

CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 2023

Category
<u>Awards and Honours</u>
<u>Appointments</u>
<u>Banking & Finance</u>
<u>Indian Affairs</u>
<u>State Affairs</u>
<u>International Affairs</u>
<u>Business News</u>
<u>Ranks</u>
<u>Foreign Relation</u>
<u>Defence News</u>
<u>Science and Tech News</u>
<u>Books News</u>
<u>Sports News</u>
<u>Obituary News</u>
<u>Important Days and Themes</u>

Click the below buttons to Download Day Today GK's Free PDFs

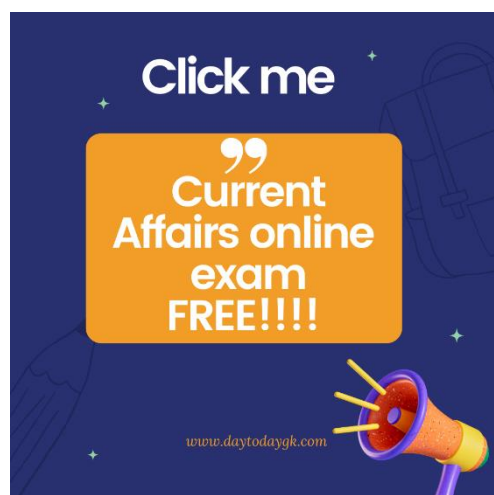
[Current Affairs PDF](#)

[Current Affairs Quiz PDF](#)

[Math Tricks PDF](#)

[GK World PDF](#)

[GK India PDF](#)



Awards and Honours

Awardee Name	Award Name	Extra Information
India	GSMA Government Leadership Award 2023	Groupe Speciale Mobile Association (GSMA) has conferred Government Leadership Award 2023 to India for implementing best practices in telecom policy and regulation.
D Gukesh	Player-of-the-Year award	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.
Sashidhar Jagdishan	‘BS Banker of the Year 2022’	Sashidhar Jagdishan, managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of HDFC Bank, has been chosen as the Business Standard Banker of the Year 2022.
Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.	Porter Prize 2023	It recognized India’s successful delivery of more than 2.5 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines and the role of stakeholders like ASHA workers. The Prize is named after Michael E. Porter- an economist and researcher.
Vinod Kumar Shukla	2023 PEN/Nabokov Lifetime Achievement Award	Vinod Kumar Shukla has won the PEN/Nabokov Award for Achievement in International Literature for lifetime achievement in literature.
Mirabai Chanu	BBC Indian Sportswoman of The Year for 2022	Tokyo Olympic Games silver-medallist weightlifter Mirabai Chanu has bagged the 2022 ‘BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year’ award after a public vote. The 28-year-old weightlifter from Manipur became the first athlete to win the award twice in a row after bagging it in 2021 as well.
Sir David Chipperfield	2023 Laureate of the Pritzker Architecture Prize	Civic architect, urban planner and activist , Sir David Alan Chipperfield has been selected as the 2023 Laureate of The Pritzker Architecture Prize, the award that is regarded internationally as architecture’s highest honor.



CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 2023

Gyan Chaturvedi	Vyas Samman 2022	Dr. Chaturvedi's Pagalkhana (mental hospital) was chosen for the prestigious Vyas Samman by a selection committee led by distinguished author Prof. Ramji Tiwari.
The Elephant Whisperers	Oscars 2023 - Best Documentary Short Category	The Elephant Whisperers, a Netflix documentary short from Kartiki Gonsalves and Guneet Monga, has won the 95th Academy Awards' Best Documentary Short award. The movie was up against 'Stranger At The Gate', 'Haulout', and 'How Do You Measure a Year?' The award is an honour of "my motherland, India," said director Gonzalves.
India	Golden & Silver Star at 'Golden City Gate Tourism Awards	The International Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2023 in the categories of "TV/Cinema Commercials International and Country International" were won by the Indian Ministry of Tourism and Government of India, respectively.
RRR's "Naatu Naatu" song	Oscars 2023 - Best Original Song	The song had to beat out songs like "Applause" from Tell It Like a Woman, "Hold My Hand" from Top Gun: Maverick, "Lift Me Up" from Black Panther: Wakanda Forever.
Bombay Jayashri	Sangita Kalanidhi Award 2023	The eminent personality of the Music Industry, Bombay Jayashri secures her position for the Sangita Kalanidhi Award for 2023. She has been chosen by the Madras Music Academy.
Hockey India	'Best Organizer Award'	Hockey India, the main executing body of the Hockey game has been honoured with the 'Best Organizer Award' by the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF). This regulating body is greeted for their successful implementation of the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023.
Luis Caffarelli	2023 Abel Prize	Luis Caffarelli, 74, has won the 2023 Abel Prize "for his seminal contributions to regularity theory for



CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 2023

		nonlinear partial differential equations including free-boundary problems and the Monge-Ampère equation”.
M T Vasudevan Nair	Kerala’s highest civilian honour – Kerala Jyoti	The highest civilian honor in Kerala, the “Kerala Jyothi,” was awarded to the writer M T Vasudevan Nair. The second-highest award, “Kerala Prabha,” was shared by actor Mammooty, former civil service officer T Madhava Menon, and writer Omchery NN Pillai.
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman	literary award	The Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL) presented a unique literary award to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman of Bangladesh for his trilogy of books, which includes The Unfinished Memoirs, The Prison Diaries, and the New China 1952.
Aliya Mir	Wildlife Conservation Award 2023	The Union Territory has awarded wildlife conservationist Aliya Mir for her exceptional efforts in conservation. Aliya is the first woman from Jammu and Kashmir to work for Wildlife SOS and is the first woman in the region to receive this honour.
Naveen Jindal	Lifetime Achievement Award	Naveen Jindal has been awarded a lifetime achievement award by the University of Texas at Dallas for his accomplishments in industry, politics, and education. Jindal, who graduated from the University in 1992, received the award in a ceremony.



Appointments

Name	Designation Name	Extra Information
Dinesh K Tripathi	New Western Naval Command Chief	Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi took charge as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Naval Command on February 28, 2023.
MV Suchindra Kumar	Army's New Vice Chief	Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar is announced as the new Vice Chief of Army staff. He takes over as Jaipur-based Sapta Shakti Command, as stated by the Defence Ministry.
Rajesh Malhotra	Press Information Bureau (PIB) – Director	Indian Information Service Officer Rajesh Malhotra takes responsibility as the Principal Director General of the Government's Media agency, Press Information Bureau (PIB).
Bola Tinubu	President of Nigeria	Nigerian electoral officials announced on 1 March 2023 that the ruling party's candidate in the presidential election, Bola Tinubu, has been elected as the country's new president.
Rashmi Shukla	Director-General of SSB	Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer , Rashmi Shukla has been appointed as the Director-General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). SSB is the border-guarding force deployed along Nepal and Bhutan border.
Craig Fulton	Chief Coach of Men's Hockey Team	South Africa's Craig Fulton now becomes the new Chief Coach of India's Men National Field Hockey Team. He replaces Graham Reid, an Australian hockey player who left his post after India's defeat in the World Cup.
Vo Van Thuong	Vietnam's New President	52 years old Vo Van Thuong is recently elected as the President of Vietnam. He took the charge as President



CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 2023

		in the oath-taking ceremony held on March 02, 2023 (Thursday).
Jishnu Barua	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) – Chairperson	Previously, Barua served as the Chief Secretary of Assam between October 2020 to August 2022. He also administered several departments of the state.
Pankaj Gupta	MD and CEO of Pramerica Life Insurance	Pramerica Life Insurance Limited has appointed Pankaj Gupta as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.
S.S. Dubey	Controller General of Accounts	S.S. Dubey took charge as the new Controller General of Accounts (CGA). He is the 28th officer to hold the position of CGA.
Tejal Mehta	first justice of a district court in US	Tejal Mehta, an Indian-American woman judge who promised to make a real impact to the community and treat people with compassion, has taken oath as the first Justice of a district court in the US state of Massachusetts.
Conrad Sangma	13th CM of Meghalaya	On March 07, 2023 (Tuesday) the National People's Party leader Conrad Sangma committed to the position of Chief Minister of Meghalaya.
Salhoutuonuo Kruse	Becomes First Woman to Administer Nagaland Cabinet	Salhoutuonuo Kruse becomes one of the first women to be elected to the Nagaland Legislative Assembly.
Ram Chandra Poudel	Nepal's 3rd President	Nepalese Politician Ram Chandra Poudel wins the Presidential Elections of the country. It was the third election this time since Nepal became Republic in the year 2008.
Amir Tamim	Qatar's new prime minister	Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani has appointed Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani as



CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 2023

		the country's new prime minister.
Sachin Tendulkar	world's first 'Hand Ambassador'	Savlon revealed the God of Cricket , Sachin Tendulkar as its world's first 'Hand Ambassador' for its Swasth India Mission .
Manik Saha	13th CM of Tripura	Manik Saha took oath as 13th chief minister for the second time as Tripura Chief Minister after the BJP clinched a victory in the February 16 Assembly polls. Eight other ministers were sworn.
Rohit Jawa	MD & CEO - Hindustan Unilever Limited	Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) designates Rohit Jawa as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the consumer goods department.
Xi Jinping	President of China	China's premier leader Xi Jinping obtains the third term of Presidency. Earlier he has been the General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).
Rohit Jawa	UK-based parent company Unilever, as Hindustan Unilever Ltd.'s (HUL) – MD & CEO	The FMCG behemoth informed the stock exchanges that the appointment, which is for a five-year term, will start on June 27, 2023. Sanjiv Mehta, the current MD and CEO of Hindustan Unilever since 2013, will be replaced by Jawa.
B Gopkumar	Axis Mutual Fund's MD and CEO	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.
Siddhartha Mohanty	LIC – Chairman	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



CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 2023

		Insurance Corporation (LIC).
Mohit Joshi	MD and CEO – Tech Mahindra	Gurnani, who was one of the longest-serving CEOs in the Indian IT industry, will be succeeded by Mohit Joshi.
Tablesh Pandey and M Jagannath	LIC – MD	Tablesh Pandey will take over on April 1, 2023, and M. Jagannath will start working on March 13, 2023. Raj Kumar and BC Patnaik are the two managing directors that left the company this week. There are currently four managing directors at LIC.
Eric Garcetti	US Ambassador to India	The former leader Eric Garcetti has been made the US Envoy to India, two years after US President Joe Biden elected him.
Ravi Chaudhary	Assistant Secretary of US Air Force	The United Nations Senators voted for the Indian-American Ravi Chaudhary for the post of Assistant Secretary of the US Air Force. On March 15, 2023 (Wednesday) he won the bid by 65-29 votes. His position has thus been confirmed in the Defence sector of the US Air Force.
Vimal Kapur	Honeywell – CEO	Honeywell International HON announced that company current president and chief operating officer, Vimal Kapur, will succeed Darius Adamczyk as the new chief executive officer (CEO), effective Jun 1.
Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav	Vice-President of Nepal	Nepal's parliamentary party leader and former minister Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav have been elected the Vice President of Nepal. In today's voting, Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav of the Janata Samajbadi Party defeated Astalaxmi Shakya of CPN



CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 2023

		(UML) and Mamata Jha of the Janamat Party.
Lalit Kumar Gupta	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.
G Krishnakumar	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.
Shri Ratan Tata	'Order of Australia' for distinguished service	Ratan Tata, an Indian industrialist and philanthropist, has been named an Honorary Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO) for his outstanding contributions to the Australia-India bilateral relationship, specifically in the areas of trade, investment, and philanthropy.
Anup Bagchi	MD & CEO, ICICI Prudential Life	The current MD & CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, N S Kannan, is set to retire from his position in June 2023 upon completion of his term.
Ajay Singh	IBA Vice President	The former president of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) Ajay Singh now assumes the position of Vice President of the International Boxing Association (IBA).
Humza Yousaf	Scotland Leadership Elections 2023	Pakistan-origin Humza Yousaf wins SNP (Scottish



CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 2023

		National Party) Leadership Elections with 24,336 votes. He is the first Muslim to become the youngest chief of the country.
Ranveer Singh	Star Sports – Ambassador	Famous Bollywood Actor Ranveer Singh has been made Ambassador of Star Sports channel which is owned by Walt Disney Company, India.
Ajay Singh	President - Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)	He has replaced Sumant Sinha, who completed his tenure as Managing Director of Renew Power. Sanjay Nayar, the Founder and Chairman of Sorin Investment Fund, has been appointed as the new Senior Vice-President of ASSOCHAM.



Banking & Finance

HDFC Bank, IRCTC launch India's most rewarding co-branded travel credit card

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corp Ltd (IRCTC) and HDFC Bank, announced the launch of a co-branded travel credit card. Known as the IRCTC HDFC Bank Credit Card, the newly launched co-branded card is available exclusively on NPCI's **Rupay network**.

Indian Railways is one of the biggest public sector enterprises in the country and we are delighted to be the **first private sector bank to partner with IRCTC** to enhance customer experience for train travellers, right from the time of booking their tickets.”

SBI announces completion of \$1 billion Syndicated Social Loan Facility

The State Bank of India (SBI) announced the **completion of a \$1 billion syndicated social loan facility**. It is the largest Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) loan by a commercial bank in the Asia Pacific and the **second-largest social loan globally**, the bank said.

The facility of \$1 billion was arranged **through MLABs, MUFG bank and Taipei Fubon Commercial Bank Co. Ltd**. MUFG and Taipei Fubon Commercial Bank are joint social loan coordinators while MUFG is the lead social loan coordinator for this transaction.

PNB Signs MoU With Central Warehousing Corporation To Facilitate Finance To Farmers

Punjab National Bank, nation's public sector bank and Central Warehousing Corporation have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate financing under **e-NWR (Electronic Negotiable Warehousing Receipt)**.

The partnership is aimed at providing easy access to finance to farmers/ food processors/ traders against the pledge of agriculture commodities stored in CWC warehouses.

India's digital payments market will more than triple to \$10 trillion by 2026

In a country witnessing rapid growth, it comes as no surprise that **India also has one of the fastest-growing fintech landscapes in the world**, driven primarily by the advancement in the digital payments segment.

Boston Consulting Group (BCG), in collaboration with PhonePe, India's leading digital payments company, today unveiled a report titled, **“Digital payments in India: A US\$10 trillion opportunity”**.

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.

Canara Bank sells stake in Russian joint venture to SBI for Rs 121 crore

Canara Bank has announced that it sold its stake in **Commercial Indo Bank LLC (CIBL)**, a joint venture with State Bank of India (SBI), to SBI for approximately ₹121.29 crore. CIBL, which was established in 2003, operates in Russia and is owned 60% by SBI and 40% by Canara Bank.

According to Canara Bank, the sale agreement was executed on November 11, 2022.

About the Canara bank:

- Canara Bank is an Indian public sector bank under the control and ownership of Ministry of Finance, Government of India. Established in 1906 at Mangalore by Ammembal Subba Rao Pai, the bank also has offices in London, Dubai and New York.

Income tax dept launches mobile app AIS for Taxpayers

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).

Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance launches ABSLI Nishchit Aayush Plan

Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI), the life insurance subsidiary of **Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL)** launched a new-age savings solution **ABSLI Nishchit Aayush Plan**, which aims to provide financial security to policyholders while also providing long-term savings benefits.

The **ABSLI Nishchit Aayush Plan** is a non-linked, non-participating life insurance plan offering guaranteed regular income starting from as early as end of first policy month along with a lump-sum benefit at maturity.

IREDA gets ‘Infrastructure Finance Company’ status from RBI

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has granted an ‘**Infrastructure Finance Company (IFC)**’ status to **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)** today. It was earlier classified as ‘**Investment and Credit Company (ICC)**’.



- With the IFC status, IREDA will be able to take **higher exposure in RE financing**. The IFC status will also help the company to access wider investor base for fund mobilisation, resulting in competitive rates for fund raising.
- IREDA has been promoting, developing and financing new and renewable sources of energy **with the motto: “Energy for Ever” since 1987**.

First Citizens Bank buys Entire Silicon Valley Bank

First Citizens Bank made a declaration that this US giant has obtained all the deposits and loans of Silicon Valley Bank (SVC). First Citizens Bank, a subordinate of First Citizen BancShares, Inc. collaborated with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) in order to buy all loans, assets, customer deposits and various liabilities of Silicon Valley Bridge Bank, National Association.

About First Citizens Bank

The bank has over **500 branches** that are placed across 22 US states. The company becomes one of the biggest investors that have bought failed US lenders. It has acquired more than 35 banks in the US since 1971.

First Citizens holds **\$109 billion in assets** whereas \$89.4 billion are the total amount of deposits. Last year, First Citizens was the 30th largest commercial bank in the US as per assets.

Indian Affairs

8th Raisina Dialogue

The eighth edition of the **Raisina Dialogue** is to be held in March 2023. PM Modi will inaugurate the dialogue. The Ministry of External Affairs is hosting the dialogue along with Observer Research Foundation.

- The dialogue is to be held on **geo-strategy and geopolitics**. The Chief Guest of Raisina Dialogue 2023 is the **Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni**.
- **The theme of Raisina Dialogue 2023 – Provocation, Uncertainty, Turbulence: Lighthouse in the Tempest**

PM Modi inaugurates world’s longest railway platform in Hubballi, Karnataka

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.

- **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.

Ashwini Vaishnaw introduced India's first-ever Quantum Tele Communication Network Link

The Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics and IT, **Ashwini Vaishnaw** announced India's first quantum-secured telecom network. This communication link is now **functional in the national capital of India i.e. Delhi.**

Reward for Technophiles

At the global conference, the Telecom Ministry **invited legal hackers** to break this highly secured system of quantum communications. Also, upon doing so the government will grant a **cash prize worth Rs 10 lakhs.**

New AI Chatbot Tool

IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw made a big announcement recently as ChatGPT is popularizing around the world. He indicated that soon India will be having its latest developed conversational **Artificial Technology (AI) tools.**

India approves purchase of 70 HTT-40 basic trainer aircraft

The Union Cabinet approved the procurement of **70 HTT-40 basic trainer aircraft** from **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).**

The approval was given to the Indian Air Force (IAF). The procurement would cost around **Rs 6,828 crore.** The aircraft will be supplied over a period of six years. The aircraft is expected to meet the shortage of basic trainer aircraft of the IAF required for training newly inducted pilots.

The aircraft, being an indigenous solution, is configurable for upgrades to incorporate the **futuristic requirements of the IAF.** The procurement will include associated equipment, training aids and simulators.

India's First-ever Methanol Fueled Buses launched by Transport Minister

On March 12, 2023 (Sunday), Nitin Gadkari showcased 100% methanol-powered buses that will be run by **Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC).** The buses will be operated with methanol blended fuel as part of Mission Clean Energy.

Moreover, they are to be tested with 15% methanol-blended fuel provided by Indian Oil. On this occasion, a truck that runs on 100% methanol (M 100) was also introduced by the government.



‘Methanol Economy’ Programme by NITI Aayog

According to the data given by Niti Aayog on “**Methanol Economy**”, Methanol is a good alternative to conventional transportation fuels. This is a low-carbon, hydrogen-carrier fuel produced from high ash coal, agricultural residue, and CO₂ from thermal power plants as well as natural gas.

Diesel consumption

Buses around various cities are operated almost every day. In Bengaluru, the consumption is about **2.5 lakh litres of diesel**. Also, expenditure on fuel has been a major component of the corporation’s outlay data.

Surekha Yadav, Asia’s 1st woman loco pilot who now operates Vande Bharat

The **Vande Bharat Express** is now being driven by **Surekha Yadav**, the first female locomotive pilot in Asia. **From Solapur to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminal (CSMT) in Maharashtra**, Yadav ran the Vande Bharat Express. Surekha Yadav, a native of Satara, Maharashtra, became the nation’s first female train driver in 1988.

“Learning Science via Standards” Initiative Launched

The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** has launched a new initiative called “**Learning Science via Standards**” to help students in India understand the practical applications of scientific concepts. This initiative is part of BIS’s efforts to bridge the gap between theory and practice in science education and promote a culture of quality and standardization in the country.

Lesson Plans on Everyday Products

The “Learning Science via Standards” initiative provides lesson plans that focus on the practical applications of scientific concepts, principles, and laws in manufacturing, functioning, and testing the quality characteristics of different products.

Capacity Building for Students

The “Learning Science via Standards” initiative is expected to contribute towards the capacity building of students to engage successfully in a variety of economic sectors in the country. It will also serve as a means for the students of schools and colleges.

UN 2023 Water Conference

The UN 2023 Water Conference is being held from **March 22 to 24 in New York**, marking the first summit on water in 50 years.

The conference will be a watershed moment to mobilize member states, the UN system, and stakeholders alike to take action and bring successful solutions to a global scale.



The Importance of the UN 2023 Water Conference

- The UN 2023 Water Conference could be a crucial step to ensure the sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, as per UN Sustainable Development Goal 6.
- It also marks the halfway point through the International Decade for Action “**Water for Sustainable Development**” to raise awareness of the global water crisis and decide on action to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals.

Amit Shah unveils the statues of Lord Basaveshwara and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda in Bengaluru

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation **Shri Amit Shah** unveiled the statues of **Lord Basaveshwara ji and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda ji** at the State Assembly premises in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Lord Basaveshwara and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda are two prominent historical figures from Karnataka, a state in southern India. These statues will continue to give Basavanna ji and Kempegowda ji’s message of social justice, democracy, good governance and development to those who get elected in the assembly.

