



## CURRENT AFFAIRS 1st March 2023

### National News

#### 1. Bola Tinubu wins Nigeria's presidential election



- Bola Tinubu, the candidate of the ruling party in Nigeria, was declared the winner and sworn in as president of Africa's most populous country in the early hours of Wednesday, March 1, after a weekend election that the major opposition parties have disputed.
- Former governor of Lagos state, Mr. Tinubu, will take command of a nation battling Islamic insurgencies in the northeast, armed attacks, homicides, and kidnappings, strife between farmers and cattle herders, shortages of cash, fuel, and power, and enduring corruption.
- According to the Independent National Election Commission (INEC), Tinubu received 8.79 million votes, surpassing Atiku Abubakar, the leading competitor, who received 6.98 million.
- Younger people preferred the outsider Peter Obi, who received 6.1 million votes.

## 2. Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar takes over as Vice Chief of Army Staff



- Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar assumed the charge of the Vice Chief of the Army Staff on Wednesday.
- The General officer has taken over the charge from Lieutenant General BS Raju who has taken over the reins of Jaipur-based Sapta Shakti Command today.
- Prior to taking over as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff, Lieutenant General Kumar was tenanted the appointment of Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy) at Army Headquarters.
- He has experience in intelligence, operations, force structuring, operational logistics and tech infusion in his recent appointments.

### 3. Rajesh Malhotra assumes charge as Principal Director-General, Press Information Bureau



- Senior Indian Information Service (IIS) officer, Rajesh Malhotra has been appointed as the principal director general of the Press Information Bureau (PIB), according to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
- He will be the principal spokesperson of the government of India.
- He will replace Satyendra Prakash, who took charge as principal DG of PIB in August 2022.
- Malhotra, a 1989 batch officer, had been working in Ministry of Finance since January 2018. “During the critical Covid-19 pandemic, he effectively steered the media and communication policy in the Ministry of Finance in sync with the various AatmaNirbhar Bharat Packages announced by the government over time to give relief to people and maintain economic balance,”.
- Malhotra has over 32 years of operational experience in planning and implementation of media and communication

strategies for the Election Commission of India and various central government ministries/ departments including finance, company affairs, agriculture, power, coal, mines, communications and IT, textiles, labour, new & renewable energy.

#### 4. UN report: Uranium particles enriched to 83.7 per cent found in Iran



- Inspectors from the United Nations nuclear watchdog found uranium particles enriched up to 83.7% in Iran's underground Fordo nuclear site.
- The confidential quarterly report by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency distributed to member states likely will raise tensions further between Iran and the West over its nuclear program.
- That's even as Tehran already faces internal unrest after months of protests and Western anger over sending bomb-carrying drones to Russia for its war on Ukraine.
- The IAEA report only speaks about "particles," suggesting that Iran isn't building a stockpile of uranium enriched above 60% — the level it has been enriching at for some time.
- The IAEA report described inspectors discovering on Jan. 21 that two cascades of IR-6 centrifuges at Iran's Fordo facility had been configured in a way "substantially different" to what had been previously declared.

## 5. Air India plans to do away with Vistara brand after merger



- Air India, owned by the Tata group, will discontinue the Vistara brand on completion of its merger with Tata SIA Airlines Ltd, the operator of Vistara airline, chief executive and managing director Campbell Wilson said.
- Tata Group owns a 51 per cent stake and Singapore Airlines the rest in Vistara.
- The full-service carrier will be known as Air India only, which is a much more recognisable brand outside India.
- Some of Vistara's heritage would be retained in that 'new manifestation', said Wilson.
- "The intention is to have one full-service airline and one low-cost airline in the group.
- The full-service airline will be an amalgam of Air India and Vistara," Wilson said during a virtual media interaction.
- He added that the idea was to carry forth the heritage of both Air India and Vistara, and work is undergoing to that end.

## 6. Elon Musk returns to the top, becomes richest person on the planet again



- **Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla, once again overtook the position of richest person in the world on February 28, according to a Bloomberg Billionaires Index report.**
- **The second-placed French business tycoon Bernard Arnault has a net worth of \$185 billion, trailing Tesla CEO Elon Musk by \$187 billion.**
- **With a net worth of \$117 billion, Amazon Executive Chairman Jeff Bezos ranks third in terms of wealth.**
- **The strong increase in Tesla stock price, which rose to 92% in 2023 and outpaced the Nasdaq 100 rally so far in 2023, has been cited as the cause of the jump in Musk's wealth.**
- **The increase in the Nasdaq 100 Index so far this year is 11%.**

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