



## Current Affairs Supplement

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## National

### 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.
- **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.
- Indian brand Jio is the second-strongest telecoms brand having a brand strength index score of 90/100 and earning an elite **AAA+ rating**. It increased its brand value up to 6 percent to \$5.4 billion; a two-point rise from last year.



### Two Australian Universities to set up Campuses in Gujarat's GIFT City

- Union Education Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** announced that two Australian universities Wollongong and Deakin are set to establish campuses in Gujarat's 'GIFT City'.
- The two universities will sign an agreement on setting up their campuses during **Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's** maiden visit to India next week.

### 'Catch the Rain 2023' campaign to be launched by President Murmu

- The **'Catch the Rain 2023' campaign** was introduced by **President Droupadi Murmu** in New Delhi. The campaign's central idea is the sustainability of drinking water sources.
- Addressing at the ceremony, the **President** stated that since India only has 4% of the world's water resources, water management and conservation are India's most pressing challenges.
- **President Droupadi Murmu** claimed that due to uncontrolled urbanisation, traditional methods of water conservation have been abandoned in the nation.
- The President emphasised that these issues—water scarcity and global warming—are consequences of it.



### Gold Deposits Found at Different Location in Three Districts of Odisha

- Steel and Mines Minister Prafulla Kumar Mallik has informed the state Assembly that **Gold deposits** have been found at different locations in three districts of **Odisha**, including Deogarh, Keonjhar, and Mayurbhanj.
- The Minister informed that the State Directorate of Mines and geology and the **Geological Survey of India** (GSI) conducted a preliminary survey and found the presence of gold deposits in the Adas area of Deogarh, Gopur, Gazipur, Kusakala, Adal, Saleikana, Dimirimunda, and Karadanga area of Keonjhar.

### Select central govt employees get one-time option to opt for old pension scheme

- In a major move, a select group of **central government employees** have been given a one-time option to opt for **old pension scheme**, according to a Personnel Ministry order. The employees who joined the **central government services** against posts advertised or notified before December 22, 2003, the day **National Pension System (NPS)**

- was notified, are eligible to join the old pension scheme under the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 (now 2021), said the order.
- This option may be exercised by the government servants concerned latest by **August 31, 2023**. The move came following various representations/references and court decisions in this regard, it said.

### 23rd Commonwealth Law Conference begins in Goa

- The 23rd Commonwealth Law Conference was inaugurated by Goa Governor **P.S. Sreedharan Pillai**.
- The five-day conference, which is being held from March 5-9, 2023, was also attended by Union Minister for Law and Justice **Kiren Rijiju** and Chief Minister of Goa **Dr. Pramod Sawant**.
- The Conference has 500 delegates from 52 countries in attendance.



### 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.



### 'Mundaka Upanishad: The Gateway to Eternity', written by former MP Dr. Karan Singh, is released

- Vice President **Jagdeep Dhankhar** announced the release of the book "**Mundaka Upanishad: The Gateway to Eternity**". **Dr. Karan Singh**, a former member of parliament, wrote the book at Upa-Rashtrapati Nivas in New Delhi. He is a philosopher and politician from India.
- **Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan** initially released this book in 1987. But, the current edition is unique since it includes **Dr. Kamal Kishor Mishra's** Hindi translation of **Dr. Karan Singh's** texts, who also transliterated the Sanskrit text in accordance with international standards.



### 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.





**Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway National Highway, Background and Facts**

- On March 12, 2023, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** dedicated the **Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway** to the country.
- The 118-km-long project will cut the distance between **Bengaluru** and **Mysuru**'s travel time from nearly three hours to just over 75 minutes.
- The NH-275 segment between **Bengaluru**, **Nidaghatta**, and **Mysuru** will have six lanes constructed as part of the project, which has a total development cost of about Rs 8,480 crores.

**Nitin Gadkari unveiled first methanol run buses in Bengaluru**

- The first methanol-powered buses in Bengaluru will be unveiled by Union Minister for Road and Transport, **Nitin Gadkari**.
- The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), NITI Aayog, Indian Oil Company (IOC), and Ashok Leyland are working together to carry out the initiative, which aims to lower the level of pollutants.
- A top BMTC official informed that MD15 (diesel with 15% methanol) bus pilot testing will begin around 5:30 pm from Vidhana Soudha.
- The BMTC intends to launch 80 buses that will use methanol fuel as part of the trial project, and 20 Ashok Leyland buses will also be introduced in the first stages.
- The Indian Oil Company will offer free fuel and methanol for three months as part of the experiment.

**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.

**India 8th most polluted country in the world: Swiss firm IQAir Report**

- According to the '**Global Air Quality**' study published by the **Swiss company IQAir**, **India** fell from the fifth to the **eighth most polluted nation** in the world in 2022.
- The research shows that the PM2.5 level in the most polluted Indian cities is 53.3. The two Indian cities that made the list of the most polluted cities in the world are Bhiwadi, which is a suburb of Delhi, and Delhi, which was not far behind at 92.6.
- At the same time, 39 out of 50 cities in the list of most polluted cities are from India.



**AAHAR 2023: Asia's biggest International Food and Hospitality Fair begins in Delhi**

- The objective of Aahar 2023, which was put together with the help of the Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries, the **Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**, and other organisations, is to showcase the hospitality industry's potential and showcase technologies, goods, and services to both domestic and foreign consumers.
- The greatest four-day culinary event in India is called **Aahar 2023**, where wholesalers, caterers, hoteliers, and restaurant owners gather to source the best food, hospitality, and equipment as well as to assess industry trends.
- At the fair's major event, **Culinary Art India**, WACS-certified jury members from India and overseas will also assess the skill of more than 500 cooks.

**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.

**National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approves HDFC and HDFC Bank merger**

- On March 17th, the **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** approved the merger of **HDFC Ltd and HDFC Bank**, which is considered to be the largest merger in the history of corporate India.
- The merger will create a massive banking entity by combining India's largest housing finance company with the country's largest private lender.
- Prior to this, HDFC Ltd had already received approval from various regulatory bodies and stock exchanges for the merger. Shares of both companies were trading higher on the BSE during late trading hours.

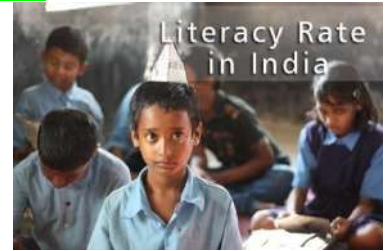
**Delhi airport adjudged best airport in South Asia: Skytrax**

- **Skytrax**, a **UK-based consultancy**, awards airports worldwide with the prestigious **World Airport Awards** based on customer surveys.
- For the fifth year in a row, **Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA)** has been declared the best airport in the South Asian region.
- The IGIA is an international airport and has received this recognition due to its excellent facilities and services provided to customers.



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

**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**.

**"Bipin: The Man Behind the Uniform" written by Rachna Biswat Rawat**

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

**Rajasthan CM announced 19 new districts and three new divisions**

- On 17 March 2023, Chief Minister **Ashok Gehlot** announced the creation of **19 new districts** and 3 new divisions in the state during his course of the discussion on the Finance and Appropriation Bill in the Legislative Assembly.
- **Rajasthan** will now have 19 new districts and 3 new divisions, taking the number of districts to 50 and divisions to 10.

**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.





### '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 project, which is being built in Salt Lake, West Bengal, is estimated to require an investment of approximately Rs 1,500 crore.
- The oldest World Trade Center in India is located in Mumbai, and there are additional Centers in Bangalore, Chennai, New Delhi, Noida, Pune, and other cities.



### The World Happiness Report 2023: India ranked 126

- **The 2023 World Happiness Report** has been released, and it shows that **Finland** remains the happiest country in the world for the sixth year in a row.
- **Denmark, Iceland, Israel, and the Netherlands** are the next happiest countries, with other European countries such as Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, and Luxembourg also making the top 10.
- The rankings are based on data from the main life evaluation question in the **Gallup World Poll**, which measures how happy citizens perceive themselves to be.



