



# MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS MARCH-APRIL 2023

for BANK/SSC/RAILWAY Examination

## SPECIAL ATTRACTION

- Elon Musk returns to the top, becomes richest person on the planet again
- ISRO successfully conducts flight acceptance hot test of CE-20 cryogenic engine
- Army installs tallest Iconic National Flag in hilly Doda district, J&K
- NASA unveils new generation of spacesuit for humanity's return trip to Moon
- Odisha Hits Jackpot As Huge Gold Mines Found In Three Districts

# OUR ACHIEVERS 2021-2022



**ANIMESH**  
IBPS PO



**ANJALI GRAG**  
IBPS PO



**HIMANSHI**  
RRB PO



**VEENA MANJUNATH**  
RRB PO



**PRAMOD**  
SBI PO



**PREETI**  
SSC GD



**SAYED SHARZIL ALI**  
IBPS CLERK & SO



**SACHIN PAL**  
CDS

**Many more...**

## FOREWORD

Dear Aspirants,

As we all know, the Civil Services Exam (CSE) is becoming more and more challenging due to the day by day increase in unpredictability. We at PLUTUS Academy developed this magazine keeping in mind the unpredictable nature of the Civil Services Exam. The development of the magazine is in such a chronological order that it gives conceptual clarity to aspirants at first glance. Each and every topic contains relevant sources and articles, an aspirant should first go through the original article and try to get conceptual grasp and make notes from them. After that they should read the topics from magazines. An aspirant should also try to make note of the keywords relevant for mains preparation. In this way an aspirant will move towards the unending ocean of civil services preparation with clarity and confidence.

Our PLUTUS Academy team wishes you All the Best for your career. Do hard work and be consistent in your journey, it will definitely give results. May you all crack the Civil Services Examination with flying colours.

Team  
PLUTUS Academy

### COPYRIGHT 2021

© All Rights Reserved. No part of this Book will be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted by any means, Electronics, Mechanical, Photocopying, etc., or utilized in any form without written permission from PLUTUS Academy. PLUTUS Academy has taken due care in collecting the Data before publishing this Book. If any inaccuracy or printing Error occurs, PLUTUS Academy owns no Responsibility.



# INSIDE THE PAGES

## S.No

## Topics

1. Ellora -Ajanta International Festival 2023 begins in Maharashtra
2. IAF contingent to participate in Exercise Cobra Warrior in United Kingdom
3. UAE to send its second astronaut to space on a long haul mission to ISS
4. Qatar Open: Daniil Medvedev beats Andy Murray in final
5. LS speaker Om Birla inaugurates 19th Annual Zone III CPA Conference in Sikkim
6. Nokia changes its logo to mark the start of a new era
7. Argentina captain Lionel Messi bags best FIFA football player award
8. National Science Day, marking discovery of Raman Effect being celebrated
9. W-20 meeting to conclude at Chatrapati Sambhajnagar
10. ISRO successfully conducts flight acceptance hot test of CE-20 cryogenic engine
11. J&K wins best adventure tourism destination award
12. Air India's order for 470 jets at list price of \$70 billion
13. With new tagline, Pepsi ropes in Ranveer Singh as its new brand ambassador
14. Bola Tinubu wins Nigeria's presidential election
15. Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar takes over as Vice Chief of Army Staff
16. Rajesh Malhotra Assumes Charge As Principal Director-General, Press Information Bureau
17. UN report: Uranium particles enriched to 83.7 per cent found in Iran
18. Air India plans to do away with Vistara brand after merger
19. Elon Musk returns to the top, becomes richest person on the planet again
20. Govt approves procurement of 70 HTT-40 Basic Trainer Aircraft for Indian Air Force
21. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar to inaugurate Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela on Thursday
22. Supreme Court rules selection of Chief Election Commissioner and Election

## Commissioners

23. Counting of votes for assembly elections underway in Tripura, Meghalaya & Nagaland
24. Reliance Jio second-strongest telecom brand in world, says report
25. Nitin Gadkari inaugurates highway projects worth Rs 6,800 crore in MP
26. Windsor Framework: What is the deal UK and EU have reached to solve the Northern Ireland Protocol tangle
27. World Wildlife Day 2023: Celebrating 'Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation'
28. Health Ministry gets Porter Prize 2023 for Government's strategy in managing COVID-19
29. Health Ministry celebrates Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2023 today
30. Triple-jumper Aishwarya Babu gets 4-year ban for doping
31. Afi National throws competition: jeswinaldrin breaks national ling jump record with leap of 8.42M to claim gold
32. RBI launches 2 surveys to gather 'useful inputs' for monetary policy
33. ACF confers Grandmaster D Gukesh with Player-of-the-Year award
34. Hockey India appoints South African Craig Fulton as new Chief Coach of Indian men's hockey team
35. First-ever women's premier league to begin in navi mumbai
36. Odisha Hits Jackpot As Huge Gold Mines Found In Three Districts
37. Former Chief Justice of India AM Ahmadi passes away at 90 at his home
38. RBI puts restrictions on Musiri Urban Co-operative Bank; caps withdrawal
39. Mumbai jumps to 37th place globally in price growth in luxury housing
40. Veteran actor & director Satish Kaushik passes away
41. Colombia opens military service to women for first time in 25 years
42. Army installs tallest Iconic National Flag in hilly Doda district, J&K
43. Indian Navy's operational level exercise TROPEX 2023 culminates in Arabian Sea
44. Group Captain Shaliza Dhami becomes first woman officer to command frontline IAF combat unit
45. Indian Navy successfully tests Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile from INS Visakhapatnam
46. 23rd Commonwealth Law Conference begins in Goa.
47. Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurates Khelo India Dus Ka Dum



## Tournament

48. Xi Jinping elected China's President for unprecedented third term
49. Indian artists galore at World Art Dubai - The world's premier art exhibition
50. Union Home Minister Amit Shah to take part in 54th Raising Day Celebrations of CISF on 12th March in Hyderabad
51. Indian Navy's operational level exercise TROPEX 2023 culminates in Arabian Sea
52. World Kidney Day 2023
53. India beat world champions Germany 3-2 in FIH Pro League in Odisha
54. Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway important project, will contribute to Karnataka's growth, says PM Modi
55. Central government announces 10% reservation for Ex-Agniveers in BSF recruitment
56. Maharashtra will introduce 4th women's policy to give more opportunities to women: Devendra Fadnis
57. Former bureaucrat KM Chandrasekhar's memoir offers a ringside view of the workings of India's corridors of power
58. B Gopkumar takes over Axis Mutual Fund as CEO Chandresh Nigam steps down
59. Nepal elects Ram Chandra Paudel as its next president.
60. New initiative called 'beggar-free city' being started in Maharashtra's Nagpur
61. Ahmedabad Test: 4th & final test match of Border-Gavaskar trophy between India & Australia ends in a draw
62. Nepali Congress leader Ram Chandra Paudel sworn in as President of Nepal
63. India creates history by winning two Oscars
64. Govt appoints Siddhartha Mohanty as interim Chairman of LIC
65. PM Modi inaugurates world's longest railway platform at Shree Siddharoodha Swamiji Hubballi station
66. International Mathematics Day 2023: Know History, Theme, Significance of Pi day celebrations
67. US, Australia and Britain to provide Australia with nuclear-powered attack submarines
68. GoI announces Rs 1,18,500 crore budget for JK
69. Pfizer Buys Seagen for \$43B, Boosts Access to Cancer Drugs

70. Exercise La Perouse 2023: Navies Of India, Australia, US, UK, France And Japan Participate
71. Two-day G20 flower festival begins in New Delhi
72. Silicon Valley Bank Collapses, Biggest Banking Failure Since 2008
73. World Consumer Rights Day 2023
74. State Bank of India raises Rs 3,717 cr from its third AT1 bond sale
75. IDFC Mutual Fund (MF) has rebranded itself as Bandhan Mutual Fund.
76. International Day to Combat Islamophobia – March 15
77. SPACEX LAUNCHES 40 ONEWEB INTERNET SATELLITES, LANDS A ROCKET.
78. India eighth most polluted country in the world; Lahore most polluted city
79. Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Coming This Year. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Shares Status Report
80. NASA unveils new generation of spacesuit for humanity's return trip to Moon
81. Tamil writer Sivasankari gets selected for Saraswati Samman for the year 2022 for her book Survyam Vamsam
82. Youth Affairs & Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurates IBA Women's World Boxing Championships in New Delhi
83. Veteran actor Sameer Khakhar passes away at a hospital in Mumbai due to multiple organ failure
84. Uttarakhand govt approves 10 % horizontal reservation for statehood activists in state govt jobs
85. Suryodaya Small Finance Bank launches Blossom Women's Savings Account
86. AAHAR 2023: Asia's biggest International Food and Hospitality Fair begins in Delhi today
87. India remains world's largest arms importer, share of Russian imports fell to 45 per cent
88. India's worker-population-ratio rises to 52.9% in 2021-22
89. PM MITRA mega textile parks to be set up in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, MP, UP
90. MS Dhoni is Viacom18 brand ambassador
91. Canara Bank launches Rupay Credit Card through UPI
92. TCS appoints K Krithivasan as CEO designate after Rajesh Gopinathan resigns 'to pursue other interests'

93. Union Minister Shri Narender Singh Tomar inaugurates “AgriUnifest” in Bengaluru; says, Youth Energy will help in India’s development
94. IDFC First Bank becomes official banking partner for Mumbai Indians
95. RBI’s Shaktikanta Das named ‘Governor of the Year’ by Central Banking
96. Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav elected as Nepal’s third Vice President
97. New Zealand to ban TikTok on devices linked to parliament
98. International Ayurved conclave on ‘Veterinary and Ayurveda’ inaugurated at Haridwar
99. Bipin: The Man Behind the Uniform
100. 6th Nepal International Film festival 2023 begins in Kathmandu
101. Ordnance Factory Day 2023
102. US recognises McMahon Line as international boundary between China and Arunachal Pradesh
103. ICC issues arrest warrant for Vladimir Putin over Ukraine war crimes
104. ISSF World Cup Shooting Championship to begin at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh
105. Indian Higher Education Meet 2023 inaugurated in Dhaka
106. NAGPUR TO HOST C-20 INDIA INCEPTION MEETING
107. In poll year, Ashok Gehlot announces 19 new districts, 3 divisions
108. Swimmer Sampanna Ramesh Shelar becomes fastest Indian in U21 group to swim across Palk Strait from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka to Dhanuskodi in Tamil Nadu
109. Lalit Kumar Gupta appointed as CMD of Cotton Corporation of India (CCI)
110. Afghanistan most impacted by terrorism for fourth straight year, India ranks 13th: Global Terrorism Index
111. External Affairs Minister Jaishankar inaugurates “Geoffrey Bawa: It is Essential To be There” Exhibition to mark the 75 years of Indo-Lanka Diplomatic Relations
112. G Krishnakumar takes over as Bharat Petroleum Corporation’s chairman
113. Former Australia test cricket captain Tim Paine retires
114. Rohan Bopanna becomes oldest ATP Masters 1000 champion by winning men’s doubles title at Indian Wells
115. Joe Biden to present 2021 National Humanities Medals to Indian-American Mindy Kaling
116. World Poetry Day 2023



117. International Day of Forests 2023
118. World Water Day 2023
119. Bangladesh commissions its first submarine base
120. ISRO to launch OneWeb India-2 mission from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota
121. India Inaugurates Asia's Largest Liquid Mirror Telescope To Unravel Mysteries Of Space
122. Merlin Group plans to develop a World Trade Center in Kolkata
123. AFINDEX 2023: Second Africa-India joint military exercise begins in Pune today
124. Pankaj Advani retains Asian Billiards title
125. ISSF World Cup Shooting Championship: India win bronze medal in 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team event in Bhopal
126. Venezuelan President appoints PDVSA head Pedro Rafael Tellechea as new oil minister
127. QS World Rankings 2023: IIT Delhi Enters List Of Top 50 Institutions For Engineering
128. Sergio Pérez wins Saudi Arabia Grand Prix but Max Verstappen keeps title lead
129. Stadium named after hockey star Rani Rampal, first woman to get this honour
130. World Meteorological Day: Open day at IMD Pune on March 23
131. India, UK hold joint maritime exercise 'Konkan' in Arabian Sea
132. A matter of the heart: Education in India
133. Defense ministry inks contracts worth Rs 3,700 cr to enhance Indian Air Force's radar operations
134. NASA-ISRO Jointly Manufactures NISAR Earth Science Satellite
135. Most silent ship INS Androth launched
136. International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations
137. Income tax dept launches AIS mobile app: How to download and register
138. Ashneer Grover's new startup CrickPe is a fantasy sports app that will also reward cricketers

# CURRENTS AFFAIRS

## MARCH-APRIL 2023

### NATIONAL NEWS

#### Ellora -Ajanta International Festival 2023 begins in Maharashtra



- Sitar player Ustad Sujaat Hussain will perform along with tabla players Amit Choube and Mukesh Jadhav today in a three-day Ellora -Ajanta International Festival 2023 in Chatrapati Sambhaji Nagar Maharashtra.
- Drum player Padamshri Shiv Mani, Sitar player Ravi Chari, Piano player Sangeet Haldipur, Khanjira player Selva Ganesh, bass guitar player Sheldon DeSilva and Aditi Bhagwat will also perform on kathak dance.
- Yesterday evening, Union Minister of State for Finance Dr. Bhagwat Karad inaugurated this festival.
- The Government of Maharashtra's Minister for Employment Guarantee Scheme and horticulture Mr. Sandipan Bhumare and Minister for Co-operative and marketing Mr Atul Save, were present on this occasion.

#### IAF contingent to participate in Exercise Cobra Warrior in United Kingdom



- An Indian Air Force contingent comprising 145 Air Warriors has departed from Air Force Station Jamnagar to participate in Exercise Cobra Warrior at the Waddington Air Force Base of the Royal Air Force in the United Kingdom.
- The Exercise Cobra Warrior is a multilateral Air exercise in which Air Forces from Finland, Sweden, South Africa, the United States of America and Singapore would also be participating.
- The exercise aims to participate in fighter aircraft engagements and learn from the best practices of various Air Forces.
- The IAF will be participating in the exercise with five Mirage 2000 fighters, two C-17 Globemaster III and an IL-78 mid-air refueller aircraft.

