience can be enhanced through deeper ASEAN-India cooperation. The Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology addresses the 5th ASEAN-India Business summit.
- ✓ About the ASEAN-India Business summit: It is being held as part of the ASEAN-India Year of Friendship to commemorate the more than three-decade-long engagement between India and the 10-member bloc in Kuala Lumpur.

China spent \$240 billion bailing out 'Belt & Road' countries

- ✓ A recent study conducted by researchers from the World Bank, Harvard Kennedy School, AidData, and the Kiel Institute for the World Economy has revealed that China spent approximately \$240 billion from 2008 to 2021 bailing out 22 developing countries that had difficulty repaying loans taken for Belt and Road infrastructure projects.
- ✓ A recently published study shows that from 2008 to 2021, China provided approximately \$240 billion to bail out 22 developing nations that encountered challenges in paying back loans obtained for the Belt and Road infrastructure projects

NATIONAL

GoI Launches NRCP for Prevention and Control of Rabies

- ✓ The Government of India (GoI) launched the National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP) for rabies prevention and control, and the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), released the NRCP strategies, which are as follows:
 - ✓ Provision of rabies vaccine & rabies immunoglobulin through national free drug initiatives.
 - ✓ Training on appropriate animal bite management, prevention and control of rabies, surveillance and intersectoral coordination.
 - ✓ Strengthening surveillance of animal bites and rabies deaths reporting.
 - ✓ Creating awareness about rabies prevention.


PM Modi inaugurated new ITU Area Office & Innovation Centre in New Delhi

- ✓ On 22 March 2023, the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated India's new International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Area office and Innovation Centre at a programme in Vigyan Bhawan, in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ ITU which is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland has a network of field offices, regional Offices and area offices. It was founded in 1865 as International Telegraph Union, the ITU is the oldest existing international organisation.
- ✓ Other initiatives: PM also launched the 6G R&D Test Bed and the 'Call before u Dig' App.

6G R&D Test Bed: The PM unveiled the Bharat 6G Vision Document and launched the 6G R&D Test Bed.
- ✓ Bharat 6G vision document is prepared by the Technology Innovation Group on 6G (TIG-6G) that was constituted in November 2021.
- ✓ **CBuD App:** The Call Before You Dig (CBuD) app is a tool created to prevent the damage to underlying assets like optical fiber cables.

- ✓ Due to uncoordinated digging and excavation, the optical fiber cables are getting damaged leading to loss of about Rs 3000 crore every year.
- ✓ The app will save potential business loss and minimize discomfort to the citizens due to reduced disruption in essential services like road, telecom, water, gas and electricity.

Finance Secretary T V Somanathan to Head Panel on Pension Schemes

- ✓ The Government of India has decided to form a committee led by Finance Secretary TV Somanathan to recommend ways to reform the National Pension System (NPS) for government employees.
 
- ✓ The action is being taken against a backdrop of a number of states abandoning the NPS and returning to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for their employees.
- ✓ The GoI has been allowing states to enhance their borrowing limits by an amount equal to what they contribute each year to new NPS accounts for their state government employees. This implies that states that return to the OPS will not obtain as much additional borrowing capacity.

Govt allows import of urea through India potash till March 2024

- ✓ According to the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), the import of urea (agricultural grade) on the Government account has extended the tenure of Indian Potash Limited (IPL) until 31st March 2024.
- ✓ Earlier, the import of urea was supposed to be allowed till March 2023. As per the notification, which was issued on 22 March 2023, India will not need to import food for the upcoming season because supply would be greater than demand in the Kharif season due to larger stock positions.
- ✓ Government fertilizer companies Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited and National

Fertilizers Limited are 2 other canalising agencies that import urea on government account.

Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar launches Skill Hub Portal

- ✓ On 24th March 2023, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Union Minister of State (MoS) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, launched the Skill Hub portal in Bengaluru, Karnataka, as part of the Government's initiatives to deliver industry-ready employable skills to young Indians in all region of India.
- ✓ Skill Hub portal is an initiative by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- ✓ The portal ensures that students all throughout India have easy access to skill training by inviting all colleges and universities to join the Skill India Network.

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates 'Sagar Manthan', Dashboard

- ✓ On March 23, 2023, the Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) virtually launched 'Sagar Manthan', a Real-time Performance Monitoring Dashboard of MoPSW, in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ Sagar Manthan is a digital platform that contains all the integrated data related to the Ministry and other subsidiaries. This dashboard will transform the workings of various departments by improving well-coordinated real-time information.
- ✓ This platform has been developed completely in-house under the guidance of Sudhanshu Pant, IAS, Secretary, MoPSW in the span of less than 1.5 months efficiently.

Narendra Singh Tomar Launched NCIP's DigiClaim Module for Fast Settlement of Crop Insurance Claims

- ✓ On March 23, 2023, the Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), launched the National Crop Insurance Portal's (NCIP) digitized claim settlement module namely 'DigiClaim' under the

ambit of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi for fast settlement of crop insurance claims.

- ✓ Currently several instances of insured farmers' claims are being delayed, thus the launch of DigiClaim Module will be useful for the farmers of six states as it will speed up the claim disbursement process of valid crop loss claims, and process the claims directly to their respective bank accounts in a transparent and accountable manner.
- ✓ After the launch of the DigiClaim module, on the same day, the insurance claims totaling Rs 1260.35 crore have been disbursed to insured farmers in the states of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand and Haryana at once quickly.

Ministry of environment, forest and climate change launched Aravalli Green Wall Project

- ✓ Aravalli Green Wall Project is inspired by Africa's Great Green Wall (GGW) programme, an initiative launched in 2007 in Sahel region bordering Africa's Sahara Desert, to combat desertification and land degradation.
- ✓ GGW project aims to restore 100 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.
- ✓ Green Wall Project is a major initiative to create green corridors in 5 km buffer area around Aravalli Hill Range in four states - Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi.
- ✓ It'll involve planting native species of trees and shrubs on scrubland, wasteland and degraded forest land, along with rejuvenating and restoring surface water-bodies such as ponds, lakes and streams.

Objectives of Aravalli Green Wall Project

- ✓ Improving ecological health of Aravalli range. Prevent eastward expansion of Thar Desert and reduce land degradation.
- ✓ Enhancing India's image as a global leader in environmental protection and green development.
- ✓ Promote sustainable development and livelihood opportunities by involving local communities.

- ✓ Contribute to India's commitments under various international conventions such as UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification) etc.
- ✓ Aravalli range extends from Gujarat to Delhi passing through Rajasthan and Haryana in a southwest-northeast direction.
- ✓ Highest peak - Guru Shikhar on Mount Abu.
- ✓ It is considered the oldest range of fold-mountains in India.
- ✓ It gives rise to several rivers, including the Banas, Luni and Sabarmati.

Centre to reduce 'Disturbed Areas' tag under AFSPA from many northeast districts

- ✓ Starting from Ministry of Home Affairs has decided to further decrease the jurisdiction of "disturbed areas" under Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), 1958 in Nagaland, Assam and Manipur
- ✓ Earlier, AFSPA was completely withdrawn from Meghalaya in 2018, Tripura in 2015 and Mizoram in 1980s.
- ✓ Currently, AFSPA is in effect in Nagaland, Assam, Manipur and parts of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ AFSPA grants special powers to armed forces to maintain public order in "disturbed areas". Disturbed areas are declared under Section 3 of AFSPA Act, 1958 when a part or whole state/UT is in such a condition that the use of armed forces in aid of civil power is necessary.
- ✓ Disturbed areas are declared by Governor of state or administrator of Union Territory or by Central government. Under section 4 of Act, Armed forces can fire upon or arrest anyone who is acting against law & order in disturbed area after giving warning. Section 6 of the Act gives legal immunity to persons acting under Act.

PM Modi addresses One World TB Summit held in Varanasi, UP

- ✓ One World TB Summit held in Varanasi. It was organised by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Stop TB Partnership.

- ✓ While addressing One World TB Summit, PM has launched a range of initiatives to eradicate TB on occasion of World TB Day (24 March).

Initiatives launched includes

- ✓ TB-Mukt Panchayat initiative (representatives to take a resolution that not a single TB patient will be there in the village).
- ✓ Official pan-India rollout of shorter TB Preventive Treatment (TPT).
- ✓ Release of annual TB report titled "Leading the way India TB report 2023".
- ✓ Key findings of Report
- ✓ 24.2 lakh cases were recorded in 2022; an increase of 13% as compared to 2021.
- ✓ By end of 2022, 94% districts of India expanded TPT.
- ✓ Approximately Rs 2000 crores have been directly transferred to about 71 lakh persons affected under Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana (NPY).
- ✓ TB is caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis, which most commonly affects lungs.
- ✓ It is transmitted from person to person through air. It is treatable and curable disease.
- ✓ Most common medications used to treat TB include isoniazid, rifampin, ethambutol, pyrazinamide etc.
- ✓ Currently, Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) is the only vaccine against tuberculosis.

India aims at becoming 'Global Hub for Green Ship' building by 2030

- ✓ India is aiming to become a leader in the global shipbuilding industry by launching the Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP) and setting a goal of becoming a 'Global Hub for Green Ship' building by 2030.
- ✓ The GTTP will start with the production of Green Hybrid Tugs, which will run on Green Hybrid Propulsion systems, and eventually switch to alternative fuel sources like Methanol, Ammonia, and Hydrogen.
- ✓ Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal has inaugurated the National Centre of Excellence in Green Port & Shipping (NCoEGPS) set-up in Gurugram, Haryana, and the Green Tugs will begin

operating in major ports by 2025. By 2030, it is expected that 50% of all Tugs will be converted into Green Tugs, resulting in a significant reduction in emissions and contributing to the country's sustainable development goals.

Ministry of Textiles approved to set up 7 PM MITRA Parks



- ✓ Government, Ministry of Textiles, has issued a notification to set up 7 Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks with a total outlay of Rs. 4,445 crore.
- ✓ Seven sites were chosen out of 18 proposals for PM MITRA parks which were received from 13 States.
- ✓ The Parks will come up in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- ✓ These Parks will offer an opportunity to create an integrated textiles value chain right from spinning, weaving, processing/dyeing and printing to garment manufacturing at 1 location.
- ✓ Integrated Textile Value chain at 1 location will reduce logistics cost of Industry.

About PM MITRA Scheme:

- ✓ It will offer the opportunity to create an Integrated Textiles Value Chain right from spinning, weaving, processing/dyeing and printing to garment

manufacturing etc. at one location and will reduce the logistics cost of the Industry.

- ✓ A Special Purpose Vehicle owned by the Centre and State Government will be set up for each park which will oversee the implementation of the project.

Indian Railways to become Net Zero Carbon Emitter by 2030

- ✓ Indian Railways has set a target of becoming a 'net-zero carbon emitter' by 2030, said Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. The Railways plans to achieve this ambitious target in two steps: A complete transition to electric trains by December 2023 and powering the trains and stations primarily through non-renewable sources by 2030
- ✓ By 2030, the total energy requirement of the Railways is expected to increase to 8,200 MW, or 8.2 GW. A small portion of the projected energy requirement — 700 MW or 8.5 per cent of the total energy demand — will still be sourced from non-renewable sources because of the current power purchase agreements with coal plants, says the official. The lion's share — 91.5 per cent — will be met through renewable sources.
- ✓ The move will help India meet its nationally determined contribution of reducing its carbon emissions by 33 per cent by 2030, as transport is a key sector with substantial mitigation potential.

Atal Innovation Mission launches ATL Sarthi

- ✓ Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) – NITI Aayog launched ATL Sarthi, a comprehensive self-monitoring framework to strengthen the ever-growing ecosystem of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL).



- ✓ Atal Innovation Mission is establishing Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATLs) in schools across India to foster curiosity, creativity, and imagination in young minds; and inculcate skills such as design thinking mindset, computational thinking, adaptive learning, physical

computing, etc. As of date, AIM has funded 10,000 schools to establish Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs).

AAHAR 2023: Asia's biggest International Food and Hospitality Fair begins in Delhi

- ✓ Aahar 2023- Asia's biggest International Food and Hospitality Fair begins in Delhi, Aahar 2023 was put together with the help of the Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- ✓ The objective of Aahar 2023, which was put together with the help of the Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries, the Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), and other organizations, is to showcase the hospitality industry's potential and showcase technologies, goods, and services to both domestic and foreign consumers.

India's bullet train to run by August 2026

- ✓ According to railways and telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, the first bullet train in India will begin service in August 2026. The project will stimulate the economy because several of the suppliers to the project have begun receiving export orders. The government intends to start operating the first bullet train in August 2026. The goal is to run the bullet train on a larger section in 2027.
- ✓ The Indian Railways is building the country's first bullet train from Ahmedabad, Gujarat to Mumbai, over 508-kilometer route. The high-speed train will run at top speed of 350 kms per hour, covering the distance in three hours.

PM Modi inaugurates world's longest railway platform in Hubballi

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated World's longest railway platform of 1.5 kilometres at Sri Siddhaarooda railway station in Hubballi in the state of Karnataka. The inauguration of the platform was done during the PM's Karnataka visit in the presence of Union Minister Pralhad Joshi. It is to be noted that Indian Railways, South Western Railway Zones Hubballi is now registered in the Guinness Book of World Records for having the longest platform.

- ✓ Gorakhpur platform in Uttar Pradesh is the second longest at 1,366.33 meters, and Kollam Junction in Kerala has the third longest platform at 1,180.5 meters.

Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway

- ✓ Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also inaugurated the 118-km long Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway. This new project is expected to aid the social and economic growth in the region.
- ✓ The new e-way built at a cost of Rs 8,480 crore will reduce the travel time between the cities from 3 hours to around 75 minutes.
- ✓ Furthermore, the project entails widening NH 275 to six lanes along the Bengaluru-Nidaghatta-Mysuru stretch.

IIT Dharwad campus

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi also dedicated new campus of IIT Dharwad, The foundation stone of IIT Dharwad was also laid by him in February 2019. Developed at a cost of over Rs. 850 crores, the institute currently offers 4-year BTech programs, inter-disciplinary 5-year BS-MS program, MTech and PhD programs.

Boeing launches its 1st Global Support Center in India at Gurugram

- ✓ On February 13, 2022, The Boeing Company, an aerospace company based in the United States of America (USA), launched its first Global Support Center (GSC) in India at Gurugram, Haryana, which will offer customized operational efficiency and safety improvement projects for Boeing's airline customers, regulatory bodies, and other stakeholders.
- ✓ It will also transfer knowledge to enhance safety and efficiency for airline partners in India.

Nitin Gadkari unveiled first methanol run buses in Bengaluru

- ✓ The first methanol-powered buses in Bengaluru will be unveiled by Union Minister for Road and Transport, Nitin Gadkari. The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTCL), NITI Aayog, Indian Oil Company (IOC), and Ashok Leyland are working together to carry out the

initiative, which aims to lower the level of pollutants.

‘Catch the Rain 2023’ campaign to be launched by President Murmu

- ✓ The ‘Catch the Rain 2023’ campaign was introduced by President Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi. The campaign’s central idea is the sustainability of drinking water sources. Addressing at the ceremony, the President stated that since India only has 4% of the world’s water resources, water management and conservation are India’s most pressing challenges.

International Yoga Festival 2023 held on Banks of Ganges in Rishikesh

- ✓ The International Yoga Festival 2023 was held in Rishikesh from 1st March to 7th March 2023. The International Yoga Festival 2023 is the main attraction of Bharat Parv this year. The six-day event of the International Yoga Festival 2023 promotes the rich heritage and diverse natural wonders of the state, and it is a significant point of discussion among those visiting the Uttarakhand Tourism pavilion at the event held in Red Fort.

National Youth Conclave 2023 (NYC 2023) Organized under India’s G20 Presidency

- ✓ The National Youth Conclave 2023 is an upcoming event in India that aims to bring together the country’s youth and government leadership. The event is being organized under the aegis of India’s G20 presidency and in conjunction with the Urban20 and Youth20 engagement groups. The objective of the conclave is to provide an opportunity for cross-learning between the youth and government leaders.

The Urban-20 (U20)

- ✓ The Urban-20 (U20) is a city diplomacy initiative launched during the One Planet Summit in Paris on December 12, 2017. The U20 provides a platform for cities from G20 countries to discuss critical urban development issues, such as climate change, social inclusion, sustainable mobility, and affordable housing, and propose collective

solutions. The U20 is convened by C40 Cities (C40) and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) under the leadership of a rotating Chair city based in the G20 host country.

The Y20

- ✓ The Y20 is the official youth engagement group for the G20, which is a forum for the largest and most advanced economies in the world. The Y20 process aims to bring together young leaders from all over the world to discuss and debate global challenges and propose policy recommendations that G20 leaders can implement. These policy recommendations are compiled in a communiqué, which is publicly announced at the Y20 Summit and presented to world leaders as part of the official G20 summit. India recently hosted the Y20 summit for the first time and its key focus was to bring young leaders together from across the globe to discuss ideas and draft an agenda for action.

PM Modi inaugurated the Global Millets Conference

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference in New Delhi on 18th March, 2023. He will also address the gathering on the occasion. The conference will be attended by Agriculture Ministers of various countries, international scientists, nutritionists, health experts, start-up leaders and other stakeholders.
- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has declared the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets (IYM). The declaration was based on India’s proposal.
- ✓ All central government ministries/departments, states/UTs, farmers, start-ups, exporters, retail businesses and other stakeholders are being engaged to promote and spread awareness about the benefits of millets (Shree Anna) for the cultivator, consumer and climate.
- ✓ This is being done in line with the Prime Minister’s vision to make the celebrations of IYM 2023 a



‘people’s movement’ and position India as the ‘global hub for millets’

India Hosts SCO International Conference on ‘Shared Buddhist Heritage’

- ✓ With a focus on India’s civilizational connections with the SCO states, the two-day international conference of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on “Shared Buddhist Heritage” was launched at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. This historic gathering brings together Central Asian, East Asian, South Asian, and Arab nations to discuss “Shared Buddhist Heritage” and is the first of its kind. It takes place under India’s leadership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) (from September 17, 2022, to September 23, 2023) for a year

23rd Commonwealth Law Conference begins in Goa

- ✓ The 23rd Commonwealth Law Conference was inaugurated by Goa Governor P.S. Sreedharan Pillai. The five-day conference, which is being held from March 5-9, 2023, was also attended by Union Minister for Law and Justice Kiren Rijiju and Chief Minister of Goa Dr. Pramod Sawant. The Conference has 500 delegates from 52 countries in attendance.

PM Modi to Inaugurate 3-Day Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi

- ✓ The eighth edition of the annual Raisina Dialogue, the flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-strategy, begins in New Delhi. The annual Raisina Dialogue will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Foreign Ministry is organizing the event in collaboration with the Observer Research Foundation from 2nd March to 4th March 2023. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni will be the chief guest and keynote speaker at its inaugural session.
- ✓ The theme of the conference is “Provocation, Uncertainty, Turbulence: Lighthouse in the Tempest?”



- ✓ The Raisina Dialogue 2023 will witness the participation of representatives from over 100 countries including Ministers, Military Commanders, Captains of the Industry, Technology Leaders, Scholars on Strategic Affairs, and Experts from leading Think Tanks and Youth.
- ✓ This year’s edition of Raisina Dialogue assumes special significance coming against the backdrop of India’s G20 Presidency.

World’s first’ bamboo crash barrier installed on Maharashtra highway

- ✓ The world’s first 200-metre-long bamboo crash barrier has been installed on a highway connecting Chandrapur and Yavatmal districts in Maharashtra. Named ‘Bahu Balli’, the bamboo crash barrier underwent “rigorous testing” at various government-run institutions like the National Automotive Test Tracks (NATRAX) in Pithampur, Indore. This was rated as Class 1 during the Fire Rating Test conducted at the Central Building Research Institute (CBRI) in Roorkee and it has also been accredited by the Indian Road Congress, According to Nitin Gadkari-led Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated Unnathi Programme

- ✓ Recently, the President inaugurated the silver jubilee celebration of ‘Kudumbashree’ - one of the largest women’s self-help networks in the world and launched ‘Unnathi’ – an umbrella programme to create opportunities for employment and self-employment, among the youth belonging to SC and ST communities.
- ✓ Kudumbashree was launched in Kerala in 1998 as a joint programme of the Government of Kerala and NABARD to wipe out absolute poverty through community action. It is the largest women empowering project in the country. It has three components i.e., microcredit, entrepreneurship and empowerment. It has three tier structure - neighborhood groups (SHG), area development society (15-20 SHGs) and Community development society (federation of all groups).

STATES

Rajasthan became India's 1st state to guarantee right to health

- ✓ On March 21, 2023 Prasadi Lal Meena, Minister of Medical & Health, announced that the Rajasthan Assembly had cleared a bill named 'Right to Health' (which was passed in September 2022), becoming the first state in India to do so.
- ✓ The 'Right to Health', gives every resident of the state the right to avail free Out Patient Department (OPD) services and In Patient Department (IPD) services at all public health facilities.
- ✓ It also provides similar healthcare services (free of cost) at select private facilities.
- ✓ All residents of the state will be entitled to emergency treatment and care for accidental emergency without prepayment of any fee or charges.
- ✓ As per the bill, free healthcare services, including consultation, drugs, diagnostics, emergency transport, procedure and emergency care, will be provided at all public health institutions and select private facilities subject to conditions specified in the rules.