### 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.
- Kohli's brand value has been decreasing for the past two years since he resigned as the captain of the Indian men's cricket team.
- In 2020, his brand value was over \$237 million but steeply declined in 2021 to \$185.7 million, resulting in his current second-place ranking.



### Hurun Global Rich List: India ranks third in terms of self-made billionaires

- According to the 2023 M3M Hurun Global Rich List, **India** is ranked **third** in terms of the number of billionaires. However, China has almost five times more billionaires than India.
- The list shows that India has 105 self-made billionaires, ranking third in this category. The combined wealth of these billionaires is \$381 billion, according to the Hurun list.
- India's proportion of the world's billionaires has been consistently rising over the past five years, and it now





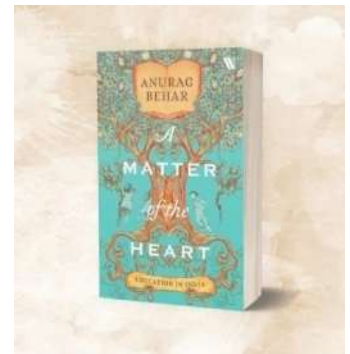
accounts for 8% of the total global billionaire population, compared to 4.9% five years ago. Among these billionaires, 57% are self-made.

### Microsoft introduces 'Bing Image Creator' powered by OpenAI's DALL-E

- In the latest preview of Bing and Edge, Microsoft has added a new functionality called '**Bing Image Creator**', which enables users to generate an image based on their written description by utilizing an enhanced version of **Open AI's DALL-E model**.
- Microsoft has announced the deployment of **Bing Image Creator** to Bing preview users via Bing chat, as well as the availability of the feature in Microsoft Edge for both desktop and mobile users worldwide in English.

### Anurag Behar authors the New Book "A Matter of the Heart: Education in India"

- **Anurag Behar**, the CEO of AzimPremji Foundation and founding vice-chancellor of AzimPremji University, has authored a new travel book titled "**A Matter of the Heart: Education in India**".
- The book is a collection of 110 stories, based on Behar's experiences working at the foundation, and sheds light on the state of education in India beyond the major cities.
- Through his writing, Behar pays tribute to the educators who are shaping the future of the country.
- The book has been published by Westland Nonfiction, which is a division of Nasadiya Technologies Pvt Ltd.
- Behar is a well-known educationist and leader in India's social sector.



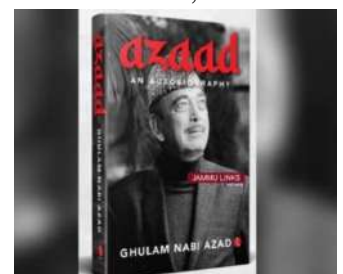
### Finance Bill 2023 passed in Lok Sabha

- 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**.



### GhulamNabi Azad's Autobiography 'Azaad' released soon

- **GhulamNabi 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.



### Cheetah Sasha dies due to kidney ailment in MP's Kuno National Park

- A Namibian Cheetah passed away at **Kuno National Park** in MP, India.

- The cheetah, named **Sasha**, was reportedly in good health when it was moved to India on **September 17th 2022**, but it was discovered that it had a **kidney infection**.
- This event was a setback for the project aimed at rejuvenating the cheetah population in the country.

### **BCCI Announces Herbalife as its Official Partner for TATA IPL 2023**

- **Herbalife**, a leading global nutrition company, has teamed up with the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** to become an official partner of the **TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) for the 2023 season**.
- This partnership brings together two strong brands that share a passion for sports.
- The IPL is a beloved cricket tournament for fans in India and around the world, while Herbalife is known for providing high-quality, science-based nutrition products that help athletes perform at their best.
- The TATA IPL 2023 is set to take place in India from March 31 to May 28, 2023.

### **Passport Index points: India ranks at 144th spot in 2023**

- According to the latest update from the **Passport Index**, **India's Mobility Scores** have decreased, resulting in the country experiencing the largest global drop on the Index this year.
- Prior to the pandemic in 2019, India had a mobility score of 71, which increased to 73 in 2022 as the post-pandemic wave of increasing mobility took effect.
- However, as of March 2023, its mobility score has dropped to 70.
- This decline has occurred despite record increases in mobility as the global and national economies re-opened after the pandemic.
- India's ranking has fallen by six places in 2023, resulting in an individual ranking of **144 compared to 138 in 2022**.



### **For the first time in the country, the decision on bail in the case of 'murder' with the help of ChatGPT**

- The **Punjab and Haryana Court** recently utilized the assistance of an AI chatbot called **ChatGPT** to make a decision regarding a bail application in a criminal case, marking the first time an Indian court has done so.
- The bench, led by **Justice Anoop Chitkara**, requested feedback from ChatGPT during the hearing of the bail petition filed by an individual who was taken into custody in June 2020 for **charges of criminal conspiracy, murder, rioting, and criminal intimidation**.

### **Jaipur to get India's 2nd largest cricket stadium named after Anil Agarwal**

- **Vedanta's Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Rajasthan Cricket Association** to build the **world's third-largest cricket stadium** in Chonp village, Jaipur.
- This project involves an investment of **INR 300 crore**, making it one of the largest corporate investments in India's sports infrastructure.
- The stadium will be named the **Anil Agarwal International Cricket Stadium, Jaipur**.

## International

### Australia's Deakin University to set up campus in GIFT city

- The first foreign university to establish a campus in India will be **Deakin University of Australia**. The autonomous campus will be built in **Gujarat International Financial Tec-City (GIFT) City**.
- While visiting **Ahmedabad**, Australian Prime Minister **Anthony Norman Albanese** is anticipated to make the official announcement.
- According to the **QS World University Rankings**, Deakin University is ranked 266 overall. It is one of the top 50 new universities worldwide.
- At least two Australian institutions are considering opening campuses in **India**.



### 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 glitzy shine, and sustain it.
- Once the brands are amalgamated, **Singapore Airlines** will own a quarter of a company that will have 218 aircraft and have access to high-paying parking and landing slots all over the world.



### Vistara Brand To Be Discontinued With Air India Merger

- **Air India**, owned by the **Tata group**, will discontinue the Vistara brand on completion of its merger with Tata SIA Airlines Ltd, the operator of Vistara airline, chief executive and managing director **Campbell Wilson** said. Tata Group owns a 51 per cent stake and Singapore Airlines the rest in Vistara.
- The full-service carrier will be known as Air India only, which is a much more recognisable brand outside India. Some of Vistara's heritage would be retained in that 'new manifestation', said Wilson.

### 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.
- With a net worth of \$117 billion, Amazon Executive Chairman **Jeff Bezos** ranks third in terms of wealth.
- The strong increase in Tesla stock price, which rose to 92% in 2023 and outpaced the Nasdaq 100 rally so far in 2023, has been cited as the cause of the jump in Musk's wealth.
- The increase in the **Nasdaq 100 Index** so far this year is 11%.





### Japan, U.S., South Korea, Taiwan launch 'Chip 4' talks for supply chain

- Japan, the United States, South Korea and Taiwan have held the first meeting of senior officials under a new U.S.-led framework to help ensure a stable **supply of semiconductors**, Japan's industry ministry said.
- Officials from industry organizations in the four economies took part in the virtual conference of the "**Chip 4**" **alliance** on Feb. 16 to discuss ways to maintain supply chain resilience in times of natural disasters and other contingencies.
- In a bid to outcompete **China** technologically, the Biden administration launched a new dialogue forum with Japan and South Korea on **friend-shoring semiconductors** as it invites companies to compete for a share of the \$50 billion already approved to revitalize the U.S. chip industry.
- The inaugural meeting of the **Economic Security Dialogue** among the United States, Japan and South Korea was launched in Honolulu.
- Japan and South Korea are home to two of the world's strongest semiconductor industries, and the forum aims to address issues related to critical and emerging technologies, supply chain resilience of semiconductors, batteries and critical minerals, as well as data transparency amid the **U.S.-China tech war**.