### **UAE to send its second astronaut to space on a long haul mission to ISS**



- UAE's second astronaut, Sultan Al Neyadi - Mission Specialist, Primary Crew, Crew-6, is set to embark on the historic space mission scheduled at 10:45 am on February 27th, from Kennedy Space Center, Florida, USA.
- Once he reaches the orbiting station, onboard the International Space Station he will undertake various science experiments over the next six months.
- Fields of scientific experiments range from learning about the cardiovascular system, epigenetics, immune system, fluid science, plant biology, sleep analysis and radiation.
- Apart from Al Neyadi the other members of the SpaceX Crew-6 are Nasa commander Stephen Bowen, pilot William Hoburg, and Russian cosmonaut Andrey Fedyaev.
- UAE will be only the 11th country to send an astronaut on a long-term mission to space with this mission.
- Dr Al Neyadi, 41, will spend six months aboard the ISS in what will be the Arab world's longest-duration space mission.
- Sultan Al Neyadi is a member of the UAE Astronaut Program and an Emirati astronaut.

- He was born in the UAE in 1987 and has a PhD in Information Technology from Griffith University in Australia.
- Neyadi was chosen from over 4,000 applicants in 2018 to be one of two UAE astronauts on a mission to the International Space Station (ISS).

### **Qatar Open: Daniil Medvedev beats Andy Murray in final**



- Daniil Medvedev won the Qatar Open in his professional tennis debut by defeating Andy Murray 6-4, 6-4, in the final game between two former No. 1s.
- In every set, Medvedev converted quick beginnings. In the first, he got to 4-1, and in the second, he got to 3-1.
- Murray retaliated, but Medvedev silenced him to win his 17th singles championship.
- Medvedev also triumphed in Rotterdam, extending his winning streak to nine games.
- Medvedev has now won 18 Tour-level championships after winning in Rotterdam last week as well.
- He got off to a great start and quickly settled into his baseline rhythm, winning the majority of the extended rallies and taking a 4-1 lead with two breaks of serve.
- Murray also fell behind in the second set but came back with a break of serve to win it.
- On Friday, Murray saved five match points against Jiri Lehecka to advance to his 71st ATP final.

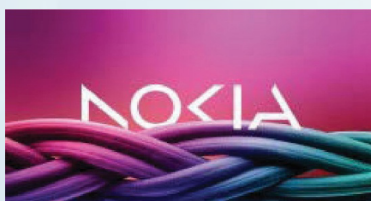
### **LS speaker Om Birla inaugurates 19th Annual Zone III CPA Conference in Sikkim**





- Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla inaugurated the 19th Annual Zone III Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region in Gangtok, Sikkim on Thursday.
- Delivering the inaugural address, Mr Birla said that the legislature, as a forum to solve people's problems, must be the center of unhindered debate sans disruption which will increase peoples' faith in democratic institutions, thereby strengthening our democracy.
- He emphasized on discussion and dialogue, observing that it is the biggest strength of democracy.
- Speaking on the economic potential of the northeastern states, Mr Birla said that there are huge possibilities in the field of tourism, renewable energy, organic farming and handicrafts.
- He also emphasized on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's focus on the North East through projects under Gatishakti, Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region and multimodal connectivity, among others, which has transformed the vision of Look East to Act East.
- Speaking on subjects of the Conference, Mr Birla said that cyber bullying is relevant today as it affects the youth, who are the future of the nation.
- He said that it is the responsibility of lawmakers and citizens to deliberate on the challenge and create awareness to address it.
- He said, information technology should be used to improve efficiency in governance and improving lives of people but at the same time safeguards should be taken to protect institutions and people from its demerits.

### **Nokia changes its logo to mark the start of a new era**



- Nokia will no longer use the colour blue and will instead use whatever is more fitting given the circumstances, therefore no particular colour scheme is allocated.
- Nokia is now a “enterprise technology company,” according to Lundmark, rather than just a maker of smartphones.
- Nokia will put more of an emphasis on selling equipment to other companies while

also expanding its telecom equipment business.

- They include tools for automated manufacturing and private 5G networks, positioning the business as a rival to Microsoft and Amazon in the industry.
- A “three-phased approach to generate sustainable, profitable growth” is being developed by Nokia. It was stated that Nokia will “continue to accelerate” following the reset phase to establish itself as “an unchallenged technology leader.”
- The announcement on Sunday is consistent with Nokia’s long-term financial objectives, which were reaffirmed with Q4 2022 results.

### **Argentina captain Lionel Messi bags best FIFA football player award**



- Argentina captain Lionel Messi has been named the best player in men’s football by FIFA, at The Best FIFA Football Awards in Paris yesterday.
- Messi won this award for his outstanding performances in men’s football from August 2021 to December 2022.
- The 35-year-old forward scored two goals in the final against France.
- France’s Kylian Mbappe, also nominated for the highly anticipated award of the night, netted a hat trick in the World Cup final.
- However, Mbappe’s achievement was overshadowed as Messi finally won the most coveted trophy.
- Spain’s Alexia Putellas won the best women’s player award for the second year in a row.

### **National Science Day, marking discovery of Raman Effect being celebrated**



- National Science Day is being celebrated across the country today.
- The theme of this year's Science day is "Global Science for Global Wellbeing", in light of India's G20 presidency.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has extended his greetings to all scientists and innovators of the country.
- In a tweet, the Prime Minister said, India is making innumerable strides in the world of science and nurturing an ecosystem for research and innovation.
- National Science Day is celebrated to mark the discovery of the "Raman Effect" by physicist Sir CV Raman on this day in 1928.
- For this discovery, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930. In 1954, he was honored with India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna.
- In 1986, the National Council for Science & Technology asked the Government of India to designate February 28 as National Science Day.
- Since 1987, the event has been celebrated all over the country in schools, colleges, universities and other academic, scientific, technical, medical and research institutions.

### **W-20 meeting to conclude at Chatrapati Sambhajnagar**



- The inception meeting of W-20 (Women 20) will conclude today at Chatrapati Sambhajnagar.
- The delegates of the W-20 group will discuss a major priority topic in two important sessions to day.
- In the special session, Member of Parliament Dr. Sonal Mansingh and some navy lady officers will discuss the topic on breaking the barriers: stories of unconventional women.
- Last session will be held on the topic of the enablers for women -led development: policy and legal frameworks.
- After the last session, task force members will finalize the discussion summary.
- India has selected five priority areas for the meeting. These are- Women in Entrepreneurship, Women Leadership at Grassroots, Bridging the Gender Digital Divide, Education & Skill Development and Women & Girls as change makers Climate



### **ISRO successfully conducts flight acceptance hot test of CE-20 cryogenic engine**



- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted the flight acceptance hot test of the CE-20 cryogenic engine.
- The Engine will power the Cryogenic Upper Stage of the LVM3 launch vehicle for the Chandrayaan-3 mission.
- The space agency said the test was successfully conducted on February 24, at the ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu.
- ISRO said, the hot test was carried out for a planned duration of 25 seconds at the High Altitude Test Facility.
- It said, all the propulsion parameters during the test were found satisfactory and closely matched with predictions.
- The Space agency said, the cryogenic engine will be further integrated with the propellant tanks, stage structures and associated fluid lines to realise the fully integrated flight cryogenic stage.

### **J&K wins best adventure tourism destination award**



- The India Today Tourism Survey has chosen Jammu & Kashmir Tourism for best adventure tourism award.

- The awards were given away at New Delhi by Union Minister of State for Culture & Parliamentary Affairs, Arjun Ram Meghwal.
- The award has been given to the J&K Tourism Department in recognition of its efforts in promoting 'Gulmarg' as an adventure destination of international order.
- The award was received by Deputy Director, Tourism, Alyas Ahmad on behalf of the Department.
- Ministers from Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, representatives of Tourism Boards of several states and UTs, representatives of national travel trade and business bodies were present on the occasion.
- Expo(SATTE), one of the best trade expos in the country in which the J&K Tourism Department was awarded for its efforts in post COVID-19 recovery of the tourism sector.
- It is in place to mention here that last year J&K received a record number of tourists and the Department for the last two years has been consistently diversifying its tourism products which has gone well among the tourists.

### **Air India's order for 470 jets at list price of \$70 billion**



- Tata group-owned Air India's order for a record 470 aircraft from Airbus and Boeing Co will be at a list price of \$70 billion, Chief Executive Campbell Wilson said, as the airline seeks opportunities to expand in long-haul international.
- Air India had, earlier this month, announced provisional deals for 220 planes from Boeing and 250 from Airbus in an order that would eclipse previous records for an order by a single carrier.
- The airline plans to fund the order with a combination of resources, including internal cash flow, shareholder equity and sale-and-leaseback of aircraft, Wilson told reporters at a press conference.
- Air India, once considered a world-class airline in India, saw its image tarnish in the mid-2000s due to financial troubles, an aging fleet and poor service.
- The airline's renaissance under the Tata conglomerate, which took control of the previously government-owned carrier last year, aims to capitalize on India's growing

base of fliers and large di aspora across the world.

### **With new tagline, Pepsi ropes in Ranveer Singh as its new brand ambassador**



- PepsiCo India has roped in actor Ranveer Singh to endorse its leading soft drink brand Pepsi.
- Singh joins Pepsi's growing league of celebrity endorsers. In 2019, the brand roped in actor Salman Khan.
- In January, Pepsi had announced that it has roped in Kannada actor Yash as its brand ambassador.
- A leading female actor could soon join the brand's summer campaign that Pepsi is running under the "Rise up Baby" theme.
- Singh, whose brand rankings improved in 2021, had a brand value of \$158.3 million according to a Duff & Phelps report. Singh was the second-most valued brand in the rankings after cricketer Virat Kohli. Singh endorses 45 brands.
- The snacks and beverage maker is also launching a campaign with a new tagline "Rise Up Baby" to reflect the new brand positioning.
- India is among the fastest growing markets in the AMESA (Africa, Middle East, South Asia) region.
- The global beverage brand Pepsi is in its 125th year. In India, Pepsi had last refreshed its tagline to "Har Ghoont Mein Swag" in 2019.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

## 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.

## 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%.

### **Govt approves procurement of 70 HTT-40 Basic Trainer Aircraft for Indian Air Force**



- The government has approved the procurement of 70 HTT-40 Basic Trainer Aircraft from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Indian Air Force at a cost of over six thousand 828 crore rupees. The aircraft will be supplied over a period of six years.
- The Ministry of Defence said, the aircraft will meet the shortage of basic trainer aircraft of IAF for the training of newly inducted pilots.
- The Ministry said, the HTT-40 is a turboprop aircraft and is designed to have good low-speed handling qualities and provide better training effectiveness.
- According to the Ministry, the procurement is expected to provide direct employment to one thousand 500 personnel and indirect employment for up to three thousand people spread over more than 100 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- The acquisition of the HTT-40 provides a fillip to the Indian Aerospace Defence ecosystem and boosts efforts towards 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

### **Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar to inaugurate Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela on Thursday**



- Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar will inaugurate the Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela in New Delhi on Thursday.
- The three-day fair is being organised with the theme Nutrition, Food and



### Environmental Protection with Shree Anna.

- The event will hold Technical Sessions on important and contemporary issues in Agriculture including development of Shree Anna-based value chain, Smart Farming Model, Sustainable Agriculture and Farmer Producer Organisations.
- Live demonstrations of important varieties of wheat, mustard, gram, vegetables, flowers and fruits will be held at the fair.
- For the benefit of remote farmers and consumers, live webcasts of the fair will also be available.

### Supreme Court rules selection of Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners



- The Supreme Court today ruled that appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners will be done by the President on the advice of a committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India.
- A five-judge constitution bench headed by Justice K.M. Joseph said, this panel will be enforced until a law in this regard is made by Parliament.
- The bench was hearing a batch of petitions seeking reform in the process for the appointment of members of the Election Commission of India.
- The top court emphasized that the Election Commission has to remain aloof from all forms of subjugation by the executive.
- The top court emphasized that the Election Commission is duty bound to act in a fair and legal manner and to abide by the provisions of the Constitution.

## Counting of votes for assembly elections underway in Tripura, Meghalaya & Nagaland



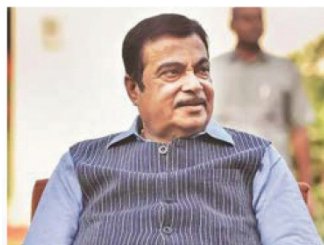
- The counting of votes for Assembly elections in Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya is underway amid tight security.
- As per the trends available, the BJP-IPFT alliance is heading towards victory in Tripura, while the ruling NDPP-BJP combine is set to retain power in Nagaland.
- Meghalaya is heading towards a hung Assembly with the ruling NPP emerging as the single largest party.
- In Tripura, trends are available for all 60 seats. The ruling BJP-IPFT combine is leading in 34, the CPM-Congress alliance in 14 and TIPRA MOTHHA in 12 seats.
- Chief Minister and BJP candidate Dr. Manik Saha is leading in town Bardowali constituency.
- In Nagaland, trends are available for all 60 seats. The ruling NDPP-BJP combine is leading on 39 seats, while Naga People's Front (NPF) is leading on 1, while others are leading at 20 seats.
- BJP candidate Kazheto Kinimi has already won from the Akuluto constituency unopposed. In the Tuensang Sadar-I constituency, BJP candidate P. Bashangmongba Chang has defeated his nearest rival and NCP candidate Toyang Chang by a margin of 5,644 votes.
- In Tuensang Sadar-II, Imtichoba of RPI(Athawale) has been declared elected. In the Noksen constituency, Y Lima Onen Chang of RPI (Athawale) defeated H Chuba Chang of NDPP by a margin of
- 188 votes.
- In Shamator Chessore, S Keoshu Yimchunger of NDPP defeated R Tohanba of Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) by a margin of 2,295 votes. Incumbent Chief Minister and NDPP candidate Neiphiu Rio is leading from the Northern Angami-11 assembly constituency.