NGT slaps ₹10 crore penalty on Kerala government for failure to protect Ramsar sites

- ✓ The Kerala government has been fined Rs 10 crore by the Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) for their inability to prevent the uncontrolled pollution of the designated Ramsar sites.
- ✓ The order by NGT was made in lines with a petition alleging failure of statutory and administrative authorities in taking remedial action for protection of the Vembanad and Ashtamudi lakes hit by illegal waste dumping.

About Vembanad Lake

- ✓ This is the largest lake in Kerala and the longest Lake in India.
- ✓ The lake has its source in four rivers, Meenachil, Achankovil, Pampa and Manimala

- ✓ In 2002, it was included in the list of wetlands of international importance, as defined by the Ramsar Convention.
- ✓ It is the second-largest Ramsar site in India only after the Sundarbans in West Bengal.
- ✓ The Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary is located on the east coast of the lake.
- ✓ In 2019, Willingdon Island, a seaport located in the city of Kochi, was carved out of Vembanad Lake

Tamil Nadu's 18th Wildlife Sanctuary Opens in Erode

- ✓ The government of Tamil Nadu has decided to declare Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary as the 18th wildlife sanctuary in the state. This sanctuary covers an area of 80,567 hectares in the forest regions of Anthiyur and Gobichettipalayam taluks in Erode district, and includes reserve forest areas in Anthiyur, Bargur, Thattakarai, and Chennampatti. It is home to a variety of wild animals such as tigers, elephants, leopards, wild boars, gaurs, and deer.
- ✓ This wildlife sanctuary is located in close proximity to other sanctuaries such as Malai Mahadeshwara wildlife sanctuary, BRT Wildlife Sanctuary, Cauvery wildlife sanctuary in Karnataka, and it serves as a connecting point between Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve and Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary. This announcement was made during the state budget.

Asia's largest 4-metre liquid mirror telescope inaugurated in Uttarakhand

- ✓ Dr. Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, inaugurated Asia's largest 4-metre International Liquid Mirror Telescope at Devasthal, Uttarakhand, in the presence of Lt. Gen (Retd.) Gurmeet Singh, the Governor of Uttarakhand.



- ✓ The Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) has declared that the 4-meter International Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT) is operational and can now be used to observe the deep celestial sky. The telescope recorded its first light in the second week of May 2022 and is located on the Devasthal Observatory campus of ARIES in the Nainital district of Uttarakhand. ARIES is an independent institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST) of the Indian Government, situated at an altitude of 2450 meters.

Rajasthan CM announced 19 new districts and three new divisions

- ✓ On 17 March 2023, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced the creation of 19 new districts and 3 new divisions in the state during his course of the discussion on the Finance and Appropriation Bill in the Legislative Assembly. Rajasthan will now have 19 new districts and 3 new divisions, taking the number of districts to 50 and divisions to 10.
- ✓ Rajasthan now has the third highest number of districts in the country after Uttar Pradesh (71) and Madhya Pradesh (53).

List Of 19 New Districts

- ✓ Anupgarh, Balotra, Beawar, Deeg, Didwana-Kuchaman City, Dudu, Gangapur City, Jaipur North, Jaipur South, Jodhpur East, Jodhpur West, Kekri, Kotputli, Khairthal, Neemkathana, Phalodi, Salumbar, Sanchore, Shahpura (Bhilwara).
- ✓ Banswara, Pali, Sikar were named as new divisions.

A new initiative called 'beggar-free city' started in Nagpur, Maharashtra

- ✓ In Nagpur, Maharashtra, a new project known as "beggar-free city" has been launched. Amitesh Kumar, the Nagpur City commissioner of police, announced that notification 144 CrPC has been issued in this regard. The social welfare division of the Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) and the Nagpur City Police are partners in this effort. In order to accommodate homeless people in its shelters, the NMC has developed particular provisions.
- ✓ This will be severely enforced by the Nagpur police, and begging is not permitted in public areas. The social welfare division of the Nagpur

Municipal Corporation (NMC) and the Nagpur City Police are partners in this effort.

- ✓ In order to accommodate homeless people in its shelters, the NMC has developed particular provisions. The civic organisation has a bus and an ambulance on standby to transport beggars apprehended by police to its shelter residence.

'Kashi' declared as 1st Tourism & Cultural Capital of SCO

- ✓ 'Kashi' has been declared the First Tourism & Cultural Capital of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) at the Meeting of Heads of SCO Tourism Administrations held in Kashi, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ The action plan for "Year of Tourism Development in the SCO Space in 2023" was also adopted at the meeting.
- ✓ The next meeting of the SCO Heads of Tourism Administrations was scheduled to be held in Kazakhstan in 2024.

Andhra Pradesh FM presented Budget of Rs 2,79,279cr for FY24

- ✓ The Finance minister of Andhra Pradesh (AP) Buggana Rajendranath presented the annual budget for the financial year 2023-2024(FY24) with a financial outlay of Rs. 2,79,279 crore in the state Assembly in Amaravati, AP. He presented the annual Budget for the 5th time in a row.
- ✓ The fiscal deficit would be 3.77% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), while the revenue deficit would be 1.54% of GSDP.
- ✓ Rs 54,228 crore has been allocated for Direct Benefit Schemes (DBT), an 11% increase from the previous year's Rs 48,668 crore. A total of 22 schemes are covered under the DBT category and the majority of them saw an increase in the budget allocation.
- ✓ Rs 500 crore is assigned for interest free loans to farmers and YSR Rythu Barosa was given Rs 4,020 crore



Resham Keet Bima: India's 1st silkworm insurance scheme launched in Uttarakhand

- ✓ Ganesh Joshi, Agriculture Minister of Uttarakhand, launched 'Resham Keet Bima' scheme, India's first programme to safeguard sericulturists. With this launch, Uttarakhand became the first Indian state to launch a Silkworm Insurance Scheme under which crop insurance will be provided to all farmers cultivating silkworms to produce silk.
- ✓ This insurance will save the farmers from bearing the loss of natural calamities. It is implemented and managed by Saral Krishi Beema.

HP Govt signs MoU with French Agency to Improve Drinking water, Sanitation

- ✓ MoU b/w: Himachal Pradesh (HP) Government (Govt) with the French Development Agency – Agence Francaise de Développement (AFD) Purpose: For Rs 817.12 crore project to improve drinking water and sanitation services in five towns of the state.
- ✓ Under the project, Rs 612 crore would be provided by AFD, whereas the HP Govt would provide Rs. 204.85 crore. Rs. 612 crore will be provided by AFD via two phases i.e. in the first phase, AFD would finance Rs 340 crore (out of Rs 425.85 crore) and in the second phase, AFD would provide Rs 272 crore (out of a total project cost of Rs 371 crore).

Himachal Pradesh becomes 1st State in India to have Organised Liquorice (Mulethi) Cultivation

- ✓ Himachal Pradesh (HP) has become the 1st state in India to begin the commercial cultivation of Liquorice (Mulethi) (*Glycyrrhiza glabra*) with the distribution of planting material among the farmers by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)- Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology.
- ✓ It has been traditionally known and used in Ayurvedic medicine (known as "Yashtimadhu" in Ayurveda) for rejuvenation. It has anti-viral, antiinflammatory, antioxidant, and antibacterial.

Arogya Mahila: Telangana Health Minister launched new health programme for Telangana Women

- ✓ On the occasion of International Women's Day 2023 (8th March 2023), T Harish Rao, Telangana Health Minister, launched 'Arogya Mahila', a new health programme for women, in Karimnagar, Telangana.
- ✓ "Nutrition Kit," another scheme would be started for the benefit of pregnant women after the Sri Rama Navami(30th March 2023), a festival that celebrates the birth of Lord Rama. The festival is usually celebrated on the 9th day of Chaitra month in the Hindu calendar(March or April in the Gregorian calendar.).

Odisha Announces Rs 500 Crore Worth Livelihood Scheme for Tribal Community

- ✓ The Cabinet of Odisha has approved the launch of a new Livelihoods Cluster Development initiative for tribal people under the "Mukhya Mantri Janajati Jeebika Mission" with a total outlay of Rs 500 crore.
- ✓ The scheme will be implemented by the ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare department, over a period of 3 years from 2023-24 to 2025-26.

Govt presents Rs.1.18 lakh crores Budget for UT of J&K for 2023-24 in Lok Sabha

- ✓ Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister of Finance, Government of India, presented a Rs 1,18,500 crore budget for the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) for 2023-2024 in the Lok Sabha.
- ✓ Pankaj Chaudhary, Union Minister of State (MoS) for Finance, tabled the budget for the UT of J&K. The budget of J&K is required to be presented and approved by the Parliament as there is no legislature in J&K currently.
- ✓ The total budget estimates for fiscal 2023- 2024 is Rs 1,18,500 crore including the developmental expenditure of Rs 41,491 crore. The capital

component of the budget of J&K has increased substantially.

- ✓ The debt/GDP ratio for 2023-24 is estimated to be at 49%, and the GDP growth for the UT for 2023-24 is projected at Rs 2,30,727 crore. This shows a growth of 10% over the previous year.

Uttarakhand to set up India's 1st government mother milk bank

- ✓ The government of Uttarakhand is set to establish India's first government mother milk bank, a facility that can ensure to provide the nutritional elements of mothers' milk to newborns.
- ✓ Among the Himalayan states, Uttarakhand has the 3rd -highest infant mortality rate (IMR) of 27 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2019.
- ✓ The infant mortality rate for India in 2022 was 27.695 deaths per 1000 live births, a 3.74% decline from 2021.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw releases 'Go Green, Go Organic' cover for Sikkim

- ✓ Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Ministry of Communications and Electronics & Information Technology released a unique cover of the Department of Posts, 'Go Green, Go Organic' for Sikkim.
- ✓ This cover acknowledges the state's achievements in organic farming, and its contribution to India's agriculture sector, and showcases the importance of sustainable development for India.
- ✓ Notably, Sikkim is the first state in the world to get recognized as a 100% Organic state by the World Book of Records (London).

Paytm Signs MoU with Andhra Pradesh Govt to Promote Financial Inclusion

- ✓ MoU b/w: Digital financial services firm One97 Communications which owns the Paytm brand with the Andhra Pradesh (AP) Government
- ✓ Purpose: To promote mutual cooperation and financial inclusion in the areas of Industrial Development, Financial Inclusion, Public Health, Cyber Security and Prevention of Financial Frauds in AP.

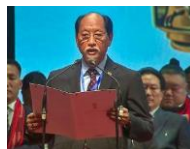
- ✓ Paytm will empower merchants, street vendors and street hawkers in AP to accept digital payments and provide them access to loans through its lending partners.

Mauganj introduced as the 53rd district of Madhya Pradesh

- ✓ Mauganj was declared as 53rd district of Madhya Pradesh by Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the chief minister of Madhya Pradesh. Mauganj is a tehsil of the Rewa district. CM Chouhan declared that Mauganj would become the 53rd MP district during a function in Rewa. It will be built by combining four of the Rewa district's tehsils.

Chief Minister of Nagaland and NDPP leader Neiphiu Rio takes the oath of office

- ✓ Neiphiu Rio, the leader of the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP), took the oath of office as the Chief Minister of Nagaland. Governor La Ganesan gave the 72-year-old lawmaker the oath of secrecy.
- ✓ Mr. Rio is serving his fifth term and second consecutive term as the NDPP's leader. The deputy chief ministers of Nagaland, Taditui Rangkau Zeliang and Yanthungo Patton took the oath at Kohima among other Rio Cabinet members. Neiphiu Rio is contesting from home constituency Northern Angami-II.



Manik Saha sworn in as 13th CM of Tripura

- ✓ Manik Saha took oath as 13th chief minister for the second time as Tripura Chief Minister after the BJP clinched a victory in the February 16 Assembly polls. Eight other ministers were sworn. Governor Satyadeo Narayan Arya administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Saha and eight more MLAs as Ministers in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah held a marathon meeting with TIPRA Motha chief Pradyot Bikram Manikya Debbarma and 13 MLAs of his party. Four of the new ministers have been



retained from the previous government. The possible strength of the Council of Ministers in the 60-member House is 12.

Conrad Sangma sworn-in as Meghalaya Chief Minister

- ✓ Conrad Kongkal Sangma was sworn in as the Meghalaya chief minister for the second successive term in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Governor Phagu Chauhan administered the oath of office to Sangma, along with his two deputies Prestone Tynsong and Sniawbhaland Dhar, and nine other ministers. Sangma won from the South Tura constituency with a margin of 5,016 against Bharatiya Janata Party's Bernard N Marak, as per the data shared by the Election Commission of India on March 2.



Himanta Biswa Sarma launches Mission Lifestyle for Environment(LiFE) in Assam

- ✓ Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma, inaugurated the 'Mission Lifestyle for Environment' (LiFE) in the state, which is a global mass movement led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Sarma stated that the initiative aims to encourage an environmentally conscious lifestyle, with a focus on utilizing resources rather than engaging in wasteful consumption.
- ✓ As part of the Mission Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) initiative, various week-long activities will be conducted across all districts in Assam.
- ✓ These activities will target seven identified categories, including energy and water conservation, reducing plastic and e-waste, and promoting healthy lifestyles, according to Sarma.

World Bank Grants \$363 million Loan to Karnataka for Clean Drinking Water Supply

- ✓ The World Bank has granted a loan of USD 363 million to the state of Karnataka in India, which will help to provide clean drinking water to two million rural households. The initiative aims to establish piped water connections in households

throughout the state, including the construction of a drinking water distribution network and the installation of water meters. The project is set to benefit around 10 million people across all 31 districts in the state. The loan is part of the Karnataka Sustainable Rural Water Supply Program, which seeks to introduce policies and initiatives that will improve the operational efficiency of rural water supply services.

World Bank approves \$108 million loan for Assam's flood management project

- ✓ The World Bank has given the nod to provide a loan of \$108 million (about ₹ 889 crores) to assist Assam in its efforts to improve its disaster preparedness and enhance flood forecasting. The multilateral bank has stated that around six million individuals will benefit from this project, which is part of a larger investment program worth \$500 million for the state. The main aim of the Assam Integrated River Basin Management Project is to build eco-friendly infrastructure in the Beki and Buridehing river basins to lessen the impact of floods and river erosion on the state, ultimately safeguarding around one lakh individuals.

Union Home Minister Amith Sah inaugurated Mata Sharda Devi Temple

- ✓ Recently, Home Minister e-inaugurated Mata Sharda Devi Temple dedicated to Goddess Sharda Devi and announced that the government of India will attempt to build a Kartapur-style corridor to Sharda Peeth as an important step in the direction of discovery of Sharda-civilization and promotion of Sharda-script. Sharda peeth is an abandoned Hindu temple and ancient center of learning.
- ✓ It is located at Neelum Valley in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir across Teetwal village in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district along the Line of Control. It is one of the 18 Maha Shakti Peethas and is considered to be the abode of the Hindu Goddess Saraswati. Sharda peeth is the most revered religious place for Kashmiri Pandits.

ECONOMY AND BANKING

Cabinet approves release of an additional instalment of DA to GoI Employees

- ✓ The Union Cabinet, presided over by PM Narendra Modi, has approved the release of an additional instalment of Dearness Allowance (DA) to Government of India (GoI) employees and Dearness Relief to pensioners effective January 1, 2023.
- ✓ The additional instalment, which would bring the total to 42%, will represent a 4% increase over the current rate of 38% of the basic pay/pension to offset price increase.
- ✓ The DA and Dearness Relief would have a combined impact of Rs. 12,815.60 crore per year on the exchequer.
- ✓ This will benefit around 47.58 lakh GoI employees and 69.76 lakh pensioners.
- ✓ This increase is in line with the accepted formula, which is based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission.
- ✓ The government provides DA to both pensioners and employees to help counteract the effects of inflation. The DA is typically revised twice a year, in January and July, and the announcement of the DA increase and payout is usually made in March.
- ✓ The DA for GoI employees is determined using the most recent Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW).
- ✓ Every month, the CPI-IW data is released by the Labour Bureau, a division of the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoL&E). The last DA hike was announced by the GoI on September 28, 2022, and it went into effect on July 1, 2022.

Cabinet approves MSP of Raw Jute for 2023 -24 season

- ✓ The Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Raw Jute for the 2023–2024 season has been approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), which was presided over by PM Narendra Modi.
- ✓ During the 2023–24 season, the MSP for Raw Jute (TDN3 equivalent to TD5 grade) has been fixed at

Rs. 5050 per quintal. It was Rs. 4,750 per quintal for 2022-23 season.

- ✓ This would guarantee a return of 63.20% over the all India weighted average cost of production.
- ✓ The approval is made on the recommendations from the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW).
- ✓ The MSP for raw jute set for the 2023-24 season is consistent with the principle of fixing the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times the all-India weighted average cost of production, which was announced by the GoI in the Budget 2018-19. It ensures at least a 50% profit margin.

CCEA Approves Targeted Subsidy to PMUY Consumers

- ✓ The CCEA, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, has approved a Rs. 200 per 14.2 kg liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinder subsidy for up to 12 refills per year for the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY).
- ✓ For the fiscal years 2022–2023 and 2023–2024, the total expenditure will be Rs. 6,100 crore and Rs. 7,680 crore, respectively.
- ✓ All PMUY beneficiaries are eligible for this targeted subsidy, which encourages PMUY consumers to keep using LPG.
- ✓ The subsidy is credited directly to the bank accounts of eligible beneficiaries.
- ✓ This subsidy has been offered since May 22, 2022, by public-sector oil marketing firms such as Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL).

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

- ✓ The GoI introduced the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), which offers deposit-free LPG connections to adult women from poor households, in May 2016 to make LPG, a clean cooking fuel, more accessible to rural and underprivileged poor households. As of March 1, 2023, there are 9.59 crore PMUY beneficiaries.

- ✓ The average LPG consumption of PMUY consumers has increased by 20%, from 3.01 refills in 2019–20 to 3.68 in 2021–22

IMF confirmed a USD 3 billion bailout plan under EFF for Sri Lanka

- ✓ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Board approved a 48-month extended arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) of SDR 2.286 billion (about US\$3 billion) to support Sri Lanka's economic policies and reforms.
- ✓ It is also negotiating with Pakistan for a USD 1.1 billion bailout plan on account of its severe economic crisis marked by falling currency and price rise.
- ✓ Bailout is a general term for extending financial support to a company/country facing a potential bankruptcy threat.
- ✓ It can take the form of loans, cash, bonds, or stock purchases. A bailout may (not) require reimbursement but is often accompanied by greater oversight and regulations.
- ✓ **IMF Bailouts:** Countries seek help from the IMF usually when their economies face a major macroeconomic risk, mostly currency crisis (such as the ones Sri Lanka is facing).
- ✓ Countries seek such assistance from the IMF to meet their external debt and other obligations, to purchase essential imports, and to prop up the exchange value of their currencies.



How is an IMF Bailout Provided?

Procedure:

- ✓ The IMF lends money to the troubled economies often in the form of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs).
- ✓ SDRs simply represent a basket of five currencies, namely the U.S. dollar, the euro, the Chinese yuan, the Japanese yen, and the British pound.
- ✓ This lending is carried out by a number of lending programs such as extended credit facility, flexible credit line, stand-by agreements, etc.
- ✓ Countries receiving the bailout can use the SDRs for various purposes depending on their individual circumstances.

Finance Bill 2023 passed in Lok Sabha

- ✓ The Lok Sabha passed the Finance Bill 2023, which implements tax proposals for the upcoming fiscal year, without any discussion. The passage of the Bill occurred amid Opposition uproar over the Adani controversy.
- ✓ Proposals for a total of 64 official amendments were put forward in the Bill, including one that aims to eliminate long-term tax benefits for specific categories of debt mutual funds and another that calls for the establishment of the GST Appellate Tribunal.

Key Amendments in the Finance Bill 2023

- ✓ The Finance Bill 2023 includes several amendments, such as the taxation of mutual funds having less than 35% AUM in domestic equity as short-term capital gains and the provision of enhanced tax benefits to offshore banking units operating in GIFT City, which will receive a 100% deduction on income for 10 years.
- ✓ Additionally, the tax on royalty or technical fee earned by foreign companies has been increased from 10% to 20%.
- ✓ Other amendments include the formation of a committee to address the pension system's needs, and a proposal for marginal relief to limit the tax one pays to the income that exceeds Rs. 7 lakh.
- ✓ The Bill also proposes that all Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS) payments made through credit cards for foreign tours be considered under LRS and be subject to Tax Collection at Source (TCS).
- ✓ Furthermore, the Securities Transaction Tax on the sale of options has been raised from Rs. 1,700 to Rs. 2,100 on a turnover of Rs. 1 crore.
- ✓ The Finance Bill, as a Money Bill, needs to be passed by the Lok Sabha — the lower house of the Parliament. Post the Lok Sabha's approval, the Finance Bill becomes Finance Act.
- ✓ There are different kinds of Finance Bills — the most important of them is the Money Bill. The Money Bill is concretely defined in Article 110.
- ✓ The Speaker of the Lok Sabha is authorised to decide whether the Bill is a Money Bill or not.