### The Windsor framework: The deal between UK and EU

- After months of intensive talks, the **United Kingdom and European Union** have unveiled an agreement on the Northern Ireland Protocol, called the **Windsor Framework**.
- This is not a new protocol or a fundamental rewrite of the current treaty. But the package announced this week is an improved deal that could substantively ease how the protocol will operate for businesses as well as individuals.
- It is a negotiating achievement that marks a turning point in the long road since **Brexit** for Northern Ireland.



### Ales Bialiatski, Nobel laureate sentenced prison for 10 years in Belarus

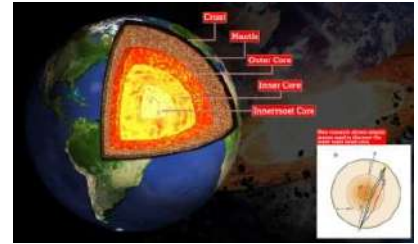
- **Ales Bialiatski**, a leading defender of human rights in **Belarus** and a candidate for the **2022 Nobel Peace Prize**, was given a 10-year prison term in **Minsk**, the Capital of Belarus.
- **Ales Bialiatski** and three other key members of the **Viasna human rights organisation** he created were found guilty of funding rallies against the government.
- After widespread protests over a 2020 election that delivered autocratic President Aleksandr Lukashenko a second term in office, they were detained and imprisoned.
- Since taking government in 1994, **Lukashenko** has repressed dissent and cracked down on independent media.

### Scientists confirm existence of a fifth layer in Earth's core

- Researchers trying to uncover the secrets of **Earth's geology** have revealed the **fifth layer of the planet**.
- Seismic waves generated by earthquakes have revealed new insights about the deepest parts of Earth's inner core. The fifth layer is made of **iron and nickel**, the same materials that comprise the rest of the inner core.



- The team of researchers from the **Australian National University** measured the speeds at which these seismic waves penetrate and pass through the **Earth's inner core**.
- The team believes that this has presented evidence of a distinct layer inside Earth known as the innermost inner core.
- The existence of an internal metallic ball within the inner core, the innermost inner core, was hypothesised about 20 years ago.



### 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.
- Silicon Valley Bank, the nation's **16th largest bank**, collapsed on Friday, forcing a government takeover and calling into question the fate of almost \$175 billion in customer deposits.
- **Signature Bank**, the 29th-largest bank in the U.S., also closed its doors, suggesting the financial panic had spread.
- Many bank stocks plummeted in early trading. First **Republic Bank** dropped 65% before trading was halted; Western Alliance Bancorp fell almost 60%. Charles Schwab, the eighth-largest U.S. bank, dropped nearly 10%.



### Earthquake of magnitude 7.1 strikes New Zealand's Kermadec Island

- An **earthquake** of 7.1 magnitude struck the New Zealand's Kermadec Islands region, the US Geological Survey (USGS) said.
- The **earthquake** was estimated at a depth of 10 km (6.21 miles). The US Tsunami Warning System has issued a tsunami warning following this earthquake.
- Reports in the **New Zealand** media are suggesting issuance of relevant rescue measures to prevent further mishappenings.

### ICC issues arrest warrant for Vladimir Putin over Ukraine war crimes

- The **International Criminal Court (ICC)** issued an arrest warrant for Russian President **Vladimir Putin** over the forced transfer of children to Russia after the Kremlin's invasion of **Ukraine**.
- Ukrainians accuse Russia of attempting genocide against them and seeking to destroy their identity — partly through deporting children to Russia.

- The ICC issued the warrant for Putin's arrest on **suspicion of unlawful deportation of children** and unlawful transfer of people from the territory of Ukraine to the Russian Federation.



### US recognized McMahon Line as international border

- A bipartisan resolution was passed by the US, formally recognizing the **McMahon Line** as the international boundary between **China and India's Arunachal Pradesh**.
- The resolution rejected China's claim that the state belongs to its territory and instead acknowledged Arunachal Pradesh as an integral part of India.
- Furthermore, the resolution expressed support for India's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

### Bangladesh commissions its first submarine base

- Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** inaugurated the first submarine base of Bangladesh '**BNS Sheikh Hasina**' at **Pekua in Cox's Bazar**.
- Hailing the newly inaugurated naval base as an 'ultra modern submarine base', Prime Minister called the event a proud chapter in the history of **Bangladesh navy**.
- This is the first ever full-fledged submarine base of Bangladesh Navy.
- Built at a cost of \$1.21 billion.
- The base can accommodate a total of six submarines and eight warships at a time.



### Japanese PM Kishida invites PM Modi to G7 Hiroshima summit

- Japanese Prime Minister **Fumio Kishida** has formally invited Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** to the G7 Summit after both had a delegation-level talk at Delhi's Hyderabad House.
- PM Modi said that PM Kishida's visit will be helpful to maintain a momentum of mutual cooperation between India and Japan.
- He pointed out the importance of leading two significant summits, **G20 and G7**, by respective countries.

### Google Bard: Everything you should know about

- It is built on Transformer technology, which is **also the backbone of ChatGPT** and other AI bots.
- Transformer technology was pioneered by Google and made **open source in 2017**.
- Transformer technology is a **Neural Network Architecture**, which is **capable of making predictions based on inputs** and is primarily used in natural language processing and computer vision technology.
- The architecture determines how the network processes information and influences its accuracy and efficiency in solving a particular problem. Common architectures include feedforward networks, recurrent networks, and convolutional neural networks.



**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).
- 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.

**Jack Dorsey's wealth tumbles \$526 million after Hindenburg short**

- **Hindenburg Research's** recent report accusing **Block Inc.** of ignoring extensive fraud has had a significant impact on co-founder **Jack Dorsey's** net worth.
- His fortune experienced its most substantial single-day decline since May, with a drop of 11%, resulting in a decrease of \$526 million.
- According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Dorsey's net worth now stands at \$4.4 billion.

**Google Doodle celebrates 77th birth anniversary of late Kitty O'Neil**

- Google Doodle: **Kitty O'Neil**, a famous American stuntwoman and actress who was deaf from a young age, was commemorated by Google on her **77th birthday anniversary** with a doodle featuring her in a yellow jumpsuit.
- She went on to become one of Hollywood's most famous stunt drivers.
- Google celebrated Kitty O'Neil's 77th birth anniversary with a doodle that depicted her in a yellow jumpsuit.
- Despite being deaf since childhood, she became a well-known stunt driver in Hollywood and held the women's absolute land speed record until 2019.

**First Citizens Bank Acquires Silicon Valley Bank**

- **First-Citizens Bank** and Trust Company, based in Raleigh, North Carolina, has entered a purchase and assumption agreement with the **Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)** to acquire all loans and deposits of the recently failed **Silicon Valley Bridge Bank** in the United States.
- The FDIC established Silicon Valley Bridge Bank, National Association after the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation closed down Silicon Valley Bank.





## Defence

### IPS officer RashmiShukla named Director-General of SSB

- Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, **RashmiShukla** has been appointed as the **Director-General of the SashastraSeemaBal (SSB)**. SSB is the border-guarding force deployed along Nepal and Bhutan border.
- RashmiShukla, a 1988 batch IPS officer of the Maharashtra cadre, was posted with the Central Reserve Police (CRPF).
- She was heading the State Intelligence Department in Maharashtra Police when the phones of Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut and Nationalist Congress Party leader EknathKhadse were allegedly tapped in 2019.