## Reliance Jio second-strongest telecom brand in world, says report



- Reliance Jio has climbed up to number two rank - up from fifth place last year - in a list of the top 10 strongest telecom brands in the world.
- In this post we will explore the Top 150 most valuable and strongest telecoms operator brands according to Brand Finance 2023 rankings.
- As the telecommunications industry continues to grow and evolve, keeping track of who's-who in terms of establishing a strong presence can be difficult.
- Brand Finance has compiled a list of companies based on their brand value.
- Brand Finance have developed a comprehensive evaluation process to not only assess the value of brands, but also ascertain their relative strength.
- Utilizing best-practice ISO 20671 guidelines and up-to-date research collated from an expansive survey spanning 38 countries and 31 sectors with over 150,000 respondents - Brand Finance provide crucial insights for businesses looking to make informed decisions about brand performance.

## Nitin Gadkari inaugurates highway projects worth Rs 6,800 crore in MP



- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated 7 National Highway projects worth Rs 2,444 crore, totaling 204 km in Rewa, Madhya Pradesh.
- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari informed that with the construction of the Churhat tunnel and by pass, the length between Rewa to Sidhi has decreased by 7 km.
- Now instead of two and a half hours, people will be able to cover this distance in 45

minutes.

- The Minister informed that the movement of vehicles in the Rewa-Sidhi section will be facilitated by the construction of the tunnel, white tigers, and other wild animals, and the entire forest eco system will be protected.
- With the construction of the Devtalab-Naigarhi road, the connectivity of Rewa district with Prayagraj and Varanasi will be easy.
- Nitin Gadkari noted that with the construction of the Satna-Bela four-lane road, connectivity will become easier for the coal, cement, and diamond industries in the region.
- He informed me that with the construction of this route, the journey from Satna to Rewa can be completed in 40 minutes. Access to famous tourist places like Jhansi, Orchha, Khajuraho, Panna, and Satna will be easy.

### **Windsor Framework: What is the deal UK and EU have reached to solve the Northern Ireland Protocol tangle**



- After months of intensive talks, the United Kingdom and European Union have unveiled an agree ment on the Northern Ireland Protocol, called the Windsor Framework.
- This is not a new protocol or a fundamental rewrite of the current treaty.
- But the package announced this week is an improved deal that could substantively ease how the protocol will operate for businesses as well as individuals.
- It is a negotiating achievement that marks a turning point in the long road since Brexit for North ern Ireland.
- After the UK left the European Union, Northern Ireland remained its only constituent that shared a land border with an EU-member, the Republic of Ireland.
- Since the EU and the UK have different product standards, border checks would be necessary be fore goods could move from Northern Ireland to Ireland.
- However, the two Irelands have had a long history of conflict, with a hard-fought peace secured only in 1998 under the Belfast Agreement, also called the Good Friday



agreement.

- Fiddling with this border was thus considered too dangerous, and it was decided the checks would be conducted between Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- This was called the Northern Ireland Protocol.

### **World Wildlife Day 2023: Celebrating 'Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation'**



- Our planet is home to a wide array of wild flora and fauna, which play a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance and providing us with food, medicine and more.
- World Wildlife Day is marked annually on March 3 to celebrate the unique wild species and create awareness to help conserve them.
- The 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) designated March 3 as World Wildlife Day on December 20, 2013, with an aim to raise awareness about the conservation of the world's wild flora and fauna.
- It was on March 3 when the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) took place in 1973.
- The convention helps ensure that international trade does not pose any threat to endangered species of plants and animals. This year, the day marks the 50th anniversary of the convention.
- The idea to celebrate March 3 as World Wildlife Day was previously proposed at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP16) in Bangkok in March 2013.
- The CITES Secretariat has been tasked with facilitating the implantation of World Wildlife Day.

- The theme for this year's World Wildlife Day is 'Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation'. It has been chosen to highlight the need 'to work across governments, civil society, and the private sector to turn commitment into action'.

## Health Ministry gets Porter Prize 2023 for Government's strategy in managing COVID-19



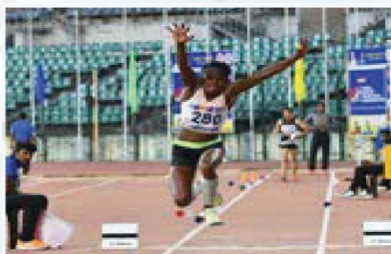
- Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry has received the Porter Prize 2023.
- It recognized the government's strategy in managing COVID-19, also the approach, and involvement of various stakeholders especially involvement of ASHA workers in the industry to create PPE Kits.
- The prize was announced during The India Dialog at Stanford University. The country's contribution in developing and manufacturing vaccines was also lauded.
- Porter Prize is named after award-winning economist Michael E. Porter.
- He has brought economic theory and strategy concepts to bear on many of the most challenging problems faced by corporations, economies and societies, including market competition and company strategy, economic development, the environment and healthcare.

## Health Ministry celebrates Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2023 today



- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI), States and Union Territories are celebrating the 5th Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2023 across the country.
- It is being celebrated under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).
- The Ministry said that more than thirty-four Pratigya Yatras were conducted yesterday across the country.
- Out of which, eight Yatras have been led by Members of Parliament.
- These Pad yatras were conducted to create a mass fervor among people.
- The Ministry said, more than five thousand citizens including Doctors took pledge to use generic medicines on MyGov platform.

### **Triple-jumper Aishwarya Babu gets 4-year ban for doping**

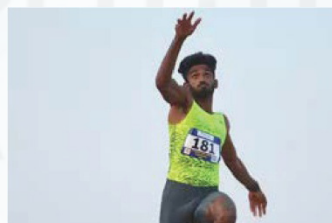


- India's top triple-jumper Aishwarya Babu has been banned by the National Anti-Doping Agency's (NADA) disciplinary panel for four years for using a prohibited anabolic steroid.
- Aishwarya Babu, 25 years old, was dropped from the Birmingham Commonwealth Games in 2022, along with sprinter S Dhanalakshmi after testing positive for the steroid, which is on the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) prohibited list.
- Aishwarya has been given time till 6th March 2023 to file an appeal against the ban after receiving the ban notice from NADA's Appeal Panel on 13th February 2023.
- Aishwarya previously won the triple jump gold in the championships with a national record-breaking lunge of 14.14 meters.
- She tested positive for Ostarine - a drug that falls in the category of selective androgen receptor modulator (SRAM)- during the National Inter-State Championships on 13 and 14 J in 2022 in Chennai.
- Aishwarya was provisionally suspended in July last year and she has already served six months of her four-year ban.



- NADA stated that the substance Aishwarya used was an “anabolic steroid” listed under WADA’s 2022 prohibited. It added that the athlete had not taken a therapeutic use exemption (TUE) for it.
- Aishwarya on the other hand stated in her submission that she “did not take any prohibited ton order to enhance” her performance.
- The athlete added that she had suffered an injury in the past when her shoulder had dislocated while lifting weights in the gym in February 2021.
- Aishwarya added that in the run-up to the National Inter-state Championships, she pushed herself too much, which led her to the “painful discomfort on the Shoulder.”

### **AFI NATIONAL THROWS COMPETITION: JESWINALDRIN BREAKS NATIONAL LONG JUMP RECORD WITH LEAP OF 8.42M TO CLAIM GOLD**



- Tamil Nadu’s Jeswin Aldrin broke the national record in the men’s long jump in the second AFI National Jumps Competition.
- JeswinAldrin, 21-year-old, leaped 8.42 meters to take over the previous mark of 8.36 meters set by India teammate M Sreeshankar at the Federation Cup in Kozhikode in April 2022.
- Aldrin previously won silver at the Asian Indoor Championships in Astana last month with a 7.97-meter jump and made the most of being in a competitive frame to break the national record.
- Aldrin leaped 8.37 meters in Kozhikode last year to win gold but since his jump was wind-aided, it wasn’t considered a national record by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI).
- M Sreeshankar, who bagged silver at the AFI National Jumps Competition with a jump of 8.36m, made the national record.
- A measure of Aldrin’s dominance can be praised from the fact he was the only competitor to cross the eight-meter mark
- JeswinAldrin opened with 8.05m and followed it up with 8.26 before finding the power and speed to get to 8.42m. Kerala’s Muhammed Anees Yahiya was a distant second at 7.85 meters.

- Alongside, Gayathry Sivakumar set the women's triple jump meet record with a jump of over 12.98 meters to break the 12.68m mark set by Aleena Jose in the inaugural edition in Thiruvananthapuram last year.

### **RBI launches 2 surveys to gather 'useful inputs' for monetary policy**



- The Reserve Bank of India launched two key surveys, the results of which provide "useful inputs" for the central bank's bi-monthly monetary policy.
- One of the surveys is to know inflation expectations of households and the other is to gauge consumer confidence.
- The March 2023 round of Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH), RBI said, aims at capturing subjective assessments on price movements and inflation, based on their individual consumption baskets, across 19 cities.
- The cities are: Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jammu, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna, Raipur, Ranchi and Thiruvananthapuram.
- The survey seeks qualitative responses from households on price changes (general prices as well as prices of specific product groups) in the three months ahead as well as in the one year ahead period and quantitative responses on current, three months ahead and one year ahead inflation rates.

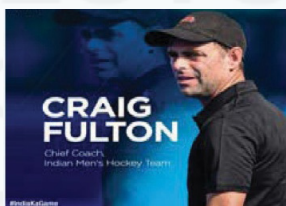
### **ACF confers Grandmaster D Gukesh with Player-of-the-Year award**



- Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh has been honoured with Player-of-the-Year award by the Asian Chess Federation (ACF) for clinching the gold medal with a record-breaking score of 9/11 in the 44th Chess Olympiad at Mahabalipuram last year.

- In March last year, Gukesh became only the sixth Indian to break the 2700 Elo-rating mark, and the youngest Grandmaster from the country to be rated above 2700.
- The All India Chess Federation (AICF) bagged the 'Most Active Federation' award conferred during the ACF annual summit, which is underway here.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin has been conferred with Man-of-the-Year award for his effort in the successful hosting of the FIDE Chess Olympiad in August last year within a short notice of four months.
- The Indian women's team, comprising of Koneru Humpy, D Harika, R Vaishali, Tania Sachdev and Bhakti Kulkarni, was adjudged the 'Best Women's team of the Year' for its bronze-winning effort.

### **Hockey India appoints South African Craig Fulton as new Chief Coach of Indian men's hockey team**



- Hockey India has appointed South African Craig Fulton as new chief coach of the Indian men's hockey team.
- Craig Fulton will succeed Graham Reid who resigned after India's poor outing at the World Cup in January 2023.
- Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey said that Craig Fulton has tremendous experience in coaching and his work ethic induces confidence in raising the team's performance in world hockey.
- Craig Fulton has nearly 25 years of coaching experience and earned 195 caps over a span of 10 years for South Africa. He also played Atlanta and Athens Olympic Games.

### **FIRST-EVER WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE TO BEGIN IN NAVI MUMBAI**





- History will be made today when the five-team Women's Premier League (WPL 2023) begins in Navi Mumbai.
- After years of wait and planning, the Board of Control for Cricket in India, BCCI, has finally been able to organise the standalone T20 franchise-based cricket league for women, on the lines of the popular Indian Premier League.
- The five teams taking part in the inaugural edition of WPL are Mumbai Indians (MI), Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), Delhi Capitals (DC), UP Warriorz (UPW) and Gujarat Giants (GG).
- India captain Harmanpreet Kaur has been named as MI captain while opener Smriti Mandhana will lead RCB's women's team.
- Australia's successful skipper Meg Lanning will be at the helm of Delhi Capitals, while Beth Mooney has been named as captain for Gujarat Giants.
- Australian wicketkeeper and batter Alyssa Healy is leading UP Warriorz in WPL 2023.
- First match between Mumbai Indians and Gujarat Giants will be played at DY Patil Stadium Navi Mumbai, at 7.30 pm on the 4th of March.

### **Odisha Hits Jackpot As Huge Gold Mines Found In Three Districts**



- Steel and Mines Minister Prafulla Kumar Mallik has informed the state Assembly that Gold deposits have been found at different locations in three districts of Odisha, including Deogarh, Keonjhar, and Mayurbhanj.
- The Minister informed that the State Directorate of Mines and geology and the Geological Survey of India (GSI) conducted a preliminary survey and found the presence of gold deposits in the Adas area of Deogarh, Gopur, Gazipur, Kusakala, Adal, Saleikana, Dimirimunda, and Karadanga area of Keonjhar.
- The Gold deposits are also found in the Jashipur, Suriaguda, Ruansi, Iadelkucha, Maredihi, Suleipat, and Badampahar areas of the Mayurbhanj district.
- The Minister also informed that the survey conducted by GSI has concluded that 1685kg of gold is present in the copper ore at the G2 Level in the Adas area.
- 6.67 million tonnes of copper, 0.638 million tonnes of silver and 0.10 million tonnes

of nickel are estimated to have been present in copper ore in the region.

- In survey, two gold-carrying quartz veins were found in the Gopur area during a survey conducted by the State Mine and Geology Directorate from 1977-83, and 1989-96.
- The presence of gold is also found in Saleikana in the Quezon vein on the Southern side of Gopur and Saleikana Area.

### **Former Chief Justice of India AM Ahmadi passes away at 90 at his home**



- Former Chief Justice of India AM. 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.
- He was the recipient of honors from highly reputable legal institutions such as American Inn of Laws and Middle Temple Inn of Honorable Society of Middle Temple, London.
- Apart from receiving the degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) from six of the most reputable Indian universities, he was the author of numerous path breaking judgements.
- His expertise was wide ranging from constitutional law to human rights, freedom of speech, criminal, taxation, centre-state and interstate relations. He was also the Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University.

## RBI puts restrictions on Musiri Urban Co-operative Bank; caps withdrawal



- 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.
- Meanwhile, the eligible depositors would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amounts of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakhs in the same capacity and in the same right, from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation.
- The RBI, however, said the directions should not per se be construed as cancellation of the banking license.