Second Infrastructure Working Group Meeting begins in Vishakhapatnam

The second G20 Infrastructure Working Group (IWG) meeting under G20 Indian Presidency is scheduled to take place in **Vishakhapatnam**, Andhra Pradesh, on 28th and 29th March 2023.

Around **63 delegates from G20 member countries**, invitee countries and international organisations will participate in the meeting to further the discussions on the 2023 Infrastructure Agenda under the Indian G20 Presidency and follow up on the discussions held during the first IWG meeting held in Pune in January 2023.

What is the Theme for G20?

The Indian G20 Presidency’s theme of ‘**One Earth, One Family, One Future**’ sets the tone for the 2023 Infrastructure Agenda under the 2023 Indian G-20 Presidency.

The flagship priority to be discussed in this meeting is “**Financing Cities of Tomorrow: Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable**”, along with other priorities outlined in the 2023 Infrastructure Agenda.

EPFO fixes 8.15% interest rate on employees’ provident fund for 2022-23

- **Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** has fixed an 8.15% interest rate on employees’ provident fund (EPF) deposits for 2022-23.
- In March 2022, EPFO lowered the interest on EPF for **2021-22 to 8.1%** for its about five crore subscribers, from 8.5% in 2020-21.
- After the CBT’s decision, the interest rate on EPF deposits for 2022-23 will be sent to the Ministry of Finance for concurrence.
- EPFO provides the interest rate only after finance ministry ratification.



S&P keeps India's economic growth forecast unchanged at 6% in FY24

According to S&P Global Ratings, India's economic growth is projected to be at 6% in the fiscal year starting April, rising to 6.9% in the following fiscal year.

In a quarterly update for the Asia-Pacific region, the agency saw inflation rate easing to **5% in 2023-24 fiscal**, from 6.8% in the current financial year.

The agency's projections for the country's GDP saw the indicator growing by 7% in the current financial year (ending March 31), later slowing down to 6% in 2023-24.

Sampanna Ramesh sets record as fastest Indian to swim across Palk Strait

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.

Modi's Atmanirbhar Bharat to attain Energy Independence by 2047

- The fifth largest economy in the world, India is likely to achieve **energy independence by 2047**. PM Narendra Modi's Atmanirbhar Bharat will prove to be a gateway for future growth.
- This can only be possible through clean technology according to a report issued by a **leading US Research Institute**.
- Talking about the current scenario, India is almost **80-85 per cent reliant** on imports in order to fulfil its oil and coal requirements. However, a significant drop in clean energy costs is a great chance for the country to accelerate its investment in battery storage, renewable energy, etc.

'World Trade Center' To Come Up In Kolkata's Salt Lake: Merlin Group

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 **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.



RBI's Data Centre And Cybersecurity Training Institute To Come Up In Bhubaneswar

The Governor of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, Shaktikanta Das, initiated the establishment of a “**Greenfield Data Centre**” and an “Enterprise Computing & Cybersecurity Training Institute” in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**, during a foundation stone laying ceremony.

More About The New Data Centre and Training Institute:

The new Data Centre and Training Institute, which will cover an area of 18.55 acres, will be able to address the emerging needs of the RBI and the financial sector, according to a statement by the central bank.

'Ironman' Krishna Prakash becomes first person to swim from Gateway of India to Elephanta Caves

As part of the ‘**Drowning Prevention Awareness**’ campaign, Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Krishna Prakash swam from Gateway of India to Elephanta Caves, Mumbai.

He completed the expedition of 16.20 kms in just 5 hours 26 minutes and became the first person in history to do so. This is far from the first time the IPS officer broke records in sporting competitions.

Prakash has accomplished a remarkable achievement in sports in the past as well. In 2017, he was praised for finishing the Ironman Triathlon, a competition that demands participants to swim 3.8 kilometers, bike ride for 180.2 kilometers, and run for 42.2 kilometers within a span of 16-17 hours.

NADA and NCERT sign MoU to strengthen value-based sports education amongst school children and teachers

The **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)** under the Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry; and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) signed an MoU to strengthen value-based sports education amongst **school children and teachers**.

The key activities that will be undertaken through this MoU include developing e-content in an accessible format on sports values and ethics. The **UNESCO Value-Based Sports Education** toolkit will also be promoted in every classroom under the MoU.

Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission

The **PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission** was launched in October 2021 with an aim to strengthen healthcare infrastructure across India.

With a **budget of Rs.64,180 crore**, the mission has three aspects: strengthening public health institutions, building an IT-enabled disease surveillance system, and expanding research on infectious diseases.



- One of these loans will prioritize healthcare services in 7 states – **Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.**

Northeast Railways sets up First Trans Tea Stall

The **Northeast Frontier Railways (NEFR)** combined with the **All Assam Transgender Association** recently opened a tea shop led by transgender people located at **Guwahati station.**

As a part of the government's "**Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas**", the railway stall was inaugurated by the General Manager of NEFR, Mr Anshul Gupta on March 05, 2023.

It will not only create employment opportunities for trans and queer communities but will also empower, support and elevate them among all members of society.

Trans Tea Stall Inauguration

The collaboration between **NEFR and the All Assam Transgender Association** is for the empowerment of trans and queer sections of society. The NEFR aims at creating other such visionary ventures in order to promote the equality of the sexes.

Sports Stadium named after Rani Rampal

Rani Rampal becomes the first ever woman to have a stadium named after her. She is a famous player in the **Women's Hockey Team.** This stadium is in Rae Bareilly. Moreover, she is the youngest one in her team to participate in the World Cup of the year 2010.

According to the reports, the Modern Coach Factory (MCF) Rae Bareilly has given a new name to the hockey stadium which is '**Rani's Girls Hockey Turf.**

Rani Rampal

She has played 212 international matches and scored 134 goals. She is currently the Captain for Indian Women's Hockey Team.

- **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna (2020) – Highest Sporting Honour of India.**
- **Padma Shri (2020) – fourth Highest Indian National Honour**

Cabinet hikes Dearness Allowance (DA) by 4% for central government employees, pensioners

The **Union Cabinet** approved an increase in the dearness allowance and dearness relief by 4 per cent to 42 per cent, benefiting **47.58 lakh** central government employees and 69.76 lakh pensioners.

According to I&B Minister **Anurag Thakur**, the combined impact of both the Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief on the exchequer will be **Rs 12,815.60 crore** annually.



The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) meeting was held, and the release of the additional dearness allowance installment to employees and dearness relief to pensioners will be effective from January 01, 2023.

Finance Bill 2023 passed in Lok Sabha

The **Lok Sabha** passed the **Finance Bill 2023**, which implements tax proposals for the upcoming fiscal year, without any discussion. The passage of the Bill occurred amid Opposition uproar over the Adani controversy.

Proposals for a total of 64 official amendments were put forward in the Bill, including one that aims to eliminate long-term tax benefits for specific categories of debt mutual funds and another that calls for the establishment of the GST Appellate Tribunal.

Indian Government Launches DigiClaim Platform for Farmer Insurance Claims

The Agriculture Minister of India, **Narendra Singh Tomar**, has introduced a new platform called '**DigiClaim**' on the national crop insurance portal. This platform is aimed at expediting the disbursement of insurance claims to farmers who have availed themselves of crop insurance.

To demonstrate its effectiveness, the Minister used the platform to transfer a total insurance claim of **Rs. 1,260.35 crore** to insured farmers in several Indian states, including Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, and Haryana, with just a single click.

5th ASEAN-India Business Summit 2023

The **5th Asean-India Business Summit** took place on **6 March 2023 in Kuala Lumpur**. Speakers and participants from Asean and India convened to discuss how business linkages, connectivity and supply chain resilience can be enhanced through deeper ASEAN-India cooperation.

The Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology addresses the 5th ASEAN-India Business summit.

Atal Innovation Mission launched Sarthi

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) – NITI Aayog, a government-led think tank in India, has launched **ATL Sarthi**, a comprehensive **self-monitoring framework to strengthen the ecosystem of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) in schools**.

AIM has established **10,000 ATLs** in India to promote curiosity, imagination, and creativity among young students and to develop skills such as computational thinking, physical computing, and design thinking.



The Need For ATL Sarthi

ATL Sarthi was launched to enhance the performance of ATLs and achieve the desired objectives. It aims to provide a monitoring and evaluation framework that can help improve the functioning of ATLs.

What are the four pillars of ATL Sarthi?

- Self-reporting dashboard
- Compliance SOPs
- Cluster-based approach
- Performance-enablement matrix

CBIP Award 2022

- CBIP Award 2022 was conferred recently to **NTPC Limited for the ‘Outstanding Contribution in Power Generation’**.
- **BHEL** wins CBIP Award 2022 for **‘Best Contribution in Solar Energy’**.
- **Odisha’s OPTCL** bags CBIP Award-2022 for **“best-performing transmission power sector”**

The award recognizes the role of **Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Station** – the largest power station in India – in efficiency and high-level power generation.

The award was conferred on the occasion of the CBIP Day, to individuals and institutions in recognition of their outstanding contributions in the fields of water, power and renewable energy development.

What is CBIP?

- CBIP is the Central Board of Irrigation and Power.
- It was established in 1927.
- It works in the areas of renewable energy, power, and water resources. It monitors research projects.

5th Jan Aushadhi Diwas celebrates on 7th March 2023

The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** in collaboration with **Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI)**, the implementing agency of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) and States and Union Territories is celebrating 5th Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2023 under (PMBJP).

Department of Pharmaceuticals has planned various events in different cities starting from 1st of March 2023 to 7th March 2023 which will focus on awareness about the Jan Aushadhi Scheme. The 5th Jan Aushadhi Diwas is organized across India based on the theme **“Jan Aushadhi – Sasti bhi Acchi bhi”**.

About the 5th Jan Aushadhi Diwas



The event has witnessed the organization of **more than 34 Pratigya Yatras** across India, with 8 of them led by Members of Parliament on the first day. Over 5,000 citizens, including doctors, have committed to using generic medicines on the MyGov platform.

Indian Government launched NPCDCS

The Indian Government launched the **National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS)** in 2010 to prevent and control major non-communicable diseases.

- It focuses on strengthening infrastructure, human resource development, early diagnosis, health promotion and more. It seeks to reduce premature cancer-related mortality by **25% by 2025**.
- Under the NPCDCS the **Tertiary Care Cancer Centers** scheme is being implemented. It aims to set up **20 Cancer Institutes**. The GoI has allocated **Rs 120 crores per cancer institute**.

Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023 organized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti

The “**Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023**”, organized by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti** to honour the women champions of rural water and sanitation sector, was graced by the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu.

