



Current Affairs

Magazine for all Govt. Exams, Mumbai

SSC-BANK-RAILWAY-LIC-POST

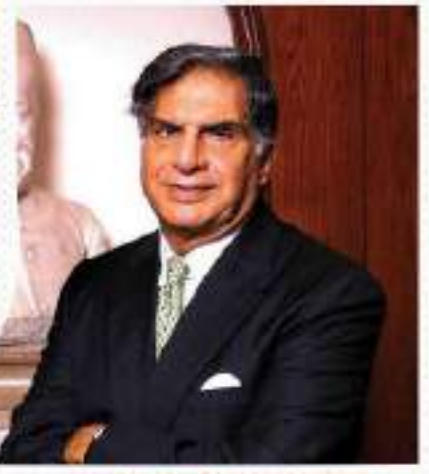
April 2023

₹ 60/-

Founder : Manohar E. Patil • Author : Sandip E. Patil

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The Officers Times®

Current Affairs

April 2023

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(Founder-Director Reliable Academy)

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The Reliable Publication, Pune

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The Reliable Publication, Pune

Appointment

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.



- ▶▶ Dubey, a 1989-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) officer, is appointed by the Government of India as the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) with effect from 6th March, 2023. Prior to taking charge as the CGA, Shri Dubey was Additional Controller of Accounts, Public Financial Management System (PFMS).

About the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) :

- ▶▶ Controller General of Accounts (CGA) is 'the Principal Advisor' on Accounting matters to the Union Government. CGA is responsible for establishing and managing a technically sound Management Accounting System and preparation & submission of the accounts of the Union government. CGA is also responsible for exchequer control and conduct of internal audits for the central government....

Nepal elects Ram Chandra Paudel as its next president :

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

About Ram Chandra Paudel :

- ▶▶ In addition, he held the positions of President of Nepal, Cabinet Minister, and Deputy Prime Minister.
- ▶▶ He held the positions of general secretary from 2005 to 2007, vice president from 2007 to 2015, and acting president from 1980 to 2005 of the Nepali Congress Tanhu District Committee.
- ▶▶ Ram Chandra Paudel served as Speaker from December 1994 to March 1999, Minister of Local Development from May 1991 to May 1992, and Minister of Agriculture from May 1992 to May 1991.

About Nepal -

- ▶▶ The Shah dynasty created the kingdom of Nepal;
- ▶▶ Prime Minister: Pushpa Kamal Dahal;
- ▶▶ Capital: Kathmandu;...

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 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.
- ▶▶ The NPC also appointed former executive vice premier Han Zheng, who returns to Xi's side as vice-president, making him the second Communist Party member without a rank to take the job since 1998 after Wang Qishan. Han got 2,952 votes.

A critical moment for China and Xi Jinping :

- ▶▶ Analysts say it will be a critical period for both Xi and China as he needs to put the country back on an economic growth path to convince the world that China's unique governance and development model works and that his ambitious political legacy is within reach amid intensified rivalry with the US, the potential for conflict over Taiwan and concerns about the economic impact of China's rapidly ageing population.

- ▶▶ Xi's trusted allies will be appointed to key government roles in the remaining two days of the annual parliamentary session.

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.



- ▶▶ 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.
- ▶▶ Ms. Mehta's goal to focus on one place and to become the first Justice of the Ayer District Court rested in a desire to make a positive impact on the community she has grown close to. They handle trials within the federal court system — both civil and criminal. (IANS)

Life and Career of Tejal Mehta -

- ▶▶ Born to a chemist father and a mother who worked in a hospital, Mehta earned a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Notre Dame in 1997.
- ▶▶ Thereafter, she completed a JD at Boston University School of Law in 2000. She then entered into private practice the following year, working as an associate at Gadsby Hannah (2001 to 2002), Cohn & Dussi (2002), and Deutsch, Williams, Brooks, DeRensis & Holland (2002 to 2004). In 2005, the Indian-American judge joined the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office as an assistant district attorney.
- ▶▶ She worked in that capacity until 2016, at which time she opened her own private practice as a sole practitioner.
- ▶▶ Her memberships have included the Massachusetts Bar Association and the South Asian Bar Association.
- ▶▶ She also sat on the Board of Bar Overseers as well as the Executive Board of the Bedford Montessori School. There are 94 district courts, 13 circuit courts, and one Supreme Court throughout the country..

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 Satyendra Prakash, who took charge as principal DG of PIB in August 2022.

About the Rajesh Malhotra -



Rajesh Malhotra

- ▶ Malhotra, a 1989 batch officer, had been working in Ministry of Finance since January 2018. "During the critical Covid-19 pandemic, he effectively steered the media and communication policy in the Ministry of Finance in sync with the various AatmaNirbhar Bharat Packages announced by the government over time to give relief to people and maintain economic balance,".
- ▶ Malhotra has over 32 years of operational experience in planning and implementation of media and communication strategies for the Election Commission of India and various central government ministries/ departments including finance, company affairs, agriculture, power, coal, mines, communications and IT, textiles, labour, new & renewable energy. He was associated with Election Commission of India as in-charge of media & communication for 21 years till 2017.

Evolution of PIB :

- ▶ IB's origin can be traced back to the pre-independence days. It was in June, 1919 that a small cell was created in the Home Department. It was rechristened the Central Bureau of Information under a full-fledged Director. In 1923, it came to be known as the Bureau of Public Information. A study undertaken in 1936 led to the reorganisation of the Bureau into a modern publicity organisation. The designation of the head of the organisation was subsequently changed to Principal Information Officer in 1938. In 1941, the Bureau was placed under the Department of Information and Broadcasting. Press Information Bureau acquired its present name in 1946, and became a department of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting after 1947....

Group Captain Shaliza Dhami 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 Shaliza Dhami 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.

- ▶▶ Group Captain Dhama was commissioned in 2003 as a Helicopter pilot and has over 2,800 hours of flying experience. A Qualified Flying Instructor, she has served as Flight Commander of a Helicopter Unit in the Western sector. The armed forces have opened up command appointments for women officers following a Supreme Court verdict. The Army recently conducted interviews and approved the first batch of women officers for command appointments.



Shaliza Dhama

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.
- ▶▶ ITC's SavlonSwasth India Mission has been at the forefront, seeding behavioural change towards hand hygiene through innovative experiences and initiatives. Started in 2016, the SavlonSwasth India Mission program is run by ITC Limited. ITC's SavlonSwasth India Mission has been at the leading edge of encouraging a change in behaviour towards hand hygiene. One of the clearest, most efficient ways to limit the spread of diseases is by routine handwashing. Preventable infections place a significant economic burden on our nation. The SavlonSwasth India Mission advances its mission to foster a culture of hand hygiene for a healthier country with Sachin Tendulkar as the first-ever hand ambassador.



Hand Ambassador

Recently Appointed Brand Ambassador's -

- ▶▶ Anushka Sharma – Puma India
- ▶▶ Deepika Padukone – American furniture retailer Pottery Barn
- ▶▶ Virat Kohli – Wearables smartwatch leader Noise
- ▶▶ Prasoon Joshi – Uttarakhand State
- ▶▶ Ayushmann Khurrana – UNICEF's National Ambassador for Child Rights
- ▶▶ Yastika Bhatia & Renuka Singh Thakur – Hyundai Motor India Ltd
- ▶▶ Harmanpreet Kaur – Puma India
- ▶▶ Nikhat Zareen – NMDC (National miner company)
- ▶▶ Smriti Mandhana – Herbalife Nutrition
- ▶▶ Sourav Ganguly – Jahaan Bandhan, Wahaan Trust campaign (Bandhan Bank)...

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
- ▶▶ 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.
- ▶▶ After the Army's clearance of 108 positions for female officers to assume command of independent units in the Corps of Engineers, Ordnance, EME, and other branches, the officer has assumed control of the independent workshop for the EME. The female officers who passed the exams would be awarded leadership positions and might also be given consideration for future promotions to higher ranks in the military. Women soldiers are now being sent by the Army on peacekeeping operations and in joint training exercises with friendly foreign nations.
- ▶▶ Women officers and troops should be given every opportunity, according to Army Chief Gen ManojPande, and their admittan...



Colonel Geeta Rana

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.
- ▶▶ 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.



Arun Subramanian

Here's all you need to know about Arun Subramanian :

- ▶▶ According to the statement, Mr. Subramanian earned his BA from Case Western Reserve University

in 2001 and his Juris Doctor (J.D.) from Columbia Law School in 2004. He has been employed since 2007 as a partner at Susman Godfrey LLP in New York. About a billion dollars have been successfully recovered over Mr. Subramanian's career for both public and private institutions that had fallen victim to fraud and other criminal activity. Three years later, he earned his law degree from Columbia Law School as a James Kent & Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar. He also served as executive articles editor for the Columbia Law Review.

- ▶▶ Subramanian currently serves as Chairperson of Susman Godfrey's 2022 Pro Bono Committee and is also a longtime Director of the Columbia Law Review, one of the Nation's pre-eminent legal journals. Arun Subramanian was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1979....

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.



G. Krishnakumar

- ▶▶ 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.

History of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited -

- ▶▶ The Burmah Shell was acquired by the Indian government on January 24, 1976, resulting in the creation of Bharat Refineries Limited. It changed its name to Bharat Petroleum Company Limited on August 1st, 1977. Also, it was the first refinery to process Bombay High, a recently discovered indigenous crude.

IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. Sewree Fort Road, Near Sewree Station, Mumbai.

Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav becomes Nepal's third Vice President

- ▶▶ Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav, a leader of the Janata Samajbadi Party, has won the election to become Nepal's third Vice President. He was able to secure victory over Astalaxmi Shakya of CPN (UML) and Mamata Jha of the Janamat Party with support from Nepali Congress, CPN (Maoist Centre), and the CPN (Unified Socialist) including the ruling alliance. The election was held today with participation from 311 federal lawmakers and 518 Provincial Assembly members. The polling centre for the election was located at the New Baneshwor-based Federal Parliament Building in Kathmandu.
- ▶▶ The Constitution of Nepal states that the Vice President can act as the President in case the President is not available. The term of office for the Vice President is five years, starting from the day of their election. Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav, who has been elected as the third Vice President of Nepal, was a former Minister for Forests and Environment and served as a member of Nepal's first Federal Parliament. He was elected to the Bara 2 constituency in the 2017 Nepalese general election.



IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ **Nepal Capital:** Kathmandu;
- ▶▶ **Nepal Prime minister:** Pushpa Kamal Dahal;
- ▶▶ **Nepal Currency:** Nepalese Rupee

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



- ▶ MS Dhoni has partnered with Viacom18 to help promote the company's goal of making digital platforms the go-to destination for sports fans. As part of the collaboration, the Chennai Super Kings captain will participate in several Viacom18 initiatives, including those featured on JioCinema, Sports18, and his own social media accounts. Dhoni will also feature in JioCinema's upcoming campaign for the Tata Indian Premier League (IPL).
- ▶ The 2023 TATA Indian Premier League will begin on March 31 with defending champions Gujarat Titans facing Chennai Super Kings, led by Dhoni. All matches of the tournament will be available for free on JioCinema, which will offer 4K feed, multi-language and multi-cam presentation, stats pack, and Play Along feature to over 700 million internet users.

IMPORTANT

- ▶ Viacom18 Headquarters: Mumbai;
- ▶ Viacom18 Founded: November 2007;
- ▶ Viacom18 CEO: Jyoti S. Deshpande....

K Krithivasan Appointed CEO Designate of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)

- ▶ Rajesh Gopinathan, the Managing Director and CEO of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), has announced his decision to resign from his position in order to pursue other interests. Gopinathan has been with the company for more than two decades. TCS's board of directors has approved his request to step down and has appointed K Krithivasan as CEO-designate, effective from March 16, 2023.



K. Krithivasan

- ▶ Rajesh Gopinathan will remain with TCS until September 15, 2023, to assist with the transition to his successor. During his six-year tenure as CEO, TCS achieved significant milestones, including adding over \$10 billion in revenue and increasing its market capitalization by over \$70 billion.
- ▶ TCS, which has been operating for 55 years, has had only four CEOs in its history, and K Krithivasan will become the fifth. The company is known for having a highly stable management team, which is rare in the industry.

About the K Krithivasan -

- ▶ K Krithivasan, who is currently serving as the President and Global Head of the banking, financial services, and insurance (BFSI) business group at Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), has been appointed as the CEO-designate of the company. With over 34 years of experience in the global technology sector, Krithivasan first joined TCS in 1989 and has since held various leadership roles in delivery, customer relationship management, large program management, and sales.

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.



- ▶▶ In addition to his role as the brand ambassador for Star Sports, Ranveer Singh will also be involved in campaigns for other sporting events that will be broadcast on the network. These events include the World Test Championship Final, Premier League, Pro Kabaddi, Asia Cup, and ICC Cricket World Cup.
- ▶▶ Recently, Singh was named the most valuable celebrity for endorsements in 2022, according to a report by Kroll, a corporate investigation and risk consulting firm. This puts him ahead of Indian cricket player Virat Kohli, who held the title in previous years. Singh's brand value has increased to \$181.7 million, while Kohli's has fallen to \$179.6 million. Kohli's brand value has declined for two years in a row, especially after he resigned from his position as captain of the Indian men's cricket team. In 2020, Kohli's brand value was \$237.7 million, which fell by 21% in 2021 to \$185.7 million....

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.



▶▶ Ajay Singh, who has been appointed as the new President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), has a diverse background. Apart from being the Chief of SpiceJet, he is also the President of the Boxing Federation of India and the Vice President

of the International Boxing Association. He has a degree in engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology – Delhi and an MBA from Cornell University in the United States. Singh also holds a Bachelor's degree in Law (LLB) from the Law Faculty at the University of Delhi.

About the ASSOCHAM :

- ▶▶ ASSOCHAM, or the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India, is one of the leading trade associations in India. Established in 1920, it is a non-government, not-for-profit organization that represents the interests of Indian businesses and industry. ASSOCHAM works to promote economic growth and development, and to create a conducive environment for businesses to thrive in India. The organization provides a platform for businesses to network and engage with policymakers, regulators, and other stakeholders, and offers a range of services and programs to support its members. ASSOCHAM also conducts research and analysis on a range of economic and industry-related issues, and publishes reports and publications to disseminate its findings....

Tata Power approves re-appointment of Praveer Sinha as CEO and MD

- ▶▶ Tata Power has re-appointed Praveer Sinha as the company's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director. His re-appointment to the top post is for a period of four years from May 1, 2023, to April 30, 2027, subject to the approval of members of the company, Tata Power said in a regulatory filing. His present tenure as CEO and MD is scheduled to conclude on April 30, 2023.
- ▶▶ Under his leadership, Tata Power is at the forefront of transforming itself from a century-old power utility company into a new-age sustainable, technology-oriented and customer-centric green energy solutions company. A PhD from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, Sinha is a visiting Research Associate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Boston, USA.



Praveer Sinha

About the Tata Power :

- ▶▶ Tata Power is an Indian electric utility company based in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It is part of the Tata Group, a conglomerate with a diverse range of businesses. Tata Power operates in various areas of the power sector, including the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity.
- ▶▶ The company's generation capacity includes thermal, hydro, solar, and wind power. It has also invested in new and renewable energy sources, including the development of solar and wind power plants. Tata Power also operates a transmission network spanning more than 1,100 circuit kilometers and supplies electricity to over 2.6 million customers across Mumbai, Delhi, Ajmer, and other cities.
- ▶▶ Tata Power has been recognized for its sustainability efforts, including its focus on reducing its carbon footprint and implementing environmentally friendly practices. The company has also received numerous awards and recognitions for its work in the power sector, including being named India's most admired power company by Fortune India in 2021....