## Mumbai jumps to 37th place globally in price growth in luxury housing



- Mumbai's jumped to rank 37 from 92 in a global list of movement in prices of luxury homes as the city saw a gain of 6.4 percent during the 2022 calendar year.
- Property consultant Knight Frank virtually released 'The Wealth Report 2023' in which Mumbai has ranked 37th.
- Knight Frank Report states that the value of the Prime International Residential



Index (PIRI 100) which tracks the movement in luxury house prices across the world increased by 5.2 percent YoY (year-on-year) in 2022.

- Through the report, the consultant has analyzed prime property price performances in 100 cities, and sun and ski locations globally. Out of 100, 85 locations recorded positive or flat price growth in 2022.
- Mumbai's prime property market has witnessed a price appreciation of 6.4 percent globally which moves up the city to 37th position on the PIRI 100 in 2022 as opposed to 92nd in 2021.
- Prime properties in Mumbai are expected to witness an appreciation of 3 percent in 2023.
- In Bengaluru, prime property prices rose 3 percent, helping the city improve its rank to 63rd in 2022 from 91st in 2021.
- Delhi's prime property market saw an appreciation by 1.2 percent which moved up the ranking to 77th from 93rd in 2021.
- As per the report, the prime residential prices in Dubai rose 44.2 percent in 2022, maintaining its position at the top of Knight Frank's PIRI 100 and cementing its status as a global hub for ultra high-net-worth individuals (UHNWIs), assisted by numerous visa incentives.

### **Veteran actor & director Satish Kaushik passes away**



- Veteran actor and director Satish Kaushik passed away today morning, March 9, following a heart attack.
- This was informed by actor Anupam Kher in a tweet. The 66-year old Satish Kaushik had acted in more than 100 films.
- Born on April 13, 1956, in Haryana, he acted in theater before finding his break in Bollywood.
- An alumnus of the National School of Drama and the Film and Television Institute of India, Kaushik was best known for his roles in films such as Jaane Bhi Do Yaaron, Mr. India, Deewana Mastana, and Uda Punjab.



- Known for his comic timing, he was a successful director and will be remembered for his many films including Roop Ki Rani Choron Ka Raja.
- He is survived by his wife and daughter. Satish Kaushik won the Filmfare Best Comedian Award in 1990 for Ram Lakhan and for Saajan Chale Sasural in 1997.

### **Colombia opens military service to women for first time in 25 years**



- Colombia has opened military service to women for the first time in 25 years.
- A cohort of 1,296 women enlisted in Colombia's Army last month, February.
- Colombia has long had compulsory military service for men ages 18 to 24.
- The army relies heavily on those young recruits to staff bases, protect infrastructure and carry out administrative tasks, while its professional soldiers confront drug trafficking gangs and rebel groups.
- This year, officials allowed females in the same age range to voluntarily join the military, in what the army says is part of an effort to strengthen the role of women in its ranks.

### **Army installs tallest Iconic National Flag in hilly Doda district, J&K**



- In Jammu and Kashmir, Army installed the tallest 'Iconic National Flag' in the hilly Doda district today, March 9.
- The tricolor which has been installed on a 100 feet-high pole, the highest Tricolor in the Doda district, was unfurled by GOC Delta Force, Maj Gen Ajay Kumar along with Commander 9 sector RR Brig.
- Samir K Palande, DC Doda Vishesh Paul Mahajan, and SSP Abdul Qayoom.

- During the ceremony, GOC said the Flag is a tribute to the countless soldiers of the Chenab Region who have made the ultimate sacrifice while safeguarding the unity and integrity of the nation.
- On this occasion, he also honoured the next of kin of martyred soldiers.
- The hundred feet high mast national flag, the first of its kind in the Doda district is not only a proud moment for the Army only but for all the residents of the hilly district.
- Locals especially students and Veer Naris (war widows) who had gathered in large numbers to witness the historic event and expressed gratitude to the Army for making them part of the historical moment.
- Doda district of Jammu Division was once a hotbed of terrorists. But the situation has altogether changed with people working closely with security agencies and Government in maintaining peace and ensuring the development of the Chenab region.

### **Indian Navy's operational level exercise TROPEX 2023 culminates in Arabian Sea**

- Indian Navy's major operational level exercise TROPEX 2023 culminated this week in the Arabian Sea.
- The exercise was conducted across the expanse of the Indian Ocean Region over a period of four months.
- The Indian Navy said the TROPEX exercise witnessed the participation of approximately 70 Indian Navy ships, six submarines, and over 75 aircraft.
- As part of the final joint phase, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh spent a day at sea onboard the newly commissioned Indigenous Aircraft Carrier Vikrant on the 6th of March.
- He reviewed the Indian Navy's operational preparedness wherein the Navy demonstrated operational manoeuvres and various facets of combat operations.
- According to the Defence Ministry, this exercise provides an opportunity to test the combat readiness of the combined fleets of the Indian Navy to operate in a multi-threat environment.
- The maritime exercise also facilitates operational-level interaction with the Indian Army, Indian Air Force, and the Coast Guard.

## **Group Captain Shaliza Dhami becomes first woman officer to command frontline IAF combat unit**



- Group Captain Shaliza Dhami has become the first woman officer in the Indian Air Force to command a front line combat unit.
- According to the announcement by the Indian Air Force yesterday, Dhami will command a missile squadron in the Western sector.
- Dhami was commissioned as helicopter pilot in 2003, and has over 2800 hours of flying experience and is commended by Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief on two occasions.
- In the past, she has conducted several search-and-rescue missions, and also undertook flood relief operations.

## **Indian Navy successfully tests Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile from INS Visakhapatnam**



- Indian Navy has successfully undertaken Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) firing from INS Visakhapatnam validating capability to engage Anti Ship Missiles.
- The MRSAM was jointly developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Israeli Aerospace Industries at Bharat Dynamics Limited.
- In a tweet, the Indian Navy said, it reflects its commitment to Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

## 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.
- During his address, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju emphasized the importance of the conference as a platform for open discussions on critical issues.
- He stated that the law must be comprehensible to the common man to achieve its desired result.
- He further highlighted the government's commitment to good governance and the welfare of the people.
- Union Minister Kiren Rijiju also spoke about how the Government was prioritizing the use of technology.
- Government has started eCourts phase III with an aim of making the Indian Judiciary completely paperless.
- On the Ease of Living and Ease of Doing Business front, he informed that about 13,000 compliance burdens have been simplified while more than 1,200 processes have been digitized.

## Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurates Khelo India Dus Ka Dum Tournament





- Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated the Khelo India Dus Ka Dum Tournament in New Delhi this morning.
- Addressing the opening ceremony, Mr Thakur said that sports is one area where women have performed exceptionally well when it comes to women empowerment.
- He also expressed his pride at the country's daughters who have done the work of showing their mettle all over the world.
- In the run-up to the International Women's Day 2023 celebrations, the Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry is organizing the Khelo India Dus Ka Dum tournament from the 10th to the 31st of this month.
- Nearly 15 thousand women athletes will participate in the contest in more than 50 cities of the country. The game features 10 sports.
- The objective of this tournament is to provide a platform to the women athletes who were unable to participate in national or state-level competitions.
- It is also aimed at ensuring that competitive sports reach untapped geographical areas.

### **Xi Jinping elected China's President for unprecedented third term**



- Chinese leader Xi Jinping formally secured an unprecedented third term as China's president on Friday as he embarked on a fresh five-year tenure, becoming country's most powerful leader since Mao Zedong.
- In a largely ceremonial display on expected lines, nearly 3000 members of China's rubber-stamp parliament – the National People's Congress (NPC) voted unanimously for Xi, 69 who was the only candidate in fray.
- Xi, who leads the ruling Communist Party, was also reappointed head of the national Central Military Commission.
- He was already the head of an identical party body overseeing the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA).
- Delegates to the 14th NPC also elected Zhao Leji, 66 as the new chairman of the parliament and Han Zheng, 68 as China's new vice president.
- Delegates at the NPC will approve China's new premier on Saturday which is widely

thought to be Xi's closest ally Li Qiang who will replace Li Keqiang to become China's No.2 leader, in-charge of managing the world's second-largest economy.

- Xi's trusted allies will be appointed to key government roles over the next two days as the first session of the 14th NPC will come to an end on Monday.
- Experts said, with Li Keqiang out of scene and Li Qiang heading the State Council – China's cabinet, Xi will enjoy unbridled powers.
- This may lead to further blurring of the fine line between the CCP and the government as the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) is expected to significantly increase its direct control of the government.

### **Indian artists galore at World Art Dubai - The world's premier art exhibition**



- World Art Dubai is a unique event that showcases a diverse range of artworks from around the world. The event aims to make art accessible for collectors and enthusiasts who are looking for original and quality pieces under one roof.
- The ninth edition of World Art Dubai commenced at the Dubai World Trade Centre yesterday.
- The event will feature more than 4,000 artworks from over 300 renowned galleries and solo artists, hailing from more than 60 countries.
- The artworks will include paintings, sculptures, photography, digital art, and more. The exhibition also features a striking array of works by Indian artists.
- Diverse range of Indian artists and art organisations that are exhibiting at the World Art Dubai exhibition, gives a distinct Indian hue to the overall exposition.
- Kalakaar foundation, Rare Mandi art, Inaayat Creations, Pooja Kumar, Inderjeet Grover, Anubha baluapuri, Pue Majumdar, Rajeev Raj, Karishma Wadhva, Bhupendra Bagla Dr. Shipra Bhatia are some of the art houses and artists who are showcasing their works in the ninth edition of World art Dubai.
- World Art Dubai also offers a variety of interactive activities and workshops for visitors of all ages and backgrounds.
- The event will host live painting sessions, art talks, creative learning sessions, cultural performances and more.
- Visitors can also enjoy the vibrant atmosphere of the event with live music, food and



entertainment zones.

### **Union Home Minister Amit Shah to take part in 54th Raising Day Celebrations of CISF on 12th March in Hyderabad**



- Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be taking part in the 54th Raising Day Celebrations of CISF on 12th of March, at National Industrial Security Academy in Hyderabad. He will be reaching Hyderabad tomorrow night.
- This is the first time that the CISF raising day is being celebrated outside Delhi.
- Addressing the media, CISF ADG North, Piyush Anand informed that the para military force is providing security to nearly 70 Airports, Ports and Central institutes besides 11 eminent private institutes.
- The senior official informed that the CISF Security and Fire wings have registered over 465 cases and caught over 100 criminals and seized 1.36 crore rupees worth property since January this year.
- During 2022, the CISF registered over 4 thousand cases, caught 746 criminals, and seized over 16 crore rupees worth property. Besides, the CISF personnel have saved 41 individuals and saved 5 persons by doing CPR in emergencies.

### **Indian Navy's operational level exercise TROPEX 2023 culminates in Arabian Sea**



- Indian Navy's major operational level exercise TROPEX 2023 culminated this week in the Arabian Sea.
- The exercise was conducted across the expanse of the Indian Ocean Region over a period of four months.
- The Indian Navy said the TROPEX exercise witnessed the participation of

approximately 70 Indian Navy ships, six submarines, and over 75 aircraft.

- As part of the final joint phase, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh spent a day at sea onboard the newly commissioned Indigenous Aircraft Carrier Vikrant on the 6th of March.
- He reviewed the Indian Navy's operational preparedness wherein the Navy demonstrated operational manoeuvres and various facets of combat operations.
- According to the Defence Ministry, this exercise provides an opportunity to test the combat readiness of the combined fleets of the Indian Navy to operate in a multi-threat environment.
- The maritime exercise also facilitates operational-level interaction with the Indian Army, Indian Air Force, and the Coast Guard.

### World Kidney Day 2023



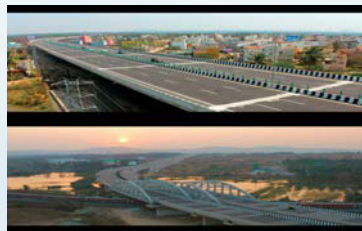
- The kidneys are responsible for removing waste products that are produced in our bodies.
- However, in people with chronic kidney disease, the kidneys cannot function properly and waste products start to accumulate.
- This can cause various health problems.
- People with advanced kidney failure need artificial support to remove waste products and extra water that the body doesn't need.
- This support is called dialysis, which is of two types - hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis.
- Peritoneal dialysis uses the lining of the abdominal cavity to remove waste products, while hemodialysis uses artificial filters to remove waste products from the bloodstream.
- "Kidney Health for Everyone – Preparing for the Unexpected, Supporting the Vulnerable" is the theme for World Kidney Day in 2023.
- The 2023 campaign will focus on raising awareness about disastrous events, natural or man-made, international or local, and their impact on people living with kidney disease whose access to appropriate diagnostic services, treatment, and care is hindered.

## India beat world champions Germany 3-2 in FIH Pro League in Odisha



- In Hockey, India stunned world champions Germany 3-2 in the FIH Pro League at Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium in Rourkela, Odisha yesterday, March 10.
- Indian skipper Harmanpreet Singh had given the home side the lead in the 30th minute through a penalty corner conversion.
- Sukhjeet Singh's second-half brace helped India to take an unassailable lead. He scored in the 31st and 42nd minutes and both goals came from field efforts.
- India were 3-0 up in the 42nd minute before Paul-Philipp Kaufmann and Michel Struthoff struck for Germany in the 44th and 57th minutes respectively. Sukhjeet Singh was adjudged player of the match.

## Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway important project, will contribute to Karnataka's growth, says PM Modi



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi today expressed confidence that the Bengaluru Mysore Expressway will contribute to Karnataka's growth trajectory.
- He said this while quoting a tweet by Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari informing that the expressway project entails the development of four rail overbridges, nine significant bridges, 40 minor bridges, and 89 underpasses and overpasses.
- The Union Minister's project also aims to improve accessibility to regions including Srirangapatna, Coorg, Ooty, and Kerala, thereby bolstering their tourism potential.