Income tax dept launches mobile app 'AIS' for Taxpayers

- ✓ On March 22, the Income Tax Department launched a mobile application called "AIS for Taxpayer" that enables taxpayers to view their tax-related information in the Annual Information Statement (AIS) or Taxpayer Information Summary (TIS). The app has become essential and beneficial since starting from the new financial year on April 1, Form 26AS will only show information related to tax deducted at source (TDS) and tax collection at source (TCS).
- ✓ Taxpayers can get a detailed summary of their information from Form 26AS by referring to the Annual Information Statement (AIS). The AIS not only provides a comprehensive overview of the taxpayer's information, but it also has a feedback mechanism.

Government imposes surcharge for Google Pay and other payment apps

- ✓ Starting from April 1, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has implemented interchange fees of up to 1.1 percent for prepaid payment instruments used in merchant UPI transactions. The fee, ranging from 0.5 percent and based on the merchant category code, will be charged for UPI payments exceeding ₹2,000 made to online merchants, large merchants, and small offline merchants.
- ✓ The purpose of imposing an interchange fee is to compensate for the expenses incurred by payment service providers in handling, verifying, and approving transactions.
- ✓ Consequently, this fee increase is anticipated to result in higher transaction costs.
- ✓ Wallet issuers such as banks receive payment from payment service providers in the form of interchange fees.
- ✓ These wallets are primarily utilized for online transactions, such as those facilitated by Paytm, PhonePe, and Google Pay.

NPCI recommends PPI charges for UPI payments

- ✓ Starting from April 1, merchants carrying out transactions through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) using Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI) will

be subjected to charges, according to a circular issued by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

- ✓ The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has issued a circular stating that merchants conducting transactions on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) using Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI) will be charged an interchange fee of 1.1% on the transaction amount for amounts over Rs 2,000.

About NPCI

- ✓ Under the 'Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007,' the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) jointly established the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) as an umbrella organization responsible for operating retail payment and settlement systems in India.
- ✓ This non-profit company operates under the regulations of Section 25 of the Companies Act 1956, as amended in 2013.
- ✓ Its primary aim is to provide both physical and electronic payment infrastructure to India's entire banking system.

Axis Bank launches 'MicroPay' based on 'Pin on Mobile' technology for digital payments

- ✓ Axis Bank has introduced a groundbreaking payment solution called "MicroPay" in collaboration with technical partners Ezetap by Razorpay and MyPinpad.
- ✓ Axis Bank, one of India's top private sector banks, has introduced a groundbreaking payment solution called "MicroPay" in collaboration with technical partners Ezetap by Razorpay and MyPinpad.
- ✓ MicroPay is a "PIN on Mobile" solution that transforms a merchant's smartphone into a Point-of-Sale (POS) terminal, making digital payments easier and delivering a one-of-a-kind customer experience.

ICICI Lombard becomes first to offer 'Anywhere Cashless' feature

- ✓ ICICI Lombard General Insurance has introduced an industry-first feature for health insurance policyholders called 'Anywhere Cashless,' which allows them to receive cashless facilities at any

hospital, regardless of whether or not it is currently part of ICICI Lombard's hospital network. However, the hospital must agree to accept the cashless facility for this feature to apply.

- ✓ ICICI Lombard General Insurance is a leading insurance company in India that provides a range of insurance products, including health insurance, motor insurance, travel insurance, and home insurance.
- ✓ The company has a large network of hospitals across India where policyholders can receive cashless medical treatment.

ICICI Bank offers Ecosystem Banking for Indian Startups

- ✓ ICICI Bank announced that it offering a comprehensive bouquet of digital and physical solutions to cater to all banking needs of startups across their various life stages. As part of the 'Startup Ecosystem Banking' the Bank has put in place a dedicated team for startups that serves them through an extensive network of branches.
- ✓ The Ecosystem Banking further helps startups to open Special Non-Resident Rupee (SNRR) account as well as create deposits in both US Dollar and in Indian Rupee.

Suryodaya Small Finance Bank launched Blossom Women's Savings Account

- ✓ Suryoday Small Finance Bank announced the launch of 'Blossom Women's Savings Account' with 7 percent per annum interest rate with monthly interest credit. In addition to this, specially designed RuPay Platinum Debit Card offering discount on shopping and online purchases will also be available with the account.
- ✓ The new Mahila Savings Account can be operated through the bank's 571 banking outlets and digital banking platform.
- ✓ Blossom Women's Savings Account is designed to provide women a secure platform to save and grow their money with the best interest rates and a wide range of exclusive benefits and privileges.

India's digital payments will more than triple to \$10 trillion by 2026

- ✓ In a country witnessing rapid growth, it comes as no surprise that India also has one of the fastest-growing fintech landscapes in the world, driven primarily by the advancement in the digital payments segment. Boston Consulting Group (BCG), in collaboration with PhonePe, India's leading digital payments company, today unveiled a report titled, "Digital payments in India: A US\$10 trillion opportunity".
- ✓ India's digital payments landscape has witnessed phenomenal growth over the past five years. As per the report, India's digital payments market is at an inflection point and is expected to increase more than threefold from the current US\$3 trillion to US\$10 trillion by 2026. As a result of this unprecedented growth, digital payments (non-cash) will constitute 2 out of 3 payment transactions by 2026.

GoI, World Bank Signed Loan agreement worth US \$ 500 million to implement GNHCP in 4 States

- ✓ Loan Agreement b/w: Government of India (GoI) & the World Bank
- ✓ Purpose: For the construction of the Green National Highway Corridors Project (GNHCP) in four States such as Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh in an aggregate length of 781 km with loan assistance of US \$ 500 million against the total project cost of US \$ 1288.24 million (Rs. 7,662.47 crore).

Geojit Partners with ESAF Bank to launch A 3-In-1 Bundled Account

- ✓ HDFC Bank has become the 1st private sector bank in India to enable its customers to use (link) their RuPay Credit Card on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with the BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) App and other UPI-enabled apps.
- ✓ Agreement b/w: Geojit Financial Services, a financial advisory firm, with ESAF Small Financing Bank (ESAF SFB)
- ✓ Purpose: To provide the bank's customers with a special 3-in-1 bundled account.

- ✓ Benefits of the 3-in-1 bundled account include free demat account opening, flexible brokerage plans, a waiver of annual maintenance charges (AMC) until March 2024, no subscription fees for trading accounts, and end-to-end digital account opening facility.

World Bank's IFC to invest USD 73 Million in Mahindra's Last Mile Electric Mobility Unit

- ✓ International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Bank's private investment arm, is set to invest USD 73 million (Rs 6020 crore) in an Indian automaker, Mahindra and Mahindra (M&M) Limited's last-mile electric mobility unit. This investment is the IFC's 1st investment in an electric vehicle maker in India.

Indian economy likely to grow 6% in FY24: Crisil

- ✓ As per the rating agency CRISIL annual growth forecast, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth will touch 6% in FY24 slower than the 7% estimated by the National Statistics Office (NSO) for FY2023.
- ✓ Indian economy averaging a growth rate of 6.8% over the next five fiscals.
- ✓ India's external vulnerability is expected to decline with a narrower Current Account Deficit (CAD). CAD is expected to narrow to 2.4% of GDP (~\$88 billion) in FY24 from an estimated 3.0% (~\$100 billion) in FY23.

MoF Monthly Economic Review, February 2023: India's GDP to Grow at 7% in FY23; Inflation to Moderate

- ✓ According to the "Monthly Economic Review – February 2023" published by the Ministry of Finance (MoF), the Indian economy is projected to grow at 7% in the fiscal year 2022-2023 (FY23) despite global challenges.
- ✓ Retail inflation is anticipated to decline in accordance with wholesale inflation, which dropped to a 25-month low in January 2023.
- ✓ The real GDP (Gross Domestic Product) in Q3 FY23 registered a YoY (Year on Year) growth of 4.4% which is lower than that of 6.3 % in Q2 FY23.

MSME Minister Narayan Tatu Rane launches MSME Competitive (LEAN) Scheme

- ✓ Union Minister Narayan Tatu Rane, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MoMSME), launched the MSME Competitive (LEAN) Scheme (MCLS) and National Scheduled Castes (SC)/Scheduled Tribes (ST) Conclave under MSME Champion Scheme in the event organised at the NDMC Convention Centre, New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ LEAN is defined as a set of management practices to improve efficiency and effectiveness by eliminating waste through Kaizen.
- ✓ Kaizen is a Japanese word that essentially means "change for the better" or "good change."
- ✓ The MCLS will be implemented through Quality Council of India (QCI) and National Productivity Council (NPC).

6 digit HUID on Gold Jewellery made Mandatory from 1st April 2023

- ✓ Department of Consumer Affairs announced that the sale of hallmarked gold jewellery or gold artefacts without a 6 digit alphanumeric HUID (Hallmark Unique Identification) number, consisting of alphabets and numbers, will not be allowed after 31st March 2023 i.e., from 1st April 2023 onwards. Following this, the sale of jewellery with a 4-digit HUID number will also be stopped on April 1.
- ✓ From April 1, 2023, each piece of gold jewellery will have a Bureau of India Standards (BIS) hallmark, purity of gold (for example, 0 22K916), and a 6-digit HUID embossed on it.

Bandhan MF renamed India's 1st International Debt ETF as "Bandhan US Treasury Bond 0-1 Year Fund of Fund"

- ✓ The Bandhan Mutual Fund(MF) renamed the recently launched India's First US Debt Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF) 'IDFC US Treasury Bond 0-1-year Fund of Fund' as 'Bandhan US Treasury Bond 0-1 Year Fund of Fund'.

- ✓ It is an open-ended fund of fund scheme investing in units/shares of overseas index funds and/or Exchange Traded Funds (ETF).
- ✓ Bandhan MF has also announced the name change of all its scheme following the rebranding of the fund house IDFC MF as Bandhan MF.
- ✓ PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited has introduced a Sustainable Equity Fund which is a part of the PNB MetLife Goal Ensuring Multiplier plan to enables customers to maximize returns, and directly contribute to a sustainable future.

HDFC Bank & Flipkart Wholesale launches industry-first co-branded credit card

- ✓ HDFC Bank and Flipkart Wholesale, the B2B (Business To Business) platform of Flipkart Group, launched an industry-first co-branded credit card exclusively for Flipkart Wholesale members.
- ✓ The credit card will run on the Diners Club International network which is a part of the Discover Global Network.

J&K Bank Signs Corporate Agency Agreement with LIC

- ✓ Jammu and Kashmir Bank (J&K Bank) signed a Corporate Agency Agreement with the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), India's largest insurer, for servicing and soliciting life insurance products through J&K Bank's Branch Network.
- ✓ The agreement will be operational or effective from 1st April 2023. On 15th March 2023, Life Insurance Company (LIC) reported that it has sold 2% of its equity stake in the state-owned NMDC Limited (formerly National Mineral Development Corporation), taking its total shareholding in the public sector unit to 11.69% as of March 14.

Maharashtra, Gujarat lead in FDI inflows in April-December of FY23

- ✓ According to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) data, Maharashtra and Gujarat recorded positive growth during the 3 quarters of the current fiscal (FY23) – April 2022 to December 2022. FDI inflows into Maharashtra went up by 19% year-on-year (y-o-y)

to Rs 85,186 crore during the April-December of FY23 as compared to Rs 71,858 crore of FDI inflows during April-December of FY22.

- ✓ FDI inflows into Gujarat during April- December of FY23 more than doubled to Rs 32,349 crore compared to Rs 15,321 crore in April-December of FY22.
- ✓ The three States: Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat alone accounted for 68% of the FDI equity inflows (in dollar terms) into the country between October 2019 and December 2022.

Lockheed Martin & Tata Group Sign MoU to Manufacture Fighter Wings in India

- ✓ MoU b/w: Lockheed Martin Corporation (LMT), a global defence aerospace player based in the United States (US), with India's Tata Group
- ✓ Purpose: For the production of fighter plane wings at their joint venture (JV) facility, Tata Lockheed Martin Aerostructures Ltd (TLMAL), in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ✓ LMT has a proposed F-21 (Advanced Multirole Fighter) partnership with India, which is intended to deliver 114 MFRA specifically configured for India and the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- ✓ Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and Lockheed Martin Aeronautics established TLMAL as a joint venture in 2010.

WPI inflation slips to 25-month low of 3.85% in February 2023: Govt Data

- ✓ According to the "Index Numbers of Wholesale Price in India for the Month of February 2023 (Base Year: 2011-12)" released by the Office of the Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry And Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry Of Commerce & Industry(MoCI), the Wholesale Price-Index (WPI) based inflation rate eased to a 25-month low of 3.85% (Provisional) in February 2023 (over February 2022) against 4.73% recorded I January 2023.
- ✓ The decline in the rate of index is contributed by the drop in prices of Primary Articles, Fuel & Power, and Manufactured Products.

- ✓ According to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), The Retail Inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) declined to 6.44% in February 2023 against 6.52% in January 2023 and 6.07% in February 2022. Retail inflation dipped mainly on account of a slight easing in prices of food and fuel items.

GSTN empanels 4 private Companies to provide e-Invoice Registration

- ✓ On the recommendation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, the Goods and Service Tax Network (GSTN) has launched e-Invoice Registration Services through multiple private Invoice Registration Portals (IRPs) as another step towards further digitization of the business process flow.
- ✓ Ernst & Young Global Limited (EY), Clear (formerly ClearTax), Cygnet Infotech Pvt. Ltd., and IRIS Business Services Limited; were enlisted for providing e-invoice (electronic invoicing) registration services to all GST taxpayers of India.

World Bank's Women, Business, and the Law 2023 report: Nearly 2.4 Billion Women Globally Don't Have Same Economic Rights as Men

- ✓ According to the 9th edition of the World Bank's "Women, Business, and the Law 2023" report, women across the world only have 77% of the legal rights that men do, and nearly 2.4 billion women of working age live in countries that do not provide them the same rights as men.
- ✓ Furthermore, the global pace of reforms towards equal treatment of women under the law slowed to a 20-year low in 2022.
- ✓ From 2021 to 2022, the global average score on the Women, Business, and Law index increased just by half a point to 77.1. "Women, Business, and the Law 2023" examines laws and regulations impacting women's economic participation in 190 economies from 1971 to 2023 (calendar years 1970 to 2022).

IREDA, EIB explore Partnership to finance Renewable Energy Projects in India

- ✓ A meeting was held between the European Investment Bank (EIB) and Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) to explore partnership on financing of renewable energy and green hydrogen projects in India.
- ✓ The meeting was held between Maria Shaw-Barragan, Global Director, EIB; and IREDA Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) Pradip Kumar Das in Delhi.
- ✓ ✓ IREDA: HQ– New Delhi, Delhi; Parent Ministry– Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

World Bank Signs 2 Loan Programmes PHSP, EHSDP of USD 500 million each to Support India's Health Sector

- ✓ Government of India (GoI) and World Bank (WB) signed 2 complementary loans of \$500 million Public Health Systems for Pandemic Preparedness Program (PHSP) and \$500 million Enhanced Health Service Delivery Program (EHSDP) to support and improve India's healthcare infrastructure.
- ✓ Through the combined financing of USD 1 billion (about Rs 8,200 crore), the WB will support India's flagship Pradhan Mantri- Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), which was launched in October 2021, to improve the public healthcare infrastructure across India.
- ✓ Both the PHSP and EHSDP loans which will be obtained from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) (The financial institution which is a part of the World Bank Group) have a final maturity of 18.5 years including a grace period of 5 years.
- ✓ One of the loans would prioritise health service delivery in 7 states including Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh.

RBI UPDATES

RBI allows India and Tanzania to use national currencies for trading

- ✓ India and Tanzania have received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to utilize their respective national currencies in bilateral trade settlements. This move is anticipated to decrease transaction costs and improve the effectiveness of cross-border trade, resulting in higher trade volumes and increased economic collaboration between the two nations.
- ✓ The benefits of this bilateral trade mechanism that uses local currency, the Indian High Commission in Tanzania is organizing a Stakeholders Consultation Meeting on March 24th, 2023. This initiative aligns with the RBI's goal of promoting the use of domestic currencies in cross-border transactions to decrease reliance on foreign currencies, particularly the US dollar.
- ✓ According to Binaya Pradhan, the Indian High Commissioner to Tanzania, the recent development of allowing the use of the Indian Rupee and the Tanzanian Shilling (Tsh) for settling bilateral trade is a positive development for the business community.
- ✓ The recently approved mechanism allows authorised banks in India to establish Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs) for the correspondent banks of Tanzania.

RBI's Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute to come up in Bhubaneswar

- ✓ The Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Shaktikanta Das, initiated the establishment of a "Greenfield Data Centre" and an "Enterprise Computing & Cybersecurity Training Institute" in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, during a foundation stone laying ceremony.
- ✓ The new Data Centre and Training Institute, which will cover an area of 18.55 acres, will be able to address the emerging needs of the RBI and the financial sector, according to a statement by the central bank.

RBI, Central Bank of UAE sign MoU to promote innovation in financial products and services

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on March 15 said that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Central Bank of United Arab Emirates for promoting innovation in financial product and services.
- ✓ Both central banks will collaborate on various emerging areas of FinTech, especially Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs), and explore interoperability between the CBDCs of UAE's central bank and the RBI.
- ✓ Central Bank of UAE and RBI will jointly conduct proof-of-concept (PoC) and pilot(s) of bilateral CBDC bridge to facilitate cross-border CBDC transactions of remittances and trade.
- ✓ This bilateral engagement of testing cross-border use case of CBDCs is expected to reduce costs, increase efficiency of cross border transactions and further the economic ties between India and UAE.

RBI accords 'infra finance company' status to IREDA

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted an 'Infrastructure Finance Company (IFC)' status to Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a company statement said. It was earlier classified as an 'Investment and Credit Company (ICC)'.
- ✓ With the IFC status, IREDA will be able to take higher exposure in RE financing. The IFC status will also help the company to access a wider investor base for fund mobilisation, resulting in competitive rates for fundraising.
- ✓ The recognition of IREDA as an IFC will increase the investors' confidence, enhance the brand value and generate a positive outlook in the market.
- ✓ The grant of IFC status is a recognition of IREDA's 36 years of infrastructure financing and development with focused development of renewable energy.

- ✓ With IFC status, IREDA will keep contributing towards the government target of 500 GW installed capacity of non-fossil fuels by 2030.

Daily UPI transactions jump 50% to 36 crore: RBI

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India governor Shaktikanta Das said payments through UPI (unified payment interface) have grown exponentially in the past 12 months with daily transactions crossing 36 crore, which is up 50 per cent from 24 crore in February 2022.
- ✓ In value terms, these transactions are worth Rs 6.27 lakh crore, registering a growth of 17 per cent from Rs 5.36 lakh crore in February 2022, the governor told reporters while launching the Digital Payments Awareness Week at the RBI headquarters. He also said the overall monthly digital payment transactions crossed over Rs 1,000-crore-mark each month during the past three months.

RBI launches mission to make every citizen a user of digital payment

- ✓ While digital payments have skyrocketed during the past few years, a significant portion of the population still does not use digital payments for day-to-day transactions. In order to bridge this gap, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das launched a mission — “Har Payment Digital” – with the aim of making every citizen in the country a user of digital payments as part of Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW) 2023.
- ✓ The central bank will launch “Har Payment Digital” (HPD) mission that would run till the period of Vision 2025, with an intention to convert the non-users into users of digital payments. Vision 2025 has its theme as “E-Payments for Everyone, Everywhere and Everytime”.
- ✓ RBI in collaboration with the banks and other stakeholders of the payment systems will carry out a multimodal campaign covering print, television, radio and social media during the week around the theme — “Adopt digital payments and Teach others also”.

RBI imposes restrictions on Musiri Urban Co-operative Bank

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India imposed a Rs 5,000 cap on withdrawals by individual customers from Tamil Nadu-based Musiri Urban Co-operative Bank as part of several restrictions slapped on the lender due to its deteriorating financial condition.
- ✓ The restrictions on the lender will remain in force for six months from the close of business on March 3 and are subject to review, the RBI said in a statement. With curbs in place, the cooperative bank, without approval of the RBI, cannot grant loans, make any investment, and disburse any payment. The lender cannot also dispose of any of its properties, among others.
- ✓ The RBI, however, said the directions should not per se be construed as cancellation of the banking licence.

RBI's new pilot project on coin vending machines

- ✓ Recently, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had stated during the most recent Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) address that the apex banking regulator, in collaboration with banks, would launch a pilot project to evaluate the operation of a QR-code based coin vending machine.
- ✓ The vending machines would dispense coins, with the appropriate amount debited from the customer's account via the United Payments Interface (UPI), instead of physically tendering banknotes.
- ✓ The pilot project is planned to be initially rolled out at 19 locations in 12 cities across the country. These vending machines are intended to be installed at public places such as railway stations, shopping malls, and marketplaces to enhance ease and accessibility.

RBI's March 2023 Monthly Bulletin: India Possess Strong Recovery Post Pandemic; Outward remittances in April-January FY23 Surpass FY22

- ✓ According to the State of the Economy report released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's recovery from the pandemic has been more robust than initially expected, with a consistent

build-up of momentum from Q2FY23. The RBI's nowcast model projects real GDP growth for the Q4 FY23 at 5.3%.