36 women WASH Champions were conferred with the ‘Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023’ by the President of India and Union Minister of Jal Shakti.

G20 flower festival begins in New Delhi

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

The festival, which is being held at Central Park and is being organised by the Current Affairs – March 14 2023 New Delhi Municipal Council, was opened 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 colourful display of G20 members and guest countries.

State related Affairs

‘World’s first’ bamboo crash barrier installed on Maharashtra highway

The **world’s first 200-metre-long bamboo crash barrier** has been installed on a highway connecting **Chandrapur and Yavatmal districts in Maharashtra**.



Named **‘Bahu Balli’**, the bamboo crash barrier underwent **“rigorous testing”** at various government-run institutions like the National Automotive Test Tracks (NATRAX) in Pithampur, Indore.

Uttarakhand become India’s first state to start insurance scheme for sericulturists

Ganesh Joshi, the state’s agriculture minister, said that **Uttarakhand** launched the country’s first **“Resham Keet Bima”** programme to safeguard its **sericulturists**.

200 sericulturists from five blocks in four districts—**Dehradun, Haridwar, Udham Singh Nagar, and Nainital**—received insurance in the first phase of the pilot project, which started in Uttarakhand. This insurance protected them from the effects of **climate change, water scarcity, and other dangers**.

Who is sericulturists?

A Sericulturist is a professional who is responsible for **plant cultivation for rearing silkworms**.

The endeavour aims to promote the production of silk in the region. **Over 12,000 families** in the state are impacted by sericulture both directly and indirectly, and 6,000 stakeholders produce nearly 300 metric tonnes of silk fibroin there annually.

Rajasthan is the first Indian State to pass RTH Bill, Intends to Provide Free Emergency Treatment

Rajasthan becomes the first state in India to pass a manifesto in the **Rajasthan Legislative Assembly**. Regardless of the fuss created among doctors, the state enacted the law which stated that every resident out there will be able to avail of accessible Out Patient Department (OPD) and In-Patient Department (IPD) services at all hospitals or public healthcare facilities.

An Outline of RTH Bill-2022

According to the release of the **RTH Bill (Right to Health)**, costless medical services are to be given to city dwellers. These healthcare facilities include free drugs or medicines, doctor consultation, medical diagnosis, emergency transport, procedure or operations and emergency care.

Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary became 18th wildlife sanctuary in Tamil Nadu

The **Tamil Nadu Government** has announced the notification of **Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary**, making it the **18th wildlife sanctuary in the state**.

Spread across **80,567 hectares** in the forest areas of Anthiyur and Gobichettipalayam taluks in Erode district, the sanctuary will include reserve forest areas in Anthiyur, Bargur, Thattakarai and Chennampatti. The announcement was made during the state budget recently.



Wildlife and Species Found in Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary

- Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary is situated at close proximity with the **Malai Mahadeshwara wildlife sanctuary**, BRT Wildlife Sanctuary, Cauvery wildlife sanctuary in Karnataka.
- It acts as the connecting point between Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve and Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The sanctuary is home to 21 species of mammals, 136 species of birds and 118 species of butterflies. It hosts fauna like elephants, leopards, wild boars, gaurs and deer.

Maharashtra to introduce 4th women's policy

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

A new initiative called 'beggar-free city' started in Nagpur, Maharashtra

In Nagpur, Maharashtra, a new project known as "**beggar-free city**" has been launched. **Amitesh Kumar**, the Nagpur City commissioner of police, announced that notification 144 CrPC has been issued in this regard.

The social welfare division of the **Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC)** and the Nagpur City Police are partners in this effort. In order to accommodate homeless people in its shelters, the NMC has developed particular provisions.

This will be severely enforced by the Nagpur police, and begging is not permitted in public areas. The social welfare division of the Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) and the Nagpur City Police are partners in this effort.

What is Yaoshang Festival?

- Celebrated over five days during the **full moon day of the Lamda month (February-March)**, Yaosang is one of the **key festivals in Manipur**.
- The festival is part of the indigenous traditions of the **Meitei people**. It begins just after sunset in every village with the **Yaosang Mei thaba (burning of the straw hut)**.
- The Manipuris celebrate **Holi as the Yaoshang festival**. The festival is celebrated for **five days**. It is celebrated to mark the beginning of spring. Worshippers sing hymns and kirtans on this day.

Kerala has its First Trans Lawyer Padma Lakshmi

- **Padma Lakshmi** becomes the **first ever Transgender in Kerala** who has obtained the **position of lawyer** and got her name in the Bar Council.



- The Law Minister of Kerala, P. Rajeev posted on social media and congratulated her to be designated as a lawyer and encouraged more transgender people to acquire the role.
- This is a great step for the whole Transgender community as it will help them to stand for their rights more firmly in future.

NGT slaps ₹10 crore penalty on Kerala government for failure to protect Ramsar sites

The **Kerala government** has been fined Rs 10 crore by the Principal Bench of the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** for their inability to prevent the uncontrolled pollution of the designated Ramsar sites.

National Green Tribunal (NGT):

It is a special body established under the **National Green Tribunal Act (2010)**.

Aim: To effectively and expeditiously deal with cases related to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.

What is Ramsar Sites:

These are wetlands deemed to be of “**international importance**” under the Ramsar Convention. It is named after the city of Ramsar in Iran, where the convention was signed in.

Ramsar sites are trans-boundary in which case more than one Contracting Party is responsible for their conservation and management.

International Affairs

Why is Indonesia moving its capital from Jakarta to Borneo?

Indonesia is all set to move its **capital from Jakarta to Borneo** over environmental issues such as **being congested, sinking into seawater, and being prone to earthquakes**.

Officials said the new metropolis city will be a “**sustainable forest city**,” that puts the environment at the heart of the development and will be carbon neutral by 2045.

Indonesian **President Joko Widodo** envisions the construction of the new capital as a “**nostrum for the problems in Jakarta, which will also allow the country to start afresh**.”

Silicon Valley Bank Collapse: The Biggest Bank 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.



The real cause of Silicon Valley Bank Collapse:

The genesis of SVB's collapse lies in a **rising interest rate environment**. As higher interest rates **caused the market for initial public offerings to shut down** for many startups and made private fundraising more costly, some large clients pulled money from the bank and it was forced to sell some of the distressed securities in order to provide the cash.

Denmark, the first country to import CO2 and bury it undersea

Denmark inaugurates a project to **store carbon dioxide 1,800 metres** beneath the **North Sea**, the first country in the world to bury CO2 imported from abroad. The CO2 graveyard, where the carbon is injected to prevent further warming of the atmosphere, is on the site of an old oil field.

Why the project is located in North Sea:

The North Sea is particularly suitable for this type of project as the region already has pipelines and potential storage sites after decades of oil and gas production.

Japan's Plan for Free & Open Indo-Pacific

Japanese Prime Minister **Fumio Kishida** recently introduced a new plan to **promote a free and open Indo-Pacific region during his visit to India**.

The plan is aimed at forging stronger ties with **countries in South and Southeast Asia to counter China's growing assertiveness in the region**, particularly over the disputed Senkaku/Diaoyu islands in the East China Sea. This article will delve deeper into Japan's new Indo-Pacific plan.

The Four Pillars of Japan's Plan

Kishida outlined **four "pillars"** to Japan's new Indo-Pacific plan, which includes maintaining peace, dealing with new global issues in cooperation with Indo-Pacific countries, achieving global connectivity through various platforms, and ensuring the safety of the open seas and skies.

Saudi Arabia becomes Shanghai Cooperation Organization dialogue partner

The Saudi Arabian government has taken a significant step towards joining the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**, a regional alliance dominated by China and Russia.

During a cabinet meeting presided over by **King Salman bin Abdulaziz**, a memorandum was approved to initiate dialogue with the SCO. The decision to pursue membership was reportedly raised during a visit to Saudi Arabia by Chinese President Xi Jinping in December of last year.



About the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was established in June 2001 by **China, Russia**, and several Central Asian countries including **Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan**. In 2017, **Pakistan and India** were granted full membership.

UN's List of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Bhutan's Graduation

Bhutan, a landlocked country in South Asia, is set to be **removed from the LDC** list on December 13, 2023, becoming the seventh country to graduate from the list.

- Bhutan's graduation was announced by the **United Nations General Assembly in 2018**, based on its sustainable development efforts, including poverty reduction, education, healthcare, and gender equality.
- This graduation is a significant milestone for Bhutan, as it represents the country's progress in terms of economic and human development.

What is the LDCs List?

The **Least Developed Countries (LDCs)** list was established in **1971** by the United Nations with the purpose of identifying and supporting the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries.

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.

Why the ICC issued arrest warrant for Vladimir Putin:

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.

Egypt joins BRICS bank as new member weeks after President Sisi's India visit

After President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi visited India as a chief guest for the Republic Day celebrations, **Egypt** has become a member of the **BRICS New Development Bank (NDB)**.

Egypt and BRICS New Development Bank (NDB):

- According to sources familiar with the matter, Egypt officially joined the NDB on February 20, with a formal notification issued on March 22.
- The African-Arab nation intends to enhance its infrastructure, and NDB funding can make a significant contribution toward achieving this goal.



About BRICS New Development Bank (NDB):

- It is a **multilateral development bank** jointly founded by the BRICS countries (**Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa**) at the 6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza, Brazil in 2014.
- It is headquartered at **Shanghai, China**.

Foreign Relations

India-UK Young Professionals Scheme

The **UK Government** recently launched the Young Professionals Scheme. Under the scheme, Indian nationals of **age 18 years to 30 years** can live and work in Britain for up to two years.

- To avail of the benefits of the scheme, the person should be an Indian citizen, he or she should be between 18 to 30 years old, **should have at least 2,350 pounds in savings**
- Persons entering through the scheme can set up the company. However, the equipment used in the company **should not exceed 5,000 pounds**. And such people cannot hire employees
- The scheme is **not for family members**
- People availing of the benefits of the scheme **cannot work as sportspersons**

Nepal-India Literature Festival

The **Nepal-India Literature Festival** was a three-day literary extravaganza organized by **Biratnagar Metropolitan City and Krantidhara Literature Academy of Meerut, India**.

The festival witnessed the participation of over 350 literary writers from all seven provinces of Nepal and a majority of the states of India. The event concluded with the adoption of a 10-point Biratnagar declaration aimed at promoting literature between Nepal and India.

Literary Creations on the Occasion

Over **200 litterateurs cited their literary creations on the occasion**, which included poetry, short stories, and novels. The festival provided a platform for literary writers of Nepal and India to showcase their work and exchange ideas.

MoC to strengthen research cooperation between India and Sweden

A **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)** was signed between **Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)**, and **The Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT)**, Stockholm, Sweden, to strengthen cooperation and promote research networking between research institutions from both countries.