## Central government announces 10% reservation for Ex-Agniveers in BSF recruitment



- The Central government has announced that 10 percent reservation will be given to Ex-Agniveers in the BSF recruitment. In a notification issued by the Home Ministry yesterday, the government has amended the recruitment rules of the Border Security Force.
- The amended rules state that Ex-Agniveers will be exempted from the physical efficiency test.
- The Government has also announced that the upper age limit will be relaxable up to five years for the candidates of the first batch of Ex-Agniveers.

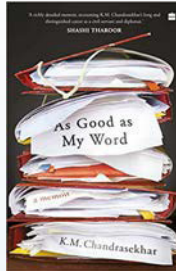
## Maharashtra will introduce 4th women's policy to give more opportunities to women: Devendra Fadanvis



- Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadanvis informed the Maharashtra's Legislative Council that the state will introduce the fourth women's policy to give more opportunities to women by considering the issues of women from all groups.
- On the occasion of International Women's Day, Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Council Neelam Gorhe tabled a proposal to provide equal and dignified positions to women in all sectors.
- While replying to the proposal, Mr Fadanvis said that apart from education, and employment, the women's policy will consider other important aspects, including economic empowerment and gender equality.
- He also announced that the government will introduce a rehabilitation scheme for those above 18 years old girls from the orphanage.
- Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced in assembly that the state will start a Hirkani Room(Kaksha) for breastfeeding mothers at each police station in the state.

- He also announced that Residential and Commercial properties will be promoted to open such rooms and 250sq. feet of such a room will not be counted in FSI.

### **Former bureaucrat KM Chandrasekhar's memoir offers a ringside view of the workings of India's corridors of power**



- “As Good as My Word,” written by KM Chandrasekhar, who served as the Cabinet Secretary from 2007 to 2011, begins as an autobiography with descriptive descriptions of his early years, academic career, and college years, all of which take place inside the walls of a modest but orderly Malayali home.
- The book offers a front-row seat to Indian politics and bureaucracy during the UPA era.
- In his book, Chandrasekhar gives a thorough overview of the UPA administration during one of its most difficult periods and talks about his own role in navigating India through many crises.
- The life of a civil servant who successfully navigated difficult facets of public life is told in the book As Good as My Word.
- The book provides a front-row view of Indian politics and bureaucracy during the UPA era and is frank, straightforward, and full of political gossip.
- In this autobiography, he provides a detailed account of the UPA administration during one of its most trying times as well as his own crucial contribution to guiding India through some of her most difficult crises, including the Great Recession of 2008, the oilmen’s strike in 2009, and the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, as well as scams, such as the 2G Spectrum case and the 2010 Commonwealth Games corruption scandal.

### **B Gopkumar takes over Axis Mutual Fund as CEO Chandresh Nigam steps down**





- B Gopkumar, the managing director and CEO of Axis Securities, has been named the new CEO of renowned fund house Axis Mutual Fund by Axis Asset Management Company.
- Chandresh Nigam, the previous CEO of the company, is replaced by Gopkumar.
- As head of equities from July 2009, Nigam became MD & CEO in May 2013 and oversaw the fund house for two stints totaling ten years
- Gopkumar has more than 28 years of experience working in the financial services sector.
- He has a masters degree in business management and is an enthusiastic marathon runner, reader, and fitness fanatic.
- Another event is the hiring of Ashish Gupta as Chief Investment Officers (CIO) of the mutual fund at Axis AMC. Gupta headed the stock research for India at Credit Suisse.
- He has been conducting equities research for more than 25 years.

### **Nepal elects Ram Chandra Paudel as its next president.**



- Ram Chandra Paudel has been elected to serve as the new president of Nepal.
- According to the Nepalese Election Commission, he received 33,800 electoral votes, while his opponent, Subash Chandra Nembwang, received 15,500 votes.
- Ram Chandra Paudel received votes from 352 members of provincial assemblies and 214 members of parliament.
- An electoral college made up of representatives from the federal parliament and the provincial assembly chooses the president.
- The overall number of electors in Nepal's presidential election is 882, including 550 representatives from each of the country's seven provincial assemblies and 332 members of the parliament.
- As Nepal's new president, he will take over from Bidya Devi Bhandari.

## New initiative called 'beggar-free city' being started in Maharashtra's Nagpur



- In Maharashtra, a new initiative called 'beggar-free city' has been started in Nagpur. Commissioner of Police of Nagpur City, Amitesh Kumar said that, notification of 144 CrPC has been issued in this regard.
- Notices have been served to people. While speaking to reporters he said that they will strictly enforce this and begging will not be allowed in public places.
- This is the joint venture of Nagpur City police and Nagpur Municipal Corporation's (NMC) social welfare department.
- The NMC has made special arrangements to accommodate homeless people in the shelters owned by it.
- The civic body has kept a bus and an ambulance ready to shift the beggars caught in police drive to its shelter home.

## Ahmedabad Test: 4th & final test match of Border-Gavaskar trophy between India & Australia ends in a draw



- The fourth and final test match of the Border-Gavaskar trophy between India and Australia ended in a draw at Ahmedabad today.
- In their second inning, the visitors scored 175 for two wickets. Travis Head scored 90 while Marnus Labuschagne made 63 runs.
- Yesterday, with the help of Virat Kohli's Test century of 186 runs hosts scored 571. Kohli had good support from Axar Patel, who scored 79 runs.

- They had the highest 162-run partnership for hosts. Axar was also the third-highest scorer for India.
- Earlier, Shubman Gill's sparkling century gave India a solid standing in the game.
- Virat Kohli was declared the Player of the Match while Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja were named joint winners of the Player of the Series award.
- Australia scored 480 runs in their first innings. India had resumed their first innings at the score of 289 for 3 yesterday morning.
- India have retained the trophy after winning the first two Tests of the four-match series.

### **Nepali Congress leader Ram Chandra Paudel sworn in as President of Nepal**



- Newly-elected President of Nepal Ram Chandra Paudel took the oath of office and secrecy today at Sheetal Niwas in Kathmandu.
- The Office of the President hosted a special ceremony at Sheetal Niwas to administer the oath to President-elect Paudel, after which political leaders, dignitaries and ambassadors of different countries in Nepal came to congratulate the new President.
- Ram Chandra Paudel, veteran Nepali congress leader, was elected the President of Nepal by the electoral college on March 9 defeating Subash Chandra Nembang.
- Acting Chief Justice of Nepal Hari Krishna Karki administered the oath of office and secrecy to the newly-elected President of Nepal.
- The Constitution of Nepal has a provision that there would be a President in the country and the President as a patron of the Constitution shall work to promote national unity.
- It is the President's main responsibility to comply with and protect the Constitution.
- The country had adopted the practice of the President System with the establishment of a republic as an outcome of the 2006 April Uprising in Nepal which led to the demolition of the 240-year-old Monarchy.



## India creates history by winning two Oscars



- In 95th Academy Awards ceremony, India's 'Naatu Naatu song' from SS Rajamouli's film RRR today made history by becoming the first Indian film to win an Oscar for best original song.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed his delight at the country's achievements at the Oscars in Los Angeles today.
- Congratulating the entire team of the movie RRR for winning in the best original song category, Mr Modi said that the popularity of the song 'Naatu Naatu' is global.
- In a tweet, he remarked that the song will be remembered for years to come.
- The Prime Minister also congratulated the entire team of the documentary short film The Elephant Whisperers for their win at the event.
- He lauded their work, which he said, wonderfully highlights the importance of sustainable development and living in harmony with nature.
- Home Minister Amit Shah has congratulated the team of movie RRR and short film The Elephant Whisperers on their win at Oscars.
- In a tweet, Mr Shah remarked it as a landmark day for Indian cinema. He said that the Naatu Naatu song from the RRR movie created history by winning the Oscar Award.

## Govt 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.
- Mohanty currently serves as the CEO and MD of LIC Housing Finance. Beginning on February 1st, 2021, he will serve as the MD of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).
- Siddhartha Mohanty was proposed to take over as MD of LIC until his superannuation on June 30 in place of TC Suseel Kumar, who was slated to retire on January 31, 2021.

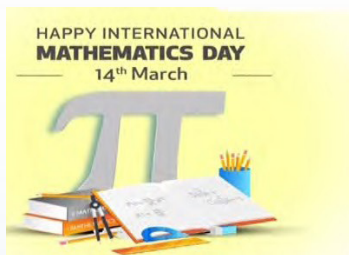
### **PM Modi inaugurates world's longest railway platform at Shree Siddharoodha Swamiji Hubballi station**



- 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.
- The world's longest railway platform will cater to the transportation needs of the Hubballi-Dharwad region and will help in enhancing the operational capacity of the yard.
- Furthermore, it will enable the operations of trains in both directions.
- 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.
- 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.



## International Mathematics Day 2023: Know History, Theme, Significance of Pi day celebrations



- International Day of Mathematics or Pi Day is celebrated on March 14 every year to recognise the mathematical constant, Pi, which defines the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter.
- The value for Pi is 3.14. For people who follow the month/date format, March 14 represents the value of Pi (3.14). March is the third month of the year while the following number is 14, hence the March 14 date.
- The day was recognised in 1988 by physicist Larry Shaw as he organised a large-scale celebration at the San Francisco Exploratorium in the United States.
- It was first celebrated by cutting a Pi-shaped pie, and the recitation of the value of pi to as many decimal places as possible.
- It is celebrated by mathematics enthusiasts around the globe to recognise and appreciate the importance of mathematics in our daily lives.
- The day is celebrated by various schools, universities, and mathematics organisations globally with a unique theme with an aim of promoting mathematics education and awareness.
- The value of Pi was first calculated by a mathematician named Archimedes of Syracuse.
- It was later accepted by the scientific community when Leonhard Euler used the symbol of Pi in 1737.
- The theme for Pi Day 2023 is “Mathematics for Everyone”, proposed by Marco Zarco Rotauro from Philippines’ Trece Martires City National High School, according to the official website of the celebration.
- In 2019, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in its 40th General Conference decided to observe Pi Day as International Mathematics Day.

## US, Australia and Britain to provide Australia with nuclear-powered attack submarines



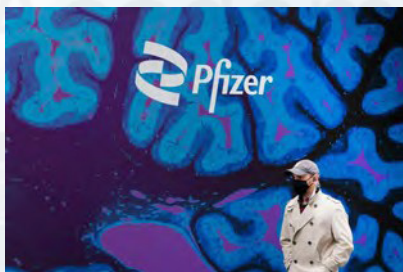
- The United States, Australia and Britain have announced the plan of providing Australia with nuclear-powered attack submarines.
- The move was a major step towards countering the ambitions of China in the Indo-Pacific.
- In a joint statement, US President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced the plan for the AUKUS project at the US naval base in San Diego, California.
- At the ceremony, PM Albanese said that the purchase of US nuclear-powered submarines and the target of constructing its own vessels marks the biggest investment ever made in the defence sector in the history of the country.
- The deal with the United States and Britain is “the biggest single investment in Australia’s defence capability in all of our history,” he said in San Diego, California, alongside British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and US President Joe Biden.
- The prime minister made the statement as Australia entered the deal with the US and Britain, according to which it will be purchasing five US nuclear-powered submarines and will later work on building a new model with British and US technology as part of an ambitious plan.
- US President Biden was hosting his British and Australian counterparts, Prime Minister Albanese and Prime Minister Sunak, on a US naval base in San Diego, California for announcing the plan.

## GoI announces Rs 1,18,500 crore budget for JK



- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has unveiled Rs 1,18,500 crore budget for Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory for the next financial year.
- The total budget estimates for the fiscal is Rs. 1,18,500 crore, of which developmental expenditure is of the order of Rs. 41,491 crore.
- The capital component of the budget has increased substantially.
- The expected revenue receipts are Rs 1,06,061 crore whereas Revenue expenditure is expected to be Rs 77,009 crore, thereby making available revenue surplus for capital expenditure to the tune of Rs 29,052 crore.
- This was the fourth consecutive budget of Jammu and Kashmir to be presented in the Parliament.
- The budgets of 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 were also presented in the Parliament in absence of an elected government in the Union Territory.

### **Pfizer Buys Seagen for \$43B, Boosts Access to Cancer Drugs**



- Pfizer is spending about \$43 billion to acquire Seagen to reach deeper into new cancer treatments that target tumor cells while sparing surrounding healthy tissue.
- The pharmaceutical giant said it will pay \$229 in cash for each share of Seagen Inc.
- Pfizer then plans to let the biotech drug developer “continue innovating,” except with more resources than it would have alone, Pfizer Chairman and CEO Albert Bourla told.
- Together, Pfizer and Seagen seek to accelerate the next generation of cancer breakthroughs and bring new solutions to patients by combining the power of Seagen’s antibody-drug conjugate (ADC) technology with the scale and strength of Pfizer’s capabilities and expertise,” Pfizer Chairman and CEO Dr Albert Bourla said in a statement.
- Bothell, Washington-based Seagen Inc. is a biotech drug developer.
- Its key products use monoclonal antibodies that bind to the surface of a tumour cell to deliver a cancer-killing agent while sparing surrounding healthy tissue.



## Exercise La Perouse 2023: Navies Of India, Australia, US, UK, France And Japan Participate



- 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.
- The two-day exercise gives like-minded navies the chance to forge stronger connections in terms of planning, coordination, and information sharing for seamless maritime operations.
- Surface warfare, anti-air warfare, air defence drills, cross-deck landings, and tactical manoeuvres are only a few of the complicated and sophisticated naval operations that will be performed during the exercise.
- This version of the drill will feature participation from the fleet tanker INS Jyoti and guided missile frigate INS Sahyadri, both of which were built domestically.
- The Indian Navy's participation in the exercise demonstrates the allied navies' high levels of coordination, interoperability, and synergy as well as their dedication to the Indo-Pacific region's rules-based international order.

## Two-day G20 flower festival begins in New Delhi



- Connaught Plaza in Delhi will host a Flower Festival beginning from, March 11. It aims to emphasize the diversity of G20 participants and invited nations.