Salima Tete appointed as the AHF Athletes Ambassador

- ▶▶ National women's hockey team midfielder Salima Tete has appointed the AHF Athletes Ambassador from India for a term of two years. Tete accepted the certificate and the position during the Asian Hockey
- ▶▶ National women's hockey team midfielder Salima Tete has appointed the AHF Athletes Ambassador from India for a term of two years. Tete accepted the certificate and the position during the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) Congress in Mungyeong, Korea. Tete, who led the Indian women's junior hockey team to a fourth-place finish at the 2021 FIH Women's Junior World Cup in Potchefstroom, South Africa, is among four players from Asia to be appointed for the position
- ▶▶ As the AHF Athletes Ambassador, Tete, along with the other selected athletes from Asia, will play a leadership role in the international representation, development, and advocacy of athletes. She will also be working towards promoting awareness about athletes' rights and welfare in the region.
- ▶▶ Tete, who led the Indian women's junior hockey team to a fourth-place finish at the 2021 FIH Women's Junior World Cup in Potchefstroom, South Africa, is among four players from Asia to be appointed for the position.



"Coming together
is a beginning;
keeping together
is progress;
working together
is success."

—HENRY FORD



Awards

BHEL wins CBIP Award 2022 for 'Best Contribution in Solar Energy'

- ▶▶ CBIP award 2022: Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has been awarded the Central Board Of Irrigation And Power (CBIP) Award 2022 for 'Best Contribution in Solar Energy'.

CBIP Award 2022 -

- ▶▶ CBIP award 2022: Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has been awarded the Central Board Of Irrigation And Power (CBIP) Award 2022 for 'Best Contribution in Solar Energy'. The award was received by Dr. Nalin Shinghal, CMD, BHEL, along with Ms. Renuka Gera, Director (IS&P), BHEL from Sh. R.K. Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy, on CBIP Day. CBIP awards are conferred for outstanding contribution to the development of water, power and renewable energy sectors.



Other awardee in different Categories :

- ▶▶ The Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL), the State-run transmission utility, has been conferred with the Central Board of Irrigation and Power Award 2022 for the 'best-performing transmission power sector'.

About the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)

- ▶▶ Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) is an Indian central public sector undertaking and the largest government-owned power generation equipment manufacturer. It is under the ownership of Government of India and administrative control of the Ministry of Heavy Industries. Established in 1956, BHEL is based in New Delhi.
- ▶▶ BHEL is engaged in the design, engineering, manufacturing, construction, testing, commissioning and servicing of a wide range of products, systems and services for the core sectors of the economy, viz. power, transmission, industry, transportation, renewable energy, oil & gas, and defence....

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.

- ▶ 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.



Other awardee's in different Categories :

- ▶ Table tennis player Bhavina Patel won the 'BBC Para Sportswoman of the Year' award, a category introduced this year. She won a silver at the 2020 Paralympics in Tokyo, becoming the first Indian paddler to achieve the feat. Bhavina also won gold at the 2022 Commonwealth Games.
- ▶ Former captain of the Indian women's hockey team Pritam Siwach was conferred with the 'BBC Lifetime Achievement Award' for her contribution to Indian sports and for inspiring generations of players. Siwach was the first woman hockey coach to be given the Dronacharya Award, the highest national award for coaches.
- ▶ Boxer Nitu Ghanghas was chosen as the 'BBC Emerging Player of the Year'. She is a two-time youth world champion and Commonwealth Games medallist. She won gold at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in the minimum weight category.
- ▶ The women's lawn bowls team of Lovely Choubey, Rupa Rani Tirkey, Pinki and Nayanmoni Saikia, which won gold at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, India's first-ever medal in the sport was given the 'BBC Changemaker of the Year Award'.

IMPORTANT

- ▶ BBC Headquarters: London, United Kingdom;
- ▶ Director-General of the BBC Timothy Douglas Davie;
- ▶ BBC Established: 18 October 1922

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).
- ▶ The airport service quality award is based on passenger surveys carried out to rate customer satisfaction on the day of travel.

Coverage of this survey :

- ▶ The surveys cover over 30 performance indicators across key elements of a passenger's airport experience such as ease of finding your way, check-in, shopping, and dining offerings.

- ▶ According to ACI, 144 awards have been won by 75 airports globally based on over 465,000 surveys collected in 2022.

The new categories in this survey :

- ▶ In addition to the award for best airports by size and region, four new categories were introduced in 2022—airport with the most dedicated staff; the easiest airport journey; the most enjoyable airport, and the cleanest airport.

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.
- ▶ The airports were ranked for their cleanliness based on passenger feedback on cleanliness of washrooms/toilets, health safety among others.

About Airports Council International (ACI) :

- ▶ ACI is a non-profit organisation of airport operators aimed at unifying industry practices for airport standards. Established in 1991, its headquarters are based in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, and its members operate nearly 2000 airports....



Sir David Chipperfield Selected as the 2023 Laureate of the Pritzker Architecture Prize

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.



Who is Sir David Alan Chipperfield ?

- ▶ Born in London in 1953, Pritzker Prize-winner Sir David Alan Chipperfield was raised on a farm in Devon, in the south-west of England. He has noted that his earliest memories of architecture are from the collection of barns and outbuildings on the farm, which filled him with a sense of

nostalgia. After graduating from the Kingston School of Art in 1976 and the Architectural Association School of Architecture in London in 1980, he worked under Douglas Stephen, Norman Foster, 1999 Pritzker Prize Laureate, and the late Richard Rogers, 2007 Pritzker Prize Laureate, before founding David Chipperfield Architects in London in 1985.

His noted projects (some pictured below) include:

- ▶▶ River and Rowing Museum (Henley-on-Thames, United Kingdom, 1997)
- ▶▶ BBC Scotland headquarters (Glasgow, United Kingdom, 2007)
- ▶▶ Turner Contemporary (Margate, United Kingdom, 2011)
- ▶▶ Campus Saint Louis Art Museum (Missouri, United States of America, 2013)
- ▶▶ Museo Jumex (Mexico City, Mexico, 2013)
- ▶▶ One Pancras Square (London, United Kingdom, 2013)
- ▶▶ Royal Academy of Arts masterplan (London, United Kingdom, 2018)
- ▶▶ Hoxton Press (London, United Kingdom, 2018)
- ▶▶ Kunsthaus Zürich (Zurich, Switzerland, 2020)
- ▶▶ About the Pritzker Architecture Prize
- ▶▶ Established by the Hyatt Foundation in 1979, the annual award honors architects whose built work demonstrates a combination talent, vision, and commitment. Last year, Francis Kéré became the first black architect to win the prize, while 2021 saw Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal honored for their collaborative practice....

‘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.
- ▶▶ 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.

About the song :

- ▶▶ ‘NaatuNaaatu’ which has already become a mass hits has a list of award under its name. In

January, 'NaatuNaatu' won the Golden Globes in the 'Best Original Song' category. Five days later, 'RRR' bagged two more awards at the 28th edition of the Critics Choice Awards. One is for the best song and another is for 'best foreign language film.'

- ▶▶ The song was also released in Hindi as 'NaachoNaacho', in Tamil as 'NaattuKoothu', in Kannada as 'HalliNaatu' and in Malayalam as 'Karinthol'. Its Hindi version was sung by Rahul Sipligunj and Vishal Mishra.

India Wins 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.
- ▶▶ Following initiatives have been taken by India for improving telecom sector and infrastructure in the country-

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. GSMA, which represents more than 750 mobile operators and 400 companies in the telecom ecosystem, recognizes one country every year. India was declared winner in the ceremony held at Mobile World Congress Barcelona.
- ▶▶ In a statement, GSMA said India's biggest-ever spectrum auction for 5G was held in July 2022. In total, 72 GHz spectrum was sold across ten spectrum bands. The government lowered reserve prices by 39 per cent across the spectrum band. Seventy-one of all spectrum on auction was sold for \$19 billion. All three mobile operators in India acquired spectrum in key 5G bands such as 700 MHz, 3.5 GHz and 26 GHz. To further support 5G rollouts, the government has also liberalised the spectrum cap limit for telecom operators, expanding their ability to hold more spectrum.
- ▶▶ Following initiatives have been taken by India for improving telecom sector and infrastructure in the country-
- ▶▶ In India, RoW permissions which used to take more than 230 days, now get approval within 8 days.
- ▶▶ More than 85% mobile tower clearances are now instantaneous.
- ▶▶ With nearly 1 Lakh sites in 387 districts, India's 5G roll-out is one of the fastest in the world.
- ▶▶ Indian telecom sector has emerged as a sunrise sector and the whole world has taken note of this rise.
- ▶▶ In India, several initiatives were carried out such as licensing reforms, creation of PM Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal, streamlining Right of Way (RoW), spectrum reforms, satellite reforms etc..



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.
- ▶▶ 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.
- ▶▶ Known to his colleagues as Sashi, Jagdishan took charge of HDFC Bank on October 27, 2020, after his illustrious predecessor Aditya Puri demitted office upon attaining the age of 70 years, the maximum age for a CEO in a private sector bank according to the Reserve Bank of India's norms. 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.



Sashidhar Jagdishan

Process of Choosing the Winner -

A five-member jury, chaired by former Reserve Bank of India deputy governor SS Mundra, has picked Sashidhar Jagdishan as the CEO of the largest private sector bank of the country as the winner. The Jury includes-

- ▶▶ Vice Chairman and CEO of HDFC Limited Keki Mistry,
- ▶▶ Ican Investment Advisors Chairman Anil Singhvi,
- ▶▶ Aditya Birla Sun Life Asset Management Company MD and CEO A Balasubramanian, and
- ▶▶ Former MD and CEO of Bank of Baroda P S Jayakumar. Mistry.

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

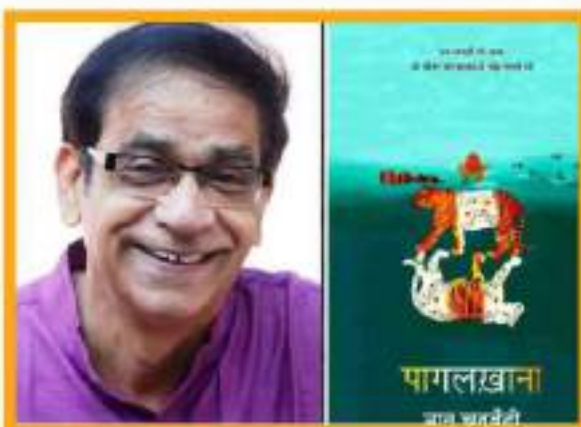
- ▶▶ The Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Shaktikanta Das, has been awarded the prestigious title "Governor of the Year" for 2023 by Central Banking, a global economic research journal.
- "Governor of the Year" for 2023**
- ▶▶ Shaktikanta Das, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, has been honored with the title "Governor of the Year" for 2023 by Central Banking, an international economic research journal. The publication praised Das for his steady leadership during challenging periods, including the collapse of a significant non-banking company, the initial and second waves of the COVID-19 pandemic, and inflationary pressures due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

- ▶ This is the second time an Indian central bank governor has received the award, with Raghuram Rajan being the previous recipient in 2015. Das's leadership at RBI was critical in implementing essential reforms, innovative payment systems, and growth-oriented measures during the pandemic. He skillfully navigated political pressures and economic crises, earning accolades for his efforts.
- ▶ Although the National Bank of Ukraine was also honored with the Central Bank of the Year award, Das was deemed a deserving recipient of the Governor of the Year award due to his leadership during times of crisis and his significant contributions to India's economic reforms. Das's ability to navigate political pressures and economic challenges with skill and professionalism, earning him praise from his peers and the Indian public. This award acknowledges his outstanding contributions to India's economic growth and development, and highlights the importance of strong leadership in managing complex economic challenges....



Vyas Samman 2022: Gyan Chaturvedi to be awarded for 'Pagalkhana'

- ▶ Vyas Samman 2022: Pagalkhana, a 2018 satirical novel by renowned Hindi author Dr. Gyan Chaturvedi, has been chosen for the 32nd Vyas Samman. 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 KK Birla Foundation founded the annual Vyas Samman 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. The KK Birla Foundation established the Saraswati Samman, the Bihari Puraskar, and the Vyas Samman in addition to these awards. The Saraswati Samman, worth Rs. 15 lakh, is awarded to an outstanding literary work written by an Indian citizen in one of the languages listed in Schedule VIII of the Indian Constitution, and published within a 10-year period. The Bihari Puraskar, worth Rs. 2.5 lakh, is given to Rajasthani Hindi/Rajasthani authors.

About the Dr. Gyan Chaturvedi -

- ▶ Dr. Chaturvedi, who was born on August 2, 1952, in the Jhansi region of Uttar Pradesh, is a well-known authority on cardiovascular illness in Madhya Pradesh. After more than 30 years of service, he just announced his retirement as the hospital's director.
- ▶ In 2015, Dr. Chaturvedi was given the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian honour. In addition to the Delhi Academy Award and the Indu Sharma International Katha Samman, he has also

received the Madhya Pradesh government's Sharad Joshi Samman for excellent achievement in the fields of satire and essay.

- ▶▶ The 71-year-old has so far released thousands of satirical works. His debut book, Narak-Yatra (journey to hell), which was based on the medical science education system in India, was an instant success with Hindi readers....

Bombay Jayashri chosen for Sangita Kalanidhi Award 2023 by Music Academy

- ▶▶ The Music Academy has announced that the Sangita Kalanidhi award for 2023 will be presented to Bombay Jayashri, a Padma Shri awardee and renowned Carnatic vocalist.



- ▶▶ The Music Academy has announced that the Sangita Kalanidhi award for 2023 will be presented to Bombay Jayashri, a Padma Shri awardee and renowned Carnatic vocalist. According to the Academy's press release, Jayashri is considered as one of the leading Carnatic musicians of the present time. She received her initial training in Carnatic music from her parents and later studied under TR Balamani and Lalgudi G Jayaraman, a celebrated violin maestro. In addition to Carnatic music, Jayashri has also received training in Hindustani music, classical dance, and the veena.

- ▶▶ It is considered the highest award in the field of Carnatic music.
- ▶▶ The award is conferred by the Madras Music Academy.
- ▶▶ The award comprises a gold medal and a birudupatra (citation).
- ▶▶ It is a landmark institution in the history of the fine arts. It emerged as an offshoot of the All India Congress Session held in Madras in December 1927.

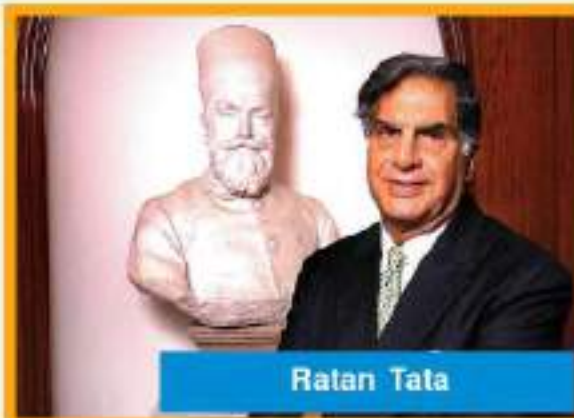
About Carnatic music :

- ▶▶ Carnatic music is commonly associated with southern India including the states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, but also practised in Sri Lanka.
- ▶▶ It is one of two major genres of Indian classical music that evolved from ancient Hindu traditions, the other being Hindustani music, which emerged as a distinct form in northern India as a result of Persian and Islamic influences....

Indian Industrialist Shri Ratan Tata appointed in 'Order of Australia' for distinguished service

▶▶ Ratan Tata 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.

▶▶ 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. Despite his tremendous success, he remains one of India's most unassuming business leaders. Alongside his business accomplishments, Ratan Tata is renowned for his philanthropy work and motivational speeches.

Ratan Tata : India-Australia Relations:

▶▶ Ratan Tata has played a crucial role in promoting and strengthening the relationship between Australia and India, demonstrating significant influence in this regard. He has been a vocal proponent of the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement, which was successfully concluded in 2022, and has lent his support to various delegations of business and government officials visiting India.

Tata and India-Australia cooperation :

▶▶ Ratan Tata's advocacy for stronger ties between Australia and India has been both resolute and impactful. He has been a vocal supporter of the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement, which was ultimately finalized in 2022. Additionally, he has extended his assistance to visiting business and government dignitaries in India, thereby strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

▶▶ Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been operating in Australia since 1998 and currently has the largest Australian workforce of any Indian company, employing approximately 17,000 staff and associates. In addition to its commercial operations, TCS also actively contributes to the Australian community through a noteworthy pro-bono program. This initiative provides free IT services to six not-for-profit Australian organizations that focus on health and Indigenous leadership....