### IAF Participated in Exercise ShinyuuMaitri with Japan Air Self Defense Force

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** participated in **Exercise ShinyuuMaitri** with the Japan Air Self-Defence Force (JASDF).
- The Exercise ShinyuuMaitri is being organized on the sidelines of the Indo-Japan Joint Army Exercise, Dharma Guardian, which was conducted from 13 February 2023 to 02 March 2023 at Komatsu, Japan.
- The Indian Air Force is participating in **Exercise ShinyuuMaitri 23** with one C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.
- The Exercise has been conducted on the 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2023. The first phase of the exercise consists of discussions on transport operations and tactical maneuvering, followed by the second phase of flying drills by **IAF's C-17 and JASDF C-2** transport aircraft.

### 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**.



### Group Captain ShalizaDhami 1st woman to command frontline IAF combat unit

- In the first command appointment for a woman officer in the Indian Air Force (IAF), Group **Captain ShalizaDhami** has been selected to take over the command of a frontline combat unit in the Western sector.
- For the first time ever in the IAF's history, a woman officer has been given command of a frontline combat unit – in this case, a missile squadron in the Western sector.
- The IAF's move comes just two months after Captain Shiva Chauhan of the Indian Army's Fire and Fury Corps became the first woman officer to be operationally deployed at the world's highest battlefield in Siachen.





**In Ladakh, Colonel Geeta Rana is the first woman to command an army battalion**

- **Colonel Geeta Rana** of the Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers has taken over command of an independent field workshop in the **Eastern Ladakh region with China after the Indian Army** recently approved women officers for command posts.
- She is the first woman officer to do so. The Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers' Colonel Geeta Rana is the first female officer to assume control of an Independent Field Workshop in a remote and forward area in Eastern Ladakh.

**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.
- TROPEX is being conducted in many phases to test Navy's transition from peacetime to hostilities.
- 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.

**54th CISF Raising Day observed on March 10 across the country**

- Every year on **March 10**, the **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Raising Day** is observed to mark the CISF's founding in 1969.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs' top-tier central armed police force, the CISF, is in charge of providing security protection for several public sector organisations, airports, seaports, power plants, and other significant infrastructure projects across the nation.
- This year, the **54th CISF Raising Day** celebrated to appreciate the efforts and contributions of Central Industrial Security Force.

**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.

**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.

### 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.



### INS Dronacharya Receives Prestigious President DroupadiMurmu'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 DroupadiMurmu** 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.

### 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 exercise aims to improve interoperability and operational readiness for UN peacekeeping missions, and focuses on Humanitarian Mine Action and Peace Keeping Operations.
- The joint exercise is divided into four phases, including training of trainers, a Humanitarian Mine Action and Peace Keeping Operations Phase, and a validation exercise to assess the results of the training.
- The exercise seeks to enhance peace and security, exchange ideas, and promote a collaborative approach in capacity enhancement of African armies.
- Tactical drills, procedures, and the ability to operate jointly with seamless interoperability are the primary focus of the joint exercise.



### 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.
- These drills covered air, surface, and sub-surface operations, such as gunnery shoots on an inflatable surface target called 'Killer Tomato.'



helicopter operations, anti-aircraft, and anti-submarine warfare exercises, Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS), ship manoeuvres, and personnel exchange.

- The maritime exercise proved to be highly beneficial for the personnel of both navies, as it displayed a remarkable level of professionalism and enthusiasm throughout its execution.

### **GRSE launched the 'Most Silent Ship' INS Androth**

- **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)**, a shipbuilding company in India, has launched **INS Androth**, a vessel claimed to be the “most silent ship in the country” for the Indian Navy.
- The vessel is the first in a series of eight anti-submarine warfare shallow-watercraft to be delivered to the navy.
- The ships will be used for patrolling, search and rescue operations, and other military missions.
- The INS Androth has been designed to accommodate 50 crew members and is equipped with state-of-the-art communication systems, radars, and sonars to detect and track enemy submarines.



### **First batch of Agniveers passes out of INS Chilka**

- The “Agnipath” scheme is a defence recruitment initiative in India that aims to reduce the increasing salary and pension expenses by hiring short-term soldiers on a contract basis.
- These soldiers, known as ‘Agniveer’, will be initially recruited for four years, after which some of them may be retained.
- The scheme offers Indian youth an opportunity to serve in the Armed Forces and aims to achieve an optimal balance between youth and experience in the Army.
- Women will also be recruited into the armed forces under this scheme. Previously named “Tour of Duty”, the initiative was launched in the presence of the Chiefs of the three Services.
- Currently, the Army recruits youth under Short Service Commission for an initial tenure of 10 years, which can be extended up to 14 years.





## Appointments or Resign/Retired

### Vietnam parliament elects Vo Van Thuong as new president

- The country is changing its top leadership as it continues its anti-corruption campaign. The National Assembly(NA) of the Socialist Republic of **Vietnam** elected **Vo Van Thuong(Võ Văn Thưởng)** (52 years old), a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Vietnam, as the new President of Vietnam for a term running until 2026.
- Mr.Vo Van Thuong took oath as the new president of Vietnam during the National Assembly's extraordinary meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam. Vương Đình Huệ, Chairman of NA, on behalf of the parliament has recognised the oath of the new President.



### Rajesh Malhotra named principal director general of PIB

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



### Indo-American woman judge Tejal Mehta named 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.
- Mehta will serve as the first Justice of the Ayer District Court. She has served as an Associate Justice with the same court and was unanimously selected and sworn in by Judge Stacey Fortes, Chief Justice of the District Court.



### S.S. Dubey takes charge as new 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.
- Prior to that, Dubey has served as Chief Controller of Accounts in Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion etc. and as Controller/Deputy Controller of Accounts in Ministry of Environment & Forest, Ministry of External Affairs, Department of Revenue, Department of Supply etc. and was in-charge of budgeting, accounting, payment, internal audit etc. He also served as Financial Advisor & Chief Accounts Officer in Bank Note Press, Dewas.

### Amir Tamim appoints Sheikh Mohammed as 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 the country's new prime minister.
- The decision to appoint Sheikh Mohammed, who was the deputy prime minister, came after the amir accepted the resignation of former Prime Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani.
- Sheikh Khalid was appointed as Qatar's prime minister and minister of interior in January 2020.



### ManikSaha sworn in as 13th CM of Tripura

- **ManikSaha** 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.
- Governor Satyadeo Narayan Arya administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr.Saha and eight more MLAs as Ministers in the presence of Prime Minister NarendraModi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah held a marathon meeting with TIPRA Motha chief PradyotBikramManikyadebbarma and 13 MLAs of his party.
- Four of the new ministers have been retained from the previous government. The possible strength of the Council of Ministers in the 60-member House is 12.

### Conrad Sangma sworn-in as Meghalaya Chief Minister for 2nd term

- **Conrad KongkalSangma** was sworn in as the **Meghalaya chief minister** for the second successive term in the presence of Prime Minister NarendraModi.
- Governor PhaguChauhan administered the oath of office to Sangma, along with his two deputies PrestoneTynsong and SniawbhalandDhar, and nine other ministers.
- Sangma won from the **South Tura constituency** with a margin of 5,016 against BharatiyaJanata Party's Bernard N Marak, as per the data shared by the Election Commission of India on March 2.



### Savlon India appoints Sachin Tendulkar as 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.
- The campaign features a series of films featuring Sachin Tendulkar's Hand as their chief protagonist – bringing the importance of hand hygiene to everyone's notice.

### Xi Jinping starts third term as China's president

- **Xi Jinping** began an unprecedented third term as **China's president** after he was endorsed by a unanimous vote from the 2,977-member National People's Congress (NPC).
- Xi will head a hand-picked party and government team tasked with steering the world's second-largest economy through challenges at home and abroad over the next five years.
- After the voting, Xi took a constitutional oath, as both the country's **president and head of its military** – a symbolic move to show the significance of



the constitution after it was revised five years ago to scrap the presidential term limit, add Xi's political theory and emphasise the party's leadership of China.