- ✓ On the other hand, global growth is set to slow down or even enter a recession in 2023.
- ✓ Outward remittances under the RBI's liberalized remittance scheme (LRS) stood at \$22.08 billion during the April 2022–January 2023 period, surpassing the all-time high of \$19.61 billion in FY22.
- ✓ In January 2023, the amount remitted overseas totalled \$2.72 billion. This is the highest amount remitted under the scheme in a month during FY23. On a year-on-year (YoY) basis, these were up 35.17%.

RBI infuses Rs 82,650 crore into Banking System via VRR Auction

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) infused liquidity amounting to Rs. 82,650 crore into the banking system through a 14-day Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auction.
- ✓ Under the VRR auction, Banks borrowed Rs. 82,650 crore against the announced Rs. 1 lakh crore (USD 12.19 billion) at a weighted average rate of 6.53%.

RBI Released Data on the Performance of the Private Corporate Sector in Q3 FY23

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released data on the performance of the private corporate sector during the third quarter of 2022-23 (i.e., Q3 FY23).
- ✓ The year-on-year (y-o-y) sales growth of listed private non-financial companies moderated to 12.7% in Q3 FY23 from 22.6 % in Q2 FY23.
- ✓ Considering the deteriorating financial condition of Musiri Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., Musiri, Tamil Nadu, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a Rs 5,000 cap on withdrawals by individual customers.

RBI launched March 2023 round of its 2 Surveys – IESH & CCS to gather 'Useful Inputs' for its Monetary Policy

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched the March 2023 round of its 2 surveys: Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH), and Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS). Data gathered from these surveys, which are regularly done by RBI, will provide useful inputs for RBI's monetary policy.
- ✓ RBI launched the March 2023 round of IESH whose purpose is to determine the inflation expectations of households across the following 19 cities:
- ✓ Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Bengaluru (Karnataka), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Bhubaneswar (Odisha), Chandigarh, Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Delhi, Guwahati (Assam), Hyderabad (Telangana), Jaipur (Rajasthan), Jammu (Jammu & Kashmir), Kolkata (West Bengal), Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), Mumbai (Maharashtra), Nagpur ((Maharashtra), Patna (Bihar), Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Ranchi Jharkhand) and Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)'.

RBI Foundation Day 2023 observed on 1st April

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was established on April 1, 1935, in accordance with the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- ✓ The Central Office of the RBI, initially set up in Kolkata, was permanently moved to Mumbai in 1937.
- ✓ Sir Osborne Smith the first Governor of the Bank. The Bank was constituted as a shareholders' bank. The RBI is the central bank of India and is responsible for regulating the country's monetary and credit system. It is also responsible for issuing currency and managing the country's foreign exchange reserves.
- ✓ The RBI works closely with the government of India to formulate and implement monetary and fiscal policies that promote economic growth and stability. It was set up as a private shareholder's bank with a capital of Rs. 5 crores.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ISRO launches LVM3-M3/OneWeb India-2 Mission in Sriharikota

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched its heaviest rocket, LVM3, for the sixth consecutive time from the Sriharikota spaceport. The rocket successfully placed 36 satellites belonging to the UK-based OneWeb group company into their intended orbits.
- ✓ The launch took place at 9 a.m. from the second launch pad situated approximately 135 kilometres away from Chennai, following a 24.5-hour countdown.
- ✓ This marks the 18th launch for the OneWeb Group, while it is ISRO's second mission of 2023, with the SSLV/D2-EOS07 mission in February being the first.
- ✓ As per the contract signed between ISRO's commercial arm NSIL and OneWeb, a total of 72 satellites are set to be launched in two phases. The first phase, which included 36 satellites, was successfully launched on October 23, 2022, in the LVM3-M2/OneWeb India-1 mission.
- ✓ The OneWeb Constellation operates in a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) Polar Orbit, where the satellites are arranged in 12 rings, also known as orbital planes.
- ✓ Each orbital plane consists of 49 satellites, and they are inclined to be near-polar at an inclination of 87.9 degrees.
- ✓ The satellites are placed at an altitude of 1200 km above the Earth's surface, and each satellite completes a full trip around the Earth every 109 minutes.



NASA to send 4 humans to live on Mars from June 2023

- ✓ This summer, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is preparing four individuals to live on Mars on June 2023.
- ✓ The four "Martians" will be a part of NASA's human exploration trip on Mars, even though the American space agency has long sought to send

humans to the neighbouring planet. Also, NASA has sending satellites, the InSight lander, a rover mission with the Perseverance rover, the Ingenuity small robotic helicopter, and related delivery systems, all of which are intended to provide the Red Planet with its first comprehensive examination.

- ✓ The four volunteers are a part of a 12-month project to get people ready for visiting Mars. When humans eventually land on Mars, they will do so in a habitat that replicates the circumstances there.

ISRO Receives NISAR Satellite, Jointly Developed by NASA & ISRO

- ✓ NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) (NISAR), an Earth-observation satellite, was handed over to the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) from National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), California, United States of America(USA).
- ✓ NISAR, Earth-observing mission, was jointly developed by NASA and ISRO.
- ✓ NISAR will observe Earth's land and ice-covered surfaces with 12-day regularity on ascending and descending passes, sampling Earth on average every 6 days for a baseline 3-year mission.
- ✓ NASA: Administrator– Bill Nelson; HQ– Washington, D.C., USA

SpaceX launches 40 OneWeb internet satellites, lands rocket

- ✓ SpaceX launched a Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station with 40 more internet satellites for rival OneWeb, followed by the landing of the rocket's first stage booster back at the Florida spaceport.
- ✓ The two-stage Falcon 9 lifted off from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida



GPT-4, a new generation of AI language model announced by OpenAI

- ✓ GPT4, the most recent release of OpenAI's large language model, which powers popular apps like ChatGPT and the new Bing, has been announced. According to San Francisco-based research company OpenAI, GPT-4 is more advanced than the previous version and has been trained on more data, costing more to operate.
- ✓ GPT-4 may produce analyses, classifications, and captions. Additionally, GPT-4 can handle 25,000 words of text, allowing for prolonged chats, content creation, and document search and analysis.
- ✓ As per the company GPT4 "can tackle challenging issues with better accuracy" and is "more creative and collaborative than ever before."

Exostoma Dhritiae: ZSI Scientists discovered a New Catfish Species in Arunachal Pradesh

- ✓ Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) Scientists have discovered a new species of sisorid catfish named "Exostoma Dhritiae" in Siking stream, a tributary of the Siang river in the Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ The new species is named after Dhriti Banerjee, the 1st woman director of the ZSI, as a tribute to her contribution to research on the fauna of India.
- ✓ It is a small fish found in streams in hills and locally called "Ngorang" by local tribals.

ISRO successfully carries out Controlled Re-Entry Experiment of MT-1 Satellite

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully carried out an extremely challenging controlled re-entry experiment of the decommissioned orbiting Megha-Tropiques-1 (MT-1) satellite in an uninhabited area in the Pacific Ocean between 5 degrees south(°S) to 14°S latitude and 119° West(W) to 100°W longitude.
- ✓ It was carried out from the Mission Operations Complex in ISTRAC (ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network), Bengaluru (Karnataka).

- ✓ The United Nations (UN)/Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) space debris mitigation guidelines recommend deorbiting a LEO (Low Earth Orbit) object at its end-of-life, preferably through controlled re-entry to a safe impact zone, or by bringing it to an orbit where the orbital lifetime is less than 25 years.
- ✓ ISRO: Chairman– S. Somanath; HQ– Bengaluru, Karnataka; Establishment– 1969.

DRDO conducted Successful Flight Tests of VSHORADS and PTO Shaft

- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted two consecutive successful flight tests of Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile at the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha.
- ✓ Based on the SA-18 Grouse MANPADS (Man-Portable Air Defense System) developed by Russia, VSHORADS's purpose is to neutralize low-altitude aerial threats at short ranges. It has been designed and developed indigenously by Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad (Telangana) in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and Indian Industry Partners.
- ✓ DRDO also successfully conducted a maiden flight-test of the Power Take off (PTO) Shaft on Light Combat Aircraft (LCA Tejas) Limited Series Production (LSP) -3 aircraft in Bengaluru (Karnataka).

Central Government launches High Price DAM and Surplus Power Portal (PUSHP)

- ✓ The Central Government has launched a High Price Day Ahead Market-HPDAM and Surplus Power Portal (PUSHP) – an initiative to ensure greater availability of power during the peak demand season.
- ✓ The portal was launched by Union Minister Raj Kumar Singh, Ministry of Power at a virtual function in New Delhi, Delhi which was attended by over 200 stakeholders from state governments and the power sector.
- ✓ HP—DAM was part of the overall strategy to ensure that all available power capacity is utilized for supply the power to consumers.

DEFENCE

Defence Ministry inks deal worth over Rs 1,700 crore to boost critical weapon system production

- ✓ The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract worth over Rs 1,700 crore with BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL) for the procurement of Next Generation Maritime Mobile Coastal Batteries (Long range) (NGMMCB-LR) and BrahMos Missiles under the Buy (Indian) Category.
- ✓ Delivery of NGMMCBs equipped with supersonic BrahMos Missiles is expected to start in 2027, and they will significantly improve the Indian Navy's ability to carry out multi-directional maritime strikes.
- ✓ This contract will provide a significant impetus to the domestic production of critical weapons systems and ammunition, with active participation from indigenous industries.

First batch of Agniveers passes out of INS Chilka

- ✓ On a recent occasion, 2,585 Agniveers, including 272 women from the Indian Navy, successfully completed their training at INS Chilka, located in Odisha. The parade was reviewed by the Chief of the Naval Staff, Adm R Hari Kumar, and also attended by PT Usha, a Member of Parliament, and notable sports personality Mithali Raj, along with eminent naval veterans.
- ✓ Khushi Pathania, a 19-year-old from Pathankot, was honored with the General Bipin Rawat Trophy for Best Female Agniveer at the first passing out parade of Agniveers held at INS Chilka. Khushi's grandfather was a Subedar Major, and she is the daughter of a farmer. Additionally, Amalakanti Jayaram was awarded the Chief of the Naval Staff Rolling Trophy and Gold Medal for Best Agniveer SSR, while Ajith P received the same award for the MR category.



- ✓ The Union home ministry has announced a 10 per cent reservation for former Agniveers in vacancies in the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), just after taking a similar initiative for jobs for them in the BSF.

About the 'Agniveer'

- ✓ The "Agnipath" scheme is a defence recruitment initiative in India that aims to reduce the increasing salary and pension expenses by hiring short-term soldiers on a contract basis. These soldiers, known as 'Agniveer', will be initially recruited for four years, after which some of them may be retained. The scheme offers Indian youth an opportunity to serve in the Armed Forces and aims to achieve an optimal balance between youth and experience in the Army. Women will also be recruited into the armed forces under this scheme.

India's Defence Exports to Reach Rs 40,000 Crore by 2026: Rajnath Singh

- ✓ India is set to become a major exporter of defense equipment and materials, with exports projected to be worth Rs 35,000 to Rs 40,000 crore by 2026. The announcement was made by Union minister Rajnath Singh during a speech at Symbiosis International University, where he emphasized the importance of self-reliance and creating an ecosystem that fosters self-confidence.
- ✓ Since adopting the Indianization program, India's defense exports have increased from Rs 900 crore in 2014 to Rs 15,000 crore to Rs 16,000 crore today. Singh expressed his pride in the country's defense forces, which are now meeting 80% of their needs through indigenous procurement.

1st joint Conference of army chiefs of India and African countries

- ✓ The inaugural joint conference between the Indian and African army chiefs is scheduled to take place in Pune, with Defense Minister Rajnath Singh as the guest of honor and Indian Army Chief General Manoj Pandey in attendance. This marks the first-

ever conference of its kind between these nations, with 10 army chiefs and 31 representatives from African countries in attendance. Additionally, an exhibition under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative will be held to showcase defense products and target the African market

A Multi-Domain Exercise Vayu Prahar held at LAC

- ✓ Recently, during the on-going tensions between India and China at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Indian Army and Air Force carried out a 96-hour joint exercise named 'Vayu Prahar' in the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between India and China, eastern region in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ The exercise aimed to develop plans to achieve synergy in multi-domain operations by using air and land forces. It was conducted in the second week of March, and its primary objective was to enhance coordination between the Army and Air Force for effective operations in a multi-domain battlefield.

Defence Ministry Inks Rs 3700 Cr Contracts with BEL for Radars and Receivers

- ✓ The Indian Defence Ministry has recently signed two contracts with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) worth more than Rs 3,700 crore, with the aim to enhance the operational capabilities of the Indian Air Force. Under the Buy Indian – IDMM (Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured) category, both projects are part of the ongoing vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. The first contract, worth over Rs 2,800 crore, involves the supply of Medium Power Radars (MPR) 'Arudhra', which have been designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and will be manufactured by BEL. The second contract, with a cost of approximately Rs 950 crore, relates to Radar Warning Receivers (RWR).
- ✓ The successful trials of the MPR have already been conducted by the Indian Air Force, and the RWR has been designed to enhance the capabilities of Su-30 MKI aircraft. In addition to Radar Warning

Receivers, the projects are aimed at improving the surveillance, detection, tracking, and Electronic Warfare capabilities of the air force.

India and UK'S annual bilateral maritime exercise 'Konkan 2023'

- ✓ The annual bilateral maritime exercise called Konkan 2023 was conducted between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of UK from 20th to 22nd March 2023 off the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea. The Royal Navy is the United Kingdom's naval warfare force.
- ✓ The exercise involved INS Trishul, a guided missile frigate, and HMS Lancaster, a Type 23 guided missile frigate, and aimed to improve cooperation and learn best practices through various maritime drills. These drills covered air, surface, and sub-surface operations, such as gunnery shoots on an inflatable surface target called 'Killer Tomato,' helicopter operations, anti-aircraft, and anti-submarine warfare exercises, Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS), ship manoeuvres, and personnel exchange.



GRSE launched the 'Most Silent Ship' INS Androth

- ✓ Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), a shipbuilding company in India, has launched INS Androth, a vessel claimed to be the "most silent ship in the country" for the Indian Navy.
- ✓ The vessel is the first in a series of eight anti-submarine warfare shallow-watercraft to be delivered to the navy. The ships will be used for patrolling, search and rescue operations, and other military missions.
- ✓ The INS Androth has been designed to accommodate 50 crew members and is equipped with state-of-the-art communication systems, radars, and sonars to detect and track enemy submarines. The ship also features a stealth design that reduces its acoustic signature, making it difficult to detect underwater.
- ✓ The INS Androth, launched by GRSE, is a 77-meter-long, waterjet propelled ASW Shallow water craft that is designed to operate in coastal waters for



anti-submarine operations, mine laying operations, and Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO).

Africa-India field training exercise AFINDEX-23 to be held in Pune

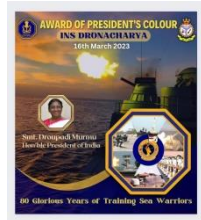
- ✓ The Africa-India Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX-2023) has begun with the participation of 100 participants from 23 African countries, including Botswana, Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Zambia, among others.
- ✓ The exercise aims to improve interoperability and operational readiness for UN peacekeeping missions, and focuses on Humanitarian Mine Action and Peace Keeping Operations.
- ✓ The joint exercise is divided into four phases, including training of trainers, a Humanitarian Mine Action and Peace Keeping Operations Phase, and a validation exercise to assess the results of the training. The exercise seeks to enhance peace and security, exchange ideas, and promote a collaborative approach in capacity enhancement of African armies. Tactical drills, procedures, and the ability to operate jointly with seamless interoperability are the primary focus of the joint exercise.

DRDO organises workshop on 'Human Factors Engineering in Military Platforms'

- ✓ A two-day workshop on "Human Factors Engineering in Military Platforms" was inaugurated by the Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan on March 15 in New Delhi.
- ✓ The workshop is being organized by the Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS), which is a Delhi-based laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ✓ The objective of the workshop is to establish a policy framework and practices that ensure the scientific implementation of Human Factors Engineering (HFE) in the defence sector, thus contributing to the vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat.'
- ✓ HFE is a science that focuses on designing tools and systems that take into account human capabilities and limitations, enabling their safe and effective use.

INS Dronacharya Receives Prestigious President Droupadi Murmu's Colour Award

- ✓ The Indian Navy's top gunnery school, INS Dronacharya, will be presented with the President's Colour in honor of its outstanding services. President Droupadi Murmu will be conferring the award as the highest recognition bestowed upon a unit by the President, who serves as the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, for its exceptional service to the country.



About the INS Dronacharya

- ✓ INS Dronacharya, situated in Kochi, is responsible for providing comprehensive training on gunnery and missile warfare to officers and sailors from the Navy, Coast Guard, and friendly foreign maritime forces. Its primary objective is to equip them with the skills necessary to deliver ordnance on target with precision.
- ✓ In 2004, INS Dronacharya was named the Center for Excellence in gunnery and missile warfare. The unit has a joint affiliation with the Indian Army School of Artillery, fostering a spirit of collaboration. The institution's alumni have demonstrated exceptional courage, dedication, and professionalism in both wartime and peacetime operations, earning them several awards, including one Mahavir Chakra, Kirti Chakra, and Yudh Seva Medal, five Veer Chakra, and seven Shaurya Chakra accolades.

Multi-lateral ASW Exercise 'Sea Dragon 23' organized by the US Navy

- ✓ The Indian Navy deployed a P8I aircraft to Guam, USA, on March 14, 2023, to participate in the third edition of 'Exercise Sea Dragon 23', a coordinated multi-lateral Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) exercise for Long Range MR ASW aircraft organized by the US Navy. The exercise, scheduled from March 15 to March 30, 2023, will focus on coordinated ASW tactics among the participating countries and will involve advanced ASW drills.

Joint India-Singapore exercise 'bold kurukshetra' concludes

- ✓ Operation Bold Kurukshetra, a bilateral armour training exercise, was held from March 6–13, 2023, in Jodhpur Military Station in India. It was the 13th iteration, and the Singapore Army and Indian Army both took part. Both armies participated in the first command post exercise in the series, which included computer wargaming and planning components at the battalion and brigade levels. Participants in the exercise, which was held by the Indian Army, included members of the 42nd Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment, as well as an Indian Army Armoured Brigade.
- ✓ Exercise Bold Kurukshetra is carried out in accordance with the bilateral agreement between the Indian Army and the Singaporean Army for joint army training and exercises. This exercise, which was first carried out in 2005, highlights the long-standing bilateral defence connection between the two nations and strengthens coordination between the two forces.

3rd edition of Exercise La Perouse-2023 begins

- ✓ On March 13 and 14, 2023, the Indian Ocean Area will host the third edition of the multilateral exercise La Perouse. The Royal Australian Navy, French Navy, Indian Navy, Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force, Royal Navy, and United States Navy will all have people, ships, and essential helicopters participating in this event.
- ✓ Every two years exercise La Perouse, an exercise run by the French Navy, aims to improve maritime domain awareness and maritime cooperation among the participating navies in the Indo-Pacific region.

India, France conduct Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX)

- ✓ Indian Navy's indigenously built guided missile frigate, INS Sahyadri participated in a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with French Navy (FN) ships FS Dixmude, a Mistral Class Amphibious Assault Ship and FS La Fayette, a La Fayette Class Frigate, in the Arabian Sea. The

partnership exercise was conducted on March 10-11.

- ✓ According to the Ministry of Defence, the exercise witnessed a wide spectrum of evolutions at sea which included cross-deck landings, boarding exercises and seamanship evolutions. The seamless conduct of the exercise reaffirmed the interoperability and high level of cooperation between the two navies.

Indian Army installed J&K's steep Doda district's tallest iconic national flag



- ✓ In the rugged Doda area of Jammu & Kashmir, the Army erected the tallest "Iconic National Banner". The highest tricolour in the Doda district, which has been erected on a 100-foot pole, was unfurled by Maj Gen Ajay Kumar, GOC Delta Force, Commander 9 Sector RR Brig. Samir K. Palande, DC Doda Vishesh Paul Mahajan, and SSP Abdul Qayoom.
- ✓ The raising of the nation's flag on a 100-foot pole, the first of its type in the Doda district, is a moment of pride for all of the area's citizens, not just the Army.

Indian Navy gets first-ever privately made indigenized fuze of Anti-Submarine Warfare rocket

- ✓ In what is being seen as a major success for the "Make in India" initiative in defence sector, the Indian Navy has received a fully indigenised fuze for an anti-submarine warfare (ASW) underwater rocket, manufactured for the first time by a private Indian industry. This would be the first time the Indian Navy has placed a supply order for underwater ammunition fuzes with an Indian private sector industry.
- ✓ This marks the first time that the Indian Navy has procured an underwater ammunition fuze from an Indian private manufacturer. It is a major boost for the self-reliance of the Indian defence sector. The use of simulated dynamic trial facilities during the development and manufacturing process is also a noteworthy achievement.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Luis Caffarelli won the 2023 Abel Prize

- ✓ Luis Caffarelli, 74, has won the 2023 Abel Prize “for his seminal contributions to regularity theory for nonlinear partial differential equations including free-boundary problems and the Monge-Ampère equation”.



The prize includes a monetary award of 7.5 million kroner (roughly \$ 720,000) and a glass plaque designed by Norwegian artist Henrik Haugan. It is awarded by The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, on behalf of the Ministry of Education.

