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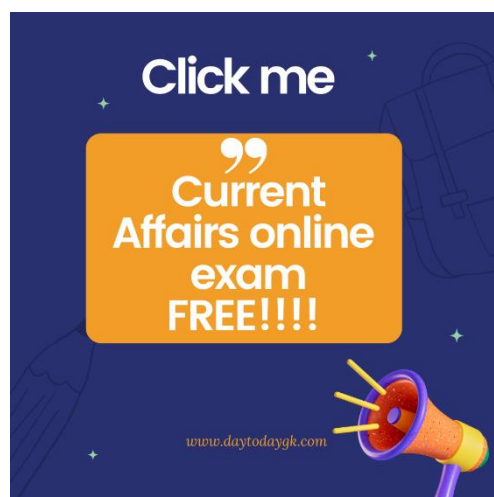
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Awards and Honours

Awardee Name	Award Name	Extra Information
Gujarat's tableau	"People's Choice Award" at 74th Republic Day parade	Gujarat's state tableau at this year's Republic Day Parade on the topic of clean and green energy took first place in the People's Choice Awards category.
Manmohan Singh	Lifetime Achievement Honour by the India-UK Achievers Honours	The National Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU) UK will present Dr. Singh with the Honour, which was revealed during an awards function last week.
VK Pandian	FIH President's Award 2023	In the Finals of FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela, FIH President Tayyab Ikram presented the FIH President's Award to VK Pandian
Dr Peggy Mohan	Mathrubhumi Book of The Year	Her book 'Wanderers, Kings and Merchants,' portraying evolution of language as the outcome of migrations, won the award that carries Rs two lakh as cash prize and a sculpture.
NASA's Webb Telescope	Space Foundation Award	The telescope was jointly developed by European Space Agency, NASA, and Canadian Space Agency.
Angela Merkel	UNESCO Peace Prize	Ex-German Chancellor Angela Merkel received the UNESCO Peace Prize for her decision to give refuge to over 1.2 million migrants in Germany
NTPC	'ATD Best Awards 2023	The country's largest power generating company, NTPC Limited has been honoured with 'ATD Best Awards 2023' by the Association for Talent Development (ATD), USA.
K.M. Mammen	Atma Lifetime Achievement Award	MRF Ltd. Chairman and Managing Director K.M. Mammen was presented the ATMA Lifetime Achievement Award by Maruti Suzuki India MD & CEO Hisashi Takeuchi at the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association



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		(ATMA) Annual Conclave 2023 in New Delhi.
Journalist A.B.K. Prasad	Raja Ram Mohan Roy National Award	In 2023, the Raja Ram Mohan Roy National Award is presented to Journalist A.B.K. Prasad for his contributions towards journalism.
Appasaheb Dharmadhikari	Maharashtra Bhushan award	The Maharashtra Bhushan award comprises a medal, a citation and Rs 25 lakh, which will be conferred to Appasaheb at a function later in the year. Appasaheb was honoured with Padmashri in 2017.
Karnataka Bank	‘Prathista Puraskar’ for achieving highest percentage in BHIM-UPI transactions	Labelled as ‘KBL-NxT’, the bank is currently undertaking an accelerated digital drive under its transformation journey ‘KBL VIKAAS 2.0’.
Subhash Chandran	Kerala’s Akbar Kakkattil award for ‘Samudrasila’	Writer Subhash Chandran’s novel Samudrashila has been chosen for the Akbar Kakkattil Award instituted by a trust in the memory of the short story writer and novelist from Kozhikode.
Rishab Shetty	most promising actor	He has been honoured with the prestigious award for the most promising actor at Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival 2023.
Karthik Subramaniam	National Geographic’s ‘Pictures of the year’	A software engineer of Indian descent who later became a hobbyist photographer has been named the grand prize winner of National Geographic’s “Pictures of the Year” competition.
V Madhusoodanan Nair	Jnanappana Prize for 2023	Poet V. Madhusoodanan Nair has been selected for the Jnanappana Award – 2023 instituted by the



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		Guruvayur Devaswom. The award carries ₹50,001, a gold locket of Guruvayurappan and a citation.
Hari Balakrishnan	2023 Marconi Prize	Computer scientist Hari Balakrishnan has been awarded the 2023 Marconi Prize.
Lionel Messi	Best FIFA Men’s Player 2022 award	Argentina and PSG forward Lionel Messi beat Kylian Mbappé and Karim Benzema to win The Best FIFA Men’s Player 2022 award.
J&K	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.

Appointments

Name	Designation Name	Extra Information
Morgan Stanley	Arun Kohli - country head for India	Kohli, currently the chief operating officer for EMEA, will head the US bank’s business in the country, according to a memo seen by Bloomberg News.
Manuela Roka Botey	Equatorial Guinea – Prime minister	President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, who has ruled the country since 1979, made the announcement in a decree read on state television.
V Ramachandra	RBI as member of Advisory Committee of SIFL, SEFL	V Ramachandra, a former chief general officer of Canara Bank, was appointed by the Reserve Bank
Harmanpreet Kaur	Puma India – brand ambassador	As part of the partnership terms, Harmanpreet will endorse the brand’s footwear,



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		apparel and accessories throughout the year.
Shamika Ravi	member of the Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM)	She is currently non-resident senior fellow of the governance studies program at the Brookings Institution Washington D.C.
Victoria Gowri	Madras High Court Judge	Lawyer Lekshmana Chandra Victoria Gowri was appointed to the higher judiciary and took an oath of office as the additional judge of Madras High Court.
K Satyanarayana Raju	MD and CEO of Canara Bank	He will be replacing L V Prabhakar who demitted office on December 31, 2022.
Joe Acaba	NASA's Chief Astronaut	In December 2022, the deputy chief of NASA Drew Feustel became the chief. However, his services recently ended and he was succeeded by the new chief Joe Acaba.
Mohammad Shahabuddin	President of Bangladesh	The Election Commission of Bangladesh issued a notification to this effect on Monday as only one candidate filed his nomination after the time of nomination and withdrawal was over.
Aniket Sunil Talati	Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) – President	At the helm of the ICAI's council, Talati and Agarwal will be responsible for organising the three-tiered CA exam and looking after all administrative affairs.
Nikos Christodoulides	President of Cyprus	Nikos Christodoulides was elected as the President of Cyprus after a second and final round of voting.
Neal Mohan	CEO of YouTube	An Indian-American, Neal Mohan will become the next Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Alphabet-owned YouTube
VP Rajan Amba	MD of Jaguar Land Rover India	Tata Motors has appointed Rajan Amba as the Managing Director of Jaguar Land Rover India. He will take charge on March 1, 2023. Amba replaces Rohit Suri, who announced his retirement earlier this year.
Kollam district	Swaraj Trophy 2021-22	The Kollam district panchayat has won the Swaraj Trophy for the best district panchayat in



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		the State for the 2021-22 financial year. The Kannur district panchayat stood second in the rankings.
BVR Subrahmanyam	NITI Aayog CEO	Former Commerce Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam has been appointed as NITI Aayog's new CEO while the think tank's current CEO, Parameswaran Iyer, has been appointed as World Bank's Executive Director.
Ayushmann Khurrana	National Ambassador of child rights	In India, Ayushmann Khurrana will represent UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund).
Rajesh Rai	Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Indian Telephone Industries Limited (ITI Ltd)	ITI Limited is a PSU in the telecommunications technology segment established as a departmental factory in 1948.
RS Reen	Director General Quality Assurance	Lt Gen RS Reen took over as Director General Quality Assurance. A 1986-batch officer, Lt Gen Reen is an alumnus of Indian Military Academy, Dehradun.
Ranveer Singh	Brand Ambassador of Pepsi	Soft Drink manufacturer Pepsi recently announced that famous Bollywood Actor Ranveer Singh has been appointed as its new Brand Ambassador.

Banking & Finance

Mobicule launches Asset Repossession Module for Banks and NBFCs

- **Mobicule** has launched the industry's **first Asset Repossession Solution for banks and NBFCs** named '**mCollect Repossession module**'.



- **Asset Repossession Solution:** It is a comprehensive solution that maps all the complex processes in the repossession of an asset, as a part of its debt collection and recovery product

SBI permits real-time Bhim payments with Singapore

The **State Bank of India (SBI)** announced a cooperation with **PayNow**, the city state's online payment system, for cross-border payments, one day after a real-time payments system linkage was formed between **India and Singapore utilising the UPI platform.**

According to **Dinesh Khara, chairman of SBI**, the project will significantly advance digitalisation efforts by giving consumers access to a simple, seamless cross-border payment option.