### Chief Minister of Nagaland and NDPP leader Neiphiu Rio takes the oath of office

- **Neiphiu Rio**, the leader of the **Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP)**, took the oath of office as the **fifth Chief Minister of Nagaland**. Governor La Ganesan gave the 72-year-old lawmaker the oath of secrecy.
- Mr. Rio is serving his fifth term and second consecutive term as the NDPP's leader. The deputy chief ministers of Nagaland, Taditui Rangku Zeliang and Yanthungo Patton took the oath at Kohima among other Rio Cabinet members. Neiphiu Rio is contesting from home constituency **Northern Angami-II**.



### Arun Subramanian becomes 1st Indian-American judge at New York Court

- **Arun Subramanian**, an attorney, has been appointed as the first **Indian American judge of the Manhattan Federal District Court in New York**.
- The nomination of Mr. Subramanian for the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York was first made public by US President Joe Biden in September 2022. The Senate confirmed the nomination of Subramanian by a vote of 58-37.

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

- **Ram Chandra Paudel** has been elected to serve as the new **president of Nepal**.
- According to the Nepalese Election Commission, he received 33,800 electoral votes, while his opponent, Subash Chandra Nembang, received 15,500 votes.
- Ram Chandra Paudel received votes from 352 members of provincial assemblies and 214 members of parliament.



### GoI appoints Siddhartha Mohanty as interim chairman of LIC

- For a period of three months beginning March 14, the Center has chosen **Siddhartha Mohanty** as the interim chairman of the **Life Insurance Company of India (LIC)**. Currently the managing director and CEO of LIC Housing Finance, Mohanty will take over as MD of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) on February 1st, 2021.
- Up to his retirement on June 30, 2023, Siddhartha Mohanty was proposed to lead LIC as its MD. LIC's current MDs are Bishnu Charan Patnaik, Ipe Mini, Siddhartha Mohanty, and Raj Kumar, while the company's chairman is Shri Mangalam Ramasubramanian Kumar.



### Eric Garcetti appointed as US Ambassador to India

- The US Senate Committee has announced the appointment of **Eric Garcetti** as the new **US Ambassador to India**.
- Despite being nominated by President **Joe Biden** almost two years ago, Garcetti's appointment had been pending until now.



- Eric Garcetti served as the President of the City Council of Los Angeles for four consecutive terms and is known to be a close acquaintance of President Biden. He has also emerged as a leader within the Democratic Party.
- However, Garcetti's tenure as mayor of Los Angeles lasted for nine years and was not without controversy. In 2020, there was a controversial incident that occurred during his time in office.

### **Viacom18 announces former captain MS Dhoni as their brand ambassador**

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

### **G Krishnakumar appoints as Bharat Petroleum Corporation's chairman**

- **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)**, a 'Maharatna' and a Fortune Global 500 Company, announced that **G. Krishnakumar** has taken over as the Chairman and Managing Director of the company.
- **Krishnakumar**, an electrical and electronics engineer from National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli and a postgraduate in finance management from Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai, was executive director in the company before his elevation.
- He replaces **Arun Kumar Singh**, who retired as chairman in October 2022.
- Post that, Gupta was holding additional charge of the chairman. Krishnakumar will hold the position of chairman and managing director till April 2025 or until any further notice, whichever is earlier, according to an official order.



### **JayantiChauhan to lead Bisleri after TCPL withdraws acquisition plan**

- After Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL) withdrew from acquiring Bisleri International, Ramesh Chauhan, the chairman of the company, announced that his daughter JayantiChauhan will now lead the bottled water company.
- He also stated that he has no intention of selling the business and is not currently in talks with any parties about doing so.
- JayantiChauhan is currently the vice chairperson of Bisleri and has been involved with the business for several years.
- She has been driving innovation and overseeing sales and marketing teams, with a focus on market penetration and brand value.
- TCPL confirmed that it has ceased negotiations with Bisleri and has not entered into any agreements for the acquisition.



### **Former Brazilian President DilmaRousseff named new President of BRICS New Development Bank**



- The New Development Bank (NDB), which is also known as the BRICS bank and is a multilateral financial institution created by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, has announced that former **Brazilian President Dilma Vana Rousseff** has been elected as its new President.
- She replaces **Marcus Troyjo** in the position. Dilma Rousseff is an economist who served as the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil for two consecutive terms, from January 2011 to August 2016.



### **'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. In 2017, he completed the Ironman Triathlon, one of the most challenging sports events in the world.
- This is a three-day event that requires the participants to complete a 3.8-kilometre swim, a 180.2-kilometer bicycle ride, and a 42.2 km run in 16–17 hours.
- This achievement earned Prakash the 'Iron Man' title and a mention in the World Book of Records.
- He was the first Indian Government Servant, Civil Servant, and Uniformed Services Officer, including Armed Forces and Paramilitary Forces, to earn this title!



### **Indian-origin Sikh woman becomes Connecticut's first Asian assistant police chief**

- **Lt. Manmeet Colon**, who is of Indian origin and a Sikh woman officer, has recently taken up the position of assistant police chief in the state of Connecticut, becoming the first-ever person of Asian descent to hold the position.
- She has been a member of the New Haven Police Department (NHPD) for 15 years and was appointed as the city's third assistant police chief in an official ceremony.



### **SpiceJet's Ajay Singh takes over as ASSOCHAM President**

- **Ajay Singh**, the chief of SpiceJet, has become the new President of the **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.





**UAE President appoints Sheikh Mansour as Vice-President**

- The UAE President, **Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, has appointed his brother, **Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, as the Vice President of the country.
- The appointment was endorsed by the UAE Federal Supreme Council. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the current Vice President, will continue to hold the same position.
- Additionally, Sheikh Mohamed, who is also the Ruler of Abu Dhabi, has designated Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed and Sheikh Hazza bin Zayed as the Deputy Rulers of Abu Dhabi.

**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.

**Star Sports signed Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh as its brand ambassador**

- **Star Sports**, which is owned by **The Walt Disney Company India**, has appointed **Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh** as its brand ambassador.
- This is a significant step for the brand as it seeks to tap into Singh's immense popularity and love for sports to reach a wider and more diverse audience that may not have previously engaged deeply with sports.
- Singh will act as the "sutradhaar" or narrator for the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League (IPL), which the company is branding as the "Incredible League".
- He will also participate in creating content for the IPL, which is scheduled to begin on March 31st.

## Honours/ Awards

### **'NaatuNaatu' song from 'RRR' to be performed at the Oscars 2023 ceremony**

- **SS Rajamouli's 'RRR' movie**, the popular song **'NaatuNaatu'** which is nominated in the **'Best Original Song' category** will be performed at the 95th Academy Awards or Oscar awards by singers **Rahul Sipligunj** and **KaalaBhairava** in their Oscar debut.
- The song's music is composed by **M.M. Keeravaani**, while its lyrics are written by **Chandrabose**.
- The cross-cultural hit is nominated in the original song category alongside "This Is A Life" from "Everything Everywhere All at Once," "Applause" from "Tell It Like a Woman," and "Lift Me Up" from "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," all of which are part of the scheduled performances for the 95th annual ceremony.



### **HDFC Bank's Sashidhar Jagdishan is '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**.
- This award is given to him for his successful navigation of technology-related challenges while maintaining the bank's strong performance.
- The banking regulator had approved Jagdishan's appointment for a three-year period, after which he will be eligible for an extension. He will turn 58 this month. Jagdishan's journey in HDFC Bank started in 1996 as a manager in the finance function.