About Abel Prize

- ✓ The Abel Prize is an international mathematics award, often considered to be the equivalent of the Nobel Prize for mathematics. It is named after the Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel, and was first awarded in 2003 by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. The prize recognizes exceptional contributions to the field of mathematics, including pure and applied mathematics, and is open to mathematicians from any country. The award comes with a monetary prize of 7.5 million Norwegian kroner (roughly \$720,000) and is presented annually in Oslo, Norway

NGO from Assam honoured with Children’s Champion Award

- ✓ Tapoban, an NGO based in Pathsala, Assam, which focuses on supporting children with special needs and autism, has been honored with the prestigious Children’s Champion Award 2023 in the health and nutrition category. This award is presented by the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights and acknowledges individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the welfare of children in various areas such as education, justice, health, nutrition, sports, and creative arts.

- ✓ In 2022, the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights launched the Children’s Champion Award to honour people and organizations who have made significant contributions to children’s education, health, nutrition, justice, sports, and artistic expression.

Kashmir’s Aliya Mir honoured with Wildlife Conservation Award 2023

- ✓ The Union Territory has awarded wildlife conservationist Aliya Mir for her exceptional efforts in conservation. Aliya is the first woman from Jammu and Kashmir to work for Wildlife SOS and is the first woman in the region to receive this honour. She received the award from Lt. Manoj Sinha at the World Forestry Day celebrations hosted by the Jammu and Kashmir Collective Forests. Aliya was recognized for her remarkable contributions to wildlife conservation, including rescuing and releasing wild animals, caring for injured animals, and saving bears in Kashmir.



Bombay Jayashri chosen for Sangita Kalanidhi Award 2023 by Music Academy

- ✓ The Music Academy has announced that the Sangita Kalanidhi award for 2023 will be presented to Bombay Jayashri, a Padma Shri awardee and renowned Carnatic vocalist. According to the Academy’s press release, Jayashri is considered as one of the leading Carnatic musicians of the present time. She received her initial training in Carnatic music from her parents and later studied under TR Balamani and Lalgudi G Jayaraman, a celebrated violin maestro. In addition to Carnatic music, Jayashri has also received training in Hindustani music, classical dance, and the veena.



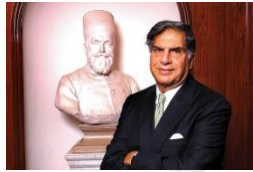
About Sangita Kalanidhi award

- ✓ It is considered the highest award in the field of Carnatic music.

- ✓ The award is conferred by the Madras Music Academy.
- ✓ The award comprises a gold medal and a birudu patra (citation).
- ✓ It is a landmark institution in the history of the fine arts. It emerged as an offshoot of the All India Congress Session held in Madras in December 1927.

Indian Industrialist Shri Ratan Tata appointed in 'Order of Australia' for distinguished service

- ✓ Ratan Tata, an Indian industrialist and philanthropist, has been named an Honorary Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO) for his outstanding contributions to the Australia-India bilateral relationship, specifically in the areas of trade, investment, and philanthropy. The announcement was made by Australia's Governor-General, following a recommendation by Australia's High Commissioner to India, Barry O'Farrell.
- ✓ Ratan Tata has played a crucial role in promoting and strengthening the relationship between Australia and India, demonstrating significant influence in this regard. He has been a vocal proponent of the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement, which was successfully concluded in 2022, and has lent his support to various delegations of business and government officials visiting India.



Renowned tamil writer Sivasankari honored with Saraswati Samman 2022

- ✓ The KK Birla Foundation has announced that Tamil writer Sivasankari will be the recipient of the prestigious Saraswati Samman award for the year 2022, for her 2019 memoir, Surya Vamsam. This award is one of the most esteemed recognitions in Indian literature, and comes with a cash prize of Rs 15 lakh, a plaque, and a citation.



- ✓ Sivasankari is a prolific writer with a career spanning over 50 years, during which she has written 36 novels, 48 novellas, 150 short stories, 15 travelogues, seven collections of essays, and three biographies, including one on former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Her literary contributions have been widely recognized, and her works have been translated into several Indian languages, as well as English, Japanese, and Ukrainian.

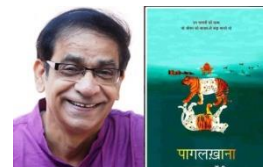
RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das Named 'Governor of the Year' by Central Banking

- ✓ Shaktikanta Das, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, has been honored with the title "Governor of the Year" for 2023 by Central Banking, an international economic research journal. The publication praised Das for his steady leadership during challenging periods, including the collapse of a significant non-banking company, the initial and second waves of the COVID-19 pandemic, and inflationary pressures due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- ✓ This is the second time an Indian central bank governor has received the award, with Raghuram Rajan being the previous recipient in 2015. Das's leadership at RBI was critical in implementing essential reforms, innovative payment systems, and growth-oriented measures during the pandemic. He skillfully navigated political pressures and economic crises, earning accolades for his efforts.



Vyas Samman 2022: Gyan Chaturvedi to be awarded for 'Pagalkhana'

- ✓ Vyas Samman 2022: Pagalkhana, a 2018 satirical novel by renowned Hindi author Dr. Gyan Chaturvedi, has been chosen for the 32nd Vyas Samman. Dr. Chaturvedi's Pagalkhana (mental hospital) was chosen for the prestigious Vyas Samman by a selection committee led by distinguished author Prof. Ramji Tiwari.



- ✓ The KK Birla Foundation founded the annual Vyas Samman in 1991, which is awarded to a superb piece of Hindi literature authored by an Indian citizen and published within the previous ten years.

India received Golden & Silver Star at 'Golden City Gate Tourism Awards

- ✓ The International Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2023 in the categories of "TV/Cinema Commercials International and Country International" were won by the Indian Ministry of Tourism and Government of India, respectively. As part of



a global effort on advertising in the post-Covid period to reopen opportunities in India, the award has been granted to promotional films/television ads made by the Ministry. On March 8, 2023, at ITB, Berlin, Shri Arvind Singh, Secretary (Tourism), Government of India, accepted the honours.

- ✓ Each year, the tourism and hospitality industries compete for the Golden City Gate Tourism Multi-Media Awards in a number of categories. The "Golden City Gate" is an international creative multi-media competition for nations, cities, regions, and hotels. An international panel made up of professionals in the film and tourism industries judges the submissions submitted for the prizes. The premier tourism trade show in the world, ITB Berlin, is the location of the yearly award presentation

Sir David Chipperfield Selected as the 2023 Laureate of the Pritzker Architecture Prize

- ✓ Civic architect, urban planner and activist, Sir David Alan Chipperfield has been selected as the 2023 Laureate of The Pritzker Architecture Prize, the award that is regarded internationally as architecture's highest honor. Chipperfield's storied career spans more than 40 years and includes 100-plus projects,



ranging from civic, cultural, and academic buildings to residences and urban masterplanning throughout Asia, Europe, and North America. His built works, spanning over four decades, are expansive in typology and geography, including over one hundred works ranging from civic, cultural and academic buildings to residences and urban masterplanning throughout Asia, Europe and North America.

8th National Photography Awards

- ✓ Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Dr L. Murugan presented the 8th National Photography awards in New Delhi. A total of thirteen awards were presented during the ceremony today including 6 each in the Professional and Amateur category. The theme for the Professional category was "Life and Water", while in the Amateur category the theme was "Cultural Heritage of India".



BHEL wins CBIP Award 2022 for 'Best Contribution in Solar Energy'

- ✓ CBIP award 2022: Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has been awarded the Central Board Of Irrigation And Power (CBIP) Award 2022 for 'Best Contribution in Solar Energy'. The award was received by Dr. Nalin Shinghal, CMD, BHEL, along with Ms. Renuka Gera, Director (IS&P), BHEL from Sh. R.K. Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy, on CBIP Day. CBIP awards are conferred for outstanding contribution to the development of water, power and renewable energy sectors.



Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023 organized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti

- ✓ The "Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023", organized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti to honour the women champions of rural water and sanitation sector, was graced by the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu.

- ✓ This event organized in the run up to the International Women's Day, was to felicitate the exceptional and exemplary work being done at the grassroots level by women in the implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission – Grameen (SBM-G), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA-CTR).
- ✓ 36 women WASH Champions were conferred with the 'Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023' by the President of India and Union Minister of Jal Shakti.
- ✓ The event also saw the launch of Jal Shakti Abhiyan – Catch the Rain 2023 and release of National Water Mission's (NWM) SoPs on Source Sustainability by Minister of Jal Shakti Sh. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. Union Minister also presented President with the first copy of the 'Swachh Sujal Shakti Ki Abhivyakti' – a compendium of case stories from SBM (G), JJM and NWM. **The theme is 'Source Sustainability for Drinking Water'**



13th Annual Aegis Graham Bell Awards: Hello Ujjivan app wins 'Innovation in Consumer Tech'

- ✓ Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited has been honoured with the 'Innovation in Consumer Tech' award at the 13th Aegis Graham Bell Awards (AGBA) for its Hello Ujjivan app, India's 1st visual- voice-vernacular banking app.
- ✓ The 13th edition of the annual Aegis Graham Bell Awards is supported by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology; NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) and Skill India. Click here for the finalists and winners of the 13th Aegis Graham Bell Awards
- ✓ Hello Ujjivan, co-created with Navana.AI, is available in 8 regional languages, including Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Tamil, Gujarati, Kannada, Oriya, and Assamese.
- ✓ Ujjivan Small Finance Bank: MD) &
- ✓ CEO- Ittira Davis; HQ- Bengaluru,
- ✓ Karnataka; Establishment- 2017

Bengaluru honoured with 2023 Partnership for Healthy Cities Award for Tobacco Control Efforts

- ✓ Bengaluru (Karnataka) was honoured with the 2023 Partnership for Healthy Cities Award, along with Montevideo, Uruguay; Mexico City, Mexico; Vancouver, Canada; and Athens, Greece at the inaugural Partnership for Healthy Cities Summit held in London, United Kingdom (UK).
- ✓ The summit was convened by Bloomberg Philanthropies, the World Health Organization (WHO), Vital Strategies, and Mayor Sadiq Khan of London.

Delhi Airport Named One of the Best & Cleanest Airports in Asia Pacific: 2022 ASQ Awards

- ✓ Airports Council International (ACI) announced the winners of this 2022 Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards recognizing the best airports for customer experience worldwide. Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) – Delhi Airport, has been adjudged as one of the Best and Cleanest Airports in the Asia Pacific region.
- ✓ IGIA operated by Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), a consortium of the GMR Group won the 2022 ASQ award under Best Airports by Size and Region – Over 40 million passengers per year. The airport has also won the 2022 ASQ award under Cleanest Airport (Asia Pacific Region) category
- ✓ Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (Mumbai, Maharashtra) has also won the award under Best Airports by Size and Region – Over 40 million passengers per year.

Sashidhar Jagdishan MD & CEO of HDFC Bank named "BS Banker of the Year 2022"

- ✓ Sashidhar Jagdishan, Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of HDFC Bank (since October 2020), has been named the Business Standard (BS) Banker of the Year 2022, due to his successful navigation of technology-related challenges while maintaining the bank's strong performance.

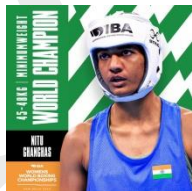
SPORTS

2023 IBA Women's World Boxing Championships: India Proud Moment, Four Female Boxers Win Gold Medals

- ✓ At the IBA Women's World Boxing Championship 2023, Nikhat Zareen, Lovlina Borgohain, Saweety Boora and Nitu Ghanghas flourished with their gold medals. All these four women from India took the honours in their respective bouts.
- ✓ India shines at the 13th edition of the IBA Women's World Boxing Championship 2023 held in New Delhi. The competition concluded with 4 female winners who nailed to grab the gold medals in different categories.
- ✓ India's leading pugilists topped the show in their sessions and with this, India made the greatest victory in the history of boxing competitions. For the second time, this ground-breaking record has been achieved as the 2006 event was also a powerful performance.
- ✓ Now, this time it was a roaring success for the nation in the 13th edition of the Women's World Boxing Championship 2023 organised by the International Boxing Association (IBA). The tournament was scheduled between March 15 to March 26, 2023.

Nitu Ghanghas - 48 kg Category

- ✓ Commonwealth Games Winner Nitu Ghanghas got the first gold medal for India at the World Boxing Tournament. She secured the top position after striking Mongolia's Lutsaikhan Altantsetseg in the 45-48 kg category finals. Nitu began the opening round and kept her upper-hand attack throughout the initial 3 minutes.



Saweety Boora - 81 kg Category



- ✓ Saweety won the gold medal in the 75-81 kg category in the final match performed against China's Wang Lina. Saweety wins gold by a split decision of 4-3.

She made it to the silver medal 9 years ago and this time this 30-year-old hailing from Haryana made complete efforts to win the gold.

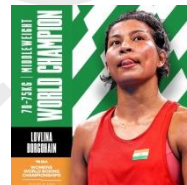
Nikhat Zareen - 50 kg Category

- ✓ Nikhat Zareen marked a stellar show in competence with Vietnam's Nguyen Thi Tam to win her second World Championship gold. Nikhat is a previous gold winner in the 52 kg category. This time, she got highlighted in the 48-50 kg weight category in the 2023 13th edition. Thi Tam is the first Vietnamese boxer to have attained the final level in the World Championship 2023.
- ✓ Nikhat has become only the 2nd Indian female boxer after Mary Kom to win multiple gold medals at the IBA Women's World Championships. Mary, who won the Olympics Bronze in London, scripted history by winning 6 World Championships gold medals with her last coming in New Delhi in 2018.



Lovlina Borgohain - 75 kg Category

- ✓ Tokyo Olympic bronze medalist Lovlina Borgohain marked her win over Australia's Caitlin Anne Parker by a 5-2 split. This is India's fourth and final gold at the competition. She exhibited a gallant show in the 70-75kg category. This is her first gold medal at the competition after she made a glorious show by acquiring bronze in the 2018 and 2019 editions.



MC Mary Kom, Farhan Akhtar named brand ambassadors

- ✓ Mahindra has been named the title sponsor of this competition by the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), while MC Mary Kom and Bollywood actor Farhan Akhtar have been named as brand ambassadors. The third time in history, India is serving as the host country. The BFI's goal of promoting female boxing involvement will be greatly enhanced by the appearance of Marykom and Bollywood superstar Farhan Akhtar.

Mumbai Indians wins inaugural WPL 2023 tittle, beat Delhi Capitals by 7 wickets in the final

✓ In the Women’s Premier League (WPL) 2023 final, held at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai, the Mumbai Indians won against the Delhi Capitals by seven wickets. The Delhi Capitals chose to bat first after winning the toss, and set a target of 132 runs. In response, the Mumbai Indians achieved the target by scoring 134/3 in 19.3 overs. Nat Sciver-Brunt played exceptionally well and remained unbeaten after scoring 60 runs off 55 balls, while the team’s captain Harmanpreet Kaur contributed 37 runs off 39 balls. The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side scripted history by becoming the winners of the 2023 edition of the tournament.



WPL 2023: Full list of award winners

| Awards | Player/Team |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Orange Cap (Most Runs) | Meg Lanning, Delhi Capitals. |
| Purple Cap (Most Wickets) | Hayley Matthews, Mumbai Indians |
| Most Valuable Player | Hayley Matthews, Mumbai Indians |
| Best Catch of the Season | Harmanpreet Kaur, Mumbai Indians |
| Fair Play Award | Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals (Shared) |
| Emerging Player of the Season | Yastika Bhatia, Mumbai Indians |
| Power Striker of the Tournament | Sophie Devine, Royal Challengers Bangalore |
| Player of the Match in Final | Natalie Sciver, Mumbai Indians |

IPL India’s first unicorn with a \$1.1 billion valuation: D&P report

✓ D&P Advisory has analyzed the Indian Premier League (IPL) and reported that the cricket tournament was India’s first unicorn, with a

valuation of \$1.1 billion in 2008, the year it was launched. The advisory had previously announced that IPL had become a decacorn (valued at \$10.9 billion) recently. D&P Advisory is now preparing to publish a new analysis called “IPL: The Pioneer of Indian Unicorns.”

- ✓ According to the report, the value of the IPL has consistently grown over the years due to the increasing fees for broadcast and sponsorships. In 2009, the league’s value rose to \$1.7 billion, and in 2010 it increased even further to \$2.2 billion when it had 60 matches.
- ✓ The league’s value continued to rise in 2011 when the number of matches increased to 74, reaching a valuation of \$2.7 billion.

Sergio Pérez wins Saudi Arabia Grand Prix 2023

- ✓ At the Saudi Arabia Grand Prix of the 2023 Formula One season, Sergio Perez displayed a dominant performance and earned his first win. His teammate at Red Bull, Max Verstappen, secured the second position after starting from the 15th spot. Although Verstappen retained his lead in the championship standings with his fastest lap, Fernando Alonso was the focus of the battle for the final podium spot, finishing in third place.



Tennis: BNP Paribas Open 2023: Carlos Alcaraz wins Singles Title & Reclaimed world No 1 ranking

- ✓ Carlos Alcaraz (19 years old) of Spain defeated Daniil Medvedev (27 years old) of Russia by 6-3 6-2 to win the Men's Singles title at BNP Paribas Open 2023 (also known as Indian Wells Masters). He regained the World’s No 1 rank in the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) rankings that he lost to Novak Djokovic (Serbia) in January 2023.
- ✓ BNP Paribas Open 2023 was held from 8th to 19th March 2023 in Indian Wells Tennis Garden, Indian Wells, California, United States of America(USA).
- ✓ This marks Carlos’s maiden BNP Paribas Open title and his 3rd Masters 1000 title.

- ✓ He joined Rafael Nadal of Spain as the player to win at least three Masters titles as a teenager. Nadal won 6 Masters titles before turning 20.
- ✓ Rohan Bopanna, a 43-year-old Indian tennis player, and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden have become the oldest duo to win an ATP Masters 1000 title. They won the men's doubles final at the Indian Wells Masters 2023 tournament in California by defeating the top-seeded team of Wesley Koolhof and Neil Skupski. Bopanna and Ebden won the first set 6-3 but lost the second set 2-6. However, they managed to win the match by clinching the deciding tie-breaker 10-8.



Winners & Runners of BNP Paribas Open 2023

| Category | Winners | Runners |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Men's Singles | Carlos Alcaraz (Spain) | Daniil Medvedev (Russia) |
| Men's Doubles | Rohan Bopanna (India) and Matthew Ebden (Australia) | Wesley Koolhof (Netherlands) and Neal Skupski (UK) |
| Women's Singles | Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan) | Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus) |
| Women's Doubles | Barbora Krejčíková and Kateřina Siniaková (Czech Republic) | Beatriz Haddad Maia (Brazil) and Laura Siegemund (Germany) |

Stadium named after hockey star Rani Rampal, first woman to get this honour

- ✓ Rani Rampal, a prominent player on the Indian hockey team, has achieved a significant milestone as the first woman in the sport to have a stadium named after her. The MCF Rae Bareilly has renamed the hockey stadium to 'Rani's Girls Hockey Turf' in her honor.
- ✓ Earlier this year, Rani Rampal made a successful comeback to the Indian hockey team during the tour



of South Africa, where she was selected as one of the 22 players in the squad.

- ✓ Prior to this, she had last played for India in the FIH Women's Hockey Pro League 2021-22 against Belgium, where she earned her 250th cap.
- ✓ After struggling with injuries since the Tokyo Olympics, the 28-year-old player was left out of both the 2022 World Cup and Commonwealth Games squads. However, she is now making a return to international hockey and has been included in the 22-member squad.

Pankaj Advani retains Asian Billiards title defeating Damani

- ✓ Pankaj Advani, the Indian cue sports champion, has retained his Asian Billiards title in the 100-up format after defeating his compatriot Brijesh Damani 5-1 in the final held at Qatar Billiards and Snooker Federation (QBSF) Academy. Advani, who has won the International Billiards and Snooker Federation (IBSF) world championship 25 times, won the match with a scoreline of 100(51)-18, 100(88)-9, 86(54)-101(75), 100-26, 100(66)-2, 101(64)-59.
- ✓ In the women's category, Bai Yulu of China defeated Panchaya Channoi from Thailand 3-0 in the final. This is Advani's eighth Asian Billiards title, and he has previously received the Arjuna Award in 2004, Major Dhyani Chand Khel Ratna in 2006, Padma Shri in 2009, and Padma Bhushan in 2018. He had won the same title in Doha last year

Former Australian test cricket captain Tim Paine announced his retirement

- ✓ Tim Paine, the former captain of the Australian test cricket team, has announced his retirement from cricket after playing his last Sheffield Shield first-class match for Tasmania against Queensland. Paine led the Australian team in 23 tests from 2018 to 2021 and played a total of 35 tests in his career. He took over as captain after Steve Smith was stripped of the role following the ball-tampering scandal during Australia's 2018 tour of South Africa.