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.
- ▶▶ The White House has announced that US President Joe Biden will bestow the 2021 National Humanities Medals upon several recipients, including Indian-American actress, comedian, and writer Mindy Kaling, also known as Vera Mindy Chokalingam.



- ▶▶ The National Medal of Arts is the most prestigious award granted by the US government to artists, arts advocates, and organizations.
- ▶▶ It recognizes individuals and groups who have made outstanding contributions to the arts in America and served as role models through their exceptional accomplishments, assistance, or sponsorship.

More About The 2021 National Humanities Medals and National Medal of Arts :

- ▶▶ According to an announcement from the White House, US President Joe Biden will present the 2021 National Humanities Medals and National Medal of Arts to over a dozen recipients, including Indian-American actress and writer Mindy Kaling.
- ▶▶ These awards recognize individuals or groups who have made significant contributions to advancing the arts and humanities in America, broadening public engagement with subjects such as history, literature, languages, and philosophy.
- ▶▶ Other notable recipients of the National Medal of Arts include Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Bruce Springsteen, and Vera Wang. The 2021 National Humanities Medal will be awarded to individuals such as Richard Blanco, Ann Patchett, and Colson Whitehead. These awards will be presented at the White House and attended by First Lady Jill Biden...

Sivasankari, the Renowned Tamil Writer, Honored with Saraswati Samman 2022

- ▶▶ The KK Birla Foundation has announced that Tamil writer Sivasankari will be the recipient of the prestigious Saraswati Samman 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.

Sivasankari works -

- ▶▶ One of Sivasankari's greatest contributions to Indian literature is her four-volume work, 'Knit India Through Literature', which features the perspectives of literary giants in 18 languages, as expressed through their stories and interviews. She has also had eight of her novels adapted into films, directed by renowned filmmakers, and has won numerous awards for her writing, including the national and regional 'Best Mega Serial' awards for her novel 'Kutti', which explores the issue of girl child labor.
- ▶▶ In addition to her literary achievements, Sivasankari has been invited to participate in several international programs, including the International Writers Program and the International Visitors Program at Iowa University in the United States. Her works have also been recorded in her own voice for the Archives of the US Library of Congress to commemorate its bicentennial celebrations.



Sivasankari

About the Saraswati Samman -

- ▶▶ The Saraswati Samman is an annual literary award that recognizes exceptional literary works written in any Indian language by Indian citizens during the ten years prior to the award year. The selection committee, known as the Chayan Parishad, is chaired by former Supreme Court judge Arjan Kumar Sikri and includes distinguished scholars and writers from across the country.
- ▶▶ Apart from the Saraswati Samman, the KK Birla Foundation has also established two other literary awards: the Bihari Puraskar and the Vyas Samman

Nepali cricketer Asif Sheikh wins 2022 Christopher Martin-Jenkins Spirit of Cricket Award

- ▶▶ Asif Sheikh, a wicketkeeper from Nepal, has been awarded the 2022 Christopher Martin-Jenkins Spirit of Cricket Award for his act of sportsmanship during a T20 international match.
- ▶▶ Asif Sheikh, a wicketkeeper from Nepal, has been awarded the 2022 Christopher Martin-Jenkins Spirit of Cricket Award for his act of sportsmanship during a T20 international match. He refused to run out Ireland's Andy McBrine, who was accidentally tripped over by Kamal Airee, the bowler. Judges also highly commended England's Jos Buttler and Ben Stokes.
- ▶▶ In 2013, the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) and the BBC established the Spirit of Cricket Award to honor the memory of Christopher Martin-Jenkins, a former MCC president and BBC Test Match Special commentator who was dedicated to promoting the values of the sport. Recently,



Asif Sheikh

for the first time ever, the MCC and BBC opened up the award to public nominations. Following this, Sheikh's behavior while representing Nepal was deemed the most deserving of the award.

About Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) -

- ▶▶ Marylebone Cricket Club Establishment – 1787
- ▶▶ Marylebone Cricket Club Founder – Thomas Lord

About International Cricket Council (ICC) -

- ▶▶ Establishment – 15 June 1909
- ▶▶ Chairman – Greg Barclay
- ▶▶ CEO – Geoff Allardyce
- ▶▶ Headquarters – Dubai, United Arab Emirates...



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MANDELA**
1918-2013

Do not judge me
by my successes,
judge me by how many
times I fell down and
got back up again.

InspirationBoost.com



Oscars Awards 2023

- ▶▶ The 95th Academy Oscars awards 2023 have officially been announced, and fans can't wait to see how India performs in 2023.
- ▶▶ Oscars 2023: 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.

Oscars Awards 2023- India Nominations -

- ▶▶ Both All That Breathes and NaatuNaatu from RRR received nominations for Best Original Song. Standing ovations were given after Deepika Padukone introduced the live performance of NaatuNaatu.
- ▶▶ In addition to Priyanka Chopra and Persis Khambatta, Deepika is the third Indian to present at the Oscars.
- ▶▶ The Elephant Whisperers made history by becoming the first Indian documentary to win an Oscar.
- ▶▶ 'NaatuNaatu' from 'RRR' wins best original song at the Oscars Awards 2023
- ▶▶ At the 95th Academy Awards (Oscars Awards 2023), RRR's song "NaatuNaatu" took home the Best Original Song Oscar. Rahul Sipligunj and KaalaBhairava provided the vocals for the song, which was composed by MM Keeravani and released in March 2022 with words and music by Chandrabose.



Oscars Awards 2023 Complete List of Winners

Category	Winners
■ Oscars Awards 2023 Best Picture	<i>Everything Everywhere All At Once</i>
■ Oscars Awards 2023 Best Actress	Michelle Yeoh (<i>Everything Everywhere All at Once</i>)
■ Oscars Awards 2023 Best Actor	Brendan Fraser (<i>The Whale</i>)
■ Oscars Awards 2023 Best Director	Daniel Kwan and Daniel Schienert (<i>Everything Everywhere All at Once</i>)
■ Oscars Awards 2023 Best Film Editing	<i>Everything Everywhere All at Once</i>
■ Oscars Awards 2023 Best Original Song	"NaatuNaatu" (<i>RRR</i>)
■ Oscars Awards 2023 Best Sound	<i>Top Gun: Maverick</i>
■ Oscars Awards 2023 Best Adapted Screenplay	<i>Women Talking</i>
■ Oscars Awards 2023 Best Original Screenplay	<i>Everything Everywhere All at Once</i> – Daniel Kwan and Daniel Schienert
■ Oscars Awards 2023 Best Visual Effects	<i>Avatar: The Way of Water</i>
■ Oscars Awards 2023 Best Animated Feature Film	Guillermo del Toro's ' <i>Pinocchio</i> '
■ Oscars Awards 2023 Best Actress -Supporting Role	Jamie Lee Curtis in ' <i>Everything Everywhere All at Once</i> '
■ Oscars Awards 2023 Best Actor - Supporting Role	Ke Huy Quan in ' <i>Everything Everywhere All at Once</i> '
■ Oscars Awards 2023 Best Documentary Feature Film	' <i>Navalny</i> ' by Daniel Roher, Odessa Rae, Diane Becker, Melanie Miller and Shane Boris
■ Oscars Awards 2023 Best Live Action Short Film	' <i>An Irish Goodbye</i> ' by Tom Berkeley and Ross White
■ Oscars Awards 2023 Best Cinematography	' <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> ' by James Friend
■ Oscars Awards 2023 Best Makeup and Hairstyling	Adrien Morot, Judy Chin and Annemarie Bradley for ' <i>The Whale</i> '
■ Oscars Awards 2023 Best Costume Design	Ruth Carter for ' <i>Black Panther: Wakanda Forever</i> '
■ Oscars Awards 2023 Best International Feature Film	' <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> ' – Germany
■ Oscars Awards 2023 Best Documentary Short Film	' <i>The Elephant Whisperers</i> ' by KartikiGonsalves and Guneet Monga
■ Oscars Awards 2023 Best Animated Short Film	<i>The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse</i>
■ Oscars Awards 2023 Best Original Score	<i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i>

List of All Oscar Awards Won By India -

- Bhanu Athaiya (1982)
- Satyajit Ray (1992)
- ResulPookutty (2009)
- Gulzar (2009)
- A R Rahman (2009)
- RRR NaatuNaatu (2023)
- KartikiGonsalves and Guneet Monga, *The Elephant Whisperers* (2023)

Naveen Jindal honoured with 'Lifetime Achievement Award' by University of Texas

▶▶ 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

▶▶ 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.

This award is the highest recognition given to an alumnus by the University of Texas, Dallas and is presented to those whose contributions have positively impacted society. Aziz Sancar, a Nobel Laureate, was the first person to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the University of Texas at Dallas.

▶▶ Naveen Jindal, a former Member of Parliament and a graduate of the University of Texas at Dallas, was recognized for his achievements as a student leader and was awarded the Student Leader of the Year Award during his time at the university. He later received the Distinguished Alumni award in 2010. In 2011, the university rechristened its School of Management as the Naveen Jindal School of Management in recognition of his enormous success as one of their most distinguished alumni. The university's highest honour, the Lifetime Achievement Award, is presented to alumni whose extraordinary contributions have made a positive impact on society, transformed the university, and inspired others to achieve excellence.



Naveen Jindal

NGO from Assam honoured with Children's Champion Award

▶▶ Tapoban, an NGO based in Pathsala, Assam, which focuses on supporting children with special needs and autism, has been honored with the prestigious Children's Champion Award 2023.

Children's Champion Award 2023 :

▶▶ Tapoban, an NGO based in Pathsala, Assam, which focuses on supporting children with special needs and autism, has been honored with the prestigious Children's Champion Award 2023 in the health and nutrition category. This award is presented by the

Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights and acknowledges individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the welfare of children in various areas such as education, justice, health, nutrition, sports, and creative arts.



- ▶ In 2022, the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights launched the Children's Champion Award to honour people and organizations who have made significant contributions to children's education, health, nutrition, justice, sports, and artistic expression. The award was open to nominations from all over India, and the Commission received over 1,100 submissions. On March 25, KumudKalita, the founder-president of Tapoban, was presented with the Children's Champion Award in the health and nutrition category by Justice S. Muralidhar, Chief Justice of the Odisha High Court, in New Delhi. The award includes a certificate, a plaque, and a cash prize of ₹ 75,000.

About the Tapoban

- ▶ Tapoban, which was set up in 2005 and is based in Pathsala, Assam, has won the Children's Champion Award 2023 in the health and nutrition category for its consistent efforts to provide quality care to children with special needs. The NGO also runs a care home for 18 specially-abled and orphaned children and has helped more than 700 children so far. KumudKalita, the founder-president of Tapoban and a political science teacher at a junior college in Pathsala, received the award from Justice S. Muralidhar, Chief Justice of the Odisha High Court, in New Delhi. In the past, the NGO has also received the Chief Minister's Best Community Action Award in 2011, while Mr. Kalita himself was awarded the State Teachers' Award in 2021....

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

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.



Aliya Mir

About the Aliya Mir -

- ▶ Aliya Mir, who serves as the Head of Education System in the Wildlife SOS Program, is known for her remarkable efforts in rescuing a wide range of wild animals, including birds, Asiatic black bears, and Himalayan brown bears. She has also gained fame for her ability to catch snakes and releasing them back into the wild. Aliya's notable rescues include the Levantine viper, a venomous snake, from the regional residence of the then chief minister, which made headlines due to its size of about 2 kg, and a viral video of her rescuing a snake trapped in a scooter in Jahangir Chowk.

What is Wildlife SOS ?

- ▶▶ Wildlife SOS is a non-profit organization based in India that focuses on rescuing and rehabilitating wildlife in distress, particularly those that have been subjected to cruelty and exploitation. The organization was founded in 1995 and has since rescued thousands of wild animals, including elephants, bears, leopards, and reptiles, among others. Wildlife SOS operates various rescue centers and rehabilitation facilities across India, providing veterinary care, nutrition, and rehabilitation programs for the rescued animals. In addition to its rescue efforts, Wildlife SOS also conducts educational programs and awareness campaigns aimed at promoting conservation and animal welfare.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman honoured with 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.
- ▶▶ 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. FOSWAL acknowledged Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's exceptional literary skills and awarded him for his outstanding literary excellence in the trilogy, according to the citation provided by the organization.
- ▶▶ During the ceremony, Ramendu Majumdar and Mofidul Haque, Bangladeshi writers and researchers, received the award from Ajit Kaur, a prominent Punjabi novelist and the founder president of FOSWAL. In a citation issued by the Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is compared to Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, and it is stated that no force on the planet can erase him from history.



Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

About the Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL):

- ▶▶ The Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL) is a non-profit, non-political organization established in 1987. Its objective is to promote mutual understanding and cooperation among the writers and literary communities of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries, which include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. FOSWAL aims to preserve and promote the literary heritage of the region, support literary creativity, and foster cultural exchange between the countries. The organization organizes various literary events, seminars, and workshops, and also publishes books and journals. FOSWAL is headquartered in New Delhi, India, and has its branches in other SAARC countries.

IMPORTANT

- ▶ SAARC Founded: 8 December 1985, Dhaka, Bangladesh;
- ▶ SAARC Secretary general: EsalaWeerakoon....

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
- ▶ 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. Arif Muhammad Khan, the Governor of Kerala, has presented the inaugural edition of the "Kerala Puraskarngal" 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."



M T Vasudevan

About the Kerala Puraskarngal award -

- ▶ The Kerala Puraskarngal is a civilian award instituted by the government of Kerala in 2021. It is modeled after the prestigious Padma awards conferred by the Government of India. The awards are presented to individuals who have made exceptional contributions in various fields such as literature, art, culture, science, social work, and sports. The award has three categories: Kerala Jyothi, Kerala Prabha, and Kerala Shri, with Kerala Jyothi being the highest honor. The objective of these awards is to recognize the contributions of outstanding individuals from Kerala and inspire others to strive for excellence in their respective fields.
- ▶ The Kerala SreePuraskaram has been conferred upon six notable individuals for their exceptional contributions to various fields. These awards were presented to individuals in the categories of writing, activism, magic, sculpture, business and social work, music, and biology. ...

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 Henrik Haugan. It is awarded by The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, on behalf of the Ministry of Education.

Who is Luis Caffarelli and why did he win the Abel prize?

- ▶ Caffarelli was born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina, making him the first Abel laureate from South America. Currently, he is a professor at the University of Texas, Austin. He is married to fellow Argentinian mathematician Irene Martínez Gamba, who teaches at UT, Austin as well.



Luis Caffarelli

- ▶ Cafarelli has been one of the leading figures in the study of partial differential equations for over five decades. According to his Abel citation, "Partial differential equations arise naturally as laws of nature, whether to describe the flow of water or the growth of populations. These equations have been a constant source of intense study since the days of Newton and Leibniz."
- ▶ According to the Abel citation, Caffarelli's contributions to the field of partial differential equations have been groundbreaking, having significantly altered our comprehension of various classes of nonlinear partial differential equations that have numerous applications. These outcomes are noted for their technical excellence, covering a broad range of mathematical fields and applications. Caffarelli's work is also acknowledged for his exceptional combination of geometric perception with analytical tools and techniques in this area of mathematics....

The important thing in life is to have a great aim, and the determination to attain it.

Johan Wolfgang von Goethe

Economic

Kotak MF launches 'DigitALL' campaign to celebrate International Women's Day

- ▶▶ Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company (Kotak Mutual Fund) has launched a digital campaign called 'DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality', which calls for digital inclusion of all with the hashtag #IncludeAll.
- ▶▶ The digital campaign video showcases Kotak group's women employees sharing their stories about supporting and empowering other women in their lives by imparting them the knowledge of digital literacy.
- ▶▶ Nilesh Shah, MD & CEO, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company said, "India has made huge strides in the digital space over the past few years, and digital literacy has picked up momentum in urban and other Tier 2 & Tier 3 cities quite well.