### **Writer Vinod Kumar Shukla wins 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, one of the most coveted literary prizes worldwide, after decades of composing acclaimed novels like *Naukar Ki Kameez* (1979) and poetry collections like *Sab Kuch Hona Bacha Rahega* (1992).
- The award is conferred annually by **PEN America**.

### **Mirabai Chanu won 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.
- BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year Award was launched in 2019 to celebrate sportswomen in India who have made their mark on the world stage.



### Sir David Chipperfield Selected as the 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.
- Chipperfield's storied career spans more than 40 years and includes 100-plus projects, ranging from civic, cultural, and academic buildings to residences and urban masterplanning throughout Asia, Europe, and North America.
- His built works, spanning over four decades, are expansive in typology and geography, including over one hundred works ranging from civic, cultural and academic buildings to residences and urban masterplanning throughout Asia, Europe and North America.



### Oscars 2023: RRR's "NaatuNaatu" wins Best Original Song

- **Oscars awards 2023:** The 95th Academy Awards (Oscars 2023) have announced that **RRR's "NaatuNaatu"** won 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, and "This is Life" from Everything Everywhere All At Once.
- The Oscars 2023 was accepted by lyricist **Chandrabose** and composer **Keeravani**.



### India received 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.
- As part of a global effort on advertising in the post-Covid period to reopen opportunities in India, the award has been granted to promotional films/television ads made by the Ministry.
- On March 8, 2023, at ITB, Berlin, ShriArvind Singh, Secretary (Tourism), Government of India, accepted the honours.



### Oscars 2023: The Elephant Whisperers wins in Best Documentary Short Category

- **The Elephant Whisperers**, a Netflix documentary short from **KartikiGonsalves** and **GuneetMonga**, 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.



### Oscars awards 2023 : Check the complete list of winners



- The **95th Academy Awards (Oscars Awards 2023)** are finally announced and the fans are excited to know how India fares at Oscars Awards 2023.
- The Academy Awards, or Oscars Awards 2023, which were originally held in 1929, recently celebrated their 95th anniversary.
- The Oscars Awards 2023 held on March 13 IST in Los Angeles' Dolby theatre. It was hosted by popular late night show host **Jimmy Kimmel**.

#### **VyasSamman 2022: GyanChaturvedi to be awarded for 'Pagalkhana'**

- **VyasSamman 2022: Pagalkhana**, a 2018 satirical novel by renowned Hindi author **Dr.GyanChaturvedi**, has been chosen for the **32nd VyasSamman**.
- Dr.Chaturvedi's Pagalkhana (mental hospital) was chosen for the prestigious VyasSamman by a selection committee led by distinguished author Prof. RamjiTiwari.
- The KK Birla Foundation founded the annual VyasSamman in 1991, which is awarded to a superb piece of Hindi literature authored by an Indian citizen and published within the previous ten years. A 4 lakh rupee award is offered.

#### **RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das Named 'Governor of the Year' by Central Banking**

- **Shaktikanta Das**, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, has been honored with the title **"Governor of the Year" for 2023** by Central Banking, an international economic research journal.
- The publication praised Das for his steady leadership during challenging periods, including the collapse of a significant non-banking company, the initial and second waves of the COVID-19 pandemic, and inflationary pressures due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- This is the second time an Indian central bank governor has received the award, with RaghuramRajan being the previous recipient in 2015.



#### **Sivasankari, the Renowned Tamil Writer, Honored with SaraswatiSamman 2022**

- **The KK Birla Foundation** has announced that Tamil writer **Sivasankari** will be the recipient of the prestigious **SaraswatiSamman award for the year 2022**, for her 2019 memoir, Surya Vamsam.
- This award is one of the most esteemed recognitions in Indian literature, and comes with a cash prize of Rs 15 lakh, a plaque, and a citation.
- Sivasankari is a prolific writer with a career spanning over 50 years, during which she has written 36 novels, 48 novellas, 150 short stories, 15 travelogues, seven collections of essays, and three biographies, including one on former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
- Her literary contributions have been widely recognized, and her works have been translated into several Indian languages, as well as English, Japanese, and Ukrainian.



#### **Indian-American to receive National Humanities medal from Joe Biden**

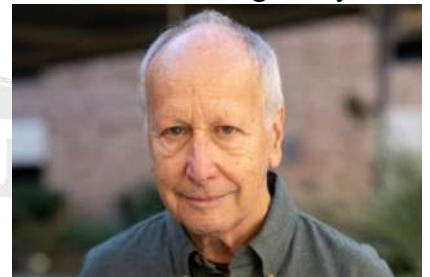
- The White House has announced that **US President Joe Biden** will bestow the 2021 National Humanities Medals upon several recipients, including Indian-American actress, comedian, and writer **Mindy Kaling**, also known as Vera Mindy Chokalingam.
- The **National Medal of Arts** is the most prestigious award granted by the US government to artists, arts advocates, and organizations.

### Indian Industrialist ShriRatan Tata appointed in '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.
- The announcement was made by **Australia's** Governor-General, following a recommendation by Australia's High Commissioner to India, Barry O'Farrell.
- **Ratan Tata**, who is the Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons and a former Chairman of the Tata Group, is recognized as one of the wealthiest entrepreneurs worldwide, with a net worth exceeding \$1 billion as of 2022.

### Luis Caffarelli won the 2023 Abel Prize

- **Luis Caffarelli**, 74, has won the **2023 Abel Prize** "for his seminal contributions to regularity theory for nonlinear partial differential equations including free-boundary problems and the Monge-Ampère equation".
- The prize includes a monetary award of 7.5 million kroner (roughly \$ 720,000) and a glass plaque designed by Norwegian artist HenrikHaugan.
- It is awarded by The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, on behalf of the Ministry of Education.



### M T Vasudevan Nair awarded Kerala's highest civilian honour

- 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 MadhavaMenon, and writer Omchery NN Pillai.
- **Arif Muhammad Khan**, the Governor of Kerala, has presented the inaugural edition of the "**Kerala Puraskarnal**" awards, which recognize individuals who have made notable contributions to various aspects of social life.
- The awards were presented in three categories – "**Kerala Jyothi**," "**Kerala Prabha**," and "**Kerala Shri**."



### Kashmir's Aliya Mir honoured with 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.
- She received the award from Lt. Manoj Sinha at the World Forestry Day celebrations hosted by the Jammu and Kashmir Collective Forests.
- Aliya was recognized for her remarkable contributions to wildlife conservation, including rescuing and releasing wild animals, caring for injured animals, and saving bears in Kashmir.



### **Bangabandhu Sheikh MujiburRahman honoured with literary award**

- **The Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL)** presented a unique literary award to **Bangabandhu Sheikh MujiburRahman** of Bangladesh for his trilogy of books, which includes *The Unfinished Memoirs*, *The Prison Diaries*, and *The New China 1952*.
- FOSWAL acknowledged Bangabandhu Sheikh MujiburRahman's exceptional literary skills and awarded him for his outstanding literary excellence in the trilogy, according to the citation provided by the organization.





## Sports

### Karnataka end 54-year wait, wins Santosh Trophy

- **Karnataka** ended their 54-year wait to win the **Santosh Trophy** national football championship, beating **Meghalaya** 3-2 in a pulsating final at the King Fahd International Stadium in the Saudi Arabia capital.
- Services beat Punjab 2-0 in the playoff to finish third. PP Shafeel and Christopher Kamei scored in either half. Services, winners of five of the last 10 editions, took the lead in the seventh minute through a strike from distance by Shafeel before Kamei converted a left-footed attempt from outside the box.
- Karnataka (Sunil Kumar 2', BekleyOram 19', Robin Yadav 42') 3 – 2 Meghalaya (BrolingtonWarlarpih 19', Sheen Stevenson Spkhtung 60').