Irani Cup 2022-23 final: Rest of India crowned champions

- ✓ In the final of the Irani Cup 2022/23, Team Rest of India secured their 30th title win in the Indian domestic tournament, continuing their dominant performance. They defeated Madhya Pradesh by 238 runs. Yashasvi Jaiswal, who showcased brilliant batting skills across both innings, was adjudged the Player of the Match. He smashed a double century and a century in the two innings, contributing significantly to ROI's victory.
- ✓ The Irani Cup, named after the late Z. R. Irani, was introduced in 1959-60 and is a traditional five-day match played between the Ranji Trophy winners and a Rest of India team. It is considered one of the most prestigious domestic cricket tournaments in India



FIFA president Gianni Infantino re-elected for another term

- ✓ Gianni Infantino was re-elected as FIFA president until 2027 by acclamation, after highlighting his strong financial performance as a reason for keeping a CEO in their position for life.
- ✓ The decision was made by the congress of 211 member federations, who have seen their annual funding from FIFA increase from \$250,000 to \$2 million since Infantino's first win in 2016. Following the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, FIFA now has \$4 billion in reserves, and it conservatively predicts a record revenue of at least \$11 billion from the 2026 men's World Cup, which will be hosted in North America.



Karnataka end 54-year wait, wins Santosh Trophy

- ✓ Karnataka ended their 54-year wait to win the Santosh Trophy national football championship, beating Meghalaya 3-2 in a pulsating final at the King Fahd International Stadium in the Saudi Arabia



capital. Services beat Punjab 2-0 in the playoff to finish third. PP Shafeel and Christopher Kamei scored in either half. Services, winners of five of the last 10 editions, took the lead in the seventh minute through a strike from distance by Shafeel before Kamei converted a left-footed attempt from outside the box.

- ✓ The National Football Championship for Hero Santosh Trophy, due to sponsorship ties with Hero MotoCorp also known as the Hero National Football Championship, or simply Santosh Trophy, is a state-level national football competition contested by the state associations and government institutions under the All India Football Federation (AIFF), the sport's governing body in India.

Hero ISL 2022-2023: ATK Mohun Bagan beats Bengaluru FC and won its 1st ISL Title

- ✓ ATK Mohun Bagan (ATKMB) Football Club(FC) captained by Pritam Kotal, won their first Indian Super League (ISL) title by defeating Bengaluru FC captained by Sunil Chhetri in the finals of Hero Indian Super League (ISL) 2022-23 held in Jawaharlal Nehru stadium in Margoa, Goa.

Individual & Team Award Winners from Hero ISL 2022-23 Season

- Hero of the League :Lallianzuala Chhangte (Mumbai City FC)
- Golden Boot: Diego Mauricio (Odisha FC)
- Jindal Panther Golden Glove: Vishal Kaith (ATK Mohun Bagan)
- Emerging Player of the League: Sivasakthi Narayanan (Bengaluru FC)
- KFC Street Baller of League: Noah Sadaoui (FC Goa)
- Best Pitch: Kerala Blasters FC
- Grassroots Award: Bengaluru FC, FC Goa

YONEX All England Open

Badminton Championships 2023

- ✓ The YONEX All England Open Badminton Championships 2023 (2023 All England Open), was held in Utilita Arena Birmingham, United Kingdom (UK), from March 14-19, 2023.
- ✓ YONEX All England Open Badminton Championships 2023 is the 113th edition of the All

England Open Badminton Championships, the world's oldest and most prestigious badminton tournament.

- ✓ The tournament was organized by Badminton England and sanctioned by the Badminton World Federation(BWF).

Winners & Runners of England Open 2023

| Category | Winners | Runners |
|-----------------|---|--|
| Men's Singles | Li Shi Feng (China) | Shi Yu Qi (China) |
| Men's Doubles | Fajar Alfian (Indonesia) and Muhammad Rian Ardianto (Indonesia) | Mohammad Ahsan (Indonesia) and Hendra Setiawan (Indonesia) |
| Women's Singles | An Se Young (South Korea) | Chen Yu Fei (China) |
| Women's Doubles | Kim So Yeong (South Korea) and Kong Hee Yong (South Korea) | Lee So Hee (South Korea) and Seo Seung Jae (South Korea) |

2023 Taoyuan Archery Asia Cup Stage I: India tops medal tally with 10 medals

- ✓ The Indian archers' team topped the '2023 Archery Asia Cup Stage I' medal tally with 10 medals – five gold, four silver and one bronze.
- ✓ The 2023 Taoyuan Archery Asia Cup Stage I was held from March 14 – 19, 2023, in Taoyuan, Chinese Taipei.
- ✓ Taipei (2 Gold) and Kazakhstan (1 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze) finished second and third in the medal tally.

Mirabai Chanu won BBC Indian Sportswoman of The Year for 2022

- ✓ Tokyo Olympic Games silver-medallist weightlifter Mirabai Chanu has bagged the 2022 'BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year' award after a public vote. The 28-year-old weightlifter from Manipur became the first athlete to win the award twice in a row after bagging it in 2021 as well. BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year Award was launched in



2019 to celebrate sportswomen in India who have made their mark on the world stage.

India clinch Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2- 1 and qualify for WTC final

- ✓ India has clinched the four-match Test series of India vs Australia Border-Gavaskar Trophy (BGT) 2023 by 2-1 for the record 11th time. With this, India booked their place into the final of the World Test Championship.



The fourth and final BGT Test held at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, Gujarat was concluded in a draw.

- ✓ Ravichandran Ashwin & Ravindra Jadeja won the player of the series in BGT 2023.
- ✓ Indian Team spinner Ravichandran Ashwin became the second fastest bowler to take 450 Test wickets in 89 matches in terms of Tests played. He has followed Sri Lankan legend Muttiah Muralitharan who achieved this landmark in 80 matches.
- ✓ Virat Kohli completed 75 centuries in his 494th international appearance in the fourth and final Test. He became the fastest player to score 75 international centuries, he achieved the feat in 552 innings.

Jaipur to get India's 2nd largest cricket stadium named after Anil Agarwal

- ✓ Vedanta's Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Rajasthan Cricket Association to build the world's third-largest cricket stadium in Chop village, Jaipur. This project involves an investment of INR 300 crore, making it one of the largest corporate investments in India's sports infrastructure. The stadium will be named the Anil Agarwal International Cricket Stadium, Jaipur'.



PERSONS IN NEWS

Indian-origin Lt. Manmeet Colon becomes Connecticut's first Asian assistant police chief

- ✓ Lt. Manmeet Colon, who is of Indian origin and a Sikh woman officer, has recently taken up the position of assistant police chief in the state of Connecticut, becoming the first-ever person of Asian descent to hold the position.



She has been a member of the New Haven Police Department (NHPD) for 15 years and was appointed as the city's third assistant police chief in an official ceremony.

- ✓ During the ceremony, Board of Police Commissioners Chair Evelise Ribeiro acknowledged that Colon's appointment as assistant police chief marked "another glass ceiling being broken". Ribeiro also mentioned that Colon, who hails from Mumbai, is not only the second-ever female assistant chief of color but also the first Indian to hold the position.

'Ironman' Krishna Prakash becomes first person to swim from Gateway of India to Elephanta Caves

- ✓ As part of the 'Drowning Prevention Awareness' campaign, Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Krishna Prakash swam from Gateway of India to Elephanta Caves, Mumbai. He completed the expedition of 16.20 kms in just 5 hours 26 minutes and became the first person in history to do so. This is far from the first time the IPS officer broke records in sporting competitions. In 2017, he completed the Ironman Triathlon, one of the most challenging sports events in the world.
- ✓ This is a three-day event that requires the participants to complete a 3.8-kilometre swim, a 180.2-kilometer bicycle ride, and a 42.2 km run in 16–17 hours. This achievement earned Prakash the 'Iron Man' title and a mention in the World Book of Records. He was the first Indian Government



Servant, Civil Servant, and Uniformed Services Officer, including Armed Forces and Paramilitary Forces, to earn this title.

Shaliza Dhama- 1st woman to command frontline IAF combat unit

- ✓ In the first command appointment for a woman officer in the Indian Air Force (IAF), Group Captain Shaliza Dhama has been selected to take over the command of a frontline



combat unit in the Western sector. For the first time ever in the IAF's history, Shaliza Dhama a woman officer has been given command of a frontline combat unit – in this case, a missile squadron in the Western sector.

- ✓ The IAF's move comes just two months after Captain Shiva Chauhan of the Indian Army's Fire and Fury Corps became the first woman officer to be operationally deployed at the world's highest battlefield in Siachen.

Arun Subramanian becomes 1st Indian-American judge at New York Court

- ✓ Arun Subramanian, an attorney, has been appointed as the first Indian American judge of the Manhattan Federal District Court in New York. The nomination of Mr. Subramanian for the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York was first made public by US President Joe Biden in September 2022. The Senate confirmed the nomination of Subramanian by a vote of 58-37.



Sachin Tendulkar as world's first 'Hand Ambassador' appoints by Savlon India

- ✓ Savlon revealed the God of Cricket, Sachin Tendulkar as its world's first 'Hand Ambassador' for its Swasth India Mission. The campaign features a series of films featuring Sachin Tendulkar's Hand

as their chief protagonist – bringing the importance of hand hygiene to everyone’s notice.

- ✓ ITC’s Savlon Swasth India Mission has been at the forefront, seeding behavioural change towards hand hygiene through innovative experiences and initiatives. Started in 2016, the Savlon Swasth India Mission program is run by ITC Limited.



Ranveer Singh named India’s most valuable celebrity of 2022

- ✓ 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 report titled “Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2022: Beyond the Mainstream” reveals that Singh’s brand value is \$181.7 million.
- ✓ Virat Kohli, who previously held the top spot, has fallen to the second position with a brand value of \$176.9 million, according to the Kroll report. Kohli’s brand value has been decreasing for the past two years since he resigned as the captain of the Indian men’s cricket team. In 2020, his brand value was over \$237 million but steeply declined in 2021 to \$185.7 million, resulting in his current second-place ranking.



Australian PM Anthony Albanese visit to India

- ✓ Australian Prime Minister (PM) Anthony Albanese visited India for four days from March 8 to 11, 2023, with the objective of enhancing overall bilateral engagement in a number of fields, including trade, investment, and critical minerals.
- ✓ This was the first official visit he made to India since becoming PM in May 2022 and the first visit by an Australian PM in six years.



- ✓ Australian PM Anthony Albanese addressed the ‘India-Australia CEO Forum’ in Mumbai (Maharashtra), stating that the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) agreed upon between the two nations is a transformative pact that will unleash the next level of potential in trade and investment.
- ✓ During his recent visit to India, Australian PM Anthony Albanese paid a visit to India’s indigenous aircraft carrier, the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Vikrant, and was accorded a Guard of Honour on the carrier, which was commissioned into the Indian Navy in September 2022.

Asia’s 1st Woman Loco Pilot Surekha Yadav operates Vande Bharat Express

- ✓ Surekha Yadav, hailing from Satara, Maharashtra, Asia’s 1st female loco pilot, became the 1st woman to drive the recently launched semi-high speed Vande Bharat Express train.
- ✓ The Central Railway has launched 2 Vande Bharat Express trains on CSMT-Solapur and CSMT-Sainagar Shirdi routes, which were flagged by Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi on 10th February 2023.
- ✓ Surekha Yadav became India’s 1st female train driver in 1988.



Denmark Crown Prince Frederik André Henrik Christian and Crown Princess Mary Elizabeth visit to India

- ✓ At the invitation of Vice President (VP) Jagdeep Dhankhar, Denmark’s Crown Prince Frederik André Henrik Christian and Crown Princess Mary Elizabeth visited India for 4 days from February 27 to March 2, 2023, to strengthen and enhance the friendly relationship between India and Denmark.
- ✓ It is the first visit from the Danish Royal family to India in two decades. In 2003, Queen Margrethe II visited India as Denmark’s Crown Princess.



Two-Time MVC Recipient Wing Commander Jag Mohan Nath Passed Away

- ✓ Two-time Maha Vir Chakra (MVC) recipient Wing Commander Jag Mohan Nath (JM Nath), the Indian Air Force (IAF) veteran who flew numerous reconnaissance sorties over Tibet and Pakistan in his Canberra aircraft in the 1962 and 1965 wars passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was born in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- ✓ He received the Maha Vir Chakra(MVC), the second highest military decoration in India after the Param Vir Chakra, for the 1st time in recognition of his work on reconnaissance missions in Tibet and Aksai Chin before and during the Sino-Indian War of 1962.
- ✓ He received his 2nd Maha Vir Chakra (Bar to Maha Vir Chakra) in September 1965 for his participation in the Indo-Pak War.



Noted British Writer & Historian Patrick French Passed Away

- ✓ British writer, historian, and academician Patrick French passed away at the age of 57 in London, the United Kingdom(UK). He was born on 5th March 1966 in England.
- ✓ He won the Hawthornden Prize in 2009 for the authorized biography of VS Naipaul, "The World is What it is". He has won several other awards including the Royal Society of Literature WH Heinemann Prize, the US National Book Critics Circle Award, and the Somerset Maugham Award.



Renowned Bengali Litterateur Sasthipada Chattopadhyay Passed Away

- ✓ Sasthipada Chattopadhyay, a renowned Bengali novelist and short story writer, passed away in Howrah, West Bengal, at the age of 82. He was

born on 9th March 1941 at Khurut in Howrah, West Bengal.

- ✓ In 2017, the Sahitya Akademi awarded Sasthipada Chattopadhyay the Bal Sahitya Puraskar, and the Government of West Bengal honoured him with the Bangla Akademi Award for his contribution to Children's literature.



Japan's Nobel Prize-Winning Writer & Pacifist Kenzaburo Oe Passed Away

- ✓ Nobel literature laureate (1994) Kenzaburo Oe, a Pacifist of Japan, passed away in Tokyo, Japan, at the age of 88. Kenzaburo Oe was born on 31st January 1935 in Uchiko, Japan.
- ✓ Since 1949, there have been 29 Japanese laureates of the Nobel Prize which includes 3 from literature.
- ✓ Kawabata Yasunari (1899-1972) was the 1st Japanese to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1968.
- ✓ In 1994, he became the 2nd Japanese author awarded the Nobel Prize for literature.
- ✓ Kazuo Ishiguro, Japanese British novelist, was the 3rd Japanese-born writer to win the Nobel Prize in literature (2017).



Former Chief Justice of India AM Ahmadi passes away at 90

- ✓ Former Chief Justice of India A.M. Ahmadi has passed away at the age of 90. Ahmadi was the chief justice from 1994 to 1997. His judicial career as a City Civil and Session Court judge in Ahmedabad, he was the only Chief Justice of India who started at the very lowest rank to rise to the highest position of the Indian judiciary.
- ✓ Justice Ahmadi was a felicitated jurist not only in India but across the world. He was invited by various international organisations, including UNO and World Bank to lead special projects.



APPOINTMENTS

S.S. Dubey takes charge as 28th Controller General of Accounts

- ✓ S.S. Dubey took charge as the new Controller General of Accounts (CGA). He is the 28th officer to hold the position of CGA. Prior to that, Dubey has served as Chief Controller of Accounts in Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion etc. and as Controller/Deputy Controller of Accounts in Ministry of Environment & Forest, Ministry of External Affairs, Department of Revenue, Department of Supply etc. and was in-charge of budgeting, accounting, payment, internal audit etc. He also served as Financial Advisor & Chief Accounts Officer in Bank Note Press, Dewas.



Hero Motocorp Board appoints Niranjn Gupta as CEO

- ✓ The Board of Hero MotoCorp announced the appointment of Niranjn Gupta as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company, effective from May 1. Gupta, who currently serves as the CFO and Head of Strategy and M&A, will be elevated to the new role. Meanwhile, Pawan Munjal will remain the Executive Chairman and Whole-time Director on the Board.



SpiceJet's Ajay Singh takes over as ASSOCHAM President

- ✓ Ajay Singh, the chief of SpiceJet, has become the new President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM). He has replaced Sumant Sinha, who completed his tenure as Managing Director of Renew Power. Sanjay Nayar, the Founder and Chairman of Sorin Investment Fund, has been appointed as the new Senior Vice-President of ASSOCHAM.



Manmeet K Nanda appointed as MD & CEO of Invest India

- ✓ Manmeet K Nanda has been appointed as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Invest India, a prestigious organization. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has released a statement announcing the approval of Nanda's appointment by Invest India's board, following Deepak Bagla's decision to step down. Nanda was previously serving as the Joint Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). Bagla resigned from his post last week, leading to the need for a new MD and CEO at Invest India.



G Krishnakumar appoints as Bharat Petroleum Corporation's chairman

- ✓ Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), a 'Maharatna' and a Fortune Global 500 Company, announced that G. Krishnakumar has taken over as the Chairman and Managing Director of the company. Krishnakumar, an electrical and electronics engineer from National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli and a postgraduate in finance management from Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai, was executive director in the company before his elevation. He replaces Arun Kumar Singh, who retired as chairman in October 2022.



Lalit Kumar Gupta named as CMD of Cotton Corporation of India

- ✓ Lalit Kumar Gupta has been approved as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). CCI is a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Textile. An order from the



Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) has been issued, stating that Gupta will assume the role of CMD of CCI with immediate effect, for a period of five years or until his superannuation, or until further orders, whichever comes first.

Gol appoints Siddhartha Mohanty as interim chairman of LIC

- ✓ For a period of three months beginning March 14, the Center has chosen Siddhartha Mohanty as the interim chairman of the Life Insurance Company of India (LIC). Currently the managing director and CEO of LIC Housing Finance, Mohanty will take over as MD of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) on February 1st, 2021. Up to his retirement on June 30, 2023, Siddhartha Mohanty was proposed to lead LIC as its MD. LIC's current MDs are Bishnu Charan Patnaik, Ipe Mini, Siddhartha Mohanty, and Raj Kumar, while the company's chairman is Shri Mangalam Ramasubramanian Kumar.



Tech Mahindra named former Infosys President Mohit Joshi as MD and CEO

- ✓ Former Infosys President Mohit Joshi has been appointed as the company's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for a term of 5 years, beginning on December 20, 2023, and ending on December 19, 2028, according to IT services provider Tech Mahindra (both days inclusive). Gurnani, who was one of the longest-serving CEOs in the Indian IT industry, will be succeeded by Mohit Joshi.



Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for a term of 5 years, beginning on December 20, 2023, and ending on

Rohit Jawa is named as Sanjiv Mehta's successor as HUL's CEO

- ✓ The selection of Rohit Jawa, a senior executive of the UK-based parent company Unilever, as Hindustan Unilever Ltd.'s (HUL) new managing director and CEO has been approved by the company's board. The FMCG behemoth informed



the stock exchanges that the appointment, which is for a five-year term, will start on June 27, 2023. Sanjiv Mehta, the current MD and CEO of Hindustan Unilever since 2013, will be replaced by Jawa.

India's K.R. Parvathy appointed as UN Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan

- ✓ The United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Kavilmdam Ramaswami Parvathy (K. R. Parvathy) of India, as UN Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan with the approval of the host government. She took up her post as UN Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan on 15th March 2023.
- ✓ Resident coordinators, the highest-ranking official in the UN Development System, leads the UN Country Teams and report directly to the secretary-general.



TCS Appointed K Krithivasan as CEO Designate as Current MD & CEO Rajesh Gopinathan Resigns

- ✓ The Board of Directors of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has appointed K. Krithivasan as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) designate, effective March 16, 2023. He will be appointed as Managing Director (MD) and CEO in the fiscal year 2023-24, subject to shareholder approval.
- ✓ Krithivasan will succeed Rajesh Gopinathan, the current MD and CEO, who unexpectedly resigned and whose request was accepted by the board.



Li Qiang Confirmed as China's New Premier by Chinese Parliament

- ✓ The National People's Congress (NPC), China's Parliament, elected Li Qiang as the country's new Premier, succeeding Li Keqiang, who has been in charge of the second-largest economy for the past 10 years.



- ✓ The NPC is a ceremonial body that regularly passes the proposals of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC).

Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav elected as Vice-President of Nepal

- ✓ According to the data of the Election Commission of Nepal, Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav, the Janata Samajbadi Party (JSP) candidate and former Minister for Forests and Environment of Nepal, won the Vice President elections on 17th March 2023, with 30,328 votes and became the Vice President of Nepal .
- ✓ Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav becomes the 3rd Vice President of Nepal and the 1st from the Madhes region, bordering India



of Nepal, Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav, the Janata Samajbadi Party (JSP) candidate and former Minister for Forests and Environment of Nepal, won the Vice President elections on 17th March 2023, with 30,328 votes and became the Vice President of Nepal .

Eric Garcetti appointed as US Ambassador to India

- ✓ The US Senate Committee has announced the appointment of Eric Garcetti as the new US Ambassador to India. Despite being nominated by President Joe Biden almost two years ago, Garcetti's appointment had been pending until now. Eric Garcetti served as the President of the City Council of Los Angeles for four consecutive terms and is known to be a close acquaintance of President Biden. He has also emerged as a leader within the Democratic Party. However, Garcetti's tenure as mayor of Los Angeles lasted for nine years and was not without controversy. In 2020, there was a controversial incident that occurred during his time in office.



Nepal elects Ram Chandra Paudel as its next president

- ✓ Ram Chandra Poudel (79 years old), a senior leader of the Nepali Congress, was elected as the 3rd President of Nepal. He will succeed incumbent President Bidya Devi Bhandari whose tenure will end on 12th March 2023.
- ✓ This is the third presidential election in Nepal since the country became a republic in 2008.