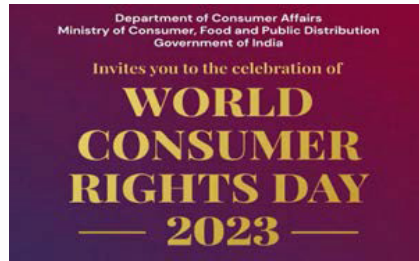
- The festival, which is being held at Central Park and is being organized by the New Delhi Municipal Council, was opened today by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav.
- Japan, Singapore, and the Netherlands are among the G20 nations taking part.
- The objective of the festival is to showcase the vibrancy and colorful display of G20 members and guest countries.
- For the purpose of showcasing the richness of the Indian subcontinent, flower plants in a variety of hues and kinds are on display in various configurations and installations.
- In addition, paintings and photographs of flowers from G20 members and invited nations are on display at the festival. The festival is open to everyone from 10 AM to 7 PM and admission is free.
- The event's venue will also host the musical and cultural programmes.

### **Silicon Valley Bank Collapses, Biggest Banking Failure Since 2008**



- Startup-focused lender Silicon Valley Bank Financial Group became the largest bank to fail since the 2008 financial crisis, in a sudden collapse that roiled global markets, left billions of dollars belonging to companies and investors stranded.
- Silicon Valley Bank, the nation's 16th largest bank, collapsed on Friday, forcing a government takeover and calling into question the fate of almost \$175 billion in customer deposits.
- Signature Bank, the 29th-largest bank in the U.S., also closed its doors, suggesting the financial panic had spread.
- Many bank stocks plummeted in early trading. First Republic Bank dropped 65% before trading was halted; Western Alliance Bancorp fell almost 60%. Charles Schwab, the eight-largest U.S. bank, dropped nearly 10%.
- Silicon Valley Bank's failure is the largest since Washington Mutual went bust in 2008, a hallmark event that triggered a financial crisis that hobbled the economy for years.
- The 2008 crash prompted tougher rules in the United States and beyond.

## 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.

## 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.

### **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.

## 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.

## 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.

### 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.

### **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.”

### **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.

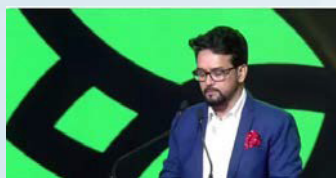
- NASA said that it hopes to have the updated suit ready for the Artemis III mission to the Moon in 2025.
- When NASA announced that humanity would return to the moon after more than five decades, they promised to send the first woman and person of colour to the lunar surface.
- However, previous plans 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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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

### **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.

### **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.

### **India's worker-population-ratio rises to 52.9% in 2021-22**



- The unemployment rate in the country is witnessing a declining trend. The unemployment rate was 4.8 per cent in 2019-20, which was subsequently, reduced to 4.1 per cent in 2021-22.
- This was stated by Minister of State for Labour and Employment Rameswar Teli in a written reply in Rajya Sabha on Thursday.
- He said, the worker-population ratio is witnessing an increasing trend as per the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey.
- The worker population ratio has increased from 50.9 per cent in 2019-20 to 52.9 per cent in 2021-22, reflecting higher engagement of people in productive activities, he added.



## PM MITRA mega textile parks to be set up in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, MP, UP



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that PM MITRA mega textile parks will be set up in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- In a tweet, the Prime Minister said PM MITRA mega textile parks will boost the textiles sector in line with the 5F vision, which is, Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign.
- He added that these textile parks will provide state-of-the-art infrastructure for the textiles sector, attract investment and create lakhs of jobs.
- He pointed out that it will be a great example of 'Make in India' and 'Make For the World.'

## MS Dhoni is Viacom18 brand ambassador



- Viacom18 has appointed MS Dhoni as its brand ambassador to promote digital sports viewing.
- Dhoni will collaborate with Viacom18 to encourage fans to watch their favorite sports on digital platforms.
- He will participate in various network initiatives and feature in JioCinema's upcoming TATA IPL campaign, along with promoting the brand on his social media accounts.
- MS Dhoni has partnered with Viacom18 to help promote the company's goal of making digital platforms the go-to destination for sports fans.



- As part of the collaboration, the Chennai Super Kings captain will participate in several Viacom18 initiatives, including those featured on JioCinema, Sports18, and his own social media accounts.
- Dhoni will also feature in JioCinema's upcoming campaign for the Tata Indian Premier League (IPL).
- The 2023 TATA Indian Premier League will begin on March 31 with defending champions Gujarat Titans facing Chennai Super Kings, led by Dhoni.

### **Canara Bank launches Rupay Credit Card through UPI**



- To leverage the reach of UPI and the strength of credit card products, Canara Bank in collaboration with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched the Rupay Credit Card through UPI using the BHIM app.
- This integration allows customers to connect their Rupay Credit Card to UPI and conduct merchant transactions without needing the physical card, resembling UPI's account-based transactions.
- The procedure for linking the credit card is similar to the existing account linking procedure, and customers should select Canara Credit Card during account listing for linking.
- The transaction limits applicable for UPI transactions shall continue for UPI payments using Rupay Credit Card.

### **TCS appoints K Krithivasan as CEO designate after Rajesh Gopinathan resigns 'to pursue other interests'**



- Rajesh Gopinathan, the Managing Director and CEO of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), has announced his decision to resign from his position in order to pursue other interests.
- Gopinathan has been with the company for more than two decades.
- TCS's board of directors has approved his request to step down and has appointed K Krithivasan as CEO-designate, effective from March 16, 2023.
- Rajesh Gopinathan will remain with TCS until September 15, 2023, to assist with the transition to his successor.
- During his six-year tenure as CEO, TCS achieved significant milestones, including adding over \$10 billion in revenue and increasing its market capitalization by over \$70 billion.
- TCS, which has been operating for 55 years, has had only four CEOs in its history, and K Krithivasan will become the fifth.
- The company is known for having a highly stable management team, which is rare in the industry.

### **Union Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurates “AgriUnifest” in Bengaluru; says, Youth Energy will help in India’s development**

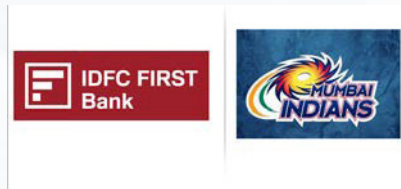


- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar on 15 March 2023, inaugurated “AgriUnifest” in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- It is a 5-day cultural program, organized by Bangalore Agricultural University in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- More than 2500 students from 60 State Universities/Central Universities have participated.
- The All India Inter Agricultural University Youth Festival was conceptualized and initiated by ICAR during 1999-2000 to integrate Indian agriculture by connecting various Indian cultures so that the talents of the youth of agricultural universities can be nurtured and they can appreciate Indian cultural diversity.
- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is an autonomous body responsible for co-ordinating agricultural education and research in India. The

Union Minister of Agriculture serves as its president.

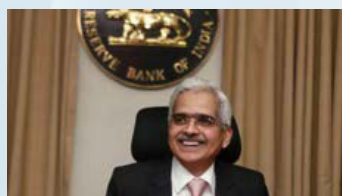
- Established: 16 July 1929.
- Director: Himanshu Pathak
- Headquarters: New Delhi.

### **IDFC First Bank becomes official banking partner for Mumbai Indians**



- IDFC FIRST Bank, a private sector bank in India, has become the official banking partner of the Mumbai Indians, a franchise cricket team that competes in the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- As the official banking partner, IDFC FIRST Bank will provide a range of financial products and services to Mumbai Indians and its players, including banking solutions, credit cards, and digital banking services.
- This partnership will also enable IDFC FIRST Bank to engage with the Mumbai Indians' extensive fan base across India and leverage the team's brand to increase its visibility and reach.
- The partnership is expected to be mutually beneficial for both parties, helping them to strengthen their brand positioning and achieve their business objectives.
- The partnership between IDFC FIRST Bank and Mumbai Indians brings together two strong brands that share a commitment to values, ethical practices, social responsibility, and digital innovation.
- Both brands have built a loyal fan base through marketing campaigns and unique offerings, with IDFC FIRST Bank focusing on customer-first solutions and Mumbai Indians playing for their fans.

### **RBI's 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.
- Although the National Bank of Ukraine was also honored with the Central Bank of the Year award, Das was deemed a deserving recipient of the Governor of the Year award due to his leadership during times of crisis and his significant contributions to India’s economic reforms.

### **Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav elected as Nepal’s third Vice President**



- Janata Samajbadi Party leader Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav has been elected as Nepal’s third Vice President. In today’s voting, Yadav defeated Astalaxmi Shakya of CPN (UML) and Mamata Jha of the Janamat Party.
- He had received support from the Nepali Congress, CPN (Maoist Centre), and the CPN (Unified Socialist) including the ruling alliance.
- A total of 311 federal lawmakers and 518 Provincial Assembly members took part in the poll.
- The polling centre for the election was set up at the New Baneshwor-based Federal Parliament Building in Kathmandu.



- According to the Constitution, the Vice-president may perform the duties of the President during the latter's absence.
- The term of the Vice President is five years, from the date on which he or she is elected.
- Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav was the former Minister for Forests and Environment and a member of the first Federal Parliament of Nepal.

### **New Zealand to ban TikTok on devices linked to parliament**



- New Zealand will ban TikTok on devices with access to the parliamentary network because of cybersecurity concerns.
- New Zealand's Parliamentary Service Chief Executive Rafael Gonzalez-Montero informed that TikTok will be banned on all devices by the end of this month.
- Yesterday, Britain also banned the app on government phones with immediate effect.
- The United States, Canada, Belgium and the European Commission have already banned the app from official devices.

### **International Ayurvedic conclave on 'Veterinary and Ayurveda' inaugurated at Haridwar**

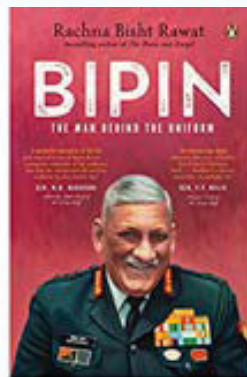


- International Ayurvedic conclave on the theme 'Veterinary and Ayurveda', was inaugurated at Rishikul campus of Ayurvedic University at Haridwar on Friday.
- The event will conclude on March 19.
- Addressing the seminar, Union Minister of State for Animal husbandry, Dairying and

Fisheries Sanjiv Baliyan said, Ayurveda is being used for treatment of animals from times immemorial.

- He said that government has taken initiative to validate use of Ayurveda in the treatment of animals.
- He said that attempt will be made to include this subject in the syllabus of various universities.

### **Bipin: The Man Behind the Uniform**



- Rachna Biswat Rawat, a journalist and writer from India, has recently written a book called “Bipin: The Man Behind the Uniform.”
- The book is published by Penguin Veer, a Penguin Random House imprint, and focuses on the life, personality, and principles of General Bipin Rawat.
- Rawat was India’s first Chief of Defence Staff and one of the country’s most notable military leaders until he tragically died in a helicopter crash in 2021.
- The book was presented to India’s Minister of Defence, Rajnath Singh, by the author.
- It serves as a fitting tribute to General Rawat’s life and achievements.

### **6th Nepal International Film festival 2023 begins in Kathmandu**



- The 6th Nepal International Film festival 2023 has begun on Thursday in Kathmandu.
- A renowned writer and critic of Indian films Premendra Majumdar has been

nominated to the NIFF jury.

- He congratulated Niff while supporting efforts of Nepali filmmaking in international arena.
- The festival will run from the 16th to the 20th of March. It will showcase 96 films from 35 countries.
- It will also hold panel discussions, talks and master classes for young filmmakers of Nepal.

## Ordnance Factory Day 2023



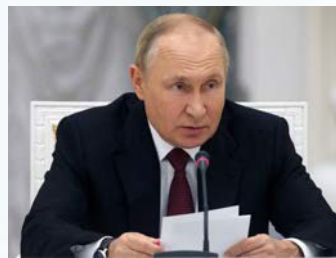
- Ordnance Factory Day 2023: In India, Ordnance Factory Day is celebrated annually on March 18th, marking the establishment of the first Ordnance factory by the British in Cossipore, Kolkata, in 1801 during colonial rule.
- The Ministry of Defence celebrates this day by raising the Indian flag, singing the national anthem, and showcasing various artillery and military equipment used by the Indian Armed Forces to the public.
- Ordnance Factories are a government branch responsible for researching, developing, testing, producing, and marketing weapons for the military.
- The day is significant as it recognizes the contribution of Ordnance factories to India's defense capabilities and the tireless efforts of the personnel who work in these factories to ensure the safety and security of the country.
- It is an occasion to honor the achievements of the Ordnance factories and pay tribute to the brave soldiers who use the equipment produced by them to protect the nation.
- The celebration of Indian Ordnance Factory Day also provides an opportunity for the Ministry of Defence to showcase the latest military equipment and technology developed by the Ordnance factories to the public.
- This helps to raise awareness about the importance of the Ordnance factories and their contribution to India's defense infrastructure.

## **US recognises McMahon Line as international boundary between China and Arunachal Pradesh**



- The United States recognises the McMahon Line as the international boundary between China and Arunachal Pradesh, according to a bipartisan Senate resolution which sees Arunachal Pradesh as an integral part of India.
- 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.
- The McMahon Line serves as the de facto boundary between China and India in the Eastern Sector. It specifically represents the boundary between Arunachal Pradesh and Tibet, from Bhutan in the west to Myanmar in the east.
- China has historically disputed the boundary and claims the state of Arunachal Pradesh as part of the Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR).

## **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. It comes ahead of a visit to Russia by Chinese President Xi Jinping and will severely limit Putin's own potential range of diplomatic visits.
- Moscow has previously said it did not recognize the court's authority.

### **ISSF World Cup Shooting Championship to begin at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh**



- International Shooting Sports Federation- ISSF World Cup Shooting Championship is organised in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh from today to 27 March.
- The official opening ceremony will be held on 21 March while competitions begin on 22 March at Madhya Pradesh State Shooting Academy.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will formally inaugurate this event on 21 March. Around 325 shooters from 33 countries and more than 75 technical officials will participate in the World Cup Shooting Championship.
- The Championship is being organized in collaboration with the Government of Madhya Pradesh and the Rifle Federation of India.
- It is the 8th World Cup organised in India and the first international shooting tournament to be held outside New Delhi.