Reserve Bank of India Announces 2nd Global Hackathon “HARBINGER 2023”

The Reserve Bank announced its second global hackathon – ‘**HARBINGER 2023 – Innovation for Transformation**’ with the theme ‘**Inclusive Digital Services**’. Registration for the hackathon starts from February 22, 2023.

It had **received 363 proposals** submitted by teams from within India and from 22 other countries including the **US, UK, Sweden, Singapore, Philippines, and Israel.**

Paytm Payments Bank becomes 1st to launch UPI LITE feature

Paytm Payments Banks Limited (PPBL) has launched **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) LITE**, enabled by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) for multiple small-value UPI transactions.

This feature will help with faster real-time transactions with a single click through Paytm as the bank aims to drive the adoption of digital payments across the country. As a part of its efforts to drive innovation, the Bank said it is the first payments bank to launch such **UPI LITE feature.**

ICICI Bank signs pact with BNP Paribas

ICICI Bank and BNP Paribas have signed an initial pact to cater to the banking requirements of European corporates operating in **India and Indian companies in the European Union.**

The **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between the two entities establishes a framework of a partnership between the **two banks for providing financial services** to corporate customers operating in the India, Europe corridor, private sector lender ICICI Bank said in a statement.

Kotak Mahindra Bank takes corporate digital banking portal ‘Kotak fyn’ live



Private sector lender **Kotak Mahindra Bank** went live with ‘**Kotak fyn**’, an integrated portal developed to offer comprehensive digital banking and value-added services to its **business banking and corporate clients**.

The portal will offer services across all products, including trade & services, account services, payments, and collections and make banking seamless for the bank’s clients.

‘BizKhata’ for small businesses and merchant partners launched by Airtel Payments Bank

Airtel Payments Bank announced the availability of its current account, **BizKhata**, which offers small businesses and business partners across the nation fast activation and limitless transactions.

Because they cannot **maintain the minimum amount required for business accounts**, many small business owners continue to use savings accounts for business-related expenses. This makes it difficult to distinguish between personal and corporate dealings.

PhonePe launches cross-border UPI payments service

PhonePe announced the debut of a service that will enable its Indian users who are travelling overseas to pay foreign businesses using the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**.

“**UPI international**” enables retail locations with a **native QR (quick response)** code in the **UAE, Singapore, Mauritius, Nepal, and Bhutan**. Similar to how they do with overseas debit cards, users would be able to make direct payments in a foreign currency from their Indian bank.

MobiKwik becomes India’s first app to support credit cards on UPI

India’s leading fintech, **MobiKwik** has become the **first fintech apps to support RuPay Credit Cards on UPI**.

- The development brings a new level of convenience to the millions of Indians who use UPI for their daily transactions.
- With nearly **50 million users** possessing one or more credit cards, this is a significant milestone in India’s drive towards a cashless economy.

Indian Overseas Bank Launched Electronic Bank Guarantee Scheme

Public sector **Indian Overseas Bank** has launched the facility of issuance of **e-BG (Electronic Bank Guarantee)** scheme in association with the National e-Governance Services Ltd.

The e-BG is an instrument issued by the city-headquartered bank in which the bank undertakes to guarantee a specific amount against the non-fulfillment of some action/performance of the applicant.

ADB strives \$25 billion for India’s infra, social and green needs



The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** in order to help India fulfil its most pressing development requirements, **pledged up to \$25 billion** over the course of the next five years to support social development, climate change, and infrastructure development in India under the **PM Gati Shakti project**.

Indian Affairs

30th National Child Science Congress Organized in Ahmedabad

The **30th National Child Science Congress** was inaugurated on 27th January 2023 at **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**. The National Child Science Congress is a five-day event that was held at Science City. The event was concluded on 31st January 2023.

- The National Child Science Congress was organized by the **Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST)**, the Gujarat Council of Science City, and SAL Education.

1st G20 Education working group meeting to begin in Chennai

- Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting **Dr. L. Murugan** will inaugurate the session where deliberations will take place on carrying forward the resolutions passed during the last summit.
- Discussions will be held on **K 12 education**, tech-enabled learning and skill development. The delegates were present for the Seminar held on 31st Jan 2023.
- After today's discussions, the G 20 delegation will be taken to **Mamallapuram for sightseeing**. In the evening there will be a cultural presentation on the **sumptuous food of Tamil Nadu**.

Mara Tribal Girls' Hostel Inauguration by Union Minister Renuka

- **Renuka Singh Saruta**, current **Minister of State for Tribal Affairs** made her presence at the inaugural ceremony of the **Mara Tribal Girls' Hostel in Lunglei, Mizoram**.
- She also paid tribute to the **freedom fighter Darthawma** during her visit to the state.
- **Renuka** asserted that the government is actively implementing several schemes for women's dignity, protection and rights under the inspiring leadership of PM Modi.

PM Narendra Modi initiated the launch of Shivamogga Airport

- On February 27, 2023, PM **Shri Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Shivamogga Airport in Karnataka** which has been built at a cost of **Rs 450 crores**.
- This airport was constructed in two phases and the project commenced on June 15, 2010. At that time, former CM of the state, BS Yediyurappa laid the foundation stone.
- The terminal has the capacity to hold **300 travellers every hour**. Also, it has the **second longest runway after the airport in Bengaluru**.



- PM Modi says that this facility will promote commerce, tourism and connectivity in the region.

PM Modi Inaugurates Asia's Largest Helicopter Manufacturing Facility In Karnataka's Tumakuru

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicates to the nation the **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** helicopter factory in **Karnataka's Tumakuru**.

The foundation stone of the facility, which is a dedicated new greenfield helicopter factory, was also **laid by PM Modi in 2016**. The facility will enhance India's capacity and ecosystem to build helicopters. This will result in providing **employment for around 6000** people in the region.

Ladakh to host India's First Frozen-Lake Marathon at Pangong Tso

The **Pangong Tso Lake in Ladakh** will host the **first-ever frozen lake marathon** on 20th February 2023, at an altitude of roughly 13,862 feet.

The first-ever frozen lake marathon which is of **21-kilometer** is India's first of its kind. The marathon will occur at a height of 13,862 feet and it will be the first of its kind to ever take place in the globe at this altitude.

India's First Agri Chatbot Ama KrushAI Launched in Odisha

Governor of Odisha Prof. Ganeshi Lal launched **India's first AI Chatbot for the Agricultural sector 'Ama KrushAI'** at the valedictory session of **'Krusha Odisha 2023'**.

Ama KrushAI chatbot will **help the farmers with the best agronomic practices**, inform them about government schemes, and loan products from more than 40 commercial and cooperative banks.

Ama KrushAI will run under a **pilot project involving more than 10,000 farmers** and will be implemented in full-fledged in the next two months. Addressing the gathering, the Governor urged farmers to take advantage of different schemes announced by the state government to promote agriculture and help the state prosper.

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Set to Launch Virtual Shopping App

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation will soon launch **India's first virtual shopping app** called **Momentum 2.0** for metro commuters to purchase **products, book services and collect orders** at the destination stations.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has revealed that the app will also provide features such as instant recharge of **metro smart cards and smart payment options for other utility services**.



India's first waste-to-hydrogen plant to be set up in Pune

The Government of India is to set up the **first waste-to-hydrogen plant** at a cost of **Rs 430 crores in Pune**. The plant will be built by a private company Green Billion Limited.

The company has signed an agreement with the **Pune Municipal Corporation for 30 years**. The objective of the plant is to treat 350 tonnes of solid waste daily. From this, it will produce ten tonnes of Hydrogen every day.

The plant is to be built in Hadapsar Industrial Estate in Pune. The plant is the first of its kind in the country.

Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar

The award is presented by **Sangeet Natak Akademi** to artists in the **field of dance, music, and drama**.

It is presented annually to artists below the age of 40. Every year, more than **33 artists** are presented with the award. The **winners receive 25,000 rupees** of the cash price. The **Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar** is being presented since 2006. The awards were presented by the Union Minister of Culture and Tourism.

Govt Plans OTT Platform and Direct to Mobile TV

The **Government of India** has been making several changes in the broadcasting sector. The intention is to increase its imprint among the public and gain their trust.

For instance, the broadcasting infrastructure and network development scheme was launched to support Prasar Bharati. Now, the GoI is planning on launching an **OTT platform and a Direct to Mobile TV**.

Delhi Metro Launched first-ever Train Control & Supervision System

India's first indigenously developed Train Control and Supervision System, the **i-ATS (Indigenous–Automatic Train Supervision)** deployed on the Delhi Metro.

The i-ATS was installed on the Red Line that **runs between Rithala and Shaheed Sthal**.