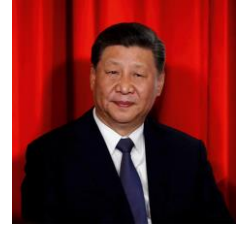
of the Nepali Congress, was elected as the 3rd President of Nepal. He will succeed incumbent President Bidya Devi Bhandari whose tenure

will end on 12th March 2023.

- ✓ The term of the President of Nepal is 5years from the date of the election. A person can be elected to the post for only 2 terms.

Xi Jinping starts third term as China's president

- ✓ Xi Jinping began an unprecedented third term as China's president after he was endorsed by a unanimous vote from the 2,977-member National People's Congress (NPC). Xi will head a hand-picked party and government team tasked with steering the world's second-largest economy through challenges at home and abroad over the next five years.
- ✓ After the voting, Xi took a constitutional oath, as both the country's president and head of its military – a symbolic move to show the significance of the constitution after it was revised five years ago to scrap the presidential term limit, add Xi's political theory and emphasise the party's leadership of China.



Former Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff named new President of BRICS New Development Bank

- ✓ The New Development Bank (NDB), which is also known as the BRICS bank and is a multilateral financial institution created by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, has announced that former Brazilian President Dilma Vana Rousseff has been elected as its new President. She replaces Marcus Troyjo in the position.
- ✓ Dilma Vana Rousseff is a Brazilian economist and politician who served as the 36th President of Brazil from 2011 to 2016. She was the first woman to hold the office of President in Brazil. Prior to her presidency, Rousseff served as the Chief of Staff to President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva from 2005 to 2010.



REPORTS, INDICES AND RANKING

QS Rankings: IIT-Delhi enters list of top 50 institutions for engineering

- ✓ the Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi has been ranked among the top 50 engineering institutions in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023. Additionally, this year, a total of 44 programmes offered by Indian higher education institutions in various disciplines have been ranked in the top 100 globally. This represents an increase from last year's report, which saw 35 Indian programmes listed in the top 100.
- ✓ Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) has released a statement indicating that Delhi University has the highest number of entries (27) among Indian universities, followed by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay (25), and IIT Kharagpur (23). In the thirteenth edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject, 66 universities from India have been ranked. Collectively, these universities have achieved 355 entries, which represents an 18.7% increase from the previous year's 299 entries.
- ✓ IIT Bombay has featured among the world's top 100 in mathematics by clinching the 92nd spot, up by 25 places
- ✓ IIT Kanpur ranks among the world's top 100 in engineering-electrical electronics (87th, up by 21 places) and in computer science information systems (96th, up by 13 places)
- ✓ IIT Kharagpur occupies the 94th spot, up by 15 places, for computer science and information systems
- ✓ IIT Madras has moved up by 50 places to come at 98th spot for mathematics.
- ✓ The universities were evaluated in five broad areas, including engineering and technology, arts and humanities, life sciences and medicine, natural science, and social sciences and management.

Arts and Humanities

- 1.Harvard University
- 2.University of Cambridge
- 3.University of Oxford

Engineering and Technology

- 1.Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
- 2.Stanford University
- 3.University of Cambridge

Life Sciences and Medicine

- 1.Harvard University
- 2.University of Oxford
- 3.Johns Hopkins University

Natural Sciences

- 1.Harvard University
- 2.Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
- 3.University of Cambridge

Social Sciences and Management

- 1.Harvard University
- 2.University of Oxford
- 3.Stanford University.

The World Happiness Report 2023: India ranked 126, Finland tops

- ✓ Recently, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network released the World Happiness Report 2023 which ranks countries on happiness.
- ✓ Since 2012, the World Happiness Report has been released annually around March 20th as part of the International Day of Happiness celebration.
- ✓ The report ranks global happiness basis survey data from people in over 150 countries.
- ✓ This year, the report ranked 136 countries.
- ✓ The ranking uses six key factors to measure happiness — social support, income, health, freedom, generosity, and absence of corruption.
- ✓ Besides ranking the countries, the report also looks at the state of the world in 2023.

Top Performers

- ✓ For the sixth year in a row, Finland has been crowned as the happiest nation, Denmark is at number two, followed by Iceland at number three.
- ✓ Unlike previous years, where the same countries tend to appear in the top 20, there's a new entrant this year — Lithuania (at the 20th spot).

Worst Performers:

- ✓ Afghanistan was ranked as the unhappiest nation, followed by Lebanon, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, respectively.

India's Performance

- ✓ India ranks at 126th position out of 136 countries, making it one of the least happy countries in the world.
- ✓ In 2022, India ranked 136th position out of 146 countries.
- ✓ It even lags behind its neighbouring nations like Nepal (119), China (74), Bangladesh (118), Pakistan (108) Myanmar (117) and Sri Lanka (112).

Global Terrorism Index - India ranked 13th, topped by Afghanistan

- ✓ Afghanistan remains the country most impacted by terrorism for the fourth consecutive year, despite attacks and deaths falling by 75 per cent and 58 per cent, respectively, the tenth Global Terrorism Index (GTI) report showed. India ranked 13th on the index, marking only a marginal decrease from the previous year. In spite of being among the 25 worst-hit nations on the index, Indian respondents desisted from selecting war and terrorism as the biggest threat to their daily safety.
- ✓ India was listed among countries with a “high” impact of terrorism and ranked 13th.
- ✓ India was among the 25 worst terror-hit countries and among 56 of the 120 nations surveyed with no respondents selecting war and terror as the biggest threat to their daily safety.
- ✓ The report lists the Communist Party of India (Maoist) as the 12th deadliest terror group in 2022.
- ✓ The Global Terrorism Index is an annual ranking produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace. As even the definition of terrorism is hotly debated, it is essential to highlight that the methodologies used to measure terrorism are also contested.
- ✓ The Global Terrorism Index ranks 163 countries on four indicators weighted over five years. These four factors are: the number of terrorist incidents per year, the number of fatalities caused by terrorists per year, the number of injuries caused by terrorists per year, and total property damage caused by terrorism per year.



- ✓ The GTI is based on data from the Global Terrorism Database (GTD) which is collected and collated by the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) at the University of Maryland.

IME list of World's Greatest Places of 2023 Released, 2 Indian Places Makes the list

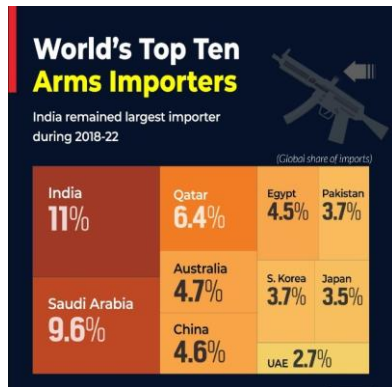
- ✓ India's Mayurbhanj and Ladakh, which have been chosen for their endangered tigers and historic temples, as well as their adventures and cuisine, respectively, are two of the 50 locations which are featured in the TIME Magazine's list of World's Greatest Places in 2023. Check out the entire TIME Magazine's list of World's Greatest Places of 2023.
- ✓ As TIME Magazine revealed its list of the “World's Best Places of 2023,” the Mayurbhanj region of Odisha and the Union Territory of Ladakh both made the cut.
- ✓ Although the travel industry is back in full force in 2023, it was noticed that there have been some significant changes in the way and places we visit.
- ✓ The magazine asked its global network of journalists and contributors for suggestions of locations, keeping an eye out for those offering novel and interesting experiences, in order to construct this list of the World's Best Places.

India 8th most polluted country in the world: Swiss firm IQAir Report

- ✓ According to the 'Global Air Quality' study published by the Swiss company IQAir, India fell from the fifth to the eighth most polluted nation in the world in 2022. The research shows that the PM2.5 level in the most polluted Indian cities is 53.3. The two Indian cities that made the list of the most polluted cities in the world are Bhiwadi, which is a suburb of Delhi, and Delhi, which was not far behind at 92.6. At the same time, 39 out of 50 cities in the list of most polluted cities are from India.
- ✓ 10 most polluted countries in the world: 1.Chad, 2.Iraq, 3.Pakistan, 4.Bahrain, 5.Bangladesh, 6. Burkina Faso,7.Kuwait, 8.India, 9.Egypt, 10. Tajikistan.

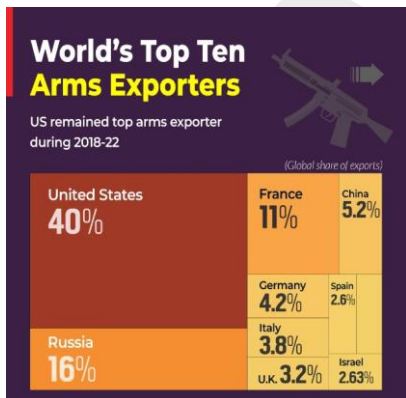
SIPRI report 2023: India world's largest arms importer

- India is still the world's largest importer of military equipment, despite an 11% decline in arms purchases between 2013–17 and 2018–22, according to a study by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri). The report is released at a time when India has intensified its efforts to become self-reliant in the defence manufacturing sector. This year's defence budget included about Rs 1 lakh crore for domestic purchases, compared to Rs 84,598 crore, Rs 70,221 crore, and Rs 51,000 crore in the three years prior.



International Peace Research Institute (Sipri). The report is released at a time when India has intensified its efforts to become self-reliant in the defence manufacturing sector. This year's defence budget included about Rs 1 lakh crore for domestic purchases, compared to Rs 84,598 crore, Rs 70,221 crore, and Rs 51,000 crore in the three years prior.

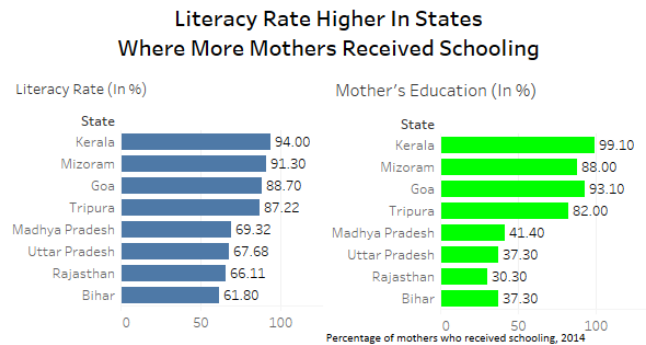
- According to data published by the think tank that tracks weapons imports over a five-year period,



India had the biggest percentage of the world's arms imports in the past five years at 11%, followed by Saudi Arabia (9.6%), Qatar (6.4%), Australia (4.7%), and China (4.7%).

- In the past five years, the US exported 40% of all military goods worldwide, followed by Russia (16%), France (11%), China (5.2%), and Germany (4.2%), according to new Sipri data. From 2013–17 and 2018–22, American armament exports increased 14% while those of Russia decreased 31%. India imported 37% fewer goods from Russia.
- According to Sipri, Ukraine was the 14th largest importer of major weaponry in 2018–2022 and the third largest in 2022.

Literacy rate in India: Bihar lowest at 61.8%, Kerala highest at 94%



- According to the data shared by the Ministry of Education, Bihar (61.8 %) has the lowest literacy, followed by Arunachal Pradesh (65.3 %) and Rajasthan (66.1 %). Kerala has the highest literacy rate in India at 94%, followed by Lakshadweep at 91.85% and Mizoram at 91.33%.
- The literacy rate in rural India is 67.77 per cent as compared to 84.11 per cent in urban India

India at 108th Position in Electoral Democracy Index 2023

- India has now been ranked at the 108th spot globally for electoral democracy, far behind nations like Tanzania, Bolivia, Mexico, Singapore, and even Nigeria, which comes in at a modest 91st spot by V-Dem Institute in its Electoral Democracy Report for 2023. This ranking may come as a shock to many, but it is also far below nations like Tanzania, Bolivia, Mexico, Singapore, and even India.
- India's standing on the Liberal Democracy Index (LDI) is once more appallingly low, and it even has the sad distinction of falling from 100th place in 2022 to 108th this year.
- The only other factor that might temporarily cheer democratic and patriotic Indians is the fact that Pakistan, which is next door and is currently experiencing a severe economic crisis, is only ranked two places lower, at 110.
- According to the report "Defiance in the Face of Autocratization," the current wave of autocratization affects almost every region of the world, but in the Asia-Pacific, democracy has suffered significantly, and nearly 3.5 billion people

now live in what the report refers to as “electoral autocracies” in these regions. India is obviously listed among them in high regard.

M3M Hurun Global Rich List for 2023: Gautam Adani slips 11 ranks & became 23rd among global billionaires; Bernard Arnault of LVMH tops

- ✓ According to the 2023 M3M Hurun Global Rich list released by Hurun India and M3M India, Gautam Adani has dropped 11 places to the 23rd rank among global billionaires. According to the report, Gautam Adani saw a 35% decline in wealth year-on-year. He lost Rs 3,000 crore every week over the last year.
- ✓ Mukesh Ambani, the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), ranked 9th (globally) is the only Indian to feature in the World’s top 10 billionaires list.
- ✓ He has dethroned Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani to become Asia’s as well as India’s richest man with a wealth of USD 82 billion.
- ✓ Gautam Adani is now ranked 3rd among Asia’s richest.
- ✓ China’s Zhong Shanshan (YST) is now Asia’s 2nd richest businessman.

City Index 2023: India Has the 5th-Highest Number of Female Billionaires Globally

- ✓ India has the fifth-highest number of female billionaires in the world, according to a new International Women’s Day study report from City Index 2023, which was based on the analysis of Forbes’ live billionaire tracker (March 2023).
- ✓ India is tied for 5th position with Australia and Hong Kong, with each country having 9 female billionaires.
- ✓ Savitri Jindal, an Indian politician and businesswoman, is the richest woman in India with a family fortune of USD 16.96 billion.
- ✓ The US leads the list with a total of 92 female billionaires, which is double the amount of China, which comes in second with 46. Germany ranks 3rd with 32 female billionaires, led by German

automobile heiress Susanne Klatten (USD 27.58 billion). Italy, which ranks 4th on the list, has 16 female billionaires.

‘WHO Global Report On Sodium Intake Reduction’: Countries Must Make ‘Massive Efforts’ to Reduce Salt Intake

- ✓ The World Health Organization (WHO) Global Report On Sodium Intake Reduction states that nations must make “massive efforts” to get people to consume less salt, which can lower their risk of developing cancer, heart disease, and stroke.
- ✓ The WHO remarked in its first-of-its-kind global report on sodium intake reduction that the world is falling short of its global target of reducing sodium intake by 30% by 2025.
- ✓ For the first time, a Sodium Country Score is assigned to each Member State based on the level of implementation of sodium reduction policies and other measures, ranging from 1 (the lowest level) to 4 (the highest level).
- ✓ As per the report, India’s Sodium intake is about 9.8 g salt/day and its Sodium Country Score was 2.

26 % of world’s population does not have safe drinking water: UNESCO report

- ✓ A report presented by UNESCO at the UN 2023 Water Conference in New York reveals that a significant portion of the world’s population still does not have access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. The report indicates that 26% of the global population lacks safe drinking water, while 46% do not have access to well-managed sanitation facilities.
- ✓ It will be the second UN Conference dedicated to water after the one held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in 1977. UN has launched a global campaign called ‘Be the Change’ to mark World Water Day 2023.
- ✓ It is projected that by 2050, nearly half of the world’s urban population will face water scarcity, up from one-third in 2016. India is expected to be one of the most severely affected countries in this regard.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- Name the state government that has recently (in March '23) signed an MoU with the Central government to establish India's 1st PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Park?
 - Karnataka
 - Gujarat
 - Tamil Nadu
 - Maharashtra
 - Andhra Pradesh
- Name the organisation that has recently (in March '23) signed a new Accreditation Master Agreement (AMA) with Green Climate Fund (GCF) for 5 years to provide vital climate finance to countries in the critical decade for action.
 - United Nations Development Programme
 - European Investment Bank
 - Asian Development Bank
 - World Bank
- Which of the following Indian Institute of Technology(IIT)s are recently (in March '23) featured among the top 50 in the subject of Engineering and Technology in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023?
 - IIT Delhi
 - IIT Bombay
 - IIT Madras
 - Both 1 & 2
 - Both 2 & 3
- In March 2023, the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) formed a committee to design a road-map to onshore Indian start-ups domiciled abroad for setting up their base in GIFT (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City) City in Gujarat. The committee will be headed by _____.
 - Rajiv Ranjan
 - Jayant Kumar Dash
 - G Padmanabhan
 - Anil Kumar Sharma
 - R. Subramanian
- Name the small financing bank (SFB) that has recently (in March '23) entered into an agreement with Geojit Financial Services to provide a 3-in-1 bundled account.
 - Equitas SFB
 - bSuryoday SFB
 - Ujjivan SFB
 - ESAF SFB
 - Capital SFB
- Which of the following points is/are "Correct" with respect to the 12th edition of 'M3M Hurun Global Rich List for 2023' report released by Hurun India and M3M India in March 2023?
 - Gautam Adani has dropped 11 places to the 23rd rank among global billionaires and ranked 3rd among Asia's richest.
 - Mukesh Ambani has ranked 9th(globally) dethroned Gautam Adani to become Asia's as well as India's richest man with a wealth of USD 82 billion.
 - Bernard Arnault (France) topped the list with USD 202 billion followed by Elon Musk (United States of America-USA).
 - Only C
 - Only A & B
 - Only B & C
 - Only A & C
 - All A, B & C
- Padma Shri Awardee 'Abhay Chhajlani', passed away in March 2023. In which field did he receive the Padma Shri Award in 2009?
 - Literature & Education
 - Civil Service
 - Science & Engineering
 - Medicine
 - Social Work
- What was the theme of World Meteorological Day 2023 that was observed across the globe on 23rd March 2023?
 - The ocean, our climate and weather
 - Early Warning and Early Action
 - The Future of Weather, Climate, and Water across Generations
 - Climate and Water
 - Climate knowledge for climate action
- The _____ edition of the Africa-India Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX-2023), commenced at Pune, Maharashtra in March 2023.
 - 5th
 - 3rd
 - 2nd
 - 2nd
 - 4th

10. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Prime Minister (PM) of Japan, Fumio Kishida's visit to India in March 2023?
- A) During the Japan-India Summit Meeting 2023, PM of Japan Fumio Kishida & PM Narendra Modi, reaffirmed their commitment to continuing their partnership through the 'Japan-India Act East Forum' to advance the development of India's northeastern region.
- B) PM Modi declared that the year 2023 will be celebrated as "Japan-India tourism exchange year" with the theme "Connecting the Himalayas with Mount Fuji".
- C) India & Japan signed 2 MoU on cooperation on the Japanese language and exchange of notes on a 300 billion Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) loan for the Mumbai- Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (IV) construction.
- a) All A, B & C b) Only A & B
c) Only B & C d) Only A & C
e) Only A
11. Name the second Indian Naval Ship (INS) of Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) that was recently (in March '23) launched in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- a) INS Androth
b) INS Rana
c) INS Arnala
d) INS Ranjit
e) INS Ranvir
12. Which ministry has made the portal 'City Finance Rankings 2022' live on 20th March 2023, to evaluate, recognize and reward Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across India?
- a) Ministry of Finance
b) Ministry of Home Affairs
c) Ministry of Rural Development
d) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
e) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
13. In March 2023, Prime Minister (PM) of India, Narendra Modi and Bangladesh PM, Sheikh Hasina virtually inaugurated the 131.5 kilometre long India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (IBFP). The IBFP is a first cross-border pipeline that connects between _____ (City) in West Bengal, India and Parbatipur in the Dinajpur district of Bangladesh.
- a) Siliguri
b) Murshidabad
c) Jalpaiguri
d) Cooch Behar
e) Alipurduar
14. In which state 'Pakhala Diwas 2023' is celebrated on 20th March 2023?
- a) Andhra Pradesh
b) Odisha
c) Bihar
d) Gujarat
e) Haryana
15. As per the Ministry of Finance's report "Monthly Economic Review – February 2023" released in March 2023, the Indian economy is projected to grow at _____ (per cent) in the fiscal year 2022-2023 (FY23).
- a) 5% b) 5.9%
c) 6.2% d) 6.8%
e) 7%
16. Which Football Club(FC) has recently (in March '23) won their first Indian Super League (ISL) title by defeating Bengaluru FC in the Hero Indian Super League (ISL) 2022–23 held in Jawaharlal Nehru stadium in Margoa, Goa?
- a) ATK Mohun Bagan FC
b) Mumbai City FC
c) Hyderabad FC
d) Odisha FC
e) Kerala Blasters FC
17. Who authored the book, "A Matter of the Heart: Education in India"?
- a) Narayana Murthy
b) Anurag Behar
c) Vishal Sikka
d) Dileep Ranjekar
e) Salil Parekh
18. Who was recently (in March '23) given the additional charge of Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Invest India?
- a) Deepak Bagla
b) Anurag Jain
c) Manmeet K Nanda
d) Chandrajit Banerjee
e) Arti Bhatnagar
19. According to the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying data (as of March '23), India stands _____ in the world in terms of fish production.
- a) 1st b) 2nd
c) 4th d) 5th
e) 3rd
20. In which state, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has recently (in March '23) inaugurated 'Asia's largest 4-metre International Liquid Mirror Telescope'?
- a) Uttarakhand b) Himachal Pradesh
c) Assam d) Arunachal Pradesh
e) Sikkim