### **Indian Higher Education Meet 2023 inaugurated in Dhaka**



- High Commissioner Pranay Verma and Minister of Education of Bangladesh Dr. Dipu Moni on Saturday jointly inaugurated the Indian Higher Education Meet 2023.
- It is being conducted under the aegis of the Study in India programme in Dhaka.
- Higher educational institutes from different parts of India participated in the event.
- Some of the top ranking educational institutions from India are participating in the

programme.

- In his address, the High Commissioner remarked that higher education has emerged as a centrepiece of India's deep rooted partnership with Bangladesh.
- He also expressed his satisfaction that a large number of Indian students have been pursuing higher education in each other's country.
- He invited more students from Bangladesh to take advantage of India's globally reputed higher education system and build new bridges of friendship and understanding among the youth of the two countries.
- Bangladesh Minister of Education Dr. Dipu Moni recognized the important role of education in promoting greater understanding between India and Bangladesh and thanked Study in India for its initiative to organise the event in Dhaka.

### **NAGPUR TO HOST C-20 INDIA INCEPTION MEETING**



- In Maharashtra, Nagpur City will host the Civil20 India (C-20) Inception meeting from 20th to 21st of this month.
- C-20 is one of the empowered group, working under the ambit of G-20 Secretariat, which provides a platform for Civil Society Organisations around the world to voice the people's aspirations to the world leaders in G20.
- Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Mr. Devendra Fadnavis, Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi, Spiritual leader Mata Amritanandmayi will be present tomorrow in the inaugural ceremony of the meeting organized at 3.30 pm in Hotel Raddison Blu in Nagpur.
- Dr.Swadesh Singh, Sous Sherpa of C-20, while addressing in the pre-event press conference regarding Inception meeting of C-20 in Nagpur today informed that the two-day Conference will focus on the perspective of the Civil Society Organizations and non-government organisations.
- The deliberations of Civil Society Organisation on various issues will be put in the Inception issues like Health, Lifestyle for Environment, Art and Crafts will be discussed which will take the shape of Policy pact.

## In poll year, Ashok Gehlot announces 19 new districts, 3 divisions

**DESERT STATE GETS AN 'IMAGE' MAKEOVER**

**In which district will the state capital fall?**  
 ➤ CM Ashok Gehlot's decision to redraw the old Jaipur district into four new districts has inevitably brought the question of which one would include the capital to the forefront: Will it be Jaipur North or Jaipur South? Since the state government has not yet demarcated the boundaries of new districts, the question is puzzling people and has gone viral on social media.

**New Districts: 19**

➤ Jaipur North	➤ Gangapur City
➤ Jaipur South	➤ Neem Ka Thana
➤ Jodhpur East	➤ Kotputli Behror
➤ Jodhpur West	➤ Khairthal
➤ Anupgarh	➤ Dudu
➤ Balotra	➤ Kekri
➤ Beawar	➤ Phalodi
➤ Deeg	➤ Salumber
➤ Deedwana	➤ Sanchore
➤ Kuchaman	➤ Shahpura




**New Divisions: 3**

➤ Banswara	➤ Pali	➤ Sikar
------------	--------	---------

CM Ashok Gehlot speaks in the state Assembly on Friday

Congress government has ignored many important facts in the process of creating new districts. Instead of providing convenience, the public will have to face administrative complications by this move. CM Ashok Gehlot tried to politicise the budget by keeping the worrying fiscal indicators at stake, which is unfortunate

—Ex-CM Vasundhara Raje

- Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday announced in the Assembly the creation of as many as 19 new districts and three divisions, including creation of new districts out of state capital Jaipur.
- Reacting to the announcement, former CM Vasundhara Raje said, "This is an attempt to fulfil personal political self-interests.
- Several important facts have been overlooked in the process of creating new districts.
- And, so rather than facilitating things, people will have to face administrative difficulties due to creation of these new districts."
- Jaipur will now be divided into four smaller districts: Jaipur North, Jaipur South, and Dudu. Kotputli, which is also a part of Jaipur, will be merged with Behror in Alwar to create another district.
- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot to make Anupgarh, Balotra, Beawar, Deeg, Didwana-Kuchaman, Dudu, Gangapur City, Jaipur North, Jaipur South, Jodhpur East, Jodhpur West, Kekri, Kotputli-Behror, Khairthal, Neem Ka Thana, Phalodi, Salumber, Sanchore and Shahpura districts.
- The CM also declared adding three new administrative: Sikar, Banswara and Pali.
- Jaipur North, Jaipur South, Dudu and Phalodi districts have been carved out of Jaipur district.
- Jodhpur East, Jodhpur West and Kotputli-Behror districts have been carved out of Jodhpur district.
- For the new districts and divisions, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot proposed a budget of Rs 2,000 crore for the first phase of implementation of infrastructure and human resource development.

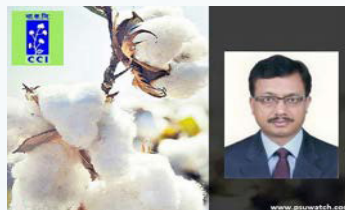


## Swimmer Sampanna Ramesh Shelar becomes fastest Indian in U21 group to swim across Palk Strait from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka to Dhanuskodi in Tamil Nadu



- Sampanna Ramesh Shelar, a Bachelor of Physical Education student, has set a new record by becoming the fastest Indian in the under-21 category to swim across the Palk Strait, from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka to Dhanuskodi in Tamil Nadu.
- He completed the 29 km distance in just 5 hours and 30 minutes, beating the previous record of 8 hours and 26 minutes.
- Shelar started his swim at 6:00 am on Thursday and reached Dhanushkodi at 11:26 am.
- He is coached by Mr. Jitendra Khasnis and plans to complete solo swims across the English and Catalina Channels to achieve the Oceans Seven Challenge.
- With this achievement, Mr. Shelar plans to swim solo across the English and Catalina channels soon, popularly known as the Oceans Seven Challenge, to eventually complete swimming across the Seven Oceans.

## Lalit Kumar Gupta appointed as CMD of Cotton Corporation of India (CCI)



- 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.
- Gupta was suggested by the PESB panel for the position of CMD of CCI, and he



currently holds the position of Director (Finnane) within the same organisation.

- Gupta has earned his MBA in Marketing from the ITM Business School located in Navi Mumbai, and he is a Chartered Accountant (CA) certified by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). He is also a member of the Institute of the Company Secretaries of India (ICSI).
- With significant experience in the Finance and related sectors, Gupta has a lengthy connection with the Cotton Corporation spanning approximately 25 years. He became a part of CCI in August 1994.

### **Afghanistan most impacted by terrorism for fourth straight year, India ranks 13th: Global Terrorism Index**



- 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.
- 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 index provides a comprehensive summary of the key global trends and patterns in terrorism since 2000. It produces a composite score in order to provide an ordinal ranking of countries on the impact of terrorism.
- 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.

## External Affairs Minister Jaishankar inaugurates “Geoffrey Bawa: It is Essential To be There” Exhibition to mark the 75 years of Indo-Lanka Diplomatic Relations



- India’s External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar, inaugurated the “Geoffrey Bawa: It is Essential To Be There” exhibition at the National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi.
- The exhibition, which is a joint collaboration between the National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi, the High Commission of Sri Lanka in New Delhi, and the Geoffrey Bawa Trust, showcases the architectural works of Sri Lanka’s renowned architect, the late Geoffrey Bawa.
- Bawa’s distinct architectural style, which blended modernism with traditional elements, is highly acclaimed.
- He designed several prominent buildings in Sri Lanka, including the Sri Lankan Parliament, which is considered one of his most impressive works.
- Bawa’s architectural designs also influenced many iconic buildings in India.
- His unique style has had a significant impact on modern architecture in Sri Lanka and beyond, inspiring architects and designers globally.

## G Krishnakumar takes over 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.

- Post that, Gupta was holding additional charge of the chairman.
- Krishnakumar will hold the position of chairman and managing director till April 2025 or until any further notice, whichever is earlier, according to an official order.

### **Former Australia test cricket captain Tim Paine retires**



- 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.
- Paine stepped down from the captaincy in 2021 after admitting to sending inappropriate messages to a former Cricket Tasmania employee.
- In his test career, Paine had an average of 32.63 with a highest score of 92 and made 157 dismissals as a wicketkeeper.
- He also played 35 one-day internationals for Australia.
- Paine, who hails from Hobart, played for Tasmania for over 18 years, debuting in 2005 and featuring in 153 first-class matches.

### **Rohan Bopanna becomes oldest ATP Masters 1000 champion by winning men's doubles title at Indian Wells**

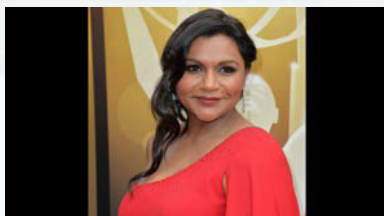


- Rohan Bopanna, a 43-year-old Indian tennis player, and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden have become the oldest duo to win an ATP Masters 1000 title.



- 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.
- Bopanna has now won 24 ATP titles, including five ATP Masters 1000, and has become the oldest player to win an ATP Masters 1000 title, breaking the record of Canadian Daniel Nestor, who won the 2015 Cincinnati Masters at the age of 42.
- This was Bopanna's second title this year, having won the Qatar Open with Ebden last month.
- In the semi-finals of the Indian Wells Masters, the unseeded Bopanna-Ebden pair defeated the defending champions John Isner and Jack Sock of the USA in straight sets.
- They also won their quarter-final match against the Canadian pair of Felix Auger-Aliassime and Denis Shapovalov in straight sets.
- Bopanna-Ebden received a walkover in the round of 16 and won their opening match against Rafael Matos of Brazil and David Vega Hernandez of Spain in three sets.

### **Joe Biden to present 2021 National Humanities Medals to Indian-American Mindy Kaling**



- The White House has announced that US President Joe Biden will bestow the 2021 National Humanities Medals upon several recipients, including Indian-American actress, comedian, and writer Mindy Kaling, also known as Vera Mindy Chokalingam.
- The National Medal of Arts is the most prestigious award granted by the US government to artists, arts advocates, and organizations.
- It recognizes individuals and groups who have made outstanding contributions to the arts in America and served as role models through their exceptional accomplishments, assistance, or sponsorship.
- According to an announcement from the White House, US President Joe Biden will present the 2021 National Humanities Medals and National Medal of Arts to over a dozen recipients, including Indian-American actress and writer Mindy Kaling.



- These awards recognize individuals or groups who have made significant contributions to advancing the arts and humanities in America, broadening public engagement with subjects such as history, literature, languages, and philosophy.

## World Poetry Day 2023



- 21 March 2023 is celebrated as World Poetry Day 2023.
- Every year on March 21, people throughout the world celebrate World Poetry Day to honor an expression of language with which they can all identify.
- Every country's past contains poetry, which unites people through shared humanity and values. Even the most simple poems can spark conversation.
- The theme of World Poetry Day 2023 is "Always be a poet, even in prose."
- Poetry is a lovely medium for expression. The abstraction of poetry produces more feelings and emotions than any other genre of literature.
- Although it is thought that the "Epic of Gilgamesh" dates back to around 2000 B.C., poetry probably existed long before literacy was widely practised.
- Various forms of poetry have evolved over time and have followed fashion.
- The basic goal of poetry, whether it be in sonnets or rap lyrics, is to examine the human condition and evoke emotion.

## International Day of Forests 2023



- March 21st is observed as International Day of Forests or World Forestry Day worldwide to increase awareness about the importance of forests, woodlands, and trees in our lives.

- It is important to understand the value, significance, and contributions of the forests to balancing the life cycle on earth.
- An issue like deforestation is also addressed on this day.
- The International Day of Forests for 2023 has adopted the theme of “Forests and health” to emphasize the interdependence between the existence of forests and our well-being.
- Forests play a critical role in supporting the survival of all living creatures, including humans.

## World Water Day 2023



- Today, March 22, is World Water Day. It is an annual United Nations Observance, started in 1993, that celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2 billion people currently living without access to safe water.
- A core focus of World Water Day is to inspire action toward Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: Water and Sanitation for all by 2030.
- The day also focuses attention on the importance of freshwater and advocates for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.
- The focus of World Water Day 2023 is on Accelerating Change to solve the water and sanitation crisis.
- The government of India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been implementing various schemes and programmes like Jal Jeevan Mission, Atal Bhujal Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Namami Gange, National Aquifer Mapping and Management programme, etc., for water conservation and for increasing the level of groundwater.
- As on 21st March 2023, over 11.49 crore households have been provided tap water connections and over 1.53 lakh villages have become Har Ghar Jal.
- Over 11 crore Individual Household Latrines have been built across all States and UTs since October 2014.

## Bangladesh commissions its first submarine base



- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the first submarine base of Bangladesh 'BNS Sheikh Hasina' at Pekua in Cox's Bazar on Monday.
- 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.
- Inaugurating the submarine base virtually from her official residence Ganabhaban in Dhaka, Prime Minister Hasina said that the newly commissioned submarine base would help navy increase its operational capacity to secure the vast marine resources.
- Ships passing through the Bay of Bengal also can take help from the base, said Sheikh Hasina.
- Prime Minister Hasina said that her government has been working on 'Forces Goal 2030' to transform its military force into a modern organization suitable for the times.
- She said that two submarines were added to the fleet of Bangladesh Navy in March 2017 which has turned it into a three dimensional naval force.
- She said the country is building ships in local shipyards for its own use as well as for others.
- Bangladesh Navy has completed the construction of five patrol craft including large ones in Khulna shipyard, she said.
- Highlighting the growing strength of Bangladesh Navy, Prime Minister Hasina said that in the last 14 years, a total of 31 warships, including 4 frigates, 6 corvettes, 4 large patrol crafts, 5 patrol crafts and 2 training ships were added to its fleet.