- The MoC aims to **promote mobility funding opportunities in both countries**. It will facilitate academic cooperation through mobility activities as well as through **seminars, workshops and conferences**.
- India and Sweden will take forward **joint S&T efforts particularly in smart cities, artificial intelligence, quantum computer, transportation, and many more futuristic technologies**.

India, US to sign memorandum of understanding on semiconductors

The **United States and India** will sign a memorandum of understanding on **semiconductors** as both countries discuss coordination of investment and continue dialogue around policies to spur private investment, U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said.

The dialogue comes close on the heels of the launch of the inauguration of the initiative on **Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET)**.

India and Australia sign a framework mechanism for mutual recognition of qualifications

India and Australia signed a Framework Mechanism for **Mutual Recognition of Qualifications** that will help ease the mobility of students and professionals between the two countries.

While the two countries will **recognise the degrees, professional registrations of engineering, medicine and law pass-outs** will remain outside the framework's ambit.

India, Mexico ink MoU on research, technology and innovation collaborations

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Research, Technology, and Innovation Collaborations between **India and Mexico** has been inked.

- It focuses on several key technology areas, including Aerospace, Electronics Instrumentation & Strategic Sectors, Civil, Infrastructure & Engineering, Ecology, Environment Earth & Ocean Sciences, and Water, Mining, Minerals, Metals & Materials, Chemicals (including leather), and Petrochemicals, Energy (Conventional & Non-Conventional), and Energy Devices.

World Bank Grants \$363m Loan to Karnataka for Clean Drinking Water Supply

The World Bank has granted a loan of **USD 363 million** to the state of Karnataka in India, which will help to provide clean drinking water to two million rural households.

The initiative aims to establish piped water connections in households throughout the state, including the construction of a drinking water distribution network and the installation of water meters. The project is set to benefit around 10 million people across all **31 districts in the state**.



Program to revive 500 rural water reservoirs, provide skills training

The loan, which comes from the **International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**, uses the Program-for-Results (PforR) financing instrument.

India & World Bank signs loan agreement for construction of Green National Highway Corridors Project in 4 States

India and the World Bank have recently signed a loan agreement to **construct 781 kilometers** of green highways across **four states in India**. The project aims to build the Green National Highway Corridors Project in 4 Indian states. The loan assistance of **500 million dollars** will be used for the construction of the highways.

The Green National Highway Corridors Project will promote the use of green technologies and climate resilience to demonstrate safe and environmentally friendly highways. The project aims to establish a new standard for sustainable infrastructure in India.

World Bank approves \$108 million loan for Assam's flood management project

The **World Bank** has given the nod to provide a loan of \$108 million (**about ₹ 889 crores**) to assist Assam in its efforts to improve its disaster preparedness and enhance flood forecasting.

The multilateral bank has stated that around six million individuals will benefit from this project, which is part of a larger investment program worth \$500 million for the state.

The main aim of the **Assam Integrated River Basin Management Project** is to build eco-friendly infrastructure in the Beki and Buridehing river basins to lessen the impact of floods and river erosion on the state, ultimately safeguarding around one lakh individuals.

Objectives and benefits of the Assam Integrated River Basin Management Project

In addition, the project aims to improve the state's response to disasters by enhancing flood forecasting and early warning systems, including mobile alerts.

It will provide better evacuation and shelter facilities, with access to climate-resilient flood shelters to benefit at least 10,000 people.

Business News

Singapore Airlines receives 25.1% stake in Air India group after investing \$267 mn

Singapore Airlines will give Air India an additional **SGD 360 million (USD 267 million)**. With its acquisition by Tata and merger with **Vistara Airlines**, it will give SIA a 25.1% interest in the firm.



Through this deal, SIA will strengthen its relationship with Tata and gain an instant strategic position in a company that is four to five times bigger than **Vistara in terms of size**.

Last year, **Tata and Singapore Airlines** both committed to provide additional funding if necessary to assist Air India reach its previous peak, when the airline had a glitzier shine, and sustain it.

Axis Bank Supersedes Citibank India's Retail Business, Deal of Rs 11,603 Crores

Axis Bank Limited, also known as **UTI Bank** announces the **acquisition of business undertakings of Citibank India**. The deal of Axis Bank taking over the Retail Business concluded after finalising an amount of **Rs 11,603 crores on March 01, 2023 (Wednesday)**. However, the sale excludes Citibank's institutional client businesses in India.

Axis Bank, the **third-largest private sector bank** declared that the decision to acquire was first made in March last year. It will not necessitate any new capital requirements and stressed that the attrition rate of customers was much more than expected.

The Managing Director and Chief Executive of Axis Bank, **Amitabh Chaudhary** told that as many as 2.4 million Citi customers in the country agreed with Axis Bank after the deal as against 3 million at the time of announcing the deal.

Foxconn to invest nearly 1 billion USD in Bengaluru

A **300-acre plot** adjacent to **Bengaluru's international airport** has been agreed upon by Foxconn, a Taiwanese company that assembles **iPhones**, as the location for its largest technology **manufacturing campus in India**.

The Foxconn company plans to make **incremental investments totaling less than \$1 billion**, helping the southern state establish itself as a hub for electronic manufacturing and positioning itself as a **rival to China for suppliers**.

Over the following few years, it is estimated that the financing would create **100,000 additional jobs**.

An official announcement from the **Karnataka government** is expected in the evening following the official meeting between the 17-member Foxconn team, led by company chairman Young Liu, and Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who will have just arrived from Bidar.

Pfizer will spend \$43 billion to acquire Seagen

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.



Pfizer and Seagen deal:

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.

Tata Steel Mining signs MoU with GAIL to get clean fuel

In order to reduce carbon footprint in its operations, Tata Steel Mining Limited has signed a memorandum of understanding with **GAIL (India) Limited** for supply of natural gas to its ferro alloys plant at Athgarh in **Odisha’s Cuttack district**.

According to the MoU, GAIL will supply the agreed quantity of natural gas through its pipeline from Gujarat to Athgarh.

The project will lower green house **gas emission by 968 tons**, it said. Furnace oil emits more carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides and sulphur oxides than natural gas does.

HCL Technologies partners Microsoft to bring quantum computing to clients

Domestic information technology (IT) services firm, **HCL Technologies**, announced a partnership with **Azure Quantum**, Microsoft’s quantum cloud computing service. Through this partnership, HCLTech will offer cloud-based quantum computing services to businesses using Microsoft’s platform as a technology stack.

The services will be provided through **HCLtech’s Q-Labs**, which is already one of Microsoft’s partners offering Azure Quantum Credit.

Ashok Leyland unveils all-women production line at Tamil Nadu plant

Indian commercial vehicle manufacturer, **Ashok Leyland**, has launched an “**All Women Production Line**” with **100 per cent female employees at its Hosur plant in Tamil Nadu**. The initiative to introduce an all-women production line is to promote women empowerment and encourage them take up roles in manufacturing industry.

About Ashok Leyland :

Ashok Leyland Ltd. manufactures commercial vehicles and spare parts in India and Internationally. It was **founded by Raghunandan Saran** on September 7, **1948** and is **headquartered in Chennai, India**.

L&T signs agreement with France-based McPhy for electrolyzer manufacturing

Larsen & Toubro (L&T), an Indian multinational that specializes in EPC projects, hi-tech manufacturing, and services, has signed a binding agreement with **McPhy Energy**, a leading **electrolyzer technology** and manufacturing company **based in France**.



The agreement establishes a long-term partnership **between the two companies** to explore opportunities in the emerging green hydrogen market. Specifically, L&T and McPhy Energy will collaborate on electrolyzer manufacturing, which is a key technology for the production of green hydrogen.

Ranks

Elon Musk reclaims 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**.

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.

Swisscom increased brand value by 5 percent to **\$6.3 billion** and is the strongest **telecoms brand with a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 92**.

It is the **third strongest brand globally** and earns an elite AAA+ brand rating. It recently announced its new Fixed Wireless Access 5G service for business customers which is a continuation of its pioneering work in the European 5G market.

Mumbai Ranks at 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.

India on 108th Position in Electoral Democracy Index 2023

India has now been ranked at the **108th spot globally** for electoral democracy, far behind nations like Tanzania, Bolivia, Mexico, Singapore, and even Nigeria, which comes in at a modest 91st spot by V-Dem Institute in its **Electoral Democracy Report for 2023**.



This ranking may come as a shock to many, but it is also far below nations like Tanzania, Bolivia, Mexico, Singapore, and even India.

Mumbai airport named best in ‘over 40 mn passengers’ group in Asia-Pacific

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai has won the 2022 Airport Service Quality Award for the ‘**Best Airport over 40 million passengers**’ category in Asia-Pacific.

The airport has secured the award for the sixth time in a row. “This award is a result of CSMIA’s resolute commitment to always providing exceptional facilities and offerings,” CSMIA said in a statement.

TIME list of World’s Greatest Places of 2023 Released, 2 Indian Places Makes the list

India’s **Mayurbhanj and Ladakh**, which have been chosen for their **endangered tigers and historic temples**, as well as their adventures and cuisine, respectively, are two of the 50 locations which are featured in the TIME Magazine’s list of World’s Greatest Places in 2023. Check out the entire TIME Magazine’s list of World’s Greatest Places of 2023.

As TIME Magazine revealed its list of the “**World’s Best Places of 2023**,” the Mayurbhanj region of Odisha and the Union Territory of Ladakh both made the cut. Although the travel industry is back in full force in 2023, it was noticed that there have been some significant changes in the way and places we visit.

Below is the list of TIME Magazine’s list of World’s Greatest Places of 2023:

- **Tampa, Florida**
- **Willamette Valley, Oregon**
- **Rio Grande, P. R.**
- **Tucson, Arizona**
- **Yosemite National Park, California**
- **Bozeman, Montana**
- **Washington, D.C.**
- **Vancouver, Canada**
- **Churchill, Manitoba**
- **Dijon, France**

Delhi International Airport among cleanest in Asia-Pacific, says ACI

Delhi airport has been ranked among the **cleanest airports in Asia-Pacific** as a part of the Airport Council International (ACI)’s annual service quality award.

The **Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA)**, operated by DIAL, has bagged the award for Airport Service Quality (ASQ) best airport for 2022 in the category of over 40 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA).

No other Indian airports in the list:



While **Delhi was ranked among the top airports for cleanliness**, none of the Indian airports made it to the winners list in the other new categories.

SIPRI report 2023: India world's largest arms importer

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.

SIPRI report 2023 – Importers

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%)**.

SIPRI report 2023 – Exporters

In the past five years, the **US exported 40% of all military goods worldwide, followed by Russia (16%), France (11%), China (5.2%), and Germany (4.2%)**, according to new Sipri data. From 2013–17 and 2018–22, American armament exports increased 14% while those of Russia decreased 31%. India imported 37% fewer goods from Russia.