21. According to the report released by Utility Bidder in March 2023, India has seen the highest rise in deforestation in the last 30 years and ranked 2nd globally after _____, with average deforestation of 668,400 hectares (ha).
- Indonesia
 - Cambodia
 - Brazil
 - Nigeria
 - Philippines
22. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the inauguration made by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi in March 2023?
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the two-day Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference 2023 in New Delhi, Delhi.
 - He also designated the Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR) of ICAR, located in Hyderabad, Telangana, as a Global Center of Excellence (CoE).
 - The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) organised a symposium with technical sessions on the promotion and awareness of millets in conjunction with the World Millets (Shree Anna) Conference 2023.
- Only A
 - Only A & B
 - Only B & C
 - Only A & C
 - All A, B & C
23. According to the Global Commission on Economics of Water (GCEW) report released in March 2023, by which year, the food supply in India & across the globe will be reduced by at least 6% due to water crises and heat stress caused by climate change?
- 2030
 - 2040
 - 2050
 - 2045
 - 2035
24. Name the application that was recently (in March ‘23) launched by the Income Tax Department for taxpayers to provide detailed information about transactions to taxpayers and receive their feedback.
- AIS
 - Aaykar Setu
 - Aapoorti
 - EChhawani
 - Udyam Sarthi
25. Which of the following points is/are ‘correct’ with respect to the BNP Paribas Open 2023 held in March 2023?
- Carlos Alcaraz (Spain) defeated Daniil Medvedev (Russia) to win the Men’s Singles title at BNP Paribas Open 2023.
 - Rohan Bopanna (India) and Matthew Ebden (Australia) won the Men’s Doubles title at BNP Paribas Open 2023.
 - Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan) defeated Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus) to win the Women’s Singles title.
- Only A
 - Only A & B
 - Only B & C
 - Only A & C
 - All A, B & C
26. According to the 11th edition of World Happiness Report 2023 released in March 2023, India secured _____ rank, while _____ tops the position for the 6th year in a row.
- 126; Iceland
 - 109; Finland
 - 115; Denmark
 - 126; Finland
 - 109; Denmark
27. Name the fintech startup that has recently (in March ‘23) launched the world’s first digital real estate exchange.
- ALT Realtech
 - Mayfair
 - Pinwheel
 - Cash App
 - T-REX
28. Which of the following points is “Incorrect” regarding the launch of PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks in March 2023?
- GoI announced the sites for setting up of 5 PM MITRA Parks for the Textile industry in the states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.
 - The Ministry of Textiles will provide financial support in the form of Development Capital Support of upto Rs 500 crore per park to the Park SPV, along with Competitive Incentive Support (CIS) of upto Rs 300 crore per park.
 - State governments will provide a contiguous and encumbrance-free land parcel of at least 1000 acres of land.
- Only A
 - Only B
 - Only C
 - Only A & B
 - Only B & C
29. In March 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) permitted India & _____ (country) to trade in National Currencies via Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs).
- Tanzania
 - Ethiopia
 - Senegal
 - Ghana
 - Sudan

30. Which life insurance has recently (in March '23) launched a new Guaranteed Income plan 'Pru Gold' to provide the protection of life cover along with a guaranteed regular income for the whole of life?
- Pramerica Life Insurance
 - HDFC Life Insurance
 - Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance
 - ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
 - Tata AIA Life Insurance
31. Recently a tiger was spotted in Palamau Tiger Reserve (PTR), after more than three years. In which state, 'PTR' is located?
- Odisha
 - Madhya Pradesh
 - West Bengal
 - Jharkhand
 - Maharashtra
32. With which country's Navy, the Indian Navy (IN) has recently (in March '23) commenced the bilateral maritime exercise 'Konkan 2023' on the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea?
- France
 - United Kingdom
 - United Arab Emirates
 - Maldives
 - Saudi Arabia
33. In March 2023, the Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, launched 'DigiClaim' to claim crop insurance through National Crop Insurance Portal (NCIP) under the ambit of _____ (scheme).
- Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana
 - Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana
 - Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana
 - Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana
 - Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana
34. Name the country that has recently joined the India-led International Solar Alliance.
- Republic of Ghana
 - Republic of Congo
 - Tanzania
 - Nigeria
 - Republic of Kenya
35. Which state/UT has recently (in March '23) listed among TIME Magazine's top 50 "World's Greatest Places of 2023" along with Mayurbhanj District, Odisha?
- Goa
 - Kerala
 - Ladakh
 - Himachal Pradesh
 - Lakshadweep
36. Who was recently (in March '23) appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)?
- Aiswarya Biswal
 - C Rajeev
 - Arun Kumar Singh
 - G Krishnakumar
 - Vetsa Ramakrishna Gupta
37. Which wildlife sanctuary has recently (in March '23) been identified as a suitable location for relocating 40 adult and sub-adult Asiatic lions from Gir National Park?
- Barda Wildlife Sanctuary
 - Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary
 - Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary
 - Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary
 - Balaram Ambaji Wildlife Sanctuary
38. The Indian Navy's 'A P8I aircraft' is participating in the _____ edition of anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercise SEA DRAGON 23, which is held from March 15 to 30, 2023 in waters off Guam of USA.
- 2nd
 - 6th
 - 4th
 - 3rd
 - 5th
39. Which cricket team recently (in March '23) won the 59th edition of Z R Irani Cup 2022- 2023?
- Vidarbha
 - Saurashtra
 - Rest of India
 - Madhya Pradesh
 - Gujarat
40. Name the state that has recently (in March '23) won the Santosh Trophy 2022-23, national football championship.
- Karnataka
 - West Bengal
 - Meghalaya
 - Punjab
 - Mizoram
41. In which state, the '5-day Yaoshang Festival 2023' was celebrated in March 2023?
- Arunachal Pradesh
 - Assam
 - Meghalaya
 - Manipur
 - Himachal Pradesh
42. In March 2023, the BhumChu festival (Buddhist festival) was celebrated in which state?
- Assam
 - Odisha
 - West Bengal
 - Tripura
 - Sikkim

43. Which country's Central Bank has recently (in March '23) inked an MoU with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to promote collaboration and facilitate innovation in financial products and services?
- United States of America
 - Indonesia
 - United Arab Emirates
 - France
 - Bangladesh
44. Name the organisation that has recently (in March '23) signed a loan agreement worth USD 500 million with GoI for the construction of the Green National Highway Corridors Project (GNHCP) in four Indian States.
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
 - Asian Development Bank
 - International Monetary Fund
 - World Bank
 - Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
45. As per the 'The Wealth Report 2023' released by the Property consultant Knight Frank in March 2023, which Indian city ranked 37 globally in Price Growth in Luxury Housing?
- Ahmedabad, Gujarat
 - Bengaluru, Karnataka
 - New Delhi, Delhi
 - Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - Indore, Madhya Pradesh
46. In which city, the 1st edition of the Joint Military Exercise "FRINJEX-23" was conducted between the Indian and French Army in March 2023?
- Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand
 - Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
 - Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
 - Belgaum, Karnataka
47. In March 2023, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani was sworn in as the Prime Minister (PM) of which country?
- Kuwait
 - Israel
 - Iraq
 - Bahrain
 - Qatar
48. What is the theme of United Nations (UN) International Women's Day (IWD) 2023 that was observed across the globe on 8th March 2023?
- DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality
 - Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world
 - Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow
 - I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights
 - Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change
49. The 1st edition of the Naval Commanders' Conference 2023 was recently (in March '23) held onboard the Indian Naval Ship (INS) _____, India's first indigenous aircraft carrier of the coast of the Arabian Sea in Goa.
- INS Vagir
 - INS Sindhukesari
 - INS Arihant
 - INS Vela
 - INS Vikrant
50. In March 2023, PM Narendra Modi dedicated the world's longest railway platform at "Shree Siddharoodha Swamiji Hubballi Station" in _____ (state).
- West Bengal
 - Gujarat
 - Karnataka
 - Maharashtra
 - Odisha
51. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the 95th Academy Awards 2023/Oscars 2023 held at Dolby Theatre at Ovation Hollywood in Los Angeles, United States (US) in March 2023?
- American Film 'Everything Everywhere All at Once' was 2023's most-nominated film, with 11 total nominations.
 - Film "RRR" (Rise, Roar, Revolt) became the first Indian film to win an Oscar with the category Best Original Song.
 - The Elephant Whisperers became the first Indian film to win an Oscar in the 'Best Documentary Short film' category.
- Only C
 - Only A & B
 - Only B & C
 - Only A & C
 - All A, B, C
52. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Australian Prime Minister (PM) Anthony Albanese's visit to India in March 2023?
- During his Visit, India & Australia signed the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) to unleash the next level of potential in trade and investment.
 - Atal Innovation Mission NITI Aayog & the Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation signed a letter of intent (LoI) to enhance bilateral cooperation in areas of national challenge and shared goals of both countries.
 - India & Australia signed a Framework Mechanism for Mutual Recognition of Qualifications, which will facilitate student and professional mobility between the two countries.
- Only A
 - Only A & B
 - Only B & C
 - Only A & C
 - All A, B & C

53. In March 2023, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) infused Rs. _____ into the banking system through a 14-day Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auction.
- Rs 82,650 crore
 - Rs 80,950 crore
 - Rs 72,500 crore
 - Rs 79,700 crore
 - Rs 85,900 crore
54. Who was recently (in March '23) appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) by replacing Bishnu Charan Patnaik?
- Ranjan Sharma
 - Vinod Kumar Verma
 - Anil Kumar
 - Tablesh Pandey
 - Raj Kamal
55. Which Mutual Fund(MF) has recently (in March '23) renamed the India 1st US Debt Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF) 'IDFC US Treasury Bond 0-1 year Fund of Fund'?
- Axis MF
 - SBI MF
 - ICICI Prudential MF
 - Bandhan MF
 - HDFC MF
56. In March 2023, Indian Railways set a target to become Net Zero Carbon Emitter by _____ (Year).
- 2025
 - 2027
 - 2030
 - 2028
 - 2040
57. In which Indian city, the World Health Organisation (WHO) will set up mRNA (messenger ribonucleic acid) vaccine hub?
- Hyderabad, Telangana
 - Bengaluru, Karnataka
 - Ahmedabad, Gujarat
 - Pune, Maharashtra
 - Chennai, Tamil Nadu
58. In which place, the Indian Army has recently (in March '23) installed the tallest 'Iconic National Flag'?
- Dehradun, Uttarakhand
 - Chambang, Arunachal Pradesh
 - Guwahati, Assam
 - Doda, Jammu and Kashmir
 - Leh, Ladakh
59. Name the software company that has recently (in March '23) launched the world's largest open finance platform called "eMACH.ai" to help banks & financial institutions design futureready technology solutions.
- Intellect Design Arena
 - Newgen Software
 - Zensar Technologies
 - Mphasis
 - Cyient
60. As of March 2023, which state government is set to establish 'India's first government mother milk bank'?
- Madhya Pradesh
 - Uttarakhand
 - Kerala
 - Tamil Nadu
 - Gujarat
61. Which country has recently (in March '23) won "Government Leadership Award 2023" - GSMA's 2023 Global Mobile (GLOMO) Awards at the Mobile World Congress(MWC) 2023 held in Barcelona, Spain?
- United Kingdom
 - India
 - Germany
 - Japan
 - Canada
62. Which bank has recently (in March '23) completed the acquisition of Citibank India's consumer Banking for Rs 11,603 crore?
- HDFC Bank
 - South Indian Bank
 - Kotak Mahindra Bank
 - ICICI Bank
 - Axis Bank
63. Who was recently (in March '23) named as the 'Business Standard (BS) Banker of the Year 2022'?
- Sashidhar Jagdishan (MD & CEO of HDFC bank)
 - Alok Kumar Choudhary (MD of SBI bank)
 - Sandeep Bakhshi (MD & CEO of ICICI bank)
 - Amitabh Chaudhry (MD & CEO of Axis bank)
 - Shyam Srinivasan (MD & CEO of Federal bank)
64. The United Nations (UN) celebrated the 1st ever World Seagrass Day across the globe on _____.
- 27th February 2023
 - 28th February 2023
 - 1st March 2023
 - 2nd March 2023
 - 3rd March 2023
65. In March 2023, Indian Navy (IN) successfully test fired the Ship launched version of the BrahMos supersonic missile in the Arabian Sea. BrahMos missile flies at a speed of _____ Mach or almost three times the speed of sound.
- 3.2
 - 2.5
 - 2.8
 - 1.5
 - 1.9
66. Name the Lake that was recently declared Ladakh's 1st biodiversity heritage site.
- Manasbal Lake
 - Nako Lake
 - Haflong Lake
 - Tilyar Lake
 - Yaya Tso Lake

67. Name the operation that was launched by the Indian Government to provide support to Syria and Turkey after a destructive earthquake in February 2023.
- Operation Vande Bharat
 - Operation Raahat
 - Operation Dost
 - Operation Ganga
 - Operation Sukoon
68. In March 2023, the Supreme Court formed a 5 member expert committee headed by former Supreme Court Judge, _____, to examine Hindenburg Research firm's report on the Adani Group.
- Hemant Gupta
 - Abhay Manohar Sapre
 - S. Abdul Nazeer
 - Indira Banerjee
 - Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar
69. In which state, 'Arogya Mahila', a new health programme for women was launched in March 2023?
- Andhra Pradesh
 - Maharashtra
 - Karnataka
 - Telangana
 - Odisha
70. Union Minister of Finance, Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir budget of Rs. _____ in the Lok Sabha in March 2023.
- 1.18 lakh crores
 - 3.18 lakh crores
 - 1.90 lakh crores
 - 3.01 lakh crores
 - 2.10 lakh crores
71. Which Small Finance Bank (SFB) has recently (in March '23) launched a 'Blossom Women's Savings Account' for women customers with a 7% interest rate?
- Equitas SFB
 - ESAF SFB
 - Suryoday SFB
 - Ujjivan SFB
 - Capital SFB
72. As per the data released (in March '23) by the Office of the Economic Adviser, the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) declined to a 25-month low of _____ (Per cent) in February 2023 against 4.73% recorded in January 2023.
- 3.85%
 - 2.75%
 - 3.20%
 - 2.35%
 - 1.99%
73. Name the personality who has recently (in March '23) sworn in as the Chief Minister (CM) of Tripura for the 2nd time.
- Manik Sarkar
 - Pranajit Singha Roy
 - Manik Saha
 - Ratan Lal Nath
 - Biplab Kumar Deb
74. Who was recently (in March '23) elected as the 3rd president of Nepal?
- Pushpa Kamal Dahal
 - Bidhya Devi Bhandari
 - Nanda Bahadur Pun
 - Ram Chandra Poudel
 - Narayan Kaji Shrestha
75. In March 2023, Xi Jinping was appointed as the President of China for the _____ time.
- 5th
 - 3rd
 - 2nd
 - 6th
 - 4th
76. The Indian Army recently (March '23) conducted the 13th edition of "Exercise Bold Kurukshetra 2023" in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, with which country's army?
- Kyrgyzstan
 - Singapore
 - Bangladesh
 - Indonesia
 - Kazakhstan
77. Indian Navy launched _____, the second in a series of eight indigenous ships built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE).
- INS Satpura
 - INS Sahyadri
 - INS Suvarna
 - INS Talwar
 - INS Androth
78. Which country recently joins BRICS bank as new member?
- Sweden
 - Turkey
 - Egypt
 - Bhutan
 - Myanmar
79. Shaheed Diwas or Martyrs' Day 2023 is observed every year on which day?
- 21 March
 - 22 March
 - 23 March
 - 24 March
 - 25 March

- 80.** According to the 2023 M3M Hurun Global Rich List, what is the rank of India in terms of the number of billionaires?
- a) 1st b) 2nd
c) 3rd d) 4th
e) 5th
- 81.** The 10-day Africa-India Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX 2023) will be organized in which city from 21-30 March 2023?
- a) Bengaluru
b) Jalandhar
c) Chennai
d) Pune
e) Thiruvananthapuram
- 82.** India has been invited along with Australia, Cook Islands, Brazil, Vietnam, Indonesia and others for the G7 Summit in _____.
- a) USA
b) Pakistan
c) China
d) Japan
e) Nepal
- 83.** Who won the Saudi Arabia Grand Prix 2023?
- a) Sergio Pérez
b) Max Verstappen
c) Fernando Alonso
d) George Russell
e) Lewis Hamilton
- 84.** Who has inaugurated the Global Millets Conference in New Delhi?
- a) Narendra Modi
b) Amit Shah
c) Rajnath Singh
d) Droupadi Murmu
e) Jagdeep Dhankhar
- 85.** What is the rank of India in Global Terrorism Index 2023?
- a) 10 b) 12
c) 5 d) 6
e) 13
- 86.** Which of the following city hosted the B20 or Business20 meeting under the G20 chairmanship of India?
- a) Bengaluru b) Gangtok
c) Chennai d) Bhopal
e) Mumbai
- 87.** Which INS receive President Droupadi Murmu's Colour Award recently?
- a) INS Vikrant b) INS Vikramaditya
c) INS Cheetah d) INS Jalashwa
e) INS Dronacharya
- 88.** Who among the following has been recently appointed as the chairman of Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)?
- a) Debasish Panda
b) Deepak Mohanty
c) Tablesh Pandey
d) Siddhartha Mohanty
e) M. Jagannath
- 89.** Which of the following won the Oscar for Best Picture in 2023?
- a) Everything Everywhere All At Once
b) Avatar: The Way of Water
c) The Banshees of Inisherin
d) Elvis
e) The Fabelmans
- 90.** Mount Merapi volcano erupted recently. It is located in _____.
- a) Mexico
b) Australia
c) Indonesia
d) Papua New Guinea
e) Russia
- 91.** Which of the following country has won the Golden and Silver Stars at The International 'Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2023'?
- a) India
b) Russia
c) USA
d) Japan
e) China
- 92.** Who has been chosen for the 32nd Vyas Samman?
- a) Dr Nasira Sharma
b) Dr Sharad K. Pagare
c) Dr Asghar Wajahat
d) Dr Gyan Chaturvedi
e) Dr Leeladhar Jagudi
- 93.** Which of the following country has opened military service to women for the first time in 25 years?
- a) South Korea
b) Colombia
c) Japan
d) Thailand
e) UK
- 94.** The 'Landslide Atlas' report in India is published by which among the following organization?
- a) India Meteorological Department
b) Wildlife Trust of India
c) National Remote Sensing Centre
d) National Informatics Centre
e) Greenpeace India

95. NISAR was handed over to ISRO. NISAR is an earth observation satellite jointly developed by ISRO and which space agency?

- JAXA
- NASA
- ROSCOSMOS
- ESA
- SpaceX

96. Who among the following has recently taken oath as Chief Minister of Nagaland?

- Neiphiu Rio
- Conrad Sangma
- Prestone Tynsong
- Sniawbhalang Dhar
- None of the above

97. India's digital payments market will more than triple to \$10 trillion by _____.

- 2025
- 2026
- 2027
- 2028
- 2029

98. Which country has signed MoU with India on semiconductors?

- France
- Germany
- United Kingdom
- United States
- China

99. Reserve Bank of India's Governor launched the Mission 'Har Payment Digital' on the occasion of the Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW) 2023. Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW) is observed from _____ to _____.

- March 1st to 5th
- March 6th to 12th
- March 7th to 14th
- March 5th to March 10th
- March 15th to March 21st

100. S.S. Dubey took charge as the new Controller General of Accounts (CGA). He is the _____ officer to hold the position of CGA.

- 26th
- 27th
- 28th
- 29th
- 30th

Answers

| | | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|----|---|-----|---|
| 1 | c | 26 | d | 51 | e | 76 | b |
| 2 | a | 27 | a | 52 | e | 77 | e |
| 3 | b | 28 | a | 53 | a | 78 | c |
| 4 | c | 29 | a | 54 | d | 79 | b |
| 5 | d | 30 | d | 55 | d | 80 | c |
| 6 | e | 31 | d | 56 | c | 81 | d |
| 7 | a | 32 | b | 57 | a | 82 | d |
| 8 | c | 33 | d | 58 | d | 83 | a |
| 9 | c | 34 | b | 59 | a | 84 | a |
| 10 | a | 35 | c | 60 | b | 85 | e |
| 11 | a | 36 | d | 61 | b | 86 | b |
| 12 | d | 37 | a | 62 | e | 87 | e |
| 13 | a | 38 | d | 63 | a | 88 | b |
| 14 | b | 39 | c | 64 | c | 89 | a |
| 15 | e | 40 | a | 65 | c | 90 | c |
| 16 | a | 41 | d | 66 | e | 91 | a |
| 17 | b | 42 | e | 67 | c | 92 | d |
| 18 | c | 43 | c | 68 | b | 93 | b |
| 19 | e | 44 | d | 69 | d | 94 | c |
| 20 | a | 45 | d | 70 | a | 95 | b |
| 21 | c | 46 | c | 71 | c | 96 | a |
| 22 | e | 47 | e | 72 | a | 97 | b |
| 23 | c | 48 | a | 73 | c | 98 | d |
| 24 | a | 49 | e | 74 | d | 99 | b |
| 25 | e | 50 | c | 75 | b | 100 | c |

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