## ISRO to launch OneWeb India-2 mission from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota





- The Indian Space Research Organisation ISRO will launch OneWeb India-2 mission from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on March 26.
- Under a commercial agreement with NewSpace India Limited, ISRO will launch 72 satellites of the UK-based Network Access Associates Limited and place them in low Earth orbits.
- NewSpace is the commercial wing of ISRO. The first set of 36 satellites was launched on October 23 last year by the LVM3 M2 launch vehicle.
- In the second mission on March 26th, the remaining 36 satellites weighing about 5805 kgs will be placed in 450 km circular low Earth orbit by LVM3 M3 launch vehicle.
- The LVM3 had five consecutive successful missions, including the Chandrayaan 2 mission.
- The satellites offer space based broadband internet services to the corners of the world.
- After the launch, Access Associates Limited will have over 600 satellites in space offering internet from space services in various countries.

### **India Inaugurates Asia's Largest Liquid Mirror Telescope To Unravel Mysteries Of Space**



- Dr. Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, inaugurated Asia's largest 4-meter 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.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh has stated that the International Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT) project involves collaborations with researchers from various institutes including ARIES in India, the University of Liege and the Royal Observatory of Belgium in



Belgium, Poznan Observatory in Poland, the Ulugh Beg Astronomical Institute of the Uzbek Academy of Sciences and National University of Uzbekistan in Uzbekistan, and Canadian universities such as the University of British Columbia, Laval University, the University of Montreal, the University of Toronto, York University, and the University of Victoria.

- The telescope was constructed by the Advanced Mechanical and Optical Systems (AMOS) Corporation and the Centre Spatial de Liege in Belgium.

### **Merlin Group plans to develop a World Trade Center in Kolkata**



- Merlin Group has partnered with the World Trade Centers Association to develop a World Trade Center in Kolkata that will cover an area of 3.5 million square feet.
- The project's License Agreement was signed by Scott Wang, Vice President of the World Trade Centers Association (WTCA) Asia Pacific region, and Merlin Group's Chairman, Sushil Mohta, and Managing Director, Saket Mohta.
- The project, which is being built in Salt Lake, West Bengal, is estimated to require an investment of approximately Rs 1,500 crore.
- The oldest World Trade Center in India is located in Mumbai, and there are additional Centers in Bangalore, Chennai, New Delhi, Noida, Pune, and other cities.
- The construction of the proposed World Trade Center in Kolkata is expected to enhance the economic growth of West Bengal and Eastern India by promoting partnerships with international trade organizations and investors from other countries via other World Trade Center members.
- This development is projected to bring a substantial contribution to the state's finances and create employment opportunities for 30,000 people.

### **AFINDEX 2023: Second Africa-India joint military exercise begins in Pune today**



- 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.
- The joint military exercise between India and 23 nations of the African continent, AFINDEX-2023, is a continuation of India's efforts to enhance its relationship with Africa, which began with the India-Africa Summit in 2008 and was subsequently held in 2015 and 2019.
- The exercise is focused on Humanitarian Mine Action and Peace Keeping Operations, with the aim of improving the interoperability and operational readiness of the participating countries for UN peacekeeping missions through military engagement and cooperation.

### **Pankaj Advani retains Asian Billiards title**



- 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 Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna in 2006, Padma Shri in 2009, and Padma Bhushan in 2018. He had won the same title in Doha last year.
- Advani, who hails from Bengaluru and is 37 years old, has won the billiards world title 17 times, the IBSF World Billiards Championship 16 times, and the World Team Billiards Championship once.
- He has also won gold medals in English Billiards singles at the 2006 and 2010 Asian Games.

### **ISSF World Cup Shooting Championship: India win bronze medal in 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team event in Bhopal**



- Indian pair Narmada Nithin Raju and Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil won bronze medal as they beat China mix team by 16-8 in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team bronze medal match in ISSF World Cup shooting championship in Bhopal today.
- Earlier Nithin and Rudranksh finished 3rd in qualification with 632 points. This is the third medal for India.

### **Venezuelan President appoints PDVSA head Pedro Rafael Tellechea as new oil minister**



- Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro appointed Pedro Rafael Tellechea, the head of state oil company PDVSA, as the country's new oil minister on Tuesday, March 21, a day after his predecessor resigned amid an extensive corruption investigation centred on the company.
- A Former Minister, Tareck El Aissami, resigned on Monday following the arrest of several government officials and judges in connection with the graft scam.
- According to sources familiar with the situation, more than 20 lower-level PDVSA



officials have also been detained in recent days.

- Mr. Tellechea has been the head of PDVSA since January and has ordered an audit into the massive losses suffered last year as tankers left the country without proper cargo payments.
- The government has provided few details about alleged corruption at the company, but a source said on Monday that the PDVSA arrests are linked to an investigation into the cargoes.

## QS World Rankings 2023: 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.

## Sergio Pérez wins Saudi Arabia Grand Prix but Max Verstappen keeps title lead





- 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.

### **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.

### **World Meteorological Day: Open day at IMD Pune on March 23**



- Every year on March 23, World Meteorological Day is celebrated to mark the official formation of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) in 1950.

- The day recognizes the crucial role of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) in ensuring the safety and welfare of society.
- The day showcase the essential contribution of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services to the safety and well-being of society and will be celebrated with activities around the world.
- These activities may include conferences, seminars, exhibitions, and workshops to educate the public about weather and water-related issues and promote international cooperation in these fields.
- The day celebrates the crucial role of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in ensuring the safety and well-being of society and is observed worldwide with various activities.
- The themes chosen for World Meteorological Day are related to current weather, climate, or water-related issues.

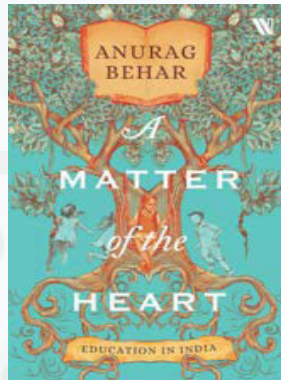
### **India, UK hold joint maritime exercise 'Konkan' in Arabian Sea**



- Konkan 2023, a joint maritime exercise, was conducted between the Royal Navy of Britain and the Indian Navy from the 20th of March to the 22nd, off the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea.
- The joint drill by the two navies demonstrated operational readiness, enhancing interoperability and improving the ability to conduct joint operations.
- The exercise will go a long way in bolstering the combined efforts of the Indian Navy and Royal Navy to strengthen maritime security and uphold a rules-based order in the region.
- INS Trishul, a guided missile frigate, and HMS Lancaster, a Type 23 guided missile frigate, participated in this edition and undertook multiple maritime drills to enhance interoperability and imbibe best practices.
- The exercises covered all domains of maritime operations, air, surface, and subsurface.
- India and UK agreed to significant new cooperation on Maritime Domain Awareness, which includes new agreements on maritime information sharing, an invitation to the UK to join India's Information Fusion Centre in Gurugram.

- India considers the defense sector as one of the major areas where the bilateral partnership could be expanded around the Make in India campaign.
- In maritime cooperation, the engagements between both countries are increasing.
- The UK will be deploying a Carrier Strike Group in the Indian Ocean region this year in line with its strategic tilt to Indo-Pacific.

### **A matter of the heart: Education in India**



- Anurag Behar, the CEO of Azim Premji Foundation and founding vice-chancellor of Azim Premji University, has authored a new travel book titled “A Matter of the Heart: Education in India”.
- The book is a collection of 110 stories, based on Behar’s experiences working at the foundation, and sheds light on the state of education in India beyond the major cities.
- Through his writing, Behar pays tribute to the educators who are shaping the future of the country.
- The book has been published by Westland Nonfiction, which is a division of Nasadiya Technologies Pvt Ltd. Behar is a well-known educationist and leader in India’s social sector.
- Education is the key to creating a better future for individuals, communities, societies, and the world.
- But what does education really mean, and how can we build a better future beyond the cities and the elite schools? Anurag Behar’s collection of essays takes us on a journey to remote villages in India where we can see the state of education and, by extension, the state of the nation.
- Despite the challenges of poor infrastructure and the struggle for the right to education, Behar shows us how people and communities are making a positive impact on individuals and the nation as a whole.



## Defense ministry inks contracts worth Rs 3,700 cr to enhance Indian Air Force's radar operations



- 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.
- They also aim to boost the manufacturing capability in the industrial ecosystem and generate employment of around two lakh man-days over a period of three and a half years.

## NASA-ISRO Jointly Manufactures NISAR Earth Science Satellite



- Dr. Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of State for Science & Technology, announced in the Rajya Sabha that NASA and ISRO have collaboratively built an earth science satellite called NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar).
- The satellite's primary objectives are to design, develop, and launch a dual-frequency



(L and S band) radar imaging satellite, and to explore new application areas using L & S Band microwave data, particularly in surface deformation studies, terrestrial biomass structure, natural resource mapping and monitoring, and research on the dynamics of ice-sheets, glaciers, forests, oil slicks, etc.

- The NISAR satellite is equipped with an I-3K bus and a SAR instrument that uses the innovative Sweep SAR technique.
- It operates in both L and S bands and has polarimetric configuration, providing a wide swath and high resolution.
- The satellite will travel in a sun synchronous orbit at a height of 747 km and an inclination of 98.4 degrees, completing a 12-day cycle.
- NASA is responsible for providing the L-Band SAR payload, high precision GPS, and a 12m unfurlable antenna, while ISRO is responsible for the S-Band SAR payload, spacecraft bus, and launch facilitation.
- As of February 2023, ISRO has spent Rs. 469.40 Crore on the realization of the NISAR satellite, excluding launch costs.

### **Most silent ship INS Androth launched**



- 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).

- Despite their smaller size, these ships are equipped with lightweight torpedoes, ASW rockets and mines, close-in weapon system (30 mm gun), and 16.7 mm stabilized remote-controlled guns.
- They are also capable of full-scale sub-surface surveillance of coastal waters and coordinated ASW operations with aircraft. In addition, the ASW SWC has hull-mounted sonar and a low frequency variable depth sonar.

### International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations



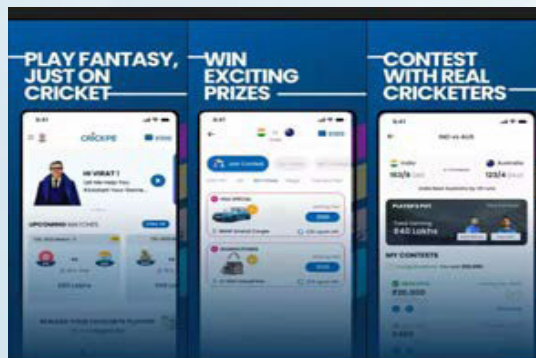
- On the 24th of March every year, the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims is commemorated in honor of Monsignor **Óscar** Arnulfo Romero, who was assassinated on this day in 1980.
- Monsignor Romero was passionately involved in speaking out against the infringement of human rights suffered by the most marginalized people in El Salvador.
- The International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims aims to honor the memory of victims who have suffered from gross and systemic human rights violations, while promoting the significance of the right to truth and justice.
- It also serves to pay tribute to individuals who have dedicated their lives to advocating for and protecting human rights for everyone, even if it meant sacrificing their own lives.
- In particular, the day recognizes the important contributions and values of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero from El Salvador, who was assassinated on 24 March 1980.
- Archbishop Romero vehemently condemned human rights abuses against the most vulnerable populations and upheld the principles of preserving life, respecting human dignity, and opposing all forms of violence.

## Income tax dept launches AIS mobile app: How to download and register



- 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 need to refer to the AIS for various details, including installments of advance tax paid, self-assessment tax, income-tax refund, Statement of Financial Transactions (SFT), and turnover as per Goods and Service Tax (GST) return, among other things.
- 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.
- Each section of the AIS includes reported and modified values based on the feedback received from taxpayers.
- The objectives of the AIS are to provide taxpayers with complete information and an opportunity to give online feedback, promote voluntary compliance, and enable easy prefilling of tax returns.

## Ashneer Grover’s new startup CrickPe is a fantasy sports app that will also reward cricketers



- Ashneer Grover, co-founder of BharatPe, has launched a new cricket-focused fantasy sports app named CrickPe ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) tournament.
- This app will compete against rivals such as Dream11, Mobile Premier League (MPL), and Games24x7's My11Circle.
- Third Unicorn Pvt Ltd, founded by Ashneer Grover, has raised \$4 million in seed funding from more than two dozen angel investors, including Anmol Singh Jaggi, Anirudh Kedia, and Vishal Kedia.
- Previously, Grover was associated with BharatPe and Grofers, both of which are unicorns.
- The app is targeting the upcoming IPL tournament for its launch and is allowing users to participate in contests for IPL matches starting from March 31, 2023.







# PLUTUS ACADEMY

Plutus Academy is determined to make the dreams of every government job aspirant a reality by providing quality education with clear concepts and high academic standards. At Plutus Academy aspirant not only become government officer but ethical government officer.

Current Affairs help us in gaining more knowledge and keep updated with Current events that are going on around the world. It also notifies us of several rules and regulations of India and other countries. Therefore it becomes easy for us to learn about different costumes and cultures, also the acceptance and non-acceptance of new policies/revolutions by different cultured groups.

Current Affairs is very important for candidates preparing for all the government exams since it is now mandatory by all the govt. based competitive exams to have a section on current affairs. This magazine is very useful for such aspirants.



Like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/plutusacademy/>



Watch us on youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/c/plutusacademy>

**All Books are available on**



Onlinekhanmarket

[www.examophobia.com](http://www.examophobia.com)



examophobia

**Soft Copy**

**Hard Copy**

## Corporate Office :

Basement C-59 Noida, Uttar Pradesh  
201301

706 1st Floor Dr. Mukharjee Nagar Batra  
Cinema Delhi - 110009

17A/41, 1st Floor, WEA, (Near by Karol  
Bagh Metro Station) karol Bagh, New Delhi  
110005

**Phone :** +91-8123002808

**Email :** [info@plutusacademy.com](mailto:info@plutusacademy.com)

**Web :** [www.plutusacademy.com](http://www.plutusacademy.com)