Uttarakhand's Rudraprayag, Tehri top landslide index: ISRO report

Rudraprayag and Tehri the two districts in Uttarakhand are facing the highest risk of landslides, according to satellite data collected over the past two decades.

Data collected by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has highlighted that Rudraprayag and Tehri Garhwal are at the highest risk of facing landslides, having seen the highest number of landslide incidents in the past 20 years.

The findings, compiled by the **Hyderabad-based ISRO** facility the National Remote Sensing Centre, were published in the Landslide Atlas of India.

India stands at 8th as per World Air Quality Report 2022, Ranking lowers than Last Year's 5th place

IQAir, a Switzerland-based air quality technology company has recently published the World Air Quality Report for the year 2022. The index that came out on March 15, 2023 (Tuesday) hints that **India is at the eighth rank** in terms of the world's most polluted country in the world.



Annual Global Survey 2022

Lahore in Pakistan leapt on to over 10 places to be titled the **worst city** in terms of air quality in the world in 2022. Talking about the air quality in Lahore, it has now aggravated to 97.4 micrograms of PM2.5 particles per cubic meter from 86.5 in the last year 2021.

Air Pollution Analysis

The **US Pacific territory Guam** is reported to have **cleaner air than any other country** around the world, with a PM2.5 concentration of 1.3 whereas Canberra had the cleanest air for a capital city with 2.8.

What is Air Quality Index (AQI)?

The World Air Quality Report shows the current status of air quality across the globe every year.

Literacy rate in India: Bihar lowest at 61.8%, Kerala highest at 94%

According to the data shared by the Ministry of Education, **Bihar (61.8 %)** has the lowest literacy, followed by **Arunachal Pradesh (65.3 %)** and Rajasthan (66.1 %). Kerala has the highest literacy rate in India at 94%, followed by Lakshadweep at 91.85% and Mizoram at 91.33%.

What is the literacy rate in Rural & Urban India:

- The literacy rate in rural India is **67.77** per cent as compared to **84.11** per cent in urban India.

Ranveer Singh named India's most valuable celebrity of 2022

According to a **report by Kroll**, a corporate investigation and risk consulting firm, actor **Ranveer Singh** has been named **India's most valuable celebrity of 2022**, surpassing cricketer Virat Kohli who held the top spot for five years.

The report titled "**Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2022: Beyond the Mainstream**" reveals that Singh's brand value is \$181.7 million.

Virat Kohli, who previously held the top spot, has **fallen to the second position** with a brand value of \$176.9 million, according to the Kroll report.

Other celebrities in the list:

- The Kroll report reveals that **Akshay Kumar and Alia Bhatt** have maintained their positions as the **third and fourth** most valuable celebrities in India, with brand values of \$153.6 million and \$102.9 million, respectively.
- **Deepika Padukone** has moved up two ranks to the **fifth spot** with a brand value of \$82.9 million, and has since become the brand ambassador of Qatar Airways and PotteryBarn.
- For the first time, South Indian stars **Allu Arjun and Rashmika Mandanna** have made it to the list of **India's top 25 most valuable celebrities**.



Global Passport Index 2023: India positioned at 144, Massive Fall in Mobility Score

On March 29 (Wednesday) the Passport Index published Passport Power Ranks for 2023. It shows the mobility scores of various countries across the world. While India witnessed a major drop in its ranking as it **decreased from a past score of 71 to the current 70**.

India's mobility score decline is seen as the largest economic drop at the global level. This happened due to the global coronavirus pandemic. The score stood at **73 in the year 2022** as it managed to handle the post-pandemic wave when mobility increased.

However, as of March 2023, **the score comes to 70**. This fall appears to be on the list as the mobility record increased. After the pandemic, the world and national economies re-opened. India's ranking significantly declined by 6 places this year and the nation is positioned at 144th in 2023 as compared to 138 in 2022.

World's Happiest Countries 2023 Report

The World Happiness Report 2023 has been released. According to the World Happiness Index for 2023, **Finland** is the happiest country in the world for the sixth year in a row. Let us have a look at the list of 10 happiest countries in the world for 2023.

10 happiest countries in the world for 2023

Finland, which is well known for its beautiful landscapes and high standard of living, continues to hold the top spot because of its straightforward way of life, dedication to sustainability, close connection to nature, and enjoyment of seasonal and local foods.

Israel and the Netherlands completed the top five, placing second and third, respectively, behind **Denmark and Iceland**.

Global Terrorism Index – India ranked 13th, topped by Afghanistan

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.

India: Key findings of the Global Terrorism Index (GTI):

- India was listed among countries with a **“high”** impact of terrorism and ranked 13th.
- India was among the **25 worst terror-hit** countries and **among 56 of the 120** nations surveyed with no respondents selecting war and terror as the biggest threat to their daily safety.
- The report lists the **Communist Party of India (Maoist)** as the 12th deadliest terror group in 2022.



Mukesh Ambani becomes the only Indian Billionaire to appear in Hurun Global Rich List 2023

Mukesh Ambani, India's leading business leader who chairs Reliance Industries, is the **only Indian** to emerge as the **richest man among the M3M Hurun Global Rich List 2023**. India has a total of **187 billionaires** and 16 new additions are there to the list.

India remains the **third largest nation in the world** to be the abode of billionaires as the total world index can rise up to 217 when adding the Indian-born billionaires. The Hurun Global Rich List 2023 was published on March 21, 2023 (Tuesday).

India at 3rd in Global Billionaire Population

In the total billionaire index, India comes on the third level in the 2023 M3M Hurun Global Rich List just below the US and China. Billionaires in India have suffered failures and this year came at 187 from last year's 215.

Top 10 Billionaires in the World:

1. Elon Musk
2. Jeff Bezos
3. Bernard Arnault
4. Bill Gates
5. Warren Buffett
6. Sergey Brin
7. Larry Page
8. Steve Ballmer
9. Mukesh Ambani
10. Bertrand Puech & Family

Indian billionaires in 2023 M3M Hurun Global Rich List – Top 10

1. Mukesh Ambani
2. Gautam Adani & family
3. Cyrus Poonawalla
4. Shiv Nadar & family
5. Lakshmi N Mittal
6. SP Hinduja & family
7. Dilip Shanghvi & family
8. Radhakishan Damani & family
9. Kumar Mangalam Birla & family
10. Uday Kotak

51-year old Elon Musk becomes most followed Twitter user

Elon Musk, the CEO of Twitter, has achieved the highest number of followers on the platform, exceeding former US President Barack Obama, who held the record since 2020.



According to Guinness World Records, Twitter has around **450 million monthly active users**, and Elon Musk has accumulated more than 133 million followers, which accounts for about 30% of the platform's total users.

Musk assumed the role of CEO of Twitter on October 27, 2022, with 110 million followers, and within five months, his followers increased to 133 million. Previously, he ranked third after Barack Obama and Justin Bieber in terms of the most followed Twitter users.

S Rankings: 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.

QS RANKING 2023: OTHER INSTITUTIONS

- **IIT Bombay** has featured among the **world's top 100** in mathematics by clinching the 92nd spot, up by 25 places
- **IIT Kanpur** ranks among the **world's top 100** in engineering-electrical electronics (87th, up by 21 places) and in computer science information systems (96th, up by 13 places)
- **IIT Kharagpur** occupies the 94th spot, up by 15 places, for computer science and information systems
- **IIT Madras** has moved up by 50 places to come at 98th spot for mathematics.

Human Development Index : Norway topped the list

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite statistic that measures the development of countries based on their achievements in three areas: **health, education, and standard of living**.

The HDI is widely used to compare and rank countries based on their development levels and is an important tool for policymakers and development practitioners.

Rank List :

- **Norway**: Norway consistently ranks among the **highest countries on the HDI**. With a score of 0.957 in 2020, Norway has a high life expectancy, high levels of education, and a high standard of living.
- **Yemen**: Yemen ranks among the **lowest countries on the HDI**, with a score of 0.470 in 2020. The country has low levels of education, high infant mortality rates, and a low standard of living.



Defence News

Exercise Desert Flag VIII

Exercise Desert Flag VIII is set to be organized from February 27 to March 17 this year. It is a multilateral air exercise involving the participation of **UAE, France, Kuwait, Australia, the UK, Bahrain, Morocco, Spain, the Republic of Korea, and the US.**

- It aims to bring about the interoperability of different fighter engagements and sharing of best practices of various Air Forces. **UAE is hosting the exercise.**
- The **India Air Force Contingent**, which is taking part in this exercise, includes 110 Air Warriors along with **5 LCA Tejas and two C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.**
- This is the first time that **LCA Tejas aircraft** is included in an international flying exercise outside India. The Indian contingent recently arrived at the Al Dhafra airbase in UAE.

Africa-India field training exercise AFINDEX-23 to be held in Pune

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 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.

History of the (AFINDEX-2023) 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.

Exercise Vayu Prahar – A Multi-Domain Exercise at LAC

In the midst of the ongoing stand-off between **India and China** at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Indian Army and Air Force have conducted a 96-hour multi-domain air and land exercise, called 'Vayu Prahar', in the eastern sector.

The exercise was conducted in the second week of March with the main objective of formulating plans that can lead to synergy in multi-domain operations.

Vayu Prahar Exercise

The main aim of the **Vayu Prahar** exercise was to enable coordination and rehearsal among various agencies for quick mobilisation, transportation and deployment of forces within a theatre, which can be executed across theatres.



Indian Army ready to bring GSAT 7B Satellite by 2026, Rs 3,000 crore deal between Defence Ministry & NSIL

To extend Indian Army's capacity, the Government of India comes up with new plans and missions. It has been announced that the Army will now have its own advanced communication satellite like **Indian Air Force and Navy** already have their own spacecraft to carry out major operations in the interest of various global goals.

On March 29, 2023 (Wednesday) the Defence Ministry inked a Rs 3,000-crore contract with **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)**. NSIL is a commercial branch of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

‘GSAT 7B’ – Advanced Communication Satellite

The Satellite that has been titled ‘**GSAT 7B**’ is for the Army of India which will provide for its continuing requirements, as stated by the senior government officials. The Army is focused on a committed satellite as the Indian Air Force and the Navy departments acquired.

INS Trikand Ship Arrives in Bahrain for Participation in US-led International Maritime Exercise

The **Indian Frigate Ship called INS Trikand** set foot in Bahrain for the first-ever participation in the **International Maritime Exercise/Cutlass Express 2023**.

This multinational exercise is organised by the **US-led Combined Maritime Forces** which is a naval partnership comprising 34 nations.

FRINJEX-23 Indo-France Joint Military Exercise to commence at Thiruvananthapuram

On March 7 and 8, 2023, the **Indian Army and the French Army** will hold their first joint military exercise, **FRINJEX-23, at Pangode Military Station in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**.

The two armies are participating in this format for the first time, with each contingent consisting of a Company Group from the French 6th Light Armoured Brigade and Indian Army personnel stationed in Thiruvananthapuram.

13th Exercise Bold Kurukshetra

The 13th edition of **Exercise Bold Kurukshetra**, a bilateral armour exercise between the **armies of India and Singapore**, was conducted from March 6 to 13, 2023, at **Jodhpur Military Station, India**.

Participation of Both Armies in a Command Post Exercise

Soldiers from the **42nd Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment, and an Armoured Brigade of the Indian Army** took part in the exercise.



Objectives of Exercise Bold Kurukshetra

The exercise aimed to foster a common understanding of mechanised warfare in emerging threats and evolving technologies. It provided both contingents with an opportunity to learn about **each other's operating drills and procedures**, as well as exchange ideas and best practices being followed in a modern combat zone.

Sea Dragon 23

The **Sea Dragon 23** exercise is a biennial coordinated multilateral **anti-submarine warfare (ASW)** exercise for long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft.

The exercise is **hosted by the United States Navy**, and it involves the participation of other friendly navies from **Japan, Canada, South Korea, and India**.

About Exercise:

The exercise aims to achieve high levels of synergy and coordination between the participating countries based on their shared values and commitment to an open, inclusive Indo-Pacific. It is being held from March 15 to 30 this year. This is the **third edition of the Sea Dragon Exercise**, which was held for the first time in 2015.

Other Participating Aircraft

Aside from the **P8I aircraft**, other participating aircraft in the Sea Dragon 23 exercise include the **P8A of the US Navy, P1 from the Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force, CP 140 from the Royal Canadian Air Force, and P3C from the Republic of Korea Navy**.

3rd edition of Exercise La Perouse- 2023 begins

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.

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.

Indian Navy conducts major exercise TROPEX-23

The Indian Navy's exercise, called the **"Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise for 2023" (TROPEX-23)**, culminated in the Arabian Sea after running for four months from **November 2022 to March 2023**.



- TROPEX-23 witnessed the participation of approximately **70 Indian Navy ships, six submarines and over 75 aircraft.**
- In the first phase, the Indian Navy had conducted coastal defence exercise ‘**Sea Vigil**’ along the entire coastline and Island territories of India on 12-13 January 2021.

Who is Colonel Geeta Rana?

The Indian Army has made history by appointing a woman officer, **Colonel Geeta Rana**, to lead an independent field workshop in a sensitive location in eastern Ladakh, near the China border.

This marks a significant **milestone in the Indian Army’s efforts** to bring about gender parity and offer women officers command assignments in select branches. In this article, we will explore the significance of this appointment and its implications for women’s empowerment in the Indian Army.

Colonel Geeta Rana’s Background and Achievements

- Colonel Geeta Rana hails from **Pauri, Uttarakhand**, which is also the hometown of General Bipin Rawat, India’s first Chief of Defence Staff.
- She is a member of the Corps of **Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME)** and has previously served in various capacities, including as a military attaché in Moscow, Russia.

India, France conduct Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX)

Indian Navy’s indigenously built guided missile frigate, **INS Sahyadri** participated in a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with **French Navy (FN) ships FS Dixmude**, a Mistral Class Amphibious Assault Ship and FS La Fayette, a La Fayette Class Frigate, in the Arabian Sea. The partnership exercise was conducted on **March 10-11.**

According to the Ministry of Defence, the exercise witnessed a wide spectrum of evolutions at sea which included cross-deck landings, boarding exercises and seamanship evolutions. The seamless conduct of the exercise reaffirmed the interoperability and high level of cooperation between the two navies.

Who is Group Captain Shaliza Dhami?

Group Captain Shaliza Dhami has made history as the **first woman officer in the Indian Air Force (IAF)** to be appointed as the **leader of a frontline combat unit in the Western sector.**

She will be in charge of a missile squadron, marking a significant milestone in the **IAF’s history.**

This achievement comes after the Indian Army recently began assigning women officers to command roles outside the medical stream, with **approximately 50 women expected to lead units in operational areas.**

Indian Navy gets first-ever privately made indigenized fuze of Anti-Submarine Warfare rocket



In what is being seen as a major success for the “**Make in India**” initiative in **defence sector**, the Indian Navy has received a fully indigenised fuze for an **anti-submarine warfare (ASW)** underwater rocket, manufactured for the first time by a private Indian industry.

This would be the first time the **Indian Navy** has placed a supply order for **underwater ammunition fuzes** with an Indian private sector industry.

It is a rocket used to hit submarines. It is **212 mm in diameter** and **1830 mm in length**. The range of **RGB-60** is **300m to 5,500m**.

It operates with a two-stage motor. It is charged with Torpex. **Torpex is a mixture of RDX, aluminium, and TNT**. Torpex is mainly used in underwater firings.

Army installed J&K’s steep Doda district’s tallest iconic national flag

In the rugged **Doda area of Jammu & Kashmir**, the Army erected the tallest “**Iconic National Banner**”.

The highest tricolour in the Doda district, which has been erected on a 100-foot pole, was unfurled by **Maj Gen Ajay Kumar, GOC Delta Force**, Commander 9 Sector RR Brig. Samir K. Palande, DC Doda Vishesh Paul Mahajan, and SSP Abdul Qayoom.

Defence Ministry Inks Rs 3700 Cr Contracts with BEL for Radars and Receivers

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).

Annual Bilateral Maritime Exercise Konkan 2023

The annual bilateral maritime exercise called **Konkan 2023** was conducted between the **Indian Navy and the Royal Navy** from 20th to 22nd March 2023 off the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea. The Royal Navy is the United Kingdom’s naval warfare force.

The exercise involved INS Trishul, a guided missile frigate, and HMS Lancaster, a Type 23 guided missile frigate, and aimed to improve cooperation and learn best practices through various maritime drills.



Science related Affairs

SpaceX launches NASA Crew-6 mission

SpaceX launched NASA's Crew-6 mission to orbit en route to the International Space Station, with a Russian cosmonaut and United Arab Emirates astronaut joining two NASA crewmates for the flight.

The SpaceX launch vehicle, consisting of a Falcon 9 rocket topped with an autonomously operated **Crew Dragon capsule called Endeavour**, lifted off at 12:34 a.m. EST (0534 GMT) from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida

Indo-US made NISAR Satellite handed over to ISRO

The **NASA-ISRO** Synthetic Aperture Radar or NISAR is a part of the **Indo-US** collaboration. NISAR is a satellite that is mutually developed by NASA and ISRO.

The spacecraft was delivered to the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** on March 08, 2023. The NISAR Satellite landed in **Bengaluru on a US Air Force C-17 Aircraft, as per the official reports.**

NISAR Launch Details

The NISAR Project is expected to be launched by January 2024 from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre** into a near-polar orbit. Moreover, the satellite will be executed for a minimum of three years.

India's largest Space Rocket LVM3 went off from SDSC Centre, ISRO placed 36 OneWeb Satellites

ISRO's big rocket LVM3 took off early morning today i.e. **March 26, 2023 (Sunday)**. The launch was initiated at the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre** in **Sriharikota**, Andhra Pradesh. The Launch Vehicle Mark-III (LVM3) placed a total of **36 satellites**.

OneWeb Company's Deal with ISRO

The OneWeb Group Company collaborated with ISRO's commercial agency NewSpace India Ltd. This signed agreement took place with the aim of launching **72 satellites into Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**.

The first-ever collaboration between the two organisations took place in October 2022 for vehicle disposal in the space trajectory. Now this year it created history as ISRO sets off 36 satellites of **OneWeb**.

About OneWeb

OneWeb which provides satellite internet services is headquartered in **London, UK**. It is an international communication network founded by Greg Wyler. Its very first satellites were launched back in the year 2019.



Reliance Life Sciences receives a gene therapy technology licence from IIT Kanpur

Reliance Life Sciences Pvt Ltd has received a licence from the **Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur** for a gene therapy method that has the potential to treat a variety of genetic eye ailments.

Reliance Life Sciences will further develop the gene treatment technology from **IIT Kanpur** into a native product. The science of molecular medicine has recently seen the emergence of gene therapy employing viral vectors as a powerful tool.

The patented technology was created by **Jayandharan Giridhara Rao and Shubham Maurya** from the Department of Biological Sciences and Bioengineering (BSBE), IIT Kanpur, to treat a genetic illness by altering an organism's gene.

GPT-4, a new generation of AI language model announced by OpenAI

GPT4, the most recent release of **OpenAI's large language model**, which powers popular apps like **ChatGPT** and the new Bing, has been announced. According to San Francisco-based research company OpenAI, GPT-4 is more advanced than the previous version and has been trained on more data, costing more to operate.

What does the term GPT stand for?

Generative Pre-trained Transformer (GPT) is a deep learning method that uses artificial neural networks to generate writing that resembles that of a person.

GPT-4, AI language model by OpenAI: Key Points

- As per the company GPT4 “**can tackle challenging issues with better accuracy**” and is “more creative and collaborative than ever before.”
- In assignments involving **creative and technical writing**, GPT-4 can generate, revise, and iterate with users. The new launched model can react to both text and graphics.
- GPT-4 may produce analyses, classifications, and captions.

Svaya Robotics unveils India's first homegrown quadruped robot and exoskeleton

Svaya Robotics, a Hyderabad-based company, has partnered with two DRDO labs, the Research and Development Establishment in Pune (R&DE) and Defence Bio-engineering & Electro Medical Laboratory in Bengaluru (DEBEL), to create **India's first quadruped robot and wearable exo-skeleton**.

The company has designed both robots to serve multiple purposes in industries and healthcare, and they are dual-use robots.

Quadruped robots:

- They are four-legged robots that can walk or run on uneven and rough terrains.
- The robots **can carry 25 kg in payload** and walk along with the soldier.

Exoskeleton:



- It is developed to suit **Indian soldiers' anthropometry** and augment soldier strength for walking long distances.
- These active exoskeletons, when worn by soldiers, **can carry heavy loads without expending much effort.**

Spring Equinox 2023

After the long winter blues, it's time to welcome the **Spring Equinox 2023**, which marks the **first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere**. This year, the equinox falls on March 20 and brings with it a **perfect balance of day and night**, marking the beginning of longer days and warmer weather.

What is spring equinox?

The Spring Equinox happens due to the **Earth's tilt at an angle of 23.5 degrees on its axis**. This angle results in the **uneven distribution of sunlight between the Northern and Southern Hemispheres during different seasons**.

During the **spring equinox**, the sun passes **directly over the equator**, resulting in equal daylight and darkness in most parts of the world. However, the length of day and night may vary slightly depending on your location.