The launch took place on Red Line from the Operations Control Centre (OCC), Shastri Park by the Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Manoj Joshi, in the presence of Vikas Kumar, Managing Director, Delhi Metro, Bhanu Prakash Srivastava, Chairman and Managing Director, **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and other senior officials of BEL and DMRC**.

Khelo India Winter Games 2023

The Khelo India scheme was launched to **increase the sports skills of the youth** in the country and also to increase the sports infrastructure.



Since the scheme's launch, the Khelo India committee working under the sports ministry has been organizing several games like Khelo India Youth Games, Khelo India Winter Games, etc. The **Khelo India Winter Games 2023** were recently launched in the **Gulmarg of Jammu and Kashmir**.

Lithium Reserves found in Jammu and Kashmir

The **Geological Survey of India** has found lithium reserves in **Jammu and Kashmir**. They have been found in the **Reasi district**. Today India is importing **Lithium from** countries from **Argentina and Australia**.

In 2021 alone, the price of **lithium increased by 400% for several reasons**. One of them was an increase in digital growth and electric batteries during COVID.

PM Modi Inaugurated India Energy Week 2023 in Bengaluru

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **India Energy Week (IEW) 2023** event that aimed to showcase India's rising prowess as an energy transition powerhouse.

The IEW is being held in **Bengaluru from 6th to 8th February 2023**. Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas **Hardeep Singh Puri**, Governor **Thaawarchand Gehlot**, and CM **Basavaraj Bommai** also felicitated the event.

First Youth20 Inception Meeting 2023 Begins in Guwahati

The **first Youth20 (Y20) Inception Meeting 2023** under G20 began in **Guwahati**. Briefing the media ahead of the meeting **Meeta Rajivlochan, Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs** informed that Youth20 deliberations hope to reach out to youth and consult with them for their ideas for a better future.

India's First Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (H2-ICE) powered truck

The ICE in H2-ICE stands for **Internal Combustion Engine**. It was developed by **Reliance in partnership with Ashok Leyland**. The H2-ICE truck is the first of its kind in India to be **powered by hydrogen**.

- The cost of the production of the truck was high.
- However, the truck emits zero carbon. It is completely clean.

Indian Railways Launches WhatsApp Food Delivery Facility 'Zoop'

Passengers traveling in **Indian Railways** can now **order food** online through **WhatsApp** while undertaking a journey by using their **PNR number**. This comes as a step further towards making e-catering services more customer-centric in Indian Railways. The Indian Railways has recently started WhatsApp Communication for railway passengers to order food through e-catering services.



E – Waste (Management) Amendment Rules, 2023

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change released the **E-Waste Management Rules** in 2022.

- It is expected to come into **effect in 2023**.
- **CPCB** was appointed as the regulatory body to implement the rules.
- The rules target companies in the consumer goods field. Recently the ministry amended some of the rules.

NAMASTE (National Action Plan for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem) scheme

- In the Union Budget 2023, the **Government of India** allocated **Rs 100 crores for the NAMASTE scheme**.
- With this, the GoI aims to mechanize septic tank cleaning and sewer cleaning in towns and cities.
- The scheme aims to provide an alternate **livelihood to sanitation workers**.
- In addition, NAMASTE will strive to bring behavioral changes to them.

Six New Governors appointed

President Murmu recently **appointed six new governors and reshuffled seven others**.

- Lt General Kaiwalya Trivikram was appointed the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh
- Lakshman Prasad Acharya was appointed as the Governor of Sikkim
- CP Radhakrishnan was appointed the Governor of Jharkhand
- Shiv Pratap Singh was appointed the Governor of HP
- Chand Kataria was appointed the Governor of Assam
- Retired SC Judge Abdul Nazeer was appointed the Governor of Andhra Pradesh

About the reshuffles

- The Governor of AP Biswa Bhusan was appointed the Governor of Chhattisgarh
- Governor of Chhattisgarh Sushri Anusuiya was appointed as the Governor of Manipur
- Governor of Manipur La Ganesh was appointed as the Governor of Nagaland
- Governor of Bihar Phagu Chauhan was appointed the Governor of Meghalaya
- Governor of HP Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar was appointed the Governor of Bihar
- Governor of Jharkhand Ramesh Bais was appointed the Governor of Maharashtra
- The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh was appointed the LG of Ladakh

National Tribal Festival – Aadi Mahotsav

The **Tribal Ministry** is conducting the **Aadi Mahotsav festival** to promote tribal products. **TRIFED** organizes the festival on behalf of the ministry. The main objective of conducting Aadi Mahotsav is to prevent the middlemen from exploiting the tribals.

Profits of the tribal are swept away by the middlemen and their hard work goes in vain. To put an end to the system and provide direct access to markets, TRIFED is organizing the National Tribal Festival called the Aadi Mahotsav. The festival was conducted in **New Delhi**.



India to be Theme Country at 2025 Madrid International Book Fair

India will be invited as the focal country at the **Madrid International Book Fair in 2025**, the **Ambassador of Spain to India**, Jose Maria Ridaao said.

- **Spain is the theme country at the 46th International Kolkata Book Fair.** The Madrid International Book Fair is an annual event held in the Buen Retiro Park in Madrid.

India's 1st Hydrogen train will come by Dec 2023 on Heritage Routes: Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

Going greener and more sustainable towards the environment, the Indian Railways is introducing a green revolution and will be introducing **hydrogen and electric trains** to the eight heritage routes in the country by December 2023.

The **Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw** confirmed this recently. These hydrogen trains will include the modified version of steam engines, that will be back on tracks, equipped with vintage sirens and green steam vapours.

G Kishan Reddy Launched Visit India Year 2023 Initiative

Minister of Tourism **G. Kishan Reddy** launched the **Visit India Year – 2023** initiative and unveiled the logo in New Delhi. Minister of Tourism G. Kishan Reddy kicked off the year of grand plans and activities for **promoting tourism in the country**.

India Received Highest ever Foreign Inward Remittances in a single year of \$89,127 million in FY 2021-22

During 2021-22, **India received** foreign inward **remittances of USD 89,127 million** which was the highest ever inward remittances received in a single year. This was stated by **Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary** in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha.

India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2023

The **India-ASEAN Digital Ministers Meeting** was recently held in New Delhi. It was held virtually. The theme of the meeting was **“Synergy towards a Sustainable Digital Future”**.

The main objective of the meeting was to enhance the **strength between India and ASEAN in the field of IT**. To achieve this, the ministers launched a Digital Work Plan.

DMRC: India To Get Its First National Metro Rail Knowledge Centre In Delhi

GA Infra Pvt Ltd, a leading infrastructure company in India, has been awarded the contract for designing and constructing the country's first National Metro Rail Knowledge Centre.

The centre will be located at the Vishwavidyalaya Metro Station in Delhi and built on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.



Bima Sugam Portal

The **growth rate of the insurance sector** in the country is **very slow**. Indian insurance sector accounts for **less than 1.5% of world insurance**. GoI has been taking several measures to increase investment in the sector.

The **FDI limit** was increased to **49% from 26%**. LIC was disinvested; Sampoorna Bima Gram Yojana has launched; Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana; Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, etc.

Despite the steps, the **sector remains stagnant**. To create a common platform for insurance buyers and sellers, the GoI recently launched the **Bima Sugam Portal**. Here, you can **find all the insurance companies in the market**. Also, you can buy insurance schemes here.

State related Affairs

Visakhapatnam will be the new Andhra Pradesh capital: CM Jagan Reddy

Visakhapatnam, a port and industrial city brimming with cosmopolitan culture has been in the news ever since **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's government** announced that it would be the new capital of the state, indicating plans to **develop Amaravati** – on the banks of the Krishna river – as the capital city have been scrapped.

- The announcement of Visakhapatnam, a **new capital for Andhra** comes **nine years after the state of Telangana** was carved out of its territory and given Hyderabad as its capital.

AMRITPEX 2023 Inaugurated by Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

The **Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Railways, Ashwini Vaishnaw** inaugurated AMRITPEX 2023 – National Philatelic Exhibition.

This five-day Mahakumbh of Stamps is being celebrated from **11th February to 15th February 2023** and is being organized as a part of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Celebrations**.

Kerala signs pact with UN Women to empower women in tourism

The **Kerala government and UN Women** entered into an agreement, in order to promote activities that are welcoming to women in the State's tourist industry.

Kerala Tourism and UN Women India committed to promoting gender-inclusive tourist destinations throughout the State through the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU).



Bihar and Chattisgarh among States that allocated more towards education

Among the big States in the country, **Chhattisgarh and Bihar** allocated the most proportion of their **budget towards education** in FY23. While Chhattisgarh allocated **18.82 per cent** of the State's estimated net budget expenditure to education, Bihar allocated **18.3 per cent**.

Karnataka plans country's first marina at Byndoor

The **Karnataka Government** will build the **country's first Marina** or a boat basin offering dockage, at **Byndoor in Udupi district** to promote coastal tourism in Karnataka. The government will also seek permission from the Centre for the relaxation of **coastal regulation zone (CRZ)** to take up beach tourism in coastal areas and pilgrim tourism.

The government will collect the history of the greatest dynasties such as **Ganga, Kadamba, Rashtrakoota, Chalukya, and Hoysala** from the Department of Archaeology and develop the history of tourism in the state.

North East India's First-ever Compressed Biogas Plant to be Built in Assam, Inauguration by CM Himanta

On February 25, 2023 (Saturday) Chief Minister of Assam, **Himanta Biswa Sarma** inaugurated North East **India's first 'Compressed Biogas Plant'** to be set up at Damora Pathar located in Sonapur, Kamrup Metropolitan District of Assam.

As per the official announcement, the CM laid the foundations stone and he attended the ceremonial function as the Chief Guest. This project is recently initiated by the state government.

RBL Bank signs an agreement with Exim Bank for trade finance

RBL Bank, the private lender said that it has reached an agreement with **Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank)** under the Trade Assistance Programme (TAP) in order to facilitate cross-border commercial operations.

Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Banktrade's) assistance programme for cross-border transactions intends to facilitate India's exports globally by providing credit enhancement to trade instruments.

Kerala temple become India's first to induct robotic elephant for ritual duties

The **Irinjadappilly Sree Krishna Temple in Kerala's Thrissur district** has become the first in the country to use a mechanical, lifelike elephant for temple rituals.

The temple priests performed 'Nadayiruthal' or ceremonial offering to the deity, of Irinjadappilly Raman, a magnificent, lifelike mechanical or "**robotic**" elephant.

First-ever Formula E race in India held in Hyderabad



Formula E is an electric car race. It is a championship of single-seater electric cars. It was conceived in 2011 in Paris. The championship is hosted by **ABB FIA**. The first Formula E championship was held in Beijing in 2014. The **2023 Formula E** championship is to be held in **Hyderabad**.

Wetland Ex-Situ Conservation Establishment (WESCE)

- The **Rajasthan State Government** recently announced the **WESCE plan**. The French Government is to fund this project for a period of eight years.
- The total cost is estimated to be around **Rs 1200 crores**. The WESCE is a zoo that will be launched within the World Heritage site, **Keoladeo National Park**.
- The zoo will display **dolphins, crocodiles, water buffaloes, and other exotic species**. The major attraction will be the **wetland species to be put in the zoo**.

Proposed Kalaignar Pen Monument

The **Tamil Nadu Government** is planning to build a memorial for the **late DMK leader** and former CM of TN **M Karunanidhi**. People of TN call him Kailaignar for his **love towards knowledge and his Tamil literature skills**. The planned monument is opposed by environmental activists.

According to them, the **monument will affect flora and fauna in the region**, coral reefs, Olive Ridley turtles and seagrass. However, the **Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board** performed the **Environmental Impact Assessment**. The **clearance has been issued** based on the **assessment**.

Khajuraho Dance Festival is Organized in Madhya Pradesh

The **seven-day 49th Khajuraho Dance Festival** will begin with **Bharatnatyam and kathak** at the temple declared as **UNESCO heritage**.

The annual event of the Khajuraho Dance Festival is being organized by **Ustad Allauddin Khan Sangeet Evam Kala Akademi** and the directorate of culture in association with the tourism department and the **Archaeological Survey of India**.

Bharatanatyam dance will be presented by **Janki Rangarajan**, whereas **Kathak-Bharatnatyam** will be presented by **Dhirendra Tiwari, Aprajita Sharma, and Kathak by Prachi Shah** respectively.

APJ Abdul Kalam Satellite Launch Vehicle Mission-2023 launched from Tamil Nadu

The Martin Foundation in association with **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam International Foundation** and **Space Zone India** launched the APJ Abdul Kalam Satellite Launch Vehicle Mission-2023 from the **Pattipolam village of Chengalpattu district in Tamil Nadu**.

Telangana Governor **Tamilisai Soundararajan** was also present at the event.

Arunachal Pradesh Statehood Day



The **State of Arunachal Pradesh** celebrated its **statehood day** on **February 20**. President Murmu attended the state celebrations. The statehood was granted in 1987. It was the **24th state in the country**.

- The state has **more than 26 major tribes**.
- There are **750 bird species** and **200 mammals**.
- The state is the largest of all the **seven sister states in the North East**
- It borders Assam and Nagaland
- The state is called the **Land of Rising Sun**

Nagaland, Patanjali Foods Ltd. sign MoU on palm oil cultivation

Nagaland signed an MoU with Patanjali Foods Ltd for the development and area expansion of palm oil cultivation and processing for Zone-II of Nagaland under the National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP).

- Zone II includes the Mokokchung, Longleng, and Mon districts of Nagaland

MP Government has changed the name of Bhopal's Islam Nagar village to 'Jagdishpur' with Immediate Effect

The **Madhya Pradesh government** announced that **Islam Nagar village**, situated in the Bhopal district, has been renamed as **Jagdishpur**. The MP administration, in an official release, declared the changes and mentioned the change in the name with immediate effect.

Deoghar Mart: Online Marketplace for Jharkhand Local Artisans

Deoghar Mart is an e-commerce website selling local arts and crafts. It was launched by Mr Manjunath Bhanjantri. He is basically from a **bamboo artisan community**. His village has more than 34 different artisan families. Manjunath has taken his community skills to the reach of the people through DEOGHAR MART.

- The initiative comes up mainly to support the arts and crafts of the tribal in the region. **Khortha and Santhali are the major tribes in Deoghar.**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah presents President's Colour to Haryana Police

Home Minister **Amit Shah** has presented the **President's Colour to Haryana Police** in recognition of its **exceptional service**. He Shah presented the award on behalf of President Droupadi Murmu in a ceremony at the **Haryana Police Academy in Karnal's Madhuban**.

In his remarks at the event, Shah also paid tribute to those martyred in the 2019 Pulwama attack. He added that the names of the 40 Central Reserve Police Force personnel who died would be written in **"golden letters"** in India's defence history.

Bihar: MV Ganga Vihar Floating Restaurant



Floating restaurants are built on large steel barges. The first floating restaurant of India was built in Sirhind of Punjab. It was built in a small canal near a village. The Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation recently built MV Ganga Vihar, a floating restaurant at the NI Ghat. The restaurant is on the Ganges.

Manipur hosts B20 Conference

On the sidelines of the **G20 summit**, the **State of Manipur** hosted the B20 conference. The theme of the conference was Sustainable Growth and Development. It was in line with the **theme of the G20 summit**, which is **One Earth One Family One Future**.

North India's first Nuclear Plant is coming up in Haryana in the town of Gorakhpur

North India's first Nuclear Plant is coming up in **Haryana** in the town of **Gorakhpur**, which is about **150 km north of the national capital of New Delhi**.

One of the major achievements under **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's leadership** would be the installation of Atomic Energy plants in other parts of the country which were earlier confined mostly to the South Indian States or in the west.

Madhya Pradesh Government passes New Liquor Policy

- The State Cabinet of MP recently approved a **New Liquor policy**. According to the policy, the areas for drinking alcohol will be closed.
- These are areas that are usually attached to bars.
- The new policy is called the **"NEW EXCISE POLICY"**.
- The policy was launched **after the BJP leader Uma Bharati's demand**.
- In Madhya Pradesh, there are **liquor shops within 50 metres of girls' hostels and religious places**. The policy will also make strict actions against drunk and driving cases.

International Affairs

Australia Announced Decision to Remove British Monarchy from its Banknotes

Australia announced it will erase the **British monarch from its banknotes**, replacing the late Queen Elizabeth II's image on its \$5 note with a design honoring Indigenous culture. The central bank's decision to leave her successor Charles III off the \$5 note means no Britain-based monarch will remain on Australia's paper currency.

Australia's, Aaron Finch retires from International cricket

Australia's longest-serving captain in the shortest format of the game, veteran batter **Aaron Finch** called time on his international career.



Finch, who retired as the **One Day International (ODI) captain** of the Australian team last year, has confirmed his retirement from T20Is. Finch guided Australia to its maiden ICC World T20 title in 2021.

UN Report on North Korea Crypto Theft

The **United Nations** released a confidential **report on North Korea**. Confidential means it is not for public viewing and will not be put on the UN website.

- According to the report, **North Korea is stealing cryptocurrencies**.
- The country is using the **stolen currency** to fund its **defence companies**.
- With tremendous technological developments, **North Korea created sophisticated cyber techniques**.
- Using these techniques, the country is hacking digital networks that are in the cyber finance industry.

Qatar lifts temporary ban on Indian Frozen Seafood

In November 2022, **Qatar** detected **Vibrio Cholera** in Indian consignments. Following this, the country **banned seafood from India**. This was done just before the **FIFA world cup**.

Qatar hosted the **2022 FIFA** and testing laboratories were occupied with **FIFA-related** assignments. Due to a lack of testing laboratories, Qatar banned seafood from India.

Saudi Arabia to Host Football's 2027 Asian Cup

The **Asian Football Confederation (AFC)** announced that the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)** won the hosting of the **2027 Asian Nations Cup**, for the first time in its history, since its inception in 1956. This came during the work of the **33rd Congress of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC)**, February 1, in the **Bahrain capital, Manama**. Saudi Arabia was the only bid presented at the Congress in Manama after India's withdrawal in December 2022.

World Government Summit 2023

Every year the **World Government Summit** is held in **Dubai, UAE**. During the summit, world leaders discuss policies and governmental processes.

- More than **4,000 foreign delegates** from at least **100 countries** attend the summit.
- The summit acts as a **knowledge exchange hub**. Policymakers and the private sectors learn about mutual interests and future requirements.
- **India** is to announce its partners of "**India Stack**" at the World Government Summit. The India Stack is a **collection of APIs**.

Seattle-First US city to ban Caste Discrimination



Caste discrimination does not exist in the US by law. However, the **tech sector in the country** has been facing caste discrimination.

A group of Dalit female engineering from tech big giants like **Apple, Microsoft, and Google** passed a **resolution** against caste discrimination in the country.

Protests against the issue have increased in the US in recent times.

Aksai Chin Railway Line

The **Chinese Government** is planning to build a **new railway line in the Aksai Chin region**. The line will run till Pangong Lake. It will run very close to the **Line of Actual control**.

Phase one of the railway line will be completed by 2025. During this phase, China will lay a **railway line between Xiagtse and Pakhutso**. The plan is to complete the line by 2035.

Japan to invest ₹7,200 crores in Uttar Pradesh, HMI Group is developing 30 hotels in the state

Japan's eminent hospitality group **Hotel Management International Company Limited (HMI)** will be opening 30 new properties across **Uttar Pradesh**. The company has signed an MoU with the UP government to invest Rs 7200 crore at the UP Global Investors Summit.

The industrial policies of UP are encouraging to the HMI group. The Group will expand its hotel chain in 30 major places including **Agra, Varanasi and Ayodhya**." He further added that this will also create over **10,000 jobs in the state**.

Saudi Arabia to send its first woman to space

Rayyana Barnawi. The legendary woman is to make history. She will be the **first Arab woman to enter space**. This is a historical moment for the country that had centuries of restrictions against Muslim women!

Rayyana is to travel to the International Space Station **along with Ali Al-Qarni, a fighter jet pilot**. SpaceX **Falcon 9 rocket** is to carry them. The crews are to be launched from Florida.

State of Emergency in New Zealand after Cyclone Gabrielle

Cyclone Gabrielle hit the **New Zealand coast** and caused severe damage. Heavy rains, floods, and landslides forced the New Zealand government to declare an emergency. It was a Category 3 cyclone.

- PM of NZ announced a **7.3 million USD relief package**. Winds reached a speed of 140 km/hr. Auckland was badly hit. Homes were left powerless. More than 500 flights were cancelled.



Foreign Relations

Reliance Announces partnership with Sri Lanka's Maliban

Reliance Consumer Products Limited, the **FMCG firm** and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Retail Ventures Limited announced a strategic partnership with Sri Lanka-headquartered Maliban Biscuit Manufactories Limited.

- **Maliban, a biscuit manufacturer**, has been well-known for the last 70 years for its range of quality products **including biscuits, crackers, cookies, and wafers**. According to the partnership, the company has expanded its product's reach to global markets and exports to over 35 countries across five continents.

University of Auckland, Tata Memorial Hospital sign MoU for cancer care

Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland, New Zealand, and **Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH)**, Mumbai, the largest and the most renowned cancer care hospital and research centre in India, have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to engage in long-term cooperation in cancer care.

India and Seychelles sign agreement on Maritime Cooperation

The Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region of India and the **RCOC (Regional Coordination Operations Centre)** recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding on maritime cooperation.

India has a military base on the Assumption **Island of Seychelles**. It was built in **1990** and was extended in **2016**. The country is important for India for its geopolitical location.

India joins global 'Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate'

U.S. and UAE collectively launched the 'Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate' AIM4C in November 2021. India also joined the global platform.

The aim was to strengthen **investment and provide support for climate-smart agriculture and food systems innovation**, as stated by the US Department of state.

- This initiative has resulted in the **rise of investments to USD 8 billion** at a global level. India has joined with as many as **275 partners** out of which 42 are governments who are working together to accelerate the mission.

India and Spain agreed to cooperate in digital infra, climate action, clean energy

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** had a telephone conversation with **Spanish PM Pedro Sánchez** and both leaders agreed to collaborate on issues such as digital infrastructure, climate action, clean energy transition and sustainable development.

Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in a statement said that the leaders discussed a number of bilateral and international issues of mutual interest.



India-France-UAE Trilateral Cooperation Initiative

In recent times, India has been increasing its bilateral trade with UAE. With **CEPA** and the **Golden Visa program** (extension) of UAE, business relations have increased exponentially.

- On the other hand, India has **strong defence relations with France**. From **fighter jets to drones**, the Indian military is using French-made goods. Extending the ties further, India is launching Trilateral Cooperation Initiative with the countries.

Airbus, Boeing and Air India inks agreement for largest purchase in history

In an effort to rebuild itself with a fleet that can compete with **regional low-cost rivals** and strong Gulf airlines **like Emirates, Air India Ltd.** has signed deals with **Airbus SE and Boeing Co.** for what may end up being the largest acquisition of aircraft in commercial aviation history.

India-Singapore link Digital Payments UPI and PAYNOW

UPI is the mobile payment method in **India**. Similarly, **PAYNOW** is a mobile payment method in **Singapore**. The countries have planned to link these two mobile payment methods. The linking was done virtually inaugurated by the **RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das** and the **MD of the Monetary Authority of Singapore Ravi Menon**.

With the linkage, the residents of both countries can **transfer money at faster rates**. **Migrant workers and students** will be **benefitted the most**.

India Provided 50 Buses to Sri Lanka Under Economic Assistance Scheme

India delivered **fifty buses to Sri Lanka** at the Presidential Secretariat premises as **Sri Lanka celebrated its 75th Independence Day**. High Commissioner of India Gopal Baglay handed over the buses to Sri Lanka's President **Ranil Wickremesinghe**.

India MoU with Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle Joint Business Council

The **Growth Triangle Joint Business Council** was created by **Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia in 1993**. The main objective of the council is to boost private investments in MSMEs.

- During the G20 Energy Transitions Working Group meeting **held in Bengaluru**, India signed an MoU with the Growth Triangle Joint Business Council.
- According to the MoU, the countries will work together to **adopt energy-efficient practices**.

Business News

Adani Group Enters Israel with Haifa Port Acquisition For 1.2 Billion \$



The **Adani Group** acquired the strategic **Israeli port of Haifa for USD 1.2 billion** and vowed to transform the skyline of this Mediterranean city as part of its decision to invest more in the Jewish nation, including opening an artificial intelligence lab in Tel Aviv.

Adani Group chairman **Gautam Adani**, whose business empire was rocked by allegations of fraud by US short seller Hindenburg Research, appeared alongside **Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** for signing of the deal to takeover Haifa Port, and spoke of investment opportunities.

Reliance Retail to Accept Digital Currency for Payments

In the process of the adoption of the Central Bank of Digital Currency (CDDC), Reliance Retail started **accepting digital rupees or e-rupee for payments at its store**. The payment through digital currency has been started in **Reliance Retail's Freshpik store in Mumbai** but will soon be expanded to other **17,000 stores of India's largest retailer**.

BEL to Manufacture Israel's LORA Ballistic Missile for Indian Tri-Services

Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has signed an MoU with **Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)** for the domestic manufacture and supply of its **Long-Range Artillery Weapon System (LORA)** for the Indian Tri-services.

This state-of-the-art strategic weapon system will be manufactured by BEL, as the prime contractor, based on the workshare arrangement with IAI.

First Semiconductor plant of India

The **Vedanta group** and the **Foxconn of Taiwan** have come together to build the first semiconductor manufacturing unit in **Dholera of Gujarat**.

The companies signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the **Gujarat Government**. According to the agreement, they will invest **Rs 1,54,000 crores** in this project.

The semiconductor plant will be built in the **Dholera Special Investment Region in Ahmedabad**. It is a greenfield industrial city.

Tata Group bags Title sponsorship rights for the Women's Premier League to 2027

According to the **Board of Control for Cricket in India**, the Tata Group has secured the **title sponsorship rights for the Women's Premier League (WPL)** for five seasons (BCCI).

From **February 15, 2023, to July 31, 2027**, or up until 30 days after the conclusion of the WPL Season 2027, the salt to software conglomerate will hold the title sponsorship rights.

The Tata Group is also the title sponsor of the Indian Premier League (IPL). It **bagged the rights for Rs 600 crore** for two years. Earlier, the title sponsorship rights were held by Chinese cell phone maker Vivo for two years.

UBER-TATA Deal for 25000 EV



TATA is one of the largest **electric vehicle manufacturers** in India. The **UBER** recently **signed a mega deal with TATA**.

According to the deal, TATA will produce **25,000 Electric Vehicles for UBER**. This means usage of Electric Vehicles is to increase in the country indirectly. UBER is a transportation company.

The usage of **EVs** in the country has been slow despite government efforts. Manufacturing of EVs is also slow. However, with this deal, the manufacturing and the use of **EVs will increase in the country**.

Ranks

IIRF releases MBA Ranking 2023, IIM Ahmedabad, Bengaluru in top 3

According to the latest **Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF)** ranking (2023), the **Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad** (Gujarat), is the top government college in India for pursuing the Master of Business Administration (MBA) course. **IIM Bengaluru** (Karnataka) and **IIM Kolkata** (West Bengal) are ranked **second and third**, respectively, after IIM Ahmedabad.

Bank of Maharashtra tops list of public sector lenders in loan growth, asset quality

Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has emerged as the **top performer** among state-owned lenders in terms of **loan growth percentage** during the third quarter of **2022-23**, an analysis of the latest financial results of public sector banks showed.

The **Pune-based lender** recorded a **21.67 per cent increase** in gross advances on a year-on-year basis, according to the latest quarterly numbers of the public sector bank

- Country's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** stood at **fourth spot with 16.91 per cent** rise in advances growth.

Rajasthan Tops In List of States With Maximum Number Of Universities

Rajasthan has the **most universities in India**, followed by **Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat**. The report also included the names of the districts with the most colleges, according to the Ministry of Education's latest All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) Report

Rajasthan has **52 state private universities, 26 state public universities, 7 deemed universities, 5 institutes of national importance (IITs, IIMs, NITs)**, and one central and state-run university, according to the report.

PM Modi Emerged as World's Most Popular Leader, with approval rating of 78%



- PM Narendra Modi has been pegged as the **world's most popular leader** with an approval **rating of 78 per cent** as per a survey by a US-based consulting firm **'Morning Consult.'**
- As per the rating PM Modi's ratings trump those of other leaders including **US President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron and UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.**
- The poll surveyed **22 global leaders** for the ratings. Neither Vladimir Putin nor Xi Jinping figured among the 22 popular leaders globally.

International IP Index: India ranked 42 in 55 countries

India has ranked **42nd among 55** leading global economies on the **International IP Index** released by the U.S. Chambers of Commerce. The **United States ranks first** in the 2023 index, followed by the **UK and France.**

According to the report, India's size and economic influence is growing on the world stage. India is poised to become a leader for emerging markets seeking to transform their economies through IP-driven innovation.

Elon Musk becomes the world's richest person again with \$187 bn wealth

Tesla CEO **Elon Musk** has reclaimed the title of the **world's richest person with \$187 billion in wealth**, according to Bloomberg.

A 92% rise in Tesla's shares this year helped Musk recapture his title as the world's richest person since falling behind LVMH's Chairman Bernard Arnault in December. **Arnault** is now the **world's second-richest person with \$185 billion in wealth.**

Selena Gomez becomes most followed woman on Instagram

- **Selena Gomez** has once again become the **most followed woman on Instagram**, with 381 million followers.
- The singer has beaten **Kylie Jenner**, who currently has **380 million followers on the photo and video sharing platform.**
- Selena held the title of the most followed woman on Instagram a few years back.

UK surpasses India as the world's sixth-biggest equity market

The **UK has surpassed India** as the **sixth-largest equity market** in the world for the first time since May 2022 as a weaker pound increases the attraction of exporters and concerns over the **Adani-Hindenburg controversy** are being felt throughout Indian markets.

- **After losing more than 4%** due to the **Adani stock** decline since late January, the **BSE's market capitalization** was **Rs 261 lakh crore.**

NTPC ranked top independent power producer



The **S&P Global commodity** insights recently released the ranking of the **top 250 independent energy producers in the world**.

The energy producers were ranked based on four criteria such as return on investment, revenue generation, total assets, and profits gained. **NTPC topped the ranking**.

- Currently, NTPC produces **24% of India's electricity**. By 2050, the corporation will **contribute 50% of the total power** production in the country.

FORTUNE(R) Magazine: TCS named to World's Most Admired Companies List

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been named to **FORTUNE® magazine's** list of the **World's Most Admired Companies**. Regarded as a barometer of corporate reputation, the list is based on a survey of business executives, directors and analysts around the globe.

Companies are evaluated based on criteria such as innovation, social responsibility, quality of management, global competitiveness, talent management, and quality of products/services.

India ranks first, contributes 24 pc of global milk production: Centre to Lower House

Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Parshottam Rupala told Lok Sabha that India is the **highest milk producer in the world** contributing **twenty-four per cent of global milk** production in the year **2021-22**.

According to production data of Food and Agriculture Organization Corporate Statistical Database (**FAOSTAT**), India is the highest milk producer in the world contributing twenty-four per cent of global milk production in the year 2021-22.

Report: WhatsApp is India's most accessible app for PWDs

The **Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy** is a think tank that does legal research. The organization recently released a report on the popularity of software applications in India. The title of the report is **"Making the Digital Ecosystem Disabled Friendly"**.

- The organization has found that **WhatsApp is the most accessible app for disabled persons**.
- The think tank also audited **other apps** such as **OLA, UBER, TELEGRAM, FLIPKART, AMAZON, ZOMATO, SWIGGY, PAYTM, PHONE PE, etc.**
- After auditing, the apps were categorized as **"highly accessible"**, **"moderately accessible"**, and **"less accessible"**. WhatsApp was highly accessible.

World Happiness Index 2023 Country Wise List

The **World Happiness Index 2023 Report** will mark its **tenth anniversary with this year's Globe Happiness Reflect**, which uses data from international surveys to show how people rank their lives in more than 150 countries.

- **Finland** was named the **world's happiest country for the fifth year in a row**, according to the World Happiness Report.



- **India** is now ranked **136th** in the global happiness rankings.

Global Quality Infrastructure Index (GQII) 2021

The **Quality Council of India (QCI)** stated that it is proud to be acknowledged as one of the world's top five accreditation systems. It noted that it would help pave the way for collaborations that aim to improve the quality of infrastructure.

- The top 5 countries are **Germany, China, US, UK and Japan**.
- **India ranked 5th** in Global Quality Infrastructure Index

India Jumps to 55th place in ICAO's Aviation Safety Oversight Ranking: DGCA

India's aviation safety oversight ranking has jumped to the **55th position from 112th place earlier**, with a significant improvement in the country's score under the ICAO's coordinated validation mission, according to **regulator DGCA**.

Global Labour Resilience Index 2023

The White Shield is a policy advisory firm. The company released the Global Labour Resilience Index during World Government Summit.

The index measures the **capacity of the economy** to withstand employment fluctuations and the ability to fight back.

- **Denmark** was ranked first in the index followed by **Switzerland, Germany, Netherlands, Singapore, and Sweden in second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth** places respectively.
- India ranked **65th**.
- All the other countries in South Asia ranked below 80.
- Pakistan secured 97th.

DGCA: Domestic Air Traffic increases in India

The **Directorate General of Civil Aviation** releases reports on all Indian carriers on monthly basis. According to the recently released report of January 2023, air traffic has increased significantly.

- As compared to 2022, the **growth of air traffic has increased by 95%**.
- More than **12.5 million passengers** travelled in January 2023.
- In January 2022, the Omicron wave affected air traffic.
- Only **6.4 million passengers** used air transport in 2022.

Indian Airline Rank:

- **IndiGo** is the **largest airliner** in the country. However, the market value of the airlines has been decreasing in recent times



- The **Air-India** was the **second largest airline**. It holds 9.2% of air traffic in the country. **Under the reigns of TATA**, Air India has set a target to conquer **30% of the air travel market**
- **Vistara** was the **third largest** airline in the country. VISTARA is a joint venture of **TATA and Singapore Airlines**.

Defence News

Indian Army carries out military exercise “Trishakri Prahar” in North Bengal

A joint training exercise “**Exercise Trishakri Prahar**” was conducted in North Bengal from 21 January to 31 January 2023. The aim of the exercise was to practice battle preparedness of the Security Forces using the latest weapons and equipment in a networked, integrated environment, involving all arms and services of the Army, the Indian Air Force and CAPFs.

- Exercise culminated on 31 January 2023 with an Integrated Fire Power Exercise in **Teesta Field Firing Ranges**.

Indian Military Joint Training Exercise Trishakti Prahar

The Indian Defense Forces conducted firepower exercises called the “**TRISHAKTI PRAHAR**” to synergize the firepower assets and to orchestrate a battle. The exercise is important to keep the forces ready for battle. The exercise was conducted by the **Indian Air Force, CAPF, and the Indian Army**. It was a firepower exercise.

Indian Army Gets ‘World’s First’ Fully Operational SWARM Drone System

NewSpace Research, a **Bengaluru-based start-up** has delivered **SWARM drones to Indian Army**, which makes the Army the first major armed force in the world to operationalise these high-density SWARM drones.

This delivery may possibly be the **world’s first operational high density swarming UAS (Unmanned Aerial System)** induction for military applications, especially given that most swarm drone research is yet to be operationalised across the world.

India, US Forces Run Joint Exercise Tarkash

A joint counter-terrorism exercise **Tarkash** between **National Security Guard (NSG)** and **US Special Operations Forces (SOF)** culminated in Chennai, after four weeks of intense training and joint anti-terror exercises.

The main highlight of the exercise was mock drills for the **CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear)** counter terror response by special forces of both countries.

India-Japan kick starts joint training exercise 4th “Dharma Guardian” 2023



India and Japan has kick started an exercise ‘**Ex Dharma Guardian**’ at Camp Imazu in Shiga Province, Japan from February 17 to March 2, 2023.

The Indian Army contingent arrived at the exercise location on February 12, 2023. India and Japan will kick off an exercise ‘**Ex Dharma Guardian**’ at Camp Imazu in Shiga Province, Japan from February 17 to March 2, 2023. The Indian Army contingent arrived at the exercise location on February 12, 2023.

IAF indigenous Vayulink platform

The **Indian Air Force** has developed a solution for its **fighter pilots to deal with bad weather**. The innovative solution developed is a new data link communication called **VAYULINK**. It will provide uninterrupted communication even during bad weather. Above all the communication link is jammer-proof.

It uses **IRNSS** to send and receive signals. **IRNSS** is a satellite constellation of ISRO. It is also called NAVIC.

DUSTLIK 2023: India-Uzbekistan Military Exercise

India and Uzbekistan conducted the fourth edition of the **DUSTLIK 2023** military exercise in **Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand**.

During the exercise, the countries trained their troops in multi-domain operations and shared their skills.

India’s GARHWAL Rifles from the Western Command participated in the exercise. And from Uzbekistan, the North Western Military command participated in the exercise. The exercise is biennial, meaning conducted once in two years.

- Uzbekistan **ranks 62** in its military power.
- It is a part of the **Turkic world**.
- With **more than 65,000 soldiers**, the Army of Uzbekistan is one of the largest in Central Asia.

INS Sumedha Visits Abu Dhabi To Participate In IDEX And NAVDEX 23

Indian Naval Ship Sumedha arrived at **Abu Dhabi, UAE** on 20 Feb 2023 to participate in **NAVDEX 23 (Naval Defence Exhibition) and IDEX 23 (International Defence Exhibition)**, scheduled from 20 to 24 Feb 2023.

The ship’s participation in two leading regional naval and defence exhibitions will showcase the strengths of India’s indigenous ship building and underscore the Hon’ble Prime Minister’s vision of ‘**Aatma Nirbhar Bharat**’.



Science related Affairs

NASA-ISRO Joint Satellite – NISAR

NISAR is an **earth-observing satellite** planned to be launched in 2024. It stands for **NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar**. SAR creates two-dimensional and three-dimensional reconstructions of landscapes.

- NISAR is jointly developed by NASA and ISRO. Recently, **NISAR** left the Jet Propulsion Laboratory of NASA located in California to India.

SpaceX Awarded shared NASA contract worth up to \$100 million

Space Exploration Technologies Corp. is part of a payload contract NASA has awarded for as much as **\$100 million over a decade**.

- Elon Musk's rocket launch and satellite operator will share the contract for unspecified "**commercial payload processing services**" with **Astrotech Space Operations LLC**, a unit of Lockheed Martin Corp., the government's space agency announced in a statement.
- The deal is for payload processing, which involves preparing spacecraft to be flown on top of a rocket ahead of a flight to space.

IIT Indore Students Awarded with Global Best M-GOV Awards by Egyptian President

The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore** Students won **AED 1 million** by winning the gold medal at the **World Government Summit in Dubai**.

Niyati Totala and Neel Kalpeshkumar Parikh of The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore, were awarded the prestigious medal by **Egyptian President Abel Fattah Al-Sisi**.

World's First Cloud-Built Demonstration Satellite Launched JANUS-1 Successfully

Antaris announced that the **world's first satellite** fully conceived, designed, and manufactured using the company's end-to-end cloud platform, **JANUS-1** has successfully reached orbit. JANUS-1 rode on the Indian Space Research Organization's (ISRO) **SSLV-D2 rocket**.

JANUS-1 was launched from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre of India** under a commercial arrangement with **New Space India Limited (NSIL)**. The JANUS-1 satellite features five payloads from a range of global providers, which will be commissioned and begin nominal operations.

ISRO plans to develop astronaut training module with IIT Madras

ISRO and Indian Institute of Technology Madras (**IIT Madras**) plans to develop a training module for the **Indian Spaceflight Programme** using Augmented Reality / Virtual Reality / Mixed Reality (**AR / VR / MR**).



- ISRO aims to utilise the advanced technologies created at the newly-established eXperiential Technology Innovation Centre (XTIC) at IIT Madras to promote Research and Development (R&D) in the domain of Extended Reality.

Jupiter becomes planet with most moons

Jupiter is the biggest planet in the sun's family. Scientists believed that **Saturn had the maximum number of moons**.

- 82 moons have been discovered around Saturn so far.
- On the other hand, it was believed that **Jupiter had 80 moons**.
- However, the latest discovery revealed **Jupiter has 12 more moons**.
- With this, the count of **Jupiter's moons increased to 92**.
- Today Jupiter has the maximum number of moons.

Google introduces Chat-GPT rival Bard

Microsoft launched **Chat-GPT** in November 2022. Technologists believe that Chat GPT is well advanced and might kill Google's business. In just five days, the number of ChatGPT users increased to one million.

- To counter the chat GPT, **Google** recently launched "**BARD**". Working of the BARD is very much **similar to Chat GPT**, the conversational style.
- The **Chinese search** engine company **BAIDU** is also developing products very much similar to Chat GPT.

IISc-Samsung partner for R&D in Electrostatic Discharge Protection

Electrostatic Discharge Protection is protecting the equipment from electromagnetic waves. It is the most essential part of Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC).

- Every electronic piece of equipment has to pass the EMC test to get certified as electromagnetically safe.
- It means it is neither affected by **EM waves nor emits EM waves** (that may affect other devices).
- **Samsung has partnered with IISc** to research Electrostatic Discharge Protection.
- **ISRO's new rocket SSLV-D2 launched from Satish Dhawan space centre at Sriharikota**
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) successfully launched the second edition of the **Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV-D2)** from the first launch pad of Satish Dhawan space centre at **Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**.

NASA to launch 'Mars mission' on Blue Origin's New Glenn

- **Jeff Bezos-led Blue Origin** scored a big contract from the **American space agency, Nasa**, to launch a mission to Mars. The private space company was given its first interplanetary NASA contract to launch the mission to study the magnetic field around the Red Planet. The expected launch date for the **mission is 2024**.



World's Highest Weather Station Rebuilt on Mount Everest

The world's highest altitude weather station was destroyed due to hurricane-force winds on Mount Everest and a team of scientists and Sherpa have again placed its new version atop Mount Everest.

The group has been led by a 31-year-old electrician and mountain guide Tenzing Gyalzen Sherpa.

According to the Guinness World Records report, the team of mountaineers and scientists has installed a record-breaking weather station at an altitude of 8,810 meters just 39 meters (128 ft) below Everest's summit.

India's lunar mission Chandrayaan-3 accomplishes another achievement

India's lunar mission, Chandrayaan-3 has successfully underwent EMI-EMC (Electro-Magnetic Interference/ Electro-Magnetic Compatibility).

The EMI-EMC test is conducted for satellite missions to ensure functionality of the satellite subsystems in the space environment and their compatibility with the expected electromagnetic levels. The test was conducted between January 31 and February 2 at U R Rao Satellite Centre, Bengaluru.

India's First Hybrid Rocket launched in Chengalpattu

India's first hybrid sounding rocket by private players was successfully launched from Pattipulam village in the Chengalpattu district of Tamil Nadu.

Martin Foundation, in association with Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam International Foundation and Space Zone India, launched the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Satellite Launch Vehicle Mission- 2023.

World First Satellite based two way messaging system

Qualcomm launched the first satellite-based two-way messaging. It is called Snapdragon Satellite. This means this you can use SMS just like WhatsApp.

In two-way messaging like Whatsapp, both participants can send or receive messages simultaneously. But in one-way messaging apps offering SMS services, only one operation is possible.

Gaganyaan Mission: ISRO, Navy undertake trials

The Gaganyaan is a crewed space mission of ISRO. It is expected to be launched in 2024. Indian astronauts received their training from Russia's ROSCOSMOS to fly to space in the mission.

- HAL designed and built the crew module.



- **DRDO** is to **provide food** for the astronauts, **parachutes**, and a fire suppression system and will monitor the health of the crew while they are in space.
- The **Indian Navy and ISRO** recently conducted recovery trials.
- The simulation was provided by the Water Survival Test Facility of ISRO.

IIT Kanpur develops energy-efficient system to transport minerals

IIT – Kanpur has developed a compressed **air-based mineral transport system**. The project was presented at the Global Investors Summit, in 2023. It received good feedback for its less material loss, reduced air pollution, and efficiency to reduce travel time to a great extent. The main objective of the system is to **transport coal and slurry**.

Lexi, India’s First AI-Based Chatbot Introduced in India

India now has its own **ChatGPT-powered AI chatbot** called **Lexi** that Velocity, a financial technology company, launched a few days ago. This chatbot is designed to provide assistance to e-Commerce founders with business insights in a simplified manner.

Moreover, it has been integrated with **Velocity’s own analytics tool** i.e. Velocity Insights. The Velocity firm made the official chatbot announced in an online blog post.

Aero India 2023: New Solar Power ISR Drone ‘Suraj’ Launched by Garuda Aerospace

This highly capable **ISR drone** named **‘Suraj’** carries a versatile payload of high-resolution zoom cameras designed with thermal imagery as well as foliage-penetrating lidar sensors. Also, the maximum capacity of this device is approximately 10 kg, as per the announcement.

The **Garuda corporation** presented the latest solar-powered unmanned reconnaissance aerial J-Glider – SURAJ at the Aero India 2023 show which was conducted in Bengaluru, India.

Book News

British economist Meghnad Desai Authored a New Book titled “The Poverty of Political Economics”

India-born naturalised British economist **Meghnad Desai** has authored a new book titled **“The Poverty Of Political Economy: How Economics Abandoned the Poor”** which highlights how the **discipline of economics**, since the time it evolved from the late 18th century, systematically kept the interests of the poor at the periphery. The book is published by **HarperCollins Publishers India**.

A new book titled ‘The Best of Satyajit Ray’ offers a glimpse to Satyajit Ray’s

A two-volume box set, **‘The Best of Satyajit Ray’** published by Penguin Random House India, is not only a treat for Ray enthusiasts but also a collector’s edition.



A new anthology offers a glimpse into the fiction and non-fiction writings of the legendary filmmaker and polymath **Satyajit Ray**.

JP Nadda launched book ‘Modi: Shaping a Global order in flux’

BJP national president J.P. Nadda has launched a book “**Modi: Shaping a Global Order in Flux**” in **Chanakyapuri**. Book is forewarded by Union External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar**.

Editors are **Sujan Chinoy, Vijay Chauthaiwala, and Uttam Kumar Sinha**. This book is going to open a debate on how PM Modi has taken a decision which has changed India’s image worldwide. It’s necessary to understand what was the image of India before Modi ji came to power. The publisher of the book is Wisdom Tree.

Sports News

Name	Tournament & Title name	Extra Information
Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)	National Ice Hockey Championship	The central ice hockey team of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has won the 12th edition of the Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI) National Ice Hockey Championship for men- 2023 organized in Leh, Ladakh.
Kerala	National Beach Soccer Championships	Kerala has crowned to their bulging cabinet of national football trophies, putting on a show in the final of the National Beach Soccer Championships
Ravichandran Ashwin	Becomes the fastest Indian to pick up 450 Test wickets	Ravichandran Ashwin picked up his 450th Test wicket during the first Border-Gavaskar Trophy game between India and Australia at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur.
Aditi Ashok	Kenya Ladies Open Title 2023	Indian Olympian Aditi Ashok won the 2023 Magical Kenya Ladies Open Title with a final-round score of 74. This is the fourth Ladies’ European championship of Aditi Ashok overall.



CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 2023

Rohit Sharma	Becomes 1st Indian skipper to Record Hundreds in All 3 Formats	Rohit Sharma led from the front as he scored his ninth Test century to become the first Indian captain to score hundreds in all formats.
Maharashtra	5th Khelo India Youth Games 2022	The fifth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games conclude on February 11. In the Khelo India Youth Games – 2022, Maharashtra was the overall champion by securing a total of 161 medals including 56 gold, 55 silver and 50 bronze medals.
Deepti Sharma	becomes first Indian to take 100 wickets in T20I cricket	India Women all-rounder Deepti Sharma has become the first Indian to take 100 wickets in T20I cricket history. With her three wickets in the Women's T20 World Cup 2023 match against West Indies, she completed 100 wickets in 89 T20Is.
Harmanpreet Kaur	becomes first-ever cricketer to play 150 T20I matches	India Women captain Harmanpreet Kaur has created history by becoming the first-ever cricketer to play 150 T20I matches.
Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar	ISSF World Cup – GOLD	Aishwary Pratap Singh wins the gold medal at the ISSF World Cup held on February 22, 2023, in Cairo.
Australia team – Woman	T20 world cup	Australian Women's Cricket Team defeated the South African Team in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup held on February 26 (Sunday).
Madhya Pradesh	Senior women's national hockey championship	Hockey Madhya Pradesh was named the winner of the 13th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship in 2023 after defeating Hockey Maharashtra 5-1 in the championship game in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.

Obituary News



CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 2023

Name	Associated Field
K. Viswanath	Legendary Telugu filmmaker
K.V. Tirumalesh Passed	Noted Writer
Vani Jayaram	Padma Bhushan Awardee and Legendary Singer
Nandamuri Taraka Ratna	Telugu actor and politician

Important Days

Days	Date	Themes
World Interfaith Harmony Week	February 1-7	
World Wetlands Day	February 02	It is Time for Wetlands Restoration
World Cancer Day	February 04	Close The Care Gap
International Day of Human Fraternity	February 04	
International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation	February 06	
Safer Internet Day	February 07	Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online
World Pulses Day	February 10	Pulses for a Sustainable future
National Deworming Day	February 10	
International Day of Women and Girls in Science	February 11	Innovate. Demonstrate. Elevate. Advance (IDEA): Bringing communities Forward for sustainable and equitable development
World Unani Day	February 11	Unani Medicine for Public Health
World Radio Day	February 13	Radio and Peace
International Epilepsy Day	February 13	“STIGMA”. Stigma means fear or feeling negative reactions.
National Women’s Day	February 13	
Financial Literacy Week	February 13 and February 17	Good Financial Behaviour – Your Saviour
International Childhood Cancer Day	February 15	Better Survival
Global Tourism Resilience Day	February 17	
World Pangolin Day	February 18	
World Day of Social Justice	February 20	Overcoming Barriers and Unleashing Opportunities for Social Justice
International Mother Language Day	February 21	Multilingual Education – A Necessity to Transform Education



CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 2023

World Thinking Day	February 22	Our World, Our Peaceful Future'
World Scout Day	February 22	
World NGO Day	February 27	
National Science Day	February 28	Global Science for Global well being