### Max Verstappen wins season-opening 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.
- It was the first time he had won in Bahrain and also the first time he had triumphed in a Formula One opener.
- Red Bull also clinched a dominant 1-2 with Sergio Perez finishing second while 41-year-old Fernando Alonso took a brilliant third place and claimed a 99th career podium on a stunning race debut for Aston Martin.



### Women's World Boxing Championships 2023: MC Mary Kom, FarhanAkhtar named brand ambassadors

- **The Indira Gandhi Sports Complex** in New Delhi will host the IBA Women's World Boxing Championship 2023 from March 15–26.
- Mahindra has been named the title sponsor of this competition by the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), while **MC Mary Kom** and Bollywood actor **FarhanAkhtar** have been named as brand ambassadors.
- The third time in history, India is serving as the host country. The BFI's goal of promoting female boxing involvement will be greatly enhanced by the appearance of Marykom and Bollywood superstar FarhanAkhtar.

### FIFA president Gianni Infantino re-elected for another term

- **Gianni Infantino** was re-elected as **FIFA president until 2027** by acclamation, after highlighting his strong financial performance as a reason for keeping a CEO in their position for life.
- The decision was made by the congress of 211 member federations, who have seen their annual funding from FIFA increase from \$250,000 to \$2 million since Infantino's first win in 2016.
- Following the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, FIFA now has \$4 billion in reserves, and it conservatively predicts a record



revenue of at least \$11 billion from the 2026 men's World Cup, which will be hosted in North America.

#### Irani Cup 2022-23 final: Rest of India crowned champions

- In the final of the Irani Cup 2022/23, **Team Rest of India** secured their 30th title win in the Indian domestic tournament, continuing their dominant performance.
- They defeated **Madhya Pradesh** by 238 runs. Yashasvi Jaiswal, who showcased brilliant batting skills across both innings, was adjudged the Player of the Match.
- He smashed a double century and a century in the two innings, contributing significantly to ROI's victory.



#### Former Australia Cricket Captain Tim Paine Announces Retirement from the Sport

- **Tim Paine**, the former captain of the Australian test cricket team, has announced his retirement from cricket after playing his last **Sheffield Shield first-class match for Tasmania against Queensland**.
- Paine led the Australian team in 23 tests from 2018 to 2021 and played a total of 35 tests in his career.
- He took over as captain after Steve Smith was stripped of the role following the ball-tampering scandal during Australia's 2018 tour of South Africa.

#### Pankaj Advani retains Asian Billiards title defeating Damani

- **Pankaj Advani**, the **Indian cue sports champion**, has retained his **Asian Billiards title** in the **100-up format** after defeating his compatriot **Brijesh Damani** 5-1 in the final held at **Qatar Billiards and Snooker Federation (QBSF) Academy**.
- Advani, who has won the **International Billiards and Snooker Federation (IBSF) world championship 25 times**, won the match with a scoreline of **100(51)-18, 100(88)-9, 86(54)-101(75), 100-26, 100(66)-2, 101(64)-59**.

#### IPL India's first unicorn with a \$1.1 billion valuation: D&P report

- **D&P Advisory** has analyzed the **Indian Premier League (IPL)** and reported that the cricket tournament was India's first unicorn, with a valuation of **\$1.1 billion in 2008**, the year it was launched.
- The advisory had previously announced that IPL had become a decacorn (valued at \$10.9 billion) recently. D&P Advisory is now preparing to publish a new analysis called **"IPL: The Pioneer of Indian Unicorns."**

#### Sergio Pérez wins 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.
- His teammate at Red Bull, **Max Verstappen**, secured the second position after starting from the 15th spot.
- Although Verstappen retained his lead in the championship standings with his fastest lap, **Fernando Alonso** was the focus of the battle for the final podium spot, finishing in third place.



#### WPL 2023 Final: Mumbai Indians defeated Delhi Capitals by seven wickets

- 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.
- In response, the Mumbai Indians achieved the target by scoring 134/3 in 19.3 overs.
- Nat Sciver-Brunt played exceptionally well and remained unbeaten after scoring 60 runs off 55 balls, while the team's captain Harmanpreet Kaur contributed 37 runs off 39 balls.
- The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side scripted history by becoming the winners of the 2023 edition of the tournament.



### 2023 IBA Women's World Boxing Championships: Check the list of Winners

- India emerged as a dominant force at the 13th edition of the **IBA Women's World Boxing Championship 2023, held in New Delhi**.
- The event concluded with four Indian female boxers securing gold medals in different weight categories.
- Saweety Boora, Nitu Ghanghas, Nikhat Zareen, and Lovlina Borgohain were the top performers in their respective categories, contributing to India's historic success in the competition.
- This was the second time India achieved such a remarkable feat, the first being in the 2006 event.
- The 13th edition of the Women's World Boxing Championship 2023 was organised by the International Boxing Association (IBA) and took place from **March 15 to March 26, 2023**.



### Shakib Al Hasan surpasses Southee to 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.
- With 136 wickets in T20I at an average of 20.67 and an economy rate of 6.8, Shakib is considered as one of the best all-rounders in T20 cricket.
- He has also scored 2339 runs at a strike rate of 122.33 in T20I.
- Shakib made his debut in T20I against Zimbabwe in 2006 and has played 114 matches since then, featuring in all seven editions of the **ICC Men's T20 World Cup**.





## Obituaries

### Veteran actor-director SatishKaushik passes away at 67

- Veteran actor-writer-director **SatishKaushik** has passed away at the age of 67.
- He was born on April 13, 1965, in Haryana, Kaushik was an alumnus of the NSD and the FTII, and started his film career in the early 1980s.
- He was an Indian actor, comedian, screenwriter, director and producer. He acted in theatres before finding his break in Bollywood.



### Former diplomat, Padma Bhushan awardee ChandrashekharDasgupta passes away

- **ChandrashekharDasgupta**, a former Indian diplomat and the Padma Bhushan Awardee (2008), passed away at the age of 82. He was born on 2nd May 1940 in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- ChandrashekharDasgupta was awarded the 3rd-highest civilian honour, the Padma Bhushan, for Civil Service (Delhi) in 2008.
- ChandrashekharDasgupta joined the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) in 1962. Between 1981 and 1984, he served as high commissioner to Singapore, then between 1984 and 1986, he served as Tanzania's high commissioner.

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

- Former Chief Justice of India **A.M. Ahmadi** has passed away at the age of 90. **Ahmadi** was the chief justice from 1994 to 1997.
- His judicial career as a City Civil and Session Court judge in Ahmedabad, he was the only Chief Justice of India who started at the very lowest rank to rise to the highest position of the Indian judiciary.



### Director PradeepSarkar passes away at 67

- **PradeepSarkar**, a renowned filmmaker who directed successful movies like Parineeta and Mardaani, has passed away at the age of 67.
- He began his career in directing with the film Parineeta in 2005, starring VidyaBalan, and went on to direct other popular movies such as LagaChunari Mein Daag, Helicopter Eela, and LafangeyParindey.
- In addition, he also directed several web series, including ColddLassiAur Chicken Masala, Arranged Marriage And Forbidden Love, and Duranga.
- Sarkar received several accolades for his work, including the Filmfare Award for Best Art Direction and Zee Cine Award for Most Promising Director for Parineeta in 2005 and the Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director in 2006.



## Important Days with theme

### World Wildlife Day 2023 celebrates on 3rd March

- Every **3rd of March**, wildlife is celebrated all over the world for the **UN World Wildlife Day**. This date was chosen as it is the birthday of CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, signed in 1973.
- This global event is marked annually to celebrate and promote awareness of the planet's wild fauna and flora.
- The date also marks the adoption of the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** in 1973. CITES aims to prevent international trade from threatening species' survival.