INS Dronacharya Receives Prestigious President Droupadi Murmu's Colour Award

The Indian Navy's top gunnery school, **INS Dronacharya**, will be presented with the **President's Colour in honor** of its outstanding services.

President Droupadi Murmu will be conferring the award as the highest recognition bestowed upon a unit by the President, who serves as the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, for its exceptional service to the country.

About the INS Dronacharya

INS Dronacharya, situated in **Kochi**, is responsible for providing comprehensive training on gunnery and missile warfare to officers and sailors from the **Navy, Coast Guard**, and friendly foreign maritime forces. Its primary objective is to equip them with the skills necessary to deliver ordnance on target with precision.

Experience 'Bard' a ChatGPT Competitor

On March 21, 2023 (Tuesday) **Google** provides access to its new **AI chatbot called 'Bard'**. Bard has been designed as a rival of ChatGPT. It was the first time announced by the multinational company Google in February last month.

ChatGPT recently gained worldwide popularity after GPT-4, its latest model was launched. Now, this advanced Artificial Technology model Bard is all set to be available for testing for some users. The tests have already started in U.S. and U.K.



Google Introduces AI Product ‘Bard’

Global Tech Company Google unveils a classy futuristic model that is made using Artificial Technology. The firm welcomes ‘Bard’ and calls it an experiment and only some specifically selected users will be able to access ChatGPT’s rival in the market.

Who can Sign Up & Use Google Bard?

Currently, Google has only given access to **Bard Users in the US and UK** as they are **conducting tests** to check its productivity.

Similar to Microsoft’s launch of new Bing, Google’s Bard will also be made accessible to premium users who wish to sign up for a waitlist. **After some time**, this will appear in **other countries also**.

IIT Madras researchers develop pocket-friendly device to detect adulteration in milk

In just 30 seconds, a cost-effective and portable 3D paper-based device developed by researchers at **IIT Madras can detect milk adulteration**. This device is unlike traditional laboratory-based methods and can be used at home with just one millilitre of the liquid sample needed for testing.

The device is capable of identifying various commonly used adulterating agents, including but not limited to **detergents, soap, hydrogen peroxide, urea, starch, salt, and sodium-hydrogen-carbonate**.

Book News

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya unveils ‘India’s Vaccine Growth Story’ at World Book Fair 2023

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** released the book **‘India’s Vaccine Growth Story – From Cowpox to Vaccine Maitri’** authored by Shri Sajjan Singh Yadav, Additional Secretary, Govt of India at the **World Book fair 2023**, at Pragati Maidan.

The book elaborates on India’s impressive achievement in developing, producing and distributing COVID-19 vaccines.

Ghulam Nabi Azad’s Autobiography ‘Azaad’ released soon

Ghulam Nabi Azad, a **former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir** and Union Minister, has written an honest and forthright autobiography, which will be launched in New Delhi on April 5.

Titled **‘Azaad’**, the book chronicles Azad’s political journey and provides insights into the significant political changes that India has undergone over the past five decades.



Published by Rupa Publications India, ‘Azaad’ is a candid account of Azad’s life and career, including his interactions with influential leaders in India and around the world.

A book titled “As Good as My Word” wrote by KM Chandrasekhar

“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.

A book titled “India’s Struggle for Independence – Gandhian Era” released

Supreme Court Judge Justice **V. Ramasubramanian** has released a book titled **India’s Struggle for Independence – Gandhian Era**.

The book, authored by P. Jyothimani, former Judge, Madras High Court, and G. Balan, former professor of history, Pachaiyappa’s College, and published by Vanathi Pathipagam, was released at an event held at the University of Madras. The book covers aspects such as the **relevance of Mahatma Gandhi as of the date**.

Shrimant Kokate’s 1st book in English “Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj” released

Shrimant Kokate, a well-known Marathi author and historian, has recently released his first English book titled “**Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (illustrated)**”, which has been translated by Dilip Chavan.

The book was released by Amol Kolhe, a popular MP and actor known for his portrayals of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Sambhaji Maharaj in Marathi TV series. Kokate is renowned for his four books on Shivaji, which have received great reviews and have been widely read. He has written a total of 10 books on various subjects.

A book titled ‘Basu Chatterji: And Middle-of-the-Road Cinema’ released

A new book titled ‘**Basu Chatterji: And Middle-of-the-Road Cinema**’ has been released, which chronicles the life and times of the veteran Indian filmmaker **Basu Chatterjee**. The book is written by Aniruddha Bhattacharjee, an award-winning author, and has been published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI).

The book takes readers behind the scenes of some of Chatterjee’s most memorable films, such as ‘**Chitchor**’, ‘**Sara Aakash**’, ‘**Khatta Meetha**’ and ‘**Baton Baton Mein**’. It provides insights into Chatterjee’s filmmaking style and the cultural and social context in which his films were made.

A book titled “Phoolange” penned by Darjeeling-based writer Lekhnath Chhetri



Penguin Random House India (PRHI) has announced that the English translation of the Nepali novel “**Phoolange**” will be released on April 17th. The book is written by Lekhnath Chhetri, a writer based in Darjeeling, and focuses on the failed Gorkha movement for a separate state.

The original Nepali version of the novel was shortlisted for the **Madan Puraskar**, which is Nepal’s most prestigious literary award, in 2021.

A book titled “War & Women” written by Dr MA Hasan released

During the 52nd Session of the **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva, Switzerland**, a book entitled “**War and Women**” was launched.

The author, **Dr M A Hasan**, presented the book, which highlights the suffering of Bengali women who were victims of sexual violence perpetrated by the Pakistan Army during the 1971 war. The event was organized by the Bangladesh Freedom Fighters Sansad in Europe, and it was considered a significant moment for raising awareness about the issue.

Sports News

Name	Tournament & Title name	Extra Information
Karnataka	National Football Championship - Santosh Trophy	Karnataka becomes the Santosh Trophy winner marked by a stellar performance. Karnataka lifts the trophy after 54 long years of waiting by striking Meghalaya with a 3-2 win in the Grand Finale of the 76th edition of the National Football Championship.
Max Verstappen	Bahrain Grand Prix 2023	Max Verstappen won the season-opening Bahrain Grand Prix from pole position, leading almost the entire race as he opened the defense of his back-to-back Formula One titles.
Rohan Bopanna	ATP Masters 1000 title	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.



CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 2023

Sergio Pérez	Saudi Arabia Grand Prix 2023	At the Saudi Arabia Grand Prix of the 2023 Formula One season, Sergio Perez displayed a dominant performance and earned his first win.
Saweety	gold medal - Women's World Boxing C'ships	India bagged their 2nd gold medal of the day at Women's World Boxing Championships 2023 with Saweety winning the 75-81kg category final.
Mumbai Indians	Women's Premier League (WPL) 2023	In the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2023 final, held at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai, the Mumbai Indians won against the Delhi Capitals by seven wickets. The Delhi Capitals chose to bat first after winning the toss, and set a target of 132 runs.
Archana Suseendran	gold in AFI Indian Grand Prix 2	Tamil Nadu's Archana Suseendran beat Hima Das in the 100m final and made the most of the Assam sprinter's disqualification in the 200m to claim a double and steal the thunder in the women's events in the AFI Indian Grand Prix 2 at the Lakshmibai National Institute of Physical Education.
Shakib Al Hasan	become the top T20I wicket-taker	Shakib Al Hasan has surpassed Tim Southee to become the leading wicket-taker in T20I cricket during the second T20I match against Ireland in Chattogram.
Mohammad Shami	7th Indian fast bowler to take 100 wickets in IPL	Gujarat Titans fast bowler Mohammad Shami on Friday became the seventh Indian fast bowler to take 100 wickets in IPL.



CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 2023

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty	Swiss Open 2023 doubles title	Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, the popular Indian doubles badminton pair, secured their first doubles title of 2023 by winning the Swiss Open Super 300 finals.
---	-------------------------------	--

Obituary News

Name	Associated Field
Sasthipada Chattopadhyay	Renowned Bengali litterateur
Satish Kaushik	Veteran actor-director
Indibor Deuri	Notable scholar
Dick Fosbury	American high jumper
Kenzaburō Ōe	Nobel Prize-winning Japanese author
Pradeep Sarkar	Bollywood Director and Film Writer
Innocent Vareed Thekkethala	Malayalam comedy superstar

Important Days

Days	Date	Themes
World Civil Defence Day	March 01	Uniting the world's leading specialists for the safety and security of future generations
World Seagrass Day	March 01	
Zero Discrimination Day	March 01	Save lives: Decriminalise
Civil Accounts Day	March 01	
World Wildlife Day	March 03	Partnerships for wildlife conservation
World Hearing Day	March 03	Ear and hearing care for all
National Security Day	March 04	Nurture young minds – Develop safety culture
National Safety Day	March 04	Our Aim – Zero Harm
World Obesity Day	March 04	Changing Perspectives: Let's Talk About Obesity
International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness	March 05	
No Smoking Day	March 08	Stopping smoking improves your brain health
International Women's Day	March 08	DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality



CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 2023

CISF Raising Day	March 10	March 10 marks the 54th ceremony of CISF (Central Industrial Security Forces) Raising Day. It was formed in 1969 after the fire breakout in Ranchi (1964).
World Kidney Day	March 09	Kidney Health for Everyone – Preparing for the Unexpected, Supporting the Vulnerable
International Day of Women Judges	March 10	Women in Justice, Women for Justice
International Day of Action of Rivers	March 14	Rights of Rivers
World Consumer Rights Day	March 15	Empowering consumers through clean energy transitions
International Day of Mathematics or Pi Day	March 15	Mathematics for Everyone
International Day to Combat Islamophobia	March 15	
Global Recycling Day	March 18	Creative Innovation
India's Ordnance Factories Day	March 18	
World Sparrow Day	March 20	I Love Sparrows
World Oral Health Day	March 20	Be Proud of Your Mouth
International Day of Happiness	March 20	Be Mindful, Be Grateful, Be Kind
World Poetry Day	March 21	Always be a poet, even in prose
International Day of Forests	March 21	Forests and health
International Nowruz Day	March 21	
World Down Syndrome Day	March 21	With Us, Not For Us
International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	March 21	
World Water Day	March 22	accelerating the change to solve the water and sanitation crisis
World Meteorological Day	March 23	The future of weather, climate, and water across generations
International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims	March 24	
World Tuberculosis Day	March 24	Yes! We can end TB!
Purple Day of Epilepsy	March 26	
World Theatre Day	March 27	Theatre and a Culture of Peace
International Day of Zero Waste	March 30	



CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 2023

International Transgender Day of Visibility	March 31	
World Backup Day	March 31	
International Day of Drug Checking	March 31	

