



CURRENT AFFAIRS 16th March 2023

National News

1. NASA unveils new generation of spacesuit for humanity's return trip to Moon



- NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) has been unveiled a new generation of spacesuit for humanity's return trip to the Moon.
- The novel design of the spacesuit comes with specialist features to support astronauts as they conduct scientific experiments on the lunar surface.
- The prototype is said to be a better fit for female space travelers.
- NASA said that it hopes to have the updated suit ready for the Artemis III mission to the Moon in 2025.
- When NASA announced that humanity would return to the moon after more than five decades, they promised to send the first woman and person of colour to the lunar surface.
- However, previous plans to send female astronauts to space have been scuppered by the lack of spacesuits in their size.

- A well-fitting suit is crucial to prevent excessive fatigue and at worst, physical harm.
- The existing spacesuits worn by US space travelers have not been fully redesigned since 1981.

2. Tamil writer Sivasankari gets selected for Saraswati Samman for the year 2022 for her book Survya Vamsam



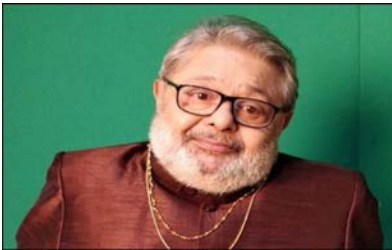
- Tamil writer Sivasankari has been selected for Saraswati Samman for the year 2022 for her book Survya Vamsam.
- It is a book of memoirs in Tamil language and was published in 2019.
- Saraswati Samman instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation in 1991 is recognized as the most prestigious and the highest literary award in the country.
- It carries an award money of 15 lakh rupees, a Citation and a Plaque.

3. Youth Affairs & Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurates IBA Women's World Boxing Championships in New Delhi



- **Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur today inaugurated the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships in New Delhi.**
- **The Boxing Federation of India is hosting the prestigious tournament from the 15th to the 26th of March.**
- **Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Thakur said, 324 women boxers from about 65 countries are taking part in the championship in 12 weight categories.**
- **He said, India has risen to the third position from 44th position in the latest International Boxing Association, IBA world rankings.**

4. Veteran actor Sameer Khakhar passes away at a hospital in Mumbai due to multiple organ failure



- Veteran actor Sameer Khakhar best known for his roles in TV shows such as Nukkad and Circus, passed away today at a hospital in Mumbai due to multiple organ failure.
- He was 71 years old. Actor Sameer was diagnosed with respiratory issues and admitted to a hospital in Mumbai.
- Gradually, his condition worsened, and he died due to multiple organ failure.
- The late actor's most memorable role was Khopadi in the TV serial Nukkad.
- Some of his notable work includes the TV show 'Shrimaan Shrimati', and films such as 'Parinda', Salman Khan-starrer 'Jai Ho', Sidharth Malhotra and Parineeti Chopra's 'Hasee Toh Phasee', Sudhir Mishra-directed 'Serious Men', and Vikas Bahl's web-series 'Sunflower'.
- The last rites will be held tomorrow at Borivali in Mumbai.

5. Uttarakhand govt approves 10 % horizontal reservation for statehood activists in state govt jobs



- The government of Uttarakhand has approved a 10% horizontal reservation for statehood campaigners in state government positions.
- Under the direction of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, the decision was made during a cabinet meeting held in Bhararisain.
- The decision on the reservation to Statehood activists assumes significance since the governor had returned the bill granting 10 per cent reservation to the statehood activists in the past. The statehood activists are not getting the benefit of reservation in government jobs for the past 12 years.
- The proposal to raise the MLA Local Area Development Fund from 3 crore 75 lakh to 5 crore annually also received agreement from the Cabinet.
- The Cabinet also increased the grant given for the beautification of temples from 25 lakh rupees to 50 lakh rupees and increased the financial help given to Mahila

Mangal Dal from 25 lakh rupees to 40 lakh rupees, respectively.

- **It also approved the setting up of an Authority on Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement in each district headed by a District Judge or an Additional District Judge.**

6. Suryodaya Small Finance Bank launches Blossom Women's Savings Account



- **Suryodaya 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, Suryodaya Small Finance Bank said.**
- **The new Mahila Savings Account can be operated through the bank's 571 banking outlets and digital banking platform.**
- **Monthly interest payment on the account,**
- **1 supplementary account for child (Saving Aditya Account),**
- **Concession in processing fee on two wheeler loans (*select cities only)**
- **Door-step banking subject to availability,**
- **Insurance as per the type of debit card,**
- **Average Monthly Balance (AMB) 10,000**

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



- **AAHAR 2023:** 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.
- The greatest four-day culinary event in India is called **Aahar 2023**, where wholesalers, caterers, hoteliers, and restaurant owners gather to source the best food, hospitality, and equipment as well as to assess industry trends.
- At the fair's major event, **Culinary Art India**, WACS-certified jury members from India and overseas will also assess the skill of more than 500 cooks.
- The other chefs will have the chance to showcase their skills and abilities while famous chefs cook up some of their best dishes.

- **March 14 to March 18; 10 am to 6 pm at Pragati Maidan**
- **Pricing of Tickets: Rs. 50 to Rs. 1000.**

8. India remains world's largest arms importer, share of Russian imports fell to 45 per cent



- **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.**
- **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%).**
- **The most recent report supports the findings of the Sipri report from last year. India remained still the world's top importer of weaponry in 2022, despite a 21% decline in imports between 2012–16 and 2017–21, according to the report.**

- **A cumbersome procurement process and efforts to replace imports with local products, according to the latest research, were among the causes of the drop in India's imports.**

By sameer singhal

PLUTUS ACADEMY