### National Security Day 2023 observed on 04th March

- India celebrates **National Security Day** on **March 4** every year. **Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas** is another name for it, and it is a holiday honouring the Indian Security Forces.
- The purpose of the **National Security Day** is to express gratitude to our nation's security forces, which include the police, paramilitary units, guards, commandos, army officers, and other units involved in preserving the safety and security of our citizens.
- The National Safety Council of India announced the theme for this year to be '**Nurture young minds – Develop safety culture**'. The NSC announces a new theme for the year to celebrate the week-long celebration.

### National Safety Day 2023 Observed on 04th March

- **National Safety Day** is observed on **March 4** annually with an aim to promote safe working environment and ensure safety of people in all aspects.
- **National Safety Day 2023** is marked to raise awareness about safety measures and protocols so that any kind of untoward incident can be averted.
- The campaign is comprehensive, general and flexible with an appeal to the participating organisations to develop specific activities as per their safety requirements. This year will mark the onset of the **52nd National Safety Day**.
- The theme for 2023 National Safety Day is '**Our Aim – Zero Harm**'.



### International Women's Day 2023- Theme, Facts and History

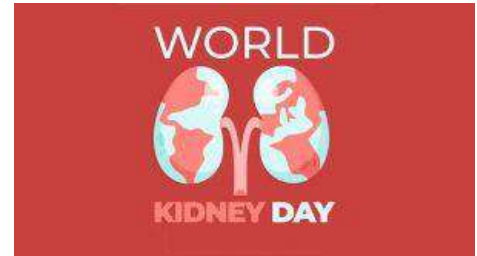
- Every year on **March 8**, the world celebrates **International Women's Day** as a focal point for the campaign for women's rights.
- International Women's Day 2023 raises awareness of topics including gender equality, access to abortion, and violence and abuse against women.
- International Women's Day serves as a rallying point for advancing women's equality. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality.



- International Women's Day 2023 is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women, who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.

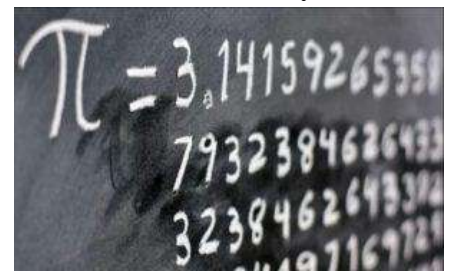
### World Kidney Day 2023 observed on 9th March

- On the **second Thursday in March** each year, the world observes **World Kidney Day**, a day dedicated to raising awareness about kidney health.
- On **March 9, 2023**, it will be remembered this year. The International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the **International Federation of Kidney Foundations-World Kidney Alliance** are working together on it (IFKF-WKA).
- The day has been marked annually since 2006 and is significant since it promotes everyone's renal health.
- **"Kidney Health for Everyone – Preparing for the Unexpected, Supporting the Vulnerable"** is the theme for World Kidney Day in 2023.



### International Day of Mathematics or Pi Day observed globally

- Every year on March 14, the **International Day of Mathematics**, also known as Pi Day, is observed to honour the mathematical constant Pi, which expresses the proportion of a circle's circumference to its diameter.
- The value for Pi is 3.14. Every year, all nations are welcome to take part in events that are open to the public and students in schools, museums, libraries, and other locations.
- At its 205th meeting, the Executive Council of **UNESCO** declared March 14 to be the International Day of Mathematics.



### World Consumer rights Day 2023 observed on March 15th globally

- Every year on **March 15**, the **International Consumer Rights Day** is observed with the goal of promoting consumer protection and increasing global knowledge of consumer rights.
- The day is also used to raise awareness of global market inequities. The yearly celebration of cooperation among the global consumer movement.
- On this day, consumers everywhere promote their fundamental rights, call for their protection and observance, and denounce unfair trade practises.
- World Consumer Rights Day 2023's theme is **"Empowering Consumers Through Clean Energy Transitions."**



### International Day of Happiness 2023 celebrates on 20 March

- The theme of International Day of Happiness for this year has been kept as **"Be Mindful, Be Grateful, Be Kind."**
- International Day of Happiness Recognizes the importance of happiness: The day emphasizes the significance of happiness as a universal goal and a fundamental human right.



**International Day of Forests: 21 March**

- March 21st is observed as **International Day of Forests or World Forestry Day** worldwide to increase awareness about the importance of forests, woodlands, and trees in our lives.
- It is important to understand the value, significance, and contributions of the forests to balancing the life cycle on earth.
- An issue like deforestation is also addressed on this day.
- The International Day of Forests for 2023 has adopted the theme of “**Forests and health**” to emphasize the interdependence between the existence of forests and our well-being.
- Forests play a critical role in supporting the survival of all living creatures, including humans.

**World Water Day 2023 observed on 22nd March**

- **World Water Day** is observed on **March 22** each year to emphasize the significance of water and to create awareness about the global water crisis.
- The primary purpose of celebrating this day is to promote the achievement of SDG 6, which aims to provide access to clean water and sanitation for everyone by 2030.
- The day is dedicated to raising awareness about water-related issues, such as water pollution, water scarcity, insufficient water supply, and inadequate sanitation.
- The objective is to inspire individuals to manage freshwater resources sustainably and take necessary actions to address these issues.

**World Meteorological Day 2023 observed on 23rd March**

- Every year on **March 23**, **World Meteorological Day** is celebrated to mark the official formation of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) in 1950.
- The day recognizes the crucial role of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) in ensuring the safety and welfare of society.
- The day showcase the essential contribution of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services to the safety and well-being of society and will be celebrated with activities around the world.

**ShaheedDiwas or Martyrs' Day 2023 Observed On 23rd March**

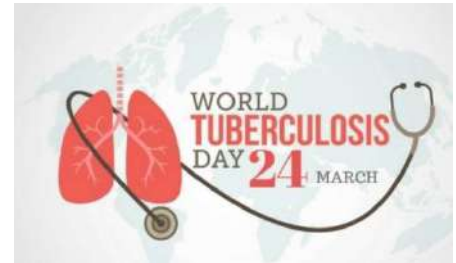
- **ShaheedDiwas or Martyrs' Day** is observed in India on **23rd March** every year to pay homage to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of India.
- This day marks the anniversary of the execution of three Indian freedom fighters- **Bhagat Singh, SukhdevThapar and ShivaramRajguru in 1931.**

- On this day, people in India observe a two-minute silence to remember the sacrifice of these three great freedom fighters and all the other martyrs who laid down their lives for the nation.



### World Tuberculosis Day 2023 observed on 24 March

- World Tuberculosis Day** is observed on **March 24th** every year to raise awareness about the global epidemic of tuberculosis (TB) and efforts to eliminate the disease.
- The World Health Organization (**WHO**) aims to end the TB epidemic by 2030. The organization works with governments, non-governmental organizations, and other partners to increase access to TB prevention, diagnosis, and treatment, and to develop new tools and strategies for TB control.
- On World Tuberculosis Day, organizations and individuals around the world organize events and activities to raise awareness about TB, its causes, symptoms, and treatment, and to promote efforts to eliminate the disease.
- The day provides an opportunity for people to come together and take action to help end the TB epidemic.
- The theme for this year's World Tuberculosis Day is **"Yes! We can end TB!"** and it focuses on urging leaders from around the world to take action to stop the TB epidemic.



### World Theatre Day 2023 is celebrated on 27th March

- Every year on **March 27**, **World Theatre Day** is celebrated worldwide to promote the significance of theatrical forms.
- Theatre not only provides entertainment but also serves as an art form that educates and inspires individuals.
- Many plays are performed on a variety of topics, including social issues, entertainment, and comedy.
- This day aims to increase public understanding of the importance of theatre in our lives.
- World Theatre Day promotes the importance of theatre to the public and encourages people to participate in theatre events.
- Overall, World Theatre Day is a celebration of the power of theatre and its ability to transform and enrich our lives.