Significance of the 'DigitALL' campaign :

- ▶▶ On this Women's Day, Kotak Mutual Fund through its campaign wants to spread the message that it is equally important for other women categories, especially domestic helps, servants, to become digitally literate, which will help them in their day-to-day lives....

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

- ▶▶ The Governor of the RBI, Shaktikanta Das, initiated the establishment of a "Greenfield Data Centre" and an "Enterprise Computing & Cybersecurity Training Institute" 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.
- ▶▶ 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.

Significance of the Data Centre And Cybersecurity Training Institute :

- ▶▶ The Governor stressed the importance of enhancing the RBI's existing computing infrastructure with state-of-the-art facilities for research and capacity building in central banking, technology, and cybersecurity to prepare for the future.
- ▶▶ The Governor also acknowledged the vital role played by technology in supporting the activities of the financial sector and the RBI in recent years, particularly in facilitating a robust recovery from the pandemic.

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.
- ▶▶ 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.
- ▶▶ The merger of HDFC Bank and HDFC Ltd, valued at approximately \$40 billion, has been approved by the competition commission and stock exchanges.
- ▶▶ This merger, which is considered to be the largest transaction in India's corporate history, will create a financial services giant with combined assets worth around Rs 18 lakh crore.
- ▶▶ The merger is expected to be completed by the second or third quarter of FY 24, subject to regulatory approvals. Following the merger, HDFC Bank will be fully owned by public shareholders, and HDFC's existing shareholders will own 41% of the bank.
- ▶▶ The combined balance sheet of the merged entity will be Rs 17.87 lakh crore, with a net worth of Rs 3.3 lakh crore as of the December 2021 balance sheet. After the merger, HDFC Bank will be twice the size of the current third-largest lender, ICICI Bank....



RBI, Central Bank of UAE sign MoU to promote innovation in financial products and services

- ▶▶ RBI on March 15 said that it has signed an MoU with the Central Bank of United Arab Emirates for promoting innovation in financial product and services.
- ▶▶ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on March 15 said that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Central Bank of United Arab Emirates for promoting innovation in financial product and services.
- ▶▶ Both central banks will collaborate on various emerging areas of FinTech, especially Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs), and explore interoperability between the CBDCs of UAE's central bank and the RBI.



- ▶▶ Central Bank of UAE and RBI will jointly conduct proof-of-concept (PoC) and pilot(s) of bilateral CBDC bridge to facilitate cross-border CBDC transactions of remittances and trade.

Significance of This Collaboration :

- ▶▶ This bilateral engagement of testing cross-border use case of CBDCs is expected to reduce costs, increase efficiency of cross border transactions and further the economic ties between India and UAE.
- ▶▶ The MoU also provides for technical collaboration and knowledge sharing on matters related to Fintech and financial products and services.

Six years of 'Bharat Interface for Money'

- ▶▶ On the 30th of December 2016, the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, launched the Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) payment app. Six years later, BHIM is still going strong, with a steadily increasing user base and a high volume of transactions being processed through the app. In this article, we take a look at what BHIM is, how it works, and its impact on the Indian payment landscape.

What is BHIM ?

- ▶▶ BHIM is a mobile payment app developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). It is based on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), which allows for electronic payment directly through a bank. The app is available for use on all mobile devices, including smartphones and feature phones, and can be used with or without an internet connection.
- ▶▶ One of the key features of BHIM is its use of biometric authentication. Users can link their bank



accounts with the app and make payments by simply using their thumb impression. This makes the payment process quick and easy, and also helps to ensure the security of transactions.

How Does BHIM Work?

- ▶▶ To use BHIM, users first need to download the app and link it to their bank account. This can be done by entering their bank details and authenticating the connection using their thumb impression. Once the app is set up, users can make payments to other BHIM users or to merchants who accept BHIM payments.

Government imposes surcharge for Google Pay and other payment apps

- ▶▶ Starting from April 1, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has implemented interchange fees of up to 1.1 percent for prepaid payment instruments used in merchant UPI transactions.
- ▶▶ Starting from April 1, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has implemented interchange fees of up to 1.1 percent for prepaid payment instruments used in merchant UPI transactions. The fee, ranging from 0.5 percent and based on the merchant category code, will be charged for UPI payments exceeding ₹ 2,000 made to online merchants, large merchants, and small offline merchants.



Need of The Interchange fee :

- ▶▶ The purpose of imposing an interchange fee is to compensate for the expenses incurred by payment service providers in handling, verifying, and approving transactions.
- ▶▶ Consequently, this fee increase is anticipated to result in higher transaction costs.
- ▶▶ Wallet issuers such as banks receive payment from payment service providers in the form of interchange fees.
- ▶▶ These wallets are primarily utilized for online transactions, such as those facilitated by Paytm, PhonePe, and Google Pay.

About National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) :

- ▶▶ Under the 'Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007,' the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) jointly established the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) as an umbrella organization responsible for operating retail payment and settlement systems in India.
- ▶▶ This non-profit company operates under the regulations of Section 25 of the Companies Act 1956, as amended in 2013.
- ▶▶ Its primary aim is to provide both physical and electronic payment infrastructure to India's entire banking system....

601st Meeting of Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India

- ▶▶ The central board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) chaired by Governor Shaktikanta Das, conducted its 601st meeting in Hyderabad.
- ▶▶ The central board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) chaired by Governor Shaktikanta Das, conducted its 601st meeting in Hyderabad to assess the current global and domestic economic conditions, along with the accompanying difficulties.



- ▶▶ According to a statement released by the RBI, during its meeting, the board evaluated the global and domestic economic scenario, as well as the associated obstacles, taking into account the influence of current global geopolitical events. Additionally, the board deliberated on the RBI's undertakings during the ongoing 2022-23 accounting year, and approved the budget for the upcoming 2023-24 accounting year.

Need of The Meeting of Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India :

- ▶▶ Against the backdrop of mounting global concerns over the collapse of banks in the US, triggered by aggressive monetary tightening, the meeting was held. Recently, the US Federal Reserve increased interest rates by 25 basis points in an attempt to curb inflation, despite the banking crisis. The Bank of England and European Central Bank (ECB) have also raised their benchmark interest rates. However, policymakers and experts have reassured that the Indian banking system is well-positioned...

SBI announces donation of 48 lakh for tree plantation -

- ▶▶ State Bank of India (SBI) has partnered with the NGO That's Eco Foundation to donate ₹ 48 lakh for the plantation of 32,000 tree saplings at Garden City University in Bengaluru.
- ▶▶ As part of its corporate social responsibility, the State Bank of India (SBI) has partnered with the NGO That's Eco Foundation to donate ₹ 48 lakh for the plantation of 32,000 tree saplings at Garden City University in Bengaluru. This initiative aims to contribute to the environment by increasing the green cover and promoting sustainable practices.

More About The SBI's donation of ₹ 48 lakh for tree plantation :

- ▶▶ An MOU has been signed between SBI, Garden City University, and the Eco Foundation for the successful implementation of this project. The plantation project at Garden City University in Bengaluru, is being implemented using the Miyawaki Technique. Developed by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, this technique involves creating dense, native forests that grow 10 times faster and are 30 times denser than usual.
- ▶▶ Plants grown using this technique become self-sustaining within 2-3 years and the multi-layered forests help lower temperatures, improve soil quality, support local wildlife, and sequester carbon....

PFRDA raises ombudsman age limit to 70 years from 65 years

- ▶▶ The government increased the maximum age for Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority's (PFRDA) ombudsman from 65 to 70 years. The ombudsman is responsible for receiving, evaluating, and helping to resolve complaints or grievances that come under PFRDA regulations.
- ▶▶ According to PFRDA regulations, a complainant whose grievance has not been resolved within thirty days from the escalation of the grievance to National Pension System Trust or a complainant who has made a complaint directly against the National Pension System Trust and no other intermediary and the same remains unresolved within thirty days can file an appeal with the ombudsman.
- ▶▶ The appeal must be in writing, signed by the complainant or their authorized representative (excluding legal practitioners), and accompanied by relevant documents as specified in the regulations. However, the ombudsman has the right to dismiss the appeal if it is deemed frivolous or fails to meet the regulations' conditions.



IRDAI's announcement of the removal of segmental limits on commissions :

- ▶▶ In a separate development, IRDAI has announced the removal of segmental limits on commissions for life, general, and health insurers.
- ▶▶ Under the new regulations, the total commission paid by insurers must fall under the Expense of Management (EoM) limits, which encompasses the total commission and fixed expenses incurred by the insurers.
- ▶▶ This change is expected to benefit insurers and web aggregators by allowing them to allocate their resources more effectively and optimize their commission structures. This move is also expected to have a significant impact on the way insurance companies operate and compete in the market...

Axis Bank launches 'MicroPay' based on 'Pin on Mobile' technology for digital payments

- ▶▶ Axis Bank has introduced a groundbreaking payment solution called "MicroPay" in collaboration with technical partners Ezetap by Razorpay and MyPinpad.
- ▶▶ Axis Bank, one of India's top private sector banks, has introduced a groundbreaking payment solution called "MicroPay" in collaboration with technical partners Ezetap by Razorpay and MyPinpad.

What is MicroPay ?

- ▶▶ MicroPay is a "PIN on Mobile" solution that transforms a merchant's smartphone into a Point-

of-Sale (POS) terminal, making digital payments easier and delivering a one-of-a-kind customer experience.

Significance of this development :

- ▶▶ This solution will have a significant impact on businesses throughout India, particularly retail and kirana shops in Tier-2 and 3 cities that have limited working capital and require cost-effective payment options. Overall, MicroPay has the potential to revolutionize digital payments in India, and be a game-changer for small businesses.



More About The 'MicroPay' and 'Pin on Mobile' technology :

- ▶▶ Although digital Point of Sale (POS) systems are becoming more popular in India, the cost of the devices can deter MSMEs from adopting them.
- ▶▶ However, the new PIN on Mobile technology provides a cost-effective way for merchants to accept payments through card, UPI, and BQR code while maintaining high security standards.
- ▶▶ This small, low-cost card reader connects to the merchant's smartphone via Bluetooth and allows customers to enter their PIN directly on the merchant's device, ensuring the security of the PIN in compliance with PCI standards for Software-based PIN Entry on COTS phones.
- ▶▶ The CEO of Ezetap by Razorpay, Byas Nambisan, believes that this technology will make access to digital payments easier, more secure, and more cost-effective, and will reduce the overall cost of POS by 30%.
- ▶▶ The partnership with MYPINPAD will provide Indian businesses with a PCI-certified mobile payments solution that will enhance their customer experience while providing enhanced security, reduced risk, and significant cost savings.... Read more at: <https://currentaffairs.adda247.com/axis-bank-launches-micropay-based-on-pin-on-mobile-technology-for-digital-payments/>

I NEVER
DREAMED
ABOUT
SUCCESS.
I WORKED
FOR IT.

- ESTEE LAUDER

National

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.

Why is PMABHIM in news?

- ▶▶ The World Bank has announced the extension of 2 complimentary loans of 500 million USD each to India to support the PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission. One of these loans will prioritize healthcare services in 7 states – Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. The Public Health Systems for Pandemic Preparedness Program, with \$500 million, is to support the government's efforts to improve epidemic surveillance, ensure timely response and prevent the emergence of novel pathogens.



Who started PMABHIM?

- ▶▶ Union Minister of Health Dr Mansukh Mandavjiya. It was launched in Varanasi by PM Modi. It was launched in 2021 with an outlay of Rs 64,180 crores. The aim was to make the health infrastructure of the country more resilient.

What are the three main objectives of PMABHIM?

- ▶▶ The first objective is to strengthen public health institutions and deliver comprehensive primary health care. The second objective is to expand the technology-based surveillance system and develop surveillance laboratories. The third objective is to expand the research on infectious diseases.

Key Features of the PMABHIM

- ▶▶ 134 different types of tests will be done under the scheme. The tests will be done free of cost at district levels. Container-based hospitals were launched with medical facilities that were kept ready all the time. A big network of Health and Wellness Centers was created. 15 Biosafety Level 3 labs were built. Five New regional National Centre for Disease control was established. More than 4,000 block and district-level public health units were built.

Women, Business and the Law Index

- ▶ According to the recently released Women, Business and the Law Index by the World Bank, although most countries have implemented laws to ensure gender equality, there is still a significant gap between men and women in terms of legal rights and provisions. The report revealed that the global pace of reforms towards gender equality has fallen to a 20-year low.



What is Women, Business and the Law Index?

- ▶ The Women, Business and the Law Index rates laws and regulations related to women in 190 countries.

The assessment encompasses 8 areas concerning women's economic participation. These are mobility, workplace, pay, marriage, parenthood, entrepreneurship, assets and pensions.

Key Findings

- ▶ India scored 74.4 out of a total possible 100. Unfortunately, India's score was less than that of other countries such as Ghana, Zimbabwe, Nepal, and Congo. While this is higher than the South Asian region's average of 63.7, it is lower than Nepal's 80.6. The index covered a total of 190 economies. Of these only 14 scored 100. They were Sweden, Spain, Luxembourg, Latvia, Canada, Belgium, France, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Greece, Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal, etc. As you can see they are all European countries except for Canada.

Highest Growth -

- ▶ Good growth was witnessed in MENA countries. MENA countries are the Middle East and North African countries. The MENA countries that witnessed good growth were Congo, Nepal, Zimbabwe, and Ghana.

Report on the current status of women -

- ▶ Only 77% of the women in the world enjoy legal rights. Around 2.4 billion women in the world are living in countries that do not grant equal legal rights as that men.

Report on India -

- ▶ According to the report, India is lagging behind in terms of gender equality due to the laws on pay, inheritance, and property rights. India's score was higher than the South Asian region's average, which was 63.7. India's score was lower than Nepal which scored 80.6.

Mental State of the World Report

- ▶ The third annual mental state of the world report was released recently by a non-profit called Sapien Labs. The report is based on the survey of over 4 lakh participants across 64 countries.

What does the report say?

- ▶ According to this report, the COVID-19 pandemic has detrimental effects on mental health and interpersonal relationships. The report's mental health quotient found that, on a 300-point scale,

the score of mental health fell by 33 points on average over the two years of the COVID-19 pandemic. This decline is yet to improve. It found that mental health challenges are more likely among young adults. Individuals between ages 18 and 24 have lower "social self", which measures how an individual perceives themselves and their ability to maintain a meaningful relationship. Compared to those aged 75 years and above, young adults are less likely to have close friends. The report also noted that family relationships are declining across the world. Those with no close friendships and poor family relationships are 10x more likely to have poor mental health, according to the report.



Mental Health Quotient -

- ▶▶ The report used the Mental Health Quotient to learn about the mental health of people in different countries. The quotient was calculated based on an online survey. The participants were randomly picked from India, Spain, France, Arab countries, North Africa, Germany, and other western countries.

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.
- ▶▶ Reliance Jio has climbed up to number two rank — up from fifth place last year — in a list of the top 10 strongest telecom brands in the world. In this post we will explore the Top 150 most valuable and strongest telecoms operator brands according to Brand Finance 2023 rankings.



- ▶▶ As the telecommunications industry continues to grow and evolve, keeping track of who's-who in terms of establishing a strong presence can be difficult. Brand Finance has compiled a list of companies based on their brand value.
- ▶▶ Brand Finance have developed a comprehensive evaluation process to not only assess the value of brands, but also ascertain their relative strength. Utilizing best-practice ISO 20671 guidelines and up-to-date research collated from an expansive survey spanning 38 countries and 31 sectors with over 150,000 respondents – Brand Finance provide crucial insights for businesses looking to make informed decisions about brand performance.

Swisscom: strongest telecoms brand :

- ▶▶ 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.
- ▶▶ Swisscom stands apart from other telco brands due to its robust combination of trust, coverage, and network perceptions. Furthermore, Swisscom's immensely appreciated customer service has earned it a high brand strength index score that confirms its excellence in the telecommunications industry....

International Yoga Festival 2023 Held on Banks of Ganges in Rishikesh

- ▶▶ The International Yoga Festival 2023 was held in Rishikesh from 1st March to 7th March 2023. The International Yoga Festival 2023 is the main attraction of Bharat Parv this year.



- ▶▶ The International Yoga Festival 2023 was held in Rishikesh from 1st March to 7th March 2023. The International Yoga Festival 2023 is the main attraction of Bharat Parv this year. The six-day event of the International Yoga Festival 2023 promotes the rich heritage and diverse natural wonders of the state, and it is a significant point of discussion among those visiting the Uttarakhand Tourism pavilion at the event held in Red Fort.
- ▶▶ The International Yoga Festival 2023 addressed guests from worldwide with a six-day session.
- ▶▶ The visitors can participate in International Yoga Festival sessions led by Yogacharyas from revered yoga schools, such as the Isha Foundation, Kaivalyadhama, Krishnamacharya Yoga Mandiram, and Art of Living, among others.
- ▶▶ The International Yoga Festival seeks to promote Uttarakhand's rich legacy of yoga and the importance of leading a holistic and spiritual way of life. Apart from these sessions, there are free medical sessions, expert-led consultation sessions, and pulse tests by Ayurvedacharyas.
- ▶▶ The Uttarakhand Tourism department also gained many visitors at Bharat Parv, attended by thousands of people, with their unique culinary offerings and cultural performances.
- ▶▶ The performances at the International Yoga Festival 2023 celebrated the extensive Devbhoomi cultural legacy with music and dance, and the local cuisine—featuring dishes like Jhangore Ki kheer, Mandweki roti, GahatKe paratha, etc.

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.

- ▶▶ This event organized in the run up to the International Women's Day, was to felicitate the exceptional and exemplary work being done at the grassroots level by women in the implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission – Grameen (SBM-G), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA-CTR).
- ▶▶ 36 women WASH Champions were conferred with the 'Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023' by the President of India and Union Minister of Jal Shakti.



Catch the Rain 2023 -

- ▶▶ The event also saw the launch of Jal Shakti Abhiyan – Catch the Rain 2023 and release of National Water Mission's (NWM) SoPs on Source Sustainability by Minister of Jal Shakti Sh. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. Union Minister also presented President with the first copy of the 'Swachh Sujal Shakti Ki Abhivyakti' – a compendium of case stories from SBM (G), JJM and NWM. The theme is 'Source Sustainability for Drinking Water'.

Significance of This Mission :

- ▶▶ Nobel laureate Michael Kremer, in his study has reported that 1.36 lakh lives of children under five years of age can be saved every year in rural India by providing safe and adequate drinking water through tap connections and having safe sanitation practices....

Mukhyamantri Vriksh Sampada Yojana

- ▶▶ On the occasion of World Forestry Day, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel launched the Mukhyamantri Vriksh Sampada Yojana, also known as the Chief Minister Tree Wealth Scheme. The scheme aims to promote tree plantation across the state by providing financial assistance to farmers and landowners.

The Need for Tree Plantation in Chhattisgarh-

- ▶▶ Chhattisgarh is known for its dense forest cover and rich biodiversity. However, the state has been facing a massive loss of forest cover due to industrialization and other human activities. The government has recognized the need for urgent action to counter the effects of deforestation and promote tree plantation to conserve the environment.

The Chief Minister Tree Wealth Scheme -

- ▶▶ Under the Mukhyamantri Vriksh Sampada Yojana, the Chhattisgarh government will provide full subsidy for tree plantation on up to 5 acres of land. For those who wish to plant trees on more than 5 acres of land, the government will provide a 50 percent financial subsidy. The scheme is expected to contribute towards increasing green cover in the state.



Benefits of the Scheme -

- ▶▶ The MukhyamantriVrikshSampada Yojana has several benefits for the people of Chhattisgarh. It will not only help to increase the state's green cover but also provide employment opportunities for people in rural areas. The scheme will also help to conserve soil and water resources, reduce the effects of climate change and air pollution, and improve the overall quality of life for people in the state.

Implementation of the Scheme -

- ▶▶ The Chief Minister Tree Wealth Scheme will be implemented by the Chhattisgarh Forest Department, which will coordinate with various stakeholders, including farmers, landowners, and NGOs. The department will provide technical assistance and training to ensure that the trees are planted in a systematic and sustainable manner. The scheme will be implemented in phases, and the government has set a target of planting 6 crore trees across the state in the next three years.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently launched the 'Call Before u Dig' (CBuD) app

- ▶▶ Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently launched the 'Call Before u Dig' (CBuD) app, an initiative of the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications. The app aims to prevent losses of about Rs 3,000 crore (\$400 million) every year due to damage to underlying assets like optical fibre cables. In this article, we explore the need for the app and how it works.



Why is the app needed ?

- ▶▶ Uncoordinated digging and excavation can cause severe damage to underground utilities, resulting in potential business loss and discomfort to citizens. It can also lead to disruption in essential services, causing inconvenience to the public. The app aims to facilitate coordination between excavation agencies and underground utility owners, thus reducing such losses.
- ▶▶ Moreover, unplanned digging can also result in accidents that may harm workers and damage infrastructure. The CBuD app aims to mitigate such risks by ensuring that excavation work is carried out in a planned and coordinated manner.

How does the app work ?

- ▶▶ The CBuD app connects excavators and asset owners through SMS/Email notifications and click-to-call. Excavating companies can inquire about existing subsurface utilities before starting excavation work, and utility owners can also find out about impending work at a location. The app will provide real-time information about the location and depth of underground utilities, enabling excavators to carry out their work without damaging them.
- ▶▶ The app's interface is user-friendly and provides easy access to essential features like the map, the call center, and the notification system. Excavating companies can log in to the app and submit their excavation requests, which will then be forwarded to the relevant utility owners for approval. Utility owners can review these requests and provide their consent or suggest alternative solutions.

India aims at becoming 'Global Hub for Green Ship' building by 2030

- ▶▶ India is aiming to become a leader in the global shipbuilding industry by launching the Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP) and setting a goal of becoming a 'Global Hub for Green Ship' building by 2030. The GTTP will start with the production of Green Hybrid Tugs, which will run on Green Hybrid Propulsion systems, and eventually switch to alternative fuel sources like Methanol, Ammonia, and Hydrogen. Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal has inaugurated the National Centre of Excellence in Green Port & Shipping (NCoEGPS) set-up in Gurugram, Haryana, and the Green Tugs will begin operating in major ports by 2025. By 2030, it is expected that 50% of all Tugs will be converted into Green Tugs, resulting in a significant reduction in emissions and contributing to the country's sustainable development goals.
- ▶▶ India's first National Centre of Excellence in Green Port & Shipping (NCoEGPS) is the outcome of a partnership between the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Government of India, and the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). NCoEGPS will act as the industry's nodal entity, and the goal is to make India the 'Global hub for building Green Ships' by 2030. The Centre aims to play a crucial role in achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 14) by sustainably managing and protecting marine and coastal ecosystems from pollution, conserving ocean-based resources, and ensuring their sustainable use. Developing a regulatory framework and an alternative technology adoption roadmap for green shipping in India will be among the Centre's responsibilities. The centre, which is located within the TERI complex in Gurugram, will work towards fulfilling India's obligations under the Paris Agreement....



India's bullet train to run by August 2026: Railway Minister

- ▶▶ According to railways and telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, the first bullet train in India will begin service in August 2026. The project will stimulate the economy because several of the suppliers to the project have begun receiving export orders. The government intends to start operating the first bullet train in August 2026. The goal is to run the bullet train on a larger section in 2027.
- ▶▶ The Indian railways is building the country's first bullet train from Ahmedabad, Gujarat to Mumbai,



Maharashtra over 508-kilometer route. The high-speed train will run at top speed of 350 kms per hour, covering the distance in three hours. The ministry of railways updated the progress of the Bullet Train project and informed that the whole project has progressed by 26.33%. It also stated that 32.93% of the project's overall Gujarat leg had been completed and that the state's surrounding civil works had advanced by about 54.74%....

Atal Innovation Mission launches ATL Sarthi

- ▶▶ Atal Innovation Mission is establishing Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATLs) in schools across India to foster curiosity, creativity, and imagination in young minds; and inculcate skills such as design thinking mindset, computational thinking, adaptive learning, physical computing, etc. As of date, AIM has funded 10,000 schools to establish Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs).

About ATL Sarthi -

- ▶▶ AIM is continuously strengthening this ecosystem by developing tools and frameworks to enhance the performance of ATLs and achieve the desired objectives. ATL Sarthi is one such initiative in this direction. As the name suggests, Sarthi is a charioteer and ATL Sarthi will enable the ATLs to be efficient and effective. The initiative has four pillars ensuring the performance enhancement of ATLs:- through regular process improvements like a self-reporting dashboard known as 'MyATL Dashboard' and Compliance SOPs for schools to ensure financial and non-financial compliance, on-ground enablement of ATLs in collaboration with relevant local authorities through a Cluster-based Approach and providing ownership to schools to analyze their performance through Performance-Enablement (PE) Matrix.
- ▶▶ The ATL Cluster aims at providing a self-sustainable model for enablement and monitoring wherein the ATLs and local authorities work in tandem with each other on-ground to form clusters of 20-30 ATLs in a particular region. These ATLs can learn from each other through training, collaborations, events, and best practices. As a pilot, AIM executed ATL Sarthi with different partners in regions like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Gujarat....



Indian Railways to become Net Zero Carbon Emitter by 2030

- ▶▶ Indian Railways has set a target of becoming a 'net-zero carbon emitter' by 2030, said Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. The Railways plans to achieve this ambitious target in two steps: A complete transition to electric trains by December 2023 and powering the trains and stations primarily through non-renewable sources by 2030.
- ▶▶ By 2030, the total energy requirement of the Railways is expected to increase to 8,200 MW, or 8.2 GW. A small portion of the projected energy requirement — 700 MW or 8.5 per cent of the total energy demand — will still be sourced from non-renewable sources because of the current power purchase agreements with coal plants, says the official. The lion's share — 91.5

per cent — will be met through renewable sources.

- ▶▶ For this, the Railways will need to create a renewable energy installed capacity of 30,000 MW as solar and wind energy is not available round the clock and the generation varies region to region. Till August 2022, the installed renewable energy capacity of the Indian Railways was only 245 MW.

Indian Railways: Significance of the Net Zero Carbon Emitter :

- ▶▶ The move will help India meet its nationally determined contribution of reducing its carbon emissions by 33 per cent by 2030, as transport is a key sector with substantial mitigation potential.

Indian Railways: Complete Electrification :

- ▶▶ Starting in 2014, the Railways picked up the pace to phase out diesel coaches and carry out the electrification of broad gauge railway tracks. It plans to completely transition to an electrified rail network by December 2023.
- ▶▶ The annual diesel consumption of the Railways has dropped to 1,092 million litres in 2020-21 (till January 2021) from 3,066 million litres in 2018-19.
- ▶▶ Besides being clean, the phaseout of diesel coaches makes economic sense, as the country imports most of its fuel...



Narender Singh Tomar inaugurates "AgriUnifest" in Bengaluru

- ▶▶ Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar on 15 March 2023, inaugurated "AgriUnifest" in Bengaluru, Karnataka. It is a 5-day cultural program, organized by Bangalore Agricultural University in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). More than 2500 students from 60 State Universities/Central Universities have participated.



- ▶▶ The All India Inter Agricultural University Youth Festival was conceptualized and initiated by ICAR during 1999-2000 to integrate Indian agriculture by connecting various Indian cultures so that the talents of the youth of agricultural universities can be nurtured and they can appreciate Indian cultural diversity. Depict the beauty of.

About The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) :

- ▶▶ The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is an autonomous body responsible for co-ordinating agricultural education and research in India. The Union Minister of Agriculture serves as its president.

IMPORTANT

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

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

- ▶▶ Aahar 2023- Asia's biggest International Food and Hospitality Fair begins in Delhi, Aahar 2023 was put together with the help of the Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

AAHAR 2023: Asia's biggest International Food and Hospitality Fair begins -

- ▶▶ AAHAR 2023: The objective of Aahar 2023, which was put together with the help of the Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries, the Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), and other organizations, is to showcase the hospitality industry's potential and showcase technologies, goods, and services to both domestic and foreign consumers.



AAHAR 2023: Key Points -

- ▶▶ 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 Aahar 2023, Culinary Art India, WACS-certified jury members from India and overseas will also assess the skill of more than 500 cooks.
- ▶▶ In Aahar 2023 event, The other chefs will have the chance to showcase their skills and abilities while famous chefs cook up some of their best dishes.

What is the duration of AAHAR 2023 and its the venue ?

- ▶▶ Aahar 2023 Timing and venue.
- ▶▶ March 14 to March 18; 10 am to 6 pm at Pragati Maidan
- ▶▶ Pricing of Tickets: Rs. 50 to Rs. 1000

The following are the competition's specifics :

- ▶▶ Aahar 2023- Plated appetisers, Petit Fours, real regional food from India, and live cooking demonstrations on March 14; a three-course set dinner menu, live cooking demonstrations by students, and cake decorating on March 15; Three-tier wedding cakes, plated desserts, modern sushi platters, a live competition for rice dishes, and chocolate mania will all be served on March 16. On March 17, an artistic pastry and bakery showpiece, fruit and vegetable carving, an egg benedict competition, and a mocktail competition will all be served. The Aahar 2023 awards ceremony will take place on March 18.

“Swachhotsav 2023- 1000 Cities are targeted to become 3-Star Garbage Free by October 2024”

▶▶ During the International Zero Waste Day 2023 in New Delhi, Sh. Hardeep S. Puri, The Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, announced that 1000 cities are targeted to achieve a 3-Star Garbage Free rating by October 2024. The GFC-Star rating protocol, launched in January 2018 to promote a competitive and mission-driven approach among ULBs, has seen a significant increase in certification since its inception.



▶▶ The Minister commended the ‘SwachhtaDoots’ from all over the country, praising them for being agents of change and leaders in their communities, as well as for their ability to turn challenges into opportunities for livelihood.

More about Swachhotsav :

- ▶▶ Swachhotsav is a government initiative to promote cleanliness and hygiene in India.
- ▶▶ Launched in 2019, it aims to raise awareness about the importance of cleanliness, encourage citizen participation, and recognize those who contribute to the cleanliness drive.
- ▶▶ The initiative involves school children, youth, and technology to make the cleanliness drive more efficient.
- ▶▶ Its goal is to make 1000 cities 3-Star Garbage Free by October 2024 and create a cleaner and healthier India.
- ▶▶ Swachhotsav events are held at national, state, and city levels and include campaigns, drives, competitions, workshops, and seminars to engage citizens and create a sense of responsibility.

Objectives of Swachhotsav 2023 -

- ▶▶ To create awareness among citizens about the importance of cleanliness and hygiene in their daily lives.
- ▶▶ To encourage citizens to participate in the cleanliness drive and make it a mass movement.
- ▶▶ To recognize and reward individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the cleanliness drive.
- ▶▶ To involve school children and youth in the cleanliness drive and make them aware of their responsibilities towards cleanliness and hygiene.
- ▶▶ To promote the use of technology and innovation in the cleanliness drive and make it more efficient and effective.
- ▶▶ To achieve the goal of making 1000 cities 3-Star Garbage Free by October 2024.
- ▶▶ To make India a cleaner and healthier nation...

India's First Quantum Computing-based Telecom Network Link Now Operational: Ashwini Vaishnaw

- ▶▶ India's first quantum computing-based telecom network link has been made operational between Sanchar Bhawan and National Informatics Centre office in New Delhi. Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced prize money of Rs 10 lakh for ethical hackers who can break the encryption of the system and also launched a hackathon challenge for anyone who can break the system developed by C-DoT, with a reward of Rs 10 lakh per break. **What is quantum computing-based telecom network ?**



- ▶▶ A quantum computing-based telecom network uses the principles of quantum physics to transmit information, providing a more secure method than traditional networks. Quantum communication relies on quantum mechanics properties, making it hard to intercept or hack the communication. This technology has the potential to revolutionize the telecom industry by enabling faster, more efficient, and secure communication....

Amit Shah unveils the statues of Lord Basaveshwara and NadaprabhuKempegowda in Bengaluru -

- ▶▶ Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah unveiled the statues of Lord Basaveshwara ji and NadaprabhuKempegowda ji at the State Assembly premises in Bengaluru, Karnataka. Lord Basaveshwara and NadaprabhuKempegowda are two prominent historical figures from Karnataka, a state in southern India. These statues will continue to give Basavanna ji and Kempegowdaji's message of social justice, democracy, good governance and development to those who get elected in the assembly.

About the Lord Basaveshwara ji :

- ▶▶ Lord Basaveshwara was a philosopher and social reformer who lived in the 12th century. He is considered the founder of the Lingayat religion, which is a major religious group in Karnataka. Basaveshwara worked to promote social justice and equality, particularly for women and lower castes. He emphasized the importance of individual devotion over caste-based rituals and was an early advocate for a democratic society.

About the NadaprabhuKempegowda ji :

- ▶▶ NadaprabhuKempegowda was a feudal ruler who founded the city of Bangalore in the early 16th century. He is considered the founder of modern Bangalore and is revered as a hero in Karnataka. Kempegowda built numerous temples, tanks, and other infrastructure in and around Bangalore, and is known for his administrative skills and governance. His legacy is still celebrated in the city, particularly during the Kempegowda festival....

India's highways infra to match US by 2024

▶▶ According to Nitin Gadkari, India's Union Road Transport and Highways Minister, the country's highways infrastructure will be at par with that of the United States by 2024. He revealed that the government is working on this goal in a time-bound 'mission mode,' which includes the development of green expressways and rail over bridges. These initiatives are aimed at ensuring that India's highway infrastructure matches the standards of the US by the specified timeline.

Minister Nitin Gadkari says that India's highways infrastructure will match US by 2024



- ▶▶ Nitin Gadkari, the Union Road Transport and Highways Minister of India, has stated that the cabinet's approval for 'Bharatmala 2' is expected soon, which will address the country's requirement for robust infrastructure.
- ▶▶ The ambitious project aims to construct over 5,000 km of expressways and highways at an estimated cost of nearly ₹ 3 trillion.
- ▶▶ The Bharatmala Pariyojana, India's largest infrastructure program, will connect more than 580 districts in the country by developing around 35,000 km of National Highway corridors.

Kailash Mansarovar highway project :

- ▶▶ Nitin Gadkari provided an update on the Kailash Mansarovar highway project via Pithoragarh, stating that about 93% of the project work has already been completed.
- ▶▶ The construction of this highway will provide a convenient alternative for pilgrims undertaking the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, as they will be able to avoid the challenging trek through dangerous high-altitude terrain.
- ▶▶ Furthermore, the journey time is expected to be reduced by several days. At present, it takes around two to three weeks to travel to Kailash Mansarovar via Sikkim or Nepal routes....

PM Modi inaugurated Whitefield (Kadugodi) for Krishnarajapura Metro Line

- ▶▶ The White field (Kadugodi) to Krishnarajapura Metro Line was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who expressed his happiness in a tweet.
- ▶▶ The White field (Kadugodi) to Krishnarajapura Metro Line was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who expressed his happiness in a tweet. He mentioned that this new metro line will enhance the 'Ease of Living' for the people of Bengaluru, by improving transportation and connectivity in the region.



PM Modi visits EXHIBITION
at inauguration of Whitefield Metro Line
in Bengaluru, Karnataka

- ▶▶ The Prime Minister launched the 13.71 km extension project of Reach-1 under Bangalore Metro Phase 2, which runs up to Krishnarajapura Metro Line. The project was completed at an estimated cost of around Rs 4250 crores.

Significance of The Whitefield (Kadugodi) for Krishnarajapura Metro Line :

- ▶▶ The inauguration of the Whitefield (Kadugodi) to Krishnarajapura Metro Line is expected to significantly improve connectivity and transportation in Bengaluru, which is a major metropolitan city in India.
- ▶▶ With the new metro line in place, people living and working in Whitefield, Kadugodi, and Krishnarajapura areas will be able to travel more easily and quickly across the city, avoiding traffic congestion and saving time.
- ▶▶ This will not only improve the quality of life for residents but also contribute to the economic growth of the region....

Environmental, Social & Governance Law India 2023

- ▶▶ Environmental, Social & Governance Law India 2023: In recent years, Environmental, Social, and Governance Law India (ESG) issues have become a significant area of concern in India.

- ▶▶ In recent years, Environmental, Social, and Governance Law (ESG) issues have become a significant area of concern for businesses, governments, and individuals around the world. India is no exception to this trend, with the country's corporate sector and regulators increasingly focused on ESG-related matters. As we enter 2023, it is worth taking a closer look at the state of Environmental, Social & Governance Law India 2023 (ESG law in India) and what the future holds for this rapidly evolving area.



Environmental, Social & Governance Law India 2023

Environmental, Social & Governance Law India 2023 : Environmental Law

- ▶▶ Environmental law has been a key area of focus for regulators in India for decades. The country's environmental laws cover a wide range of issues, from air and water pollution to waste management and biodiversity conservation. In recent years, there has been a growing emphasis on sustainability and climate change, with the government launching a number of initiatives aimed at reducing carbon emissions and promoting renewable energy.
- ▶▶ One of the most significant recent developments in Indian environmental law was the introduction of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 2019.
- ▶▶ The NCAP aims to reduce air pollution levels by 20-30% by 2024 and includes a range of measures such as strengthening monitoring and enforcement mechanisms, promoting cleaner technologies, and increasing public awareness.
- ▶▶ Another important development was the introduction of the Plastic Waste Management Rules

in 2018, which aim to reduce the use of single-use plastics and promote recycling.

- ▶▶ These rules require manufacturers, brand owners, and importers of plastic products to take responsibility for the collection and recycling of their products.

Environmental, Social & Governance Law India 2023: Social Law -

- ▶▶ Social issues such as human rights, labor standards, and community engagement are also increasingly on the agenda of Indian regulators and businesses. India has a complex and evolving labor law regime, which includes a range of provisions related to minimum wages, working conditions, and social security.
- ▶▶ In 2020, the government introduced new labor codes aimed at simplifying and modernizing the country's labor laws.
- ▶▶ These codes consolidate a number of existing laws and introduce new provisions related to social security, employment contracts, and dispute resolution.
- ▶▶ Another important area of social law in India is corporate social responsibility (CSR).
- ▶▶ The country's Companies Act requires certain companies to spend a percentage of their profits on CSR activities, such as education, healthcare, and environmental sustainability.
- ▶▶ Good corporate governance is essential for ensuring that businesses operate in a responsible and sustainable manner. In India, corporate governance is governed by a range of laws and regulations, including the Companies Act, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) regulations, and the Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (LODR) regulations.
- ▶▶ The LODR regulations, which apply to listed companies, set out a range of requirements related to board composition, disclosure, and shareholder rights. In 2020, SEBI introduced a number of amendments to these regulations aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability.
- ▶▶ ESG issues are increasingly on the radar of regulators, investors, and stakeholders in India. The country has a complex and evolving legal framework governing these issues, with a range of laws and regulations related to environmental, social, and governance matters. As we move into 2023, it is likely that ESG law in India will continue to evolve, with a growing emphasis on sustainability, climate change, and responsible business practices. Businesses operating in India will need to stay abreast of these developments and ensure that they are complying with the relevant laws and regulations....

Yuva Utsava-India@2047 pan-India launched by Anurag Singh Thakur

- ▶▶ Yuva Utsava-India@2047 launched by Anurag Singh Thakur, the Union Minister for Youth Affairs, Sports, Information, and Broadcasting, from IIT Ropar in Punjab. On this occasion, Shri Anurag Thakur also unveiled the YuvaUtsava Dashboard.

Yuva Utsava-India@2047 launched Pan-India: Key Points -

- ▶▶ In addition to Pratapgarh in Uttar Pradesh, Haridwar in Uttarakhand, Dhar and Hosangabad in Madhya Pradesh, Hanumangarh in Rajasthan, Saraiekela in Jharkhand, Kapurthala in Punjab, Jalgaon in Maharashtra, Vijayawara in Andhra Pradesh, Karimnagar in Telangana, Palakhad in

Kerala, and Cuddalore, all simultaneously hosted Yuva (Tamil Nadu).

- ▶▶ To recognise the influence of youth, YuvaUtsava will be held in 150 Districts nationwide by March 31st, 2023.
- ▶▶ Apart from the Youth Volunteers and Members of Youth Club linked with NYKS, the Yuva Utsav events in the first phase are held by schools and colleges in the districts, with a large number of participants/footfall from adjacent educational institutions.
- ▶▶ Via its leading youth organisation Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports is putting on the "YUVA UTSAV- India @2047" programme in every district of the nation.
- ▶▶ A one-day District Level Yuva Utsav will be celebrated between March and June 2023 as the first stage of this three-tiered Yuva Shakti celebration taking place across all of India.
- ▶▶ The program's first phase is slated to take place in 150 districts between March 4 and March 31, 2023, during the current fiscal year.



Yuva Utsava-India@2047: About PanchPran

- ▶▶ The District Level Yuva Utsav champions will compete in the State Level Yuva Utsav, a 2-day event planned for August to September 2023 at State Capitals. The champions of all State-level competitions must take part in the National Level Yuva Utsav, which will take place in Delhi around the third or fourth week of October 2023.
- ▶▶ Youth artists, writers, photographers, and orators will compete across the three levels, and traditional artists will highlight the rich cultural legacy of the nation. PanchPran will be the Yuva Utsav's theme.
 1. India's development aspiration
 2. To eradicate all traces of slavery and the colonial mentality,
 3. Be proud of our history and legacy.
 4. Solidarity and cooperation, and
 5. Citizens' sense of responsibility.
- ▶▶ The 5 resolutions would serve as the foundation for the youth participants' vision for Amrit Kaal, which they would present at the forefront of public conversation (PanchPran). The 75th anniversary of India's independence will be celebrated in a big way leading up to India@2047, with the theme "Yuva Shakti se Jan Bhagidari" serving as the inspiration.
- ▶▶ Youth between the ages of 15 and 29 are eligible to engage in programmes and contests at the district, state, and national levels, with winners moving on to the following stage

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 (BMTTC), 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 VidhanaSoudha. 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.

What is Methanol ?

- ▶ Methanol can be produced through the reaction of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and hydrogen, which are also known as syngas. The syngas can be produced from various sources such as natural gas, coal, or biomass.
- ▶ Methanol can be blended with gasoline or used as a standalone fuel in vehicles with modified engines. It has a high octane rating, which means it can improve engine performance and reduce harmful emissions.
- ▶ The project came at a time when many state governments and the Union Government are working on providing cleaner fuel options. The National Biofuel policy also talks about ethanol blending which is a clean, low-cost alternative to fossil fuel-based products..

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.

More About The Brand Finance 2023 rankings:

- ▶ As the telecommunications industry continues to grow and evolve, keeping track of who's-who in terms of establishing a strong presence can be difficult. Brand Finance has compiled a list of companies based on their brand value.
- ▶ Brand Finance have developed a comprehensive evaluation process to not only assess the value of brands, but also ascertain their relative strength. Utilizing best-practice ISO 20671 guidelines and up-to-date research collated from an expansive survey spanning 38 countries and 31 sectors with over 150,000 respondents – Brand Finance provide crucial insights for businesses looking to make informed decisions about brand performance.

Swisscom: strongest telecoms brand :

- ▶ 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.



THE LEADER BOARD



Strongest telecom brands globally		Top Indian firms in terms of brand value	
Company	Rank in 2023 (2022)	Company	Global rank in 2023 (2022)
Swisscom	1 (2)	Airtel	21 (20)
Reliance Jio	2 (5)	Reliance Jio	27 (32)
Etisalat	3 (1)	VIL	89 (102)
MTC	4 (4)	Tata Communications	131 (132)
Telcel	5 (8)	BSNL	148 (149)
Singtel	6 (9)		
Vodacom	7 (NA)		

Source: Brand Finance

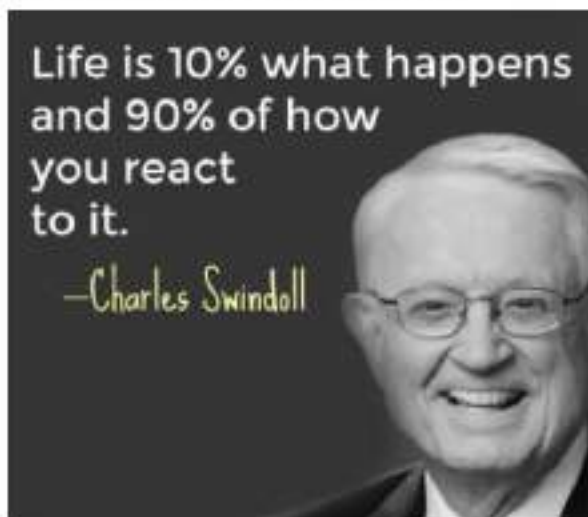
➤ Swisscom stands apart from other telco brands due to its robust combination of trust, coverage, and network perceptions. Furthermore, Swisscom’s immensely appreciated customer service has earned it a high brand strength index score that confirms its excellence in the telecommunications industry.

Reliance Jio: the second-strongest telecoms brand :

- 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.
- The brand focused on rolling out of 5G in India, and is now extending coverage to 257 cities in the country and looking to further increase this at a rapid rate.
- 5G services have already generated widespread benefits to Indian consumer and in sectors like education, healthcare and agriculture.
- These benefits and the growth opportunities presented by Jio’s 5G network have helped Jio build an extremely strong brand strength index score. It is one of only two AAA+ rated telecoms brands in the ranking.

Etisalat : The third strongest telecoms brand :

- Etisalat by e& rose its brand value by 4 percent to \$10.5 billion and is the third strongest telecoms brand globally with a BSI score of 89.1 out of 100...



International

Australia, India agree on strengthening economic, defence ties

- ▶▶ After meeting with PM Narendra Modi in Delhi, Australian PM Albanese said the two leaders have agreed to accelerate their economic partnership and strengthen defence ties.
- ▶▶ Australia and India have agreed to accelerate a broader economic partnership and to boost their defence ties, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said in New Delhi.
- ▶▶ Last year the two countries signed a free trade deal called the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), the first signed by India with a developed country in a decade.



- ▶▶ However, a much larger Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) has been stuck in negotiations for over a decade.
- ▶▶ Discussions between the countries restarted in 2011 but were suspended in 2016 as the talks were gridlocked. Negotiations resumed in 2021 but a deal has yet proved to be elusive.

Significance of the Economic ties between India & Australia :

- ▶▶ This transformational deal will realise the full potential of the bilateral economic relationship, creating new employment opportunities and raising living standards for the people of both Australia and India.
- ▶▶ Bilateral trade between the countries was \$27.5 billion in 2021 and India says trade has the potential to nearly double to \$50 billion in five years under the ECTA.

Defence ties between India & Australia :

- ▶▶ India and Australia are security partners through the Quad group, which also includes the United States and Japan.
- ▶▶ Security cooperation is an important pillar in the comprehensive strategic partnership between India and Australia," PM Modi said at a joint press briefing after a private meeting.
- ▶▶ Australia and India made "significant and ambitious" progress in strengthening defence and security ties and also discussed climate change issues, Albanese said....

US hands over NISAR satellite to ISRO -

- ▶▶ NISAR, an Earth-observation satellite, is a joint mission by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

- ▶▶ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has received the NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR) satellite from the U.S. space agency. A US Air Force C-17 aircraft carrying the NASA-ISRO synthetic aperture radar (NISAR) has landed in Bengaluru.

NISAR Satellite- All About -

- ▶▶ NISAR was envisioned by NASA and ISRO eight years ago in 2014 as a powerful demonstration of the capability of radar as a science tool and help us study Earth's dynamic land and ice surfaces in greater detail than ever before.
- ▶▶ NISAR is a Low Earth Orbit observatory jointly developed by NASA and ISRO.
- ▶▶ NISAR carries L and S dual-band Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), which operates with the Sweep SAR technique to achieve large swaths with high-resolution data. The SAR payloads mounted on Integrated Radar Instrument Structure (IRIS) and the spacecraft bus are together called an observatory.
- ▶▶ NISAR will be used by ISRO for a variety of purposes including agricultural mapping, and landslide-prone areas.
- ▶▶ NISAR will provide a wealth of data and information about the Earth's surface changes, natural hazards, and ecosystem disturbances, helping to advance our understanding of Earth system processes and climate change.
- ▶▶ The mission will provide critical information to help manage natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions, enabling faster response times and better risk assessments.
- ▶▶ NISAR data will be used to improve agriculture monitoring and management, such as monitoring of oil spills, urbanization, and deforestation.
- ▶▶ NISAR will help to monitor and understand the impacts of climate change on the Earth's land surface, including melting glaciers, sea-level rise, and changes in carbon storage.
- ▶▶ The satellite is expected to be launched in 2024 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh, into a near-polar orbit. The satellite will operate for a minimum of three years. It is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory. NISAR will map the entire globe in 12 days....

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

- ▶▶ For the first time in 25 years, Colombia has opened military service to women. A cohort of 1,296 women have been enlisted in Colombia's Army in the month of February.
- ▶▶ Colombia has opened military service to women for the first time in 25 years. A cohort of 1,296 women have been enlisted in Colombia's Army in the month of February.



More About the recent recruits by the Colombian Army :

- ▶▶ Recruits must live on military bases for several months and earn a monthly stipend of only about

\$75, but some of the women in the new program hope it helps them build a career in the armed forces. They see it as a chance for a stable job and educational opportunities.

- ▶▶ Colombia has long had compulsory military service for men ages 18 to 24. The army relies heavily on those young recruits to staff bases, protect infrastructure and carry out administrative tasks, while its professional soldiers confront drug trafficking gangs and rebel groups. This year, officials allowed females in the same age range to voluntarily join the military, in what the army says is part of an effort to strengthen the role of women in its ranks.

Composition of the Colombian army :

- ▶▶ Colombia's army has around 200,000 soldiers. Around 1% are women, who until now joined after attending military universities or applying for administrative jobs.
- ▶▶ Every year, the South American country drafts around 50,000 men into the armed forces for 12 months of compulsory military service.

India, US to sign memorandum of understanding on semiconductors

- ▶▶ The United States and India will sign an MoU on semiconductors as both countries discuss coordination of investment and continue dialogue around policies to spur private investment.
- ▶▶ 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).



- ▶▶ Raimondo, who is on a four-day trip to India, is accompanied by the chief executive officers of 10 U.S. companies and is scheduled to meet India's trade minister. The two nations will map the semiconductor supply chain together and identify opportunities for joint ventures and technology partnerships, Raimondo added.
- ▶▶ Raimondo said she and Jaishankar launched the India-US Strategic Trade Dialogue at a meeting. On the US side, the dialogue will be led by the under secretary of the Bureau of Industry and Security under the commerce department while the foreign secretary will head it on the Indian side, with the focus on export controls.

US-India Semiconductor Push :

- ▶▶ India has been seeking to attract more big-ticket investments under a \$10 billion incentive plan for chip and display production, aiming to become a key player in the global supply chain. Last year, the South Asian nation raised fiscal support for new local semiconductor facilities to cover 50% of project costs.

- ▶ India has launched a production-linked incentive scheme for chips and the US recently unveiled its CHIPS and Science Act to help rebuild its manufacturing and supply chains. Both initiatives have come at a time when India and the US are working to end their dependence on China for chips....

United Nations World Water Development Report 2023

- ▶ According to the United Nations World Water Development Report 2023, India is expected to be the most severely affected nation by water scarcity by 2050. This is a worrying trend, given that water scarcity is already a significant issue in India, with millions of people facing severe water shortages.

Asia: The Region Most Affected by Water Stress -

- ▶ The report highlights that approximately 80% of people living under water stress are in Asia, specifically northeast China, India, and Pakistan. The projected global urban population facing water scarcity is expected to increase from 933 million in 2016 to between 1.7-2.4 billion people by 2050, with India being projected to be the most severely affected.



Global Water Crisis: The Main Drivers -

- ▶ The report also highlighted that globally, two billion people do not have safe drinking water, and 3.6 billion lack access to safely managed sanitation. The increasing demand for water due to overconsumption and overdevelopment, unsustainable water use, pollution, and unchecked global warming are identified as the main drivers of this crisis.

Partnerships and Cooperation: Essential to Integrated Approaches to Water Management-

- ▶ Partnerships and cooperation are identified as essential to integrated approaches to water management, given that water is a cross-cutting issue. The report stresses the importance of addressing the water-energy-food nexus in a transboundary context. One example of such cooperation highlighted in the report is the transboundary water cooperation arrangement established by the Mahakali Treaty between India and Nepal.

The Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project: A Delayed but Beneficial Project -

- ▶ The report noted that although the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project is long delayed, several beneficial impacts have been highlighted in terms of irrigation and flood control and lessening energy shortages. The project has the potential to address some of the water scarcity issues facing India and Nepal, provided that it is implemented in a sustainable and equitable manner.

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.



President El-Sisi's visit to India and BRICS Bank :

- ▶▶ Following President El-Sisi's visit to India for the Republic Day celebrations, the Egyptian Parliament approved the agreement that permitted Egypt to join the NDB. The lawmakers welcomed the move, recognizing it as a means of reducing the need for US dollars.
- ▶▶ The upcoming BRICS Summit, scheduled to be hosted by South Africa in August, is anticipated to promote intra-BRICS trade using national currencies, allowing member nations to safeguard their foreign exchange reserves.

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 was formed to support infrastructure and sustainable development efforts in BRICS and other underserved, emerging economies for faster development through innovation and cutting-edge technology.
- ▶▶ It is headquartered at Shanghai, China.
- ▶▶ In 2018, the NDB received observer status in the United Nations General Assembly, establishing a firm basis for active and fruitful cooperation with the UN.
- ▶▶ Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates, and Uruguay joined the NDB in September 2021. Egypt was welcomed as a new member of the NDB in December 2021....

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.

Significance of the submarine base :

- ▶▶ It will allow for safe and swift movement of the submarines in case of emergency, as the base is located at the Bay of Bengal.
- ▶▶ The Government of Bangladesh signed an agreement with China in September 2019 for the construction of the submarine base.



- ▶▶ The government of Bangladesh is working on 'Forces Goal 2030' to transform its military force into a modern organization appropriate for the times.

Bangladesh: Fast Facts :

- ▶▶ Head Of Government: Prime Minister: Sheikh Hasina Wazed (Wajed)
- ▶▶ Capital: Dhaka
- ▶▶ Population: (2023 est.) 166,663,000
- ▶▶ Head Of State: President: Abdul Hamid....

India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline to be jointly inaugurated by PM Modi and Sheikh Hasina

- ▶▶ Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina, will inaugurate the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline via video conference. It is first such pipeline through which refined diesel will be supplied to Bangladesh from India. The project is built under grant assistance from the government of India.
- ▶▶ The project involves construction of 130-kilometre long pipeline that will connect Siliguri in West Bengal and Parbatipur in Dinajpur district of Bangladesh.



- ▶▶ Of the total stretch, six-kilometre will be in Indian side and remaining 124 kilometres will in Bangladesh. Indian leg of the pipeline project will be implemented by Assam-based Numaligarh Refinery Limited and Bangladeshi leg will be implemented by Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.
- ▶▶ The pipeline has capacity of 1 million metric tons per annum. It will supply refined diesel will be supplied to Parbatipur depot from Numaligarh of Assam in India.
- ▶▶ Initially, it will supply Bangladesh 2.5 lakh tonnes of diesel every year and gradually it will be increased to 4 lakh tonnes.

Significance of The India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline Project :

- ▶▶ The project will replace existing practice of sending diesel by rail covering distance of 510 kilometers. The estimated this pipeline project is Rs. 346 crore and it will be completed in 30 months' timeframe.

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 Paris Moment for Water -

- ▶▶ The conference could be a 'Paris moment' for water, as described by the special envoys for water from the co-hosting countries, Tajikistan and the Netherlands. The conference seeks to bring greater focus on water, which is a critical foundation for many of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, including health, food, gender equity, education, livelihoods, industry, climate, and the environment.

The Global Water Crisis -

- ▶▶ According to the World Meteorological Organization, around 3.6 billion people struggle to get enough water to meet their needs for at least one month every year. Despite safe water and sanitation being a human right, billions of people lack access to these essentials for life, as stated by the United Nations.

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.



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.
- ▶▶ 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.

Japan-India Strategic Partnership: Indo-Pacific region :

- ▶▶ The India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership is based on our mutual democratic values and respect of the rule of law at the international platform, PM Modi said.
- ▶▶ He said that the strengthening the partnership between two countries will play an important role in maintain peace in the Indo-Pacific region. Ranging from bilateral relationship, defence, business to digital partnership, PM Modi said both countries held discussions on key matters.
- ▶▶ The Prime Minister recalled the deals made with Japan earlier including the ¹ 3.20 lakh crore worth of Japanese investment to India and said that a satisfactory growth has been observed towards this.
- ▶▶ Japanese PM Kishida said, he will announce the new plan on Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) later at a lecture event at the Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA). "It gives me great pleasure to be able to unveil my new vision on the soil of India which is our indispensable partner in realising FOIP," he said....

Denmark, the first country to Import CO2 and bury It undersea

- ▶▶ Den-m--ark inaugurated a project to store carbon dioxide 1,800 metres beneath the North Sea, becoming the first country in the world to bury CO2 imported from abroad.
- ▶▶ 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.



More About The Denmark's Project of the CO2 graveyard :

- ▶▶ The CO2 graveyard, where the carbon is injected to prevent further warming of the atmosphere, is on the site of an old oil field. Led by British chemical giant Ineos and German oil company WintershallDea, the "Greensand" project is expected to store up to eight million tonnes of CO2 per year by 2030.

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.

The extent of this project :

- ▶▶ While measured in millions of tonnes, the quantities stored still remain a small fraction of overall emissions. According to the European Environment Agency (EEA), the member states of the EU emitted 3.7 billion tonnes of greenhouse gases in 2020 alone.

IMPORTANT

Denmark: FAST FACTS :

- ▶▶ Official Name : Kingdom of Denmark
- ▶▶ Form of Government : Constitutional monarchy
- ▶▶ Capital : Copenhagen
- ▶▶ Prime Minister : : Mette Frederiksen
- ▶▶ Population : 5,809,502
- ▶▶ Official Language : Danish
- ▶▶ Currency : Krone
- ▶▶ Area : 16,638 square miles (43,094 square kilometers)

The World Happiness Report 2023 : India ranked 126

- ▶▶ According to the 2023 World Happiness Report, Finland is the happiest country in the world for the sixth year in a row. India's position in the World Happiness Report has improved from 136 to 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.



India's position in the World Happiness Report ?

- ▶▶ India's position in the World Happiness Report has improved from 136 to 126, although it is still behind its neighboring countries such as Nepal, China, and Bangladesh. Despite having the world's fastest-growing economy, India's ranking in the report has consistently been low, leading some to question how it can be ranked lower than countries in turmoil.

How Russia and Ukraine are ranked ?

- ▶▶ Despite the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, both countries rank higher than India in the World Happiness Report, with Russia ranked 70th and Ukraine ranked 92nd. The report indicates that both countries experienced increased levels of kindness in 2020 and 2021, but in 2022, Ukraine saw a sharp rise in benevolence while it declined in Russia.

Most unhappy countries of the world ?

- ▶▶ The World Happiness Report has ranked Afghanistan as the least happy country out of the 137 nations surveyed. The report also highlighted other nations such as Lebanon, Zimbabwe, and

the Democratic Republic of Congo as being among the unhappiest countries, largely due to factors such as high levels of corruption and low life expectancy.

About the World Happiness Report :

- ▶▶ The World Happiness Report is an annual report published by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network. It ranks countries based on how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be and provides analysis of the factors that contribute to happiness, such as income, social support, and life expectancy. The report is based predominantly on data from the main life evaluation question in the Gallup World Poll. The first report was published in 2012 and it has been released annually since then, typically in March.
- ▶▶ The World Happiness Report assesses happiness levels across the world based on various criteria, including both domestic and global factors. Although India has improved its ranking in the report, it still remains quite low compared to many neighboring countries. The report gauges happiness based on feedback from a nationally representative sample of individuals regarding their current life satisfaction levels....

Top 10 country in the list of 2023 World Happiness Report

Rank	Country
1	Finland
2	Denmark
3	Iceland
4	Israel
5	Netherlands
6	Sweden
7	Norway
8	Switzerland
9	Luxembourg
10	New Zealand
126	India

QS 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.
- ▶▶ Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) has released a statement indicating that Delhi University has the highest number of entries (27) among Indian universities, followed by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay (25), and IIT Kharagpur (23). In the thirteenth edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject, 66 universities from India have been ranked. Collectively, these universities have achieved 355 entries, which represents an 18.7% increase from the previous year's 299 entries.



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.
- ▶▶ According to a press statement issued by QS, 44 programmes offered by Indian higher education institutions in different disciplines have figured in the top 100 globally this year. In 2022, 35 Indian programmes had made it to top-100. According to the release, Indian higher education institutions have done well in the fields of Computer Science, Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Business Studies, and Physics. The universities were evaluated in five broad areas, including engineering and technology, arts and humanities, life sciences and medicine, natural

science, and social sciences and management.

Arts and Humanities -

1. Harvard University
2. University of Cambridge
3. University of Oxford

Engineering and Technology -

1. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
2. Stanford University
3. University of Cambridge

Life Sciences and Medicine

1. Harvard University
2. University of Oxford
3. Johns Hopkins University

Natural Sciences

1. Harvard University
2. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
3. University of Cambridge

Social Sciences and Management

1. Harvard University
2. University of Oxford
3. Stanford University

Finland Becomes 31st NATO Member After Turkey's Approval

- ▶▶ Jens Stoltenberg, the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), has announced that Finland has become the 31st member of the alliance, thanks to Turkey's unanimous vote.
- ▶▶ Jens Stoltenberg, the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), has announced that Finland has become the 31st member of the alliance, thanks to Turkey's unanimous vote. Despite Russia's opposition to Finland's membership, Turkey's approval has allowed the extension of NATO. Finland shares a long border of over 1,300 kilometers with Russia, and its decision to



join NATO was prompted by security concerns following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. However, Sweden's application to join NATO has been declined by Turkey and Hungary.

- ▶▶ Finland's membership in NATO has been a topic of discussion for many years, with some arguing that it would help to strengthen Finland's defense capabilities, while others have expressed concerns about potential tensions with neighboring Russia. With Finland's membership, NATO now includes most of the countries in Europe and North America.

What is NATO and its History ?

- ▶▶ NATO, or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, is an intergovernmental military alliance established in 1949. It was formed as a collective defense pact between North American and European nations to deter Soviet expansion and protect member states from potential Soviet aggression during the Cold War.
- ▶▶ The founding members of NATO were the United States, Canada, and ten European nations including Belgium, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, and the United Kingdom. Since then, the alliance has expanded to include 31 member countries.
- ▶▶ The organization operates on the principle of collective defense, with members agreeing to mutual defense in response to an attack by an external party. NATO also engages in crisis management, conflict prevention, and peacekeeping operations around the world.
- ▶▶ To become a member of NATO, a country must meet the following criteria:
- ▶▶ Political and economic stability: The country must have a stable democratic government, a functioning market economy, and a proven record of respecting human rights and the rule of law.
- ▶▶ Military readiness: The country must have a capable and well-trained military that can contribute to the collective defense of the alliance. This includes a commitment to investing in defense and maintaining modern equipment.
- ▶▶ Commitment to collective defense: The country must be willing and able to contribute to the collective defense of the alliance, including by supporting other member countries in times of need.
- ▶▶ Compatibility with NATO values: The country must share the values of the alliance, including a commitment to democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law.
- ▶▶ Geographic proximity: While not an official requirement, NATO tends to give preference to countries that are in close geographic proximity to existing members, as this makes it easier to coordinate and deploy forces in times of crisis.

IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ Finland Prime minister: Sanna Marin
- ▶▶ Finland Capital: Helsinki
- ▶▶ Finland Currency: Euro

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.



▶▶ The UAE Federal Supreme Council has given its approval for the appointment of Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who is currently the Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE and the Minister of Presidential Court, as the Vice President of the UAE. This appointment will be in addition to the current Vice President, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who also holds the positions of Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai.

▶▶ After the death of Sheikh Khalifa in May last year, Sheikh Mohamed was elected by the Rulers of the UAE. Sheikh Mansour, who has previously held important positions in Abu Dhabi's wealth funds and business, is currently serving as the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court.

About the Sheikh Mansour :

▶▶ Sheikh Mansour has been an integral part of the UAE's political scene for almost two decades, starting with his appointment as Minister of Presidential Affairs in 2004. He has played a significant role in overseeing the Presidential Court and the Ministry of Presidential Affairs, as well as holding the position of Chairman in various government institutions such as the Ministerial Development Council and the Emirates Investment Authority. Additionally, he serves as the Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development and as a member of the Abu Dhabi Supreme Petroleum Council. He has also been on the boards of several investment institutions, including the National Archives, Abu Dhabi Development Fund, Board of Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority, and the Abu Dhabi Judicial Department....

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.

- ▶ According to sources, the decision to pursue dialogue partner status with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is seen as the first step towards eventual full membership for Saudi Arabia. This decision was made after Saudi Arameco's announcement of increased investment in China, including a joint venture in northeast China and acquiring a stake in a privately owned petrochemical group. The growing relationship between Riyadh and Beijing has caused concern in Washington, which sees Chinese influence as a threat to U.S. interests. However, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states have expressed worries about the United States' perceived disengagement from the region and are seeking to expand their partnerships. The U.S. has stated its intention to remain an active player in the Middle East despite these concerns.



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. It is an alliance that focuses on politics, economics, and security in the Eurasian region and is currently the largest regional organization in the world. The SCO consists of eight full members, four observer states, and several dialogue partners, including Turkey. In 2017, Pakistan and India were granted full membership. Iran, an SCO observer state since June 2005, was granted permanent membership in September 2021, and a year later, signed a memorandum of commitment to formally join as a full member.

IMPORTANT

- ▶ Saudi Arabia Capital: Riyadh
- ▶ Saudi Arabia Currency: Saudi Riyal

Tanzania announces outbreak of deadly Marburg virus disease

- ▶ The Kagera region of Tanzania has been declared an epidemic zone by the country's leaders after five people died and three others were diagnosed with Marburg viral disease at a local hospital.
- ▶ The northwestern Kagera region of Tanzania has been declared an epidemic zone by the country's leaders after five people died and three others were diagnosed with Marburg viral disease (MVD) at a local hospital. The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified 161 individuals who are at



risk of contracting the virus through contact tracing.

- ▶▶ The government has deployed an emergency response team to the affected area, and neighboring countries have increased their surveillance efforts. Thus far, no cases have been reported outside of Kagera.

About Marburg Virus :

- ▶▶ The discovery of Marburg viral disease (MVD) dates back to 1967 in Germany and Serbia. This highly fatal disease, with mortality rates ranging from 24% to 88%, causes severe hemorrhagic fever and is part of the same virus family as Ebola.
- ▶▶ Fruit bats are the carriers of the virus, which is then transmitted to humans through contaminated items or bodily fluids. Members of the family and healthcare providers are at a higher risk of contracting the disease.
- ▶▶ The symptoms of MVD can vary, starting from fever, nausea, and rash to jaundice and extreme weight loss. While there are no vaccines or treatments for the virus, controlling the patient's blood and oxygen levels or rehydration can help alleviate the symptoms and improve the chances of survival.
- ▶▶ The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) are working towards controlling the current outbreak. The director of Africa CDC has called for strengthening the health security of the continent to address the disease threats. Tanzania's health minister has urged residents to follow health recommendations and exercise caution until the situation is under control....

Former Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff 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.



Who is Dilma Vana Rousseff ?

- ▶▶ Dilma Vana Rousseff is a Brazilian economist and politician who served as the 36th President of Brazil from 2011 to 2016. She was the first woman to hold the office of President in Brazil. Prior to her presidency, Rousseff served as the Chief of Staff to President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva from 2005 to 2010. She was also the Minister of Mines and Energy from 2003 to 2005. Rousseff was impeached and removed from office in 2016 on charges of breaking budgetary laws. Before her political career, Rousseff was a guerrilla fighter during the dictatorship period.

in Brazil, and she was imprisoned and tortured for several years.

- ▶▶ Dilma Rousseff previously served as Brazil's Minister of Mines and Energy and as Minister Chief of Staff during the first two governments of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva until 2010. During her presidency, Rousseff focused on creating economic stability and jobs while also implementing social programs to reduce poverty. Her efforts led to Brazil being removed from the UN's Hunger Map due to successful poverty reduction. Rousseff promoted multilateralism, sustainable development, human rights, and peace on the international stage, while also respecting the sovereignty of all nations. She played an active role in international discussions on climate and environmental protection, culminating in Brazil's key role in achieving the Paris Agreement. Rousseff also expanded Brazil's cooperation with other countries in various regions, including the creation of the New Development Bank and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement with BRICS countries in July 2014. As President of NDB, Rousseff's leadership was instrumental in the success of these initiatives.

IMPORTANT

- ▶▶ New Development Bank (NDB) Founded: 15 July 2014;
- ▶▶ New Development Bank (NDB) HQ: Shanghai, China



Sports

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.
- ▶▶ 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....



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.
- Santosh Trophy 2023 -**
- ▶▶ 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 22 , Bekley Oram 192 , Robin Yadav 422) 3 – 2 Meghalaya (Brolington Warlarpih 192 , Sheen Stevenson Sphktung 602)



About the Santosh Trophy -

- ▶▶ The National Football Championship for Hero Santosh Trophy, due to sponsorship ties with Hero MotoCorp also known as the Hero National Football Championship, or simply Santosh Trophy, is a state-level national football competition contested by the state associations and government institutions under the All India Football Federation (AIFF), the sport's governing body in India.
- ▶▶ Before the starting of the first national club league, the National Football League in 1996, the Santosh Trophy was considered the top domestic honour in India. Many players who have represented India internationally, played and gained honour while playing in the Santosh Trophy. The tournament is held every year with eligible teams who are divided into zones, must play in the qualifying round and can progress into the tournament proper.
- ▶▶ The tournament was started in 1941 by Indian Football Association (IFA), which was the then de facto governing body of football in India. It was named after the former president of the IFA, Sir Manmatha Nath Roy Chowdhury, the Maharaja of Santosh who had died at the age of 61 in 1939. The IFA later donated the Santosh Trophy to the AIFF, soon after its formation as the sport's official governing body in India, and since then AIFF has been organising the tournament.
- ▶▶ The trophy for the runner-up, Kamala Gupta Trophy, was also donated by the then president of IFA, Dr. S.K. Gupta, and it was named in honour of his wife....

Asian Chess Federation confers D Gukesh with Player of the Year award

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



Other awardees -

- ▶▶ The All India Chess Federation (AICF) bagged the 'Most Active Federation' award conferred during the ACF annual summit, which is underway here.
- ▶▶ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin has been conferred with Man-of-the-Year award for his effort in the successful hosting of the FIDE Chess Olympiad in August last year within a short notice of four months.
- ▶▶ The Indian women's team, comprising of Koneru Humpy, D Harika, R Vaishali, Tania Sachdev and Bhakti Kulkarni, was adjudged the 'Best Women's team of the Year' for its bronze-winning effort.

- ▶▶ Grandmaster R B Ramesh bagged the men's Coach-of-the-Year award and Grandmaster Abhijit Kunte won the Women's Coach-of-the-Year awards.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams :

- ▶▶ **Asian Chess Federation Headquarters: Al Ain, United Arab Emirates;**
- ▶▶ **Asian Chess Federation President: Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan....**

Stadium named after hockey star Rani Rampal, first woman to get this honour

- ▶▶ Rani Rampal, a prominent player on the Indian hockey team, has achieved a significant milestone as the first woman in the sport to have a stadium named after her. The MCF Rae Bareilly has renamed the hockey stadium to 'Rani's Girls Hockey Turf' in her honor.

Rani Rampal: Indian Women hockey team :

- ▶▶ Earlier this year, Rani Rampal made a successful comeback to the Indian hockey team during the tour of South Africa, where she was selected as one of the 22 players in the squad.
- ▶▶ Prior to this, she had last played for India in the FIH Women's Hockey Pro League 2021-22 against Belgium, where she earned her 250th cap.
- ▶▶ After struggling with injuries since the Tokyo Olympics, the 28-year-old player was left out of both the 2022 World Cup and Commonwealth Games squads. However, she is now making a return to international hockey and has been included in the 22-member squad....



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.

Final Results of Saudi Arabia Grand Prix 2023-

1. Sergio Perez
2. Max Verstappen
3. Fernando Alonso...



Pankaj Advani retains Asian Billiards title defeating Damani

- ▶▶ Pankaj Advani retains Asian Billiards title in dominant fashion
- ▶▶ Advani's dominant performance secures 8th Asian Billiards title and adds to his impressive list of achievements
- ▶▶ 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.
- ▶▶ Bai Yulu claims victory in women's section as Advani secures eighth Asian Billiards title
- ▶▶ In the women's category, Bai Yulu of China defeated Panchaya Channoi from Thailand 3-0 in the final. This is Advani's eighth Asian Billiards title, and he has previously received the Arjuna Award in 2004, Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna in 2006, Padma Shri in 2009, and Padma Bhushan in 2018. He had won the same title in Doha last year.
- ▶▶ Advani's dominant performance secures 8th Asian Billiards title and adds to his impressive list of achievements
- ▶▶ Despite losing to Damani in the group stage earlier in the championship, Advani showed great form in the finals and won the first two games comfortably. He also scored half-century breaks in each of the six frames, including a century break in the fourth. Damani, who beat Shrikrishna Suryanarayanan 5-4 in the last-four stage, scored a break of 75 in the third frame but eventually had to settle for the silver medal, losing 1-5.
- ▶▶ Advani, who hails from Bengaluru and is 37 years old, has won the billiards world title 17 times, the IBSF World Billiards Championship 16 times, and the World Team Billiards Championship once. He has also won gold medals in English Billiards singles at the 2006 and 2010 Asian Games...



Rohan Bopanna becomes oldest tennis player to win 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.
- ▶▶ Rohan Bopanna, a 43-year-old Indian tennis player, and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden have become the oldest duo to win an ATP Masters 1000 title. They won the men's doubles final at the Indian Wells Masters 2023 tournament in California by defeating the top-seeded team of Wesley Koolhof and Neil Skupski. Bopanna and Ebden won the first set 6-3 but lost the

second set 2-6. However, they managed to win the match by clinching the deciding tie-breaker 10-8.

About Bopanna career win -

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



Women's World Boxing Championships 2023: MC Mary Kom, Farhan Akhtar 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 Farhan Akhtar 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 Farhan Akhtar.



- ▶▶ The biennial international competition is set to feature 12 weight categories and more than 350 contestants from as many as 74 nations. Nikhat Zareen, the world champion from India, will be the centre of attention throughout the international competition. She will compete in the 50 kg weight division.

IPL 2023 Schedule

- ▶▶ IPL 2023: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) officially announced the IPL 2023 Schedule on 17th February 2023. The IPL 2023 will start on 31st March 2023.
- ▶▶ IPL 2023 commenced with a thrilling encounter between defending champions Gujarat Giants

and Chennai Super Kings at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium on the 31st of March 2023. In their debut season, under the leadership of Hardik Pandya, GT exhibited their dominance, clinching a top spot in the IPL 2022 table with 20 points in 14 matches, including ten wins and four losses.



IPL 2023 : Match

- ▶▶ In the playoffs, GT emerged victorious against Rajasthan Royals, qualifying for the final. RR, who secured the second position, encountered Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Eliminator, where they won by seven wickets, securing a spot in the final.
- ▶▶ GT clinched the victory in the final held at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium, defeating their opponent by seven wickets. Shubman Gill's unbeaten score of 45 off 43 balls, including three fours and a six, led the team to chase down 131 runs in just 18.1 overs.
- ▶▶ Hardik's impressive three-wicket haul limited RR's score to 130/9 in 20 overs. The skillful performance earned GT's captain the title of Player of the Match.
- ▶▶ The upcoming IPL 2023 season will feature 70 league games, including 18 double-header matches. Each team will play seven home and away games, with Rajasthan Royals starting their two home fixtures in Guwahati before moving to Jaipur, and Punjab Kings hosting their first five games in Mohali before two home matches in Dharamshala.

IPL 2023 : About Auction And Most Expensive Player -

- ▶▶ The ten IPL franchises have made some shrewd moves in preparation for the upcoming 2023 season. Some teams went all out in the auction, with Sam Curran becoming the most expensive player in IPL history after being bought by Punjab Kings for 18.50 crores.
- ▶▶ Other high-value purchases include Cameron Green by Mumbai Indians and CSK's acquisition of Ben Stokes for ₹ 17.50 crores and ₹ 16.25 crores, respectively. Lucknow Super Giants acquired Nicholas Pooran for ₹ 16 crores, while Harry Brook will represent Sunrisers Hyderabad for 13.25 crores.
- ▶▶ IPL 2023: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) officially announced the IPL 2023 Schedule on 17th February 2023. The IPL 2023 schedule informs that the matches will be played in the home and away format where all the teams will play 7 home games and 7 away games in the league stage. The 16th edition of the Indian Premier League IPL 2023 is scheduled to have 70 league-stage matches and will be played across 12 venues over 52 days.

Tata IPL 2023 Start Date -

- ▶▶ The IPL 2023 will start on 31st March 2023 with the opening match between Gujarat Titans and Chennai Super Kings in Ahmedabad at the largest cricket stadium in the world, Narendra Modi Stadium

IPL 2023 Team List -

- ▶▶ IPL 2023: In the Indian Premier League IPL 2023, this year 10 teams are featured. Gujarat Titans were the Champions of the 15th edition of TATA IPL 2022. The Tata IPL Team List 2023 includes the following teams :

IPL 2023 Team List

1. Mumbai Indians
2. Rajasthan Royals
3. Kolkata Knight Riders
4. Delhi Challengers
5. Lucknow Super Giants
6. Chennai Super Kings
7. Punjab Kings
8. Sunrisers Hyderabad
9. Royal Challengers Bangalore
10. Gujrat Titians



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

- ▶▶ Vedanta's Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) has signed an MoU with the Rajasthan Cricket Association to build the world's third-largest cricket stadium in Chonp village, Jaipur.
- ▶▶ 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.



- ▶▶ The MoU was signed by Bhawani Shankar Samota, Honorary Secretary of the Rajasthan Cricket Association, and Arun Misra, CEO of Hindustan Zinc, in the presence of Dr. C.P. Joshi, Hon'ble Speaker of the Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha and Chief Patron of RCA, Priya Agarwal Hebbar, Chairperson of Hindustan Zinc and Non-Executive Director of Vedanta Ltd., and Vaibhav Gehlot, President of the Rajasthan Cricket Association.

Key Features of India's 2nd largest cricket stadium :

- ▶▶ Some of the features of the new stadium include its status as the world's largest cricket playing field, with a seating capacity of 75,000, making it one of the biggest cricket stadiums globally and the second-largest in India.
- ▶▶ The stadium will be spread over 100 acres (4,04,685 sqm) and will have the biggest playing area. It will also be easily accessible via the Delhi-Jaipur Express Highway.
- ▶▶ Notably, it will also have the largest playing field area of any cricket stadium in the world.

- ▶▶ The construction of the stadium will be completed in phases. The first phase will cost Rs. 400 crores, with a 40,000 capacity set to be completed by October 2023. Hindustan Zinc Limited will contribute Rs. 300 crores to the project, while the Rajasthan Cricket Association will provide the remaining Rs. 100 crores.
- ▶▶ In addition to its seating capacity, the stadium will feature an indoor games facility, training centers for other sports, a clubhouse, and parking for 3,500 vehicles. HZL has also pledged support for the construction of the stadium's second phase, which will have a seating capacity of 35,000.
- ▶▶ The Anil Agarwal International Cricket Stadium will host both national and international matches, including games of the Indian Premier League (IPL). The stadium and its facilities are expected to contribute significantly to the development of Rajasthan as a major hub for cricket and other sