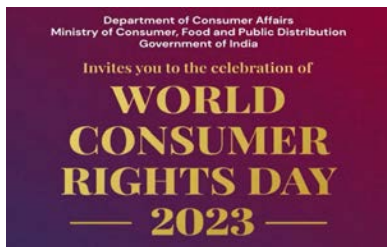




CURRENT AFFAIRS 15th March 2023

National News

1. World Consumer Rights Day 2023



- World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated today, March 15 to raise the awareness about the rights of consumers.
- The theme of the World Consumer Rights Day, 2023 is “Empowering consumers through clean energy transitions”.
- World Consumer Rights Day came into being in 1983.
- It was inspired by a speech given by John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the former president of the United States of America, to the U.S. Congress on consumer rights.
- In India, the government passed the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 that outlines some basic consumer rights.
- Talking to Media, Additional Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, Nidhi Khare has said that in consonance with the theme, the primary thrust is on deployment of technology to reduce dependence of traditional energy sources such as fossil fuels, Ms Khare added that rapid transition to clean energy solutions will promote

sustainability, security, affordability and access to consumers in the long term.

2. State Bank of India raises Rs 3,717 cr from its third AT1 bond sale



- State Bank of India (SBI) has raised Rs 3,717 crore through its third Basel III compliant Additional Tier 1 bond issuance in the current financial year at coupon rate of 8.25 per cent.
- SBI said the issue attracted overwhelming response from investors with bids of Rs 4,537 crore and was oversubscribed by about 2.27 times against the base issue of Rs 2,000 crore.
- The total number of bids were 53 indicating wider participation.
- The investors were across provident and pension funds and insurance companies.
- This issuance is also very significant as SBI has been able to successively diversify and raise long term Additional Tier 1 capital with a call option after 10 years and this will help the bank in managing its capital adequacy effectively.
- The country's largest lender says that the proceeds of bonds will be utilised in augmenting Additional Tier 1 Capital and overall capital base of the Bank and for

strengthening capital adequacy in accordance with RBI Guidelines.

3. IDFC Mutual Fund (MF) has rebranded itself as Bandhan Mutual Fund.



- IDFC Mutual Fund has rebranded itself as Bandhan Mutual Fund. The change in name will be effective from March 13.
- All the schemes of the fund house will be renamed to replace the word 'IDFC' with the word 'Bandhan'.
- The rebranding includes a change of the name and the logo. According to the fund house, the name and ownership change will have no bearing on the investment strategy and processes of the schemes.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India had cleared the Bandhan-linked consortium's proposed acquisition of IDFC Mutual Fund in December 2022.
- Earlier in 2022, a consortium of Bandhan Financial Holdings GIC, and Chrys Capital signed an agreement to buy IDFC AMC and IDFC AMC Trustee Company from parent IDFC for Rs 4,500 crore.
- The company, which was earlier a part of the IDFC group, was acquired by a Bandhan Financial Holdings-led consortium in April 2022.

- The deal was approved by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in November 2022.

4. International Day to Combat Islamophobia – March 15



- In 2022, the United Nations established the International Day To Fight Islamophobia, which is observed annually on March 15 across 140 nations.
- March 15 was selected as the date because it marks the anniversary of the Christchurch mosque massacres, which left 51 people dead.
- The UN has approved a resolution designating March 15 as the International Day to Fight Islamophobia, which was put forth by Pakistan and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.
- The resolution was passed three years to the day after a right-wing fanatic attacked two mosques in New Zealand with a bomb, killing over 50 Muslims.
- The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) had 60 member states, and the UN General Assembly approved a resolution that declared March 15 to be the International Day to Fight Islamophobia.

- The statement emphasises that no religion, nation, civilization, or ethnic group should be linked to terrorism or violent extremism.
- It urges an international conversation about fostering a culture of peace and tolerance based on adherence to human rights.

5. SpaceX launches 40 OneWeb internet satellites, lands a 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 at 2:13 p.m. EST (1913 GMT).
- The rocket's first stage came back to Earth right on schedule, touching down on a landing pad at Cape Canaveral about 7 minutes and 50 seconds after launch.
- SpaceX's 16th Mission of the Year:
- The mission, SpaceX's 16th flight of the year overall, was the third and final planned dedicated Falcon 9 launch for OneWeb, which switched launch providers from Russia's Soyuz rocket to SpaceX and Indian rockets last year after the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

- OneWeb has another reservation with SpaceX for a rideshare mission with Iridium later this year.

6. India eighth most polluted country in the world; Lahore most polluted city



- 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.
- In India, the transport industry is responsible for 20–35% of the country’s PM2.5 pollution. The use of biomass fuels, industrial facilities, and coal-fired power plants are other contributors of air quality degradation.

- Among the top 50 most polluted cities worldwide, Delhi comes in at number four. The city with the highest pollution is Lahore, Pakistan, followed by Hotan, China. Rajasthan's Bhiwadi is ranked third.
- According to the data, Delhi's PM2.5 concentration is about 20 times higher than the recommended amount.
- The research makes a distinction between "big" Delhi and the capital city of New Delhi because Delhi has historically been the most polluted capital in the world.
- Both cities rank among the top 10, but N'Djamena, in Chad, has the dubious distinction of being the world's most polluted capital.
- Pollution levels have decreased in NCR areas including Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram, and Faridabad.

7. Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Coming This Year. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Shares Status Report



- The much anticipated Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train launch has been delayed by three years as only 26% of the work has been completed so far, said Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.
- The original deadline for the launch of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train was December 2023.
- The Railway Minister took to Twitter to share the status report on the bullet train.
- Vaishnaw, in his tweet, said, "there is 26.33 per cent overall physical progress as on February 28, 2023."

- It mentioned that Maharashtra had completed 13.72 per cent of the overall work.
- Gujarat, on the other hand, had finished more than 52 per cent of the civil work and has a current completion rate of 36.93 per cent overall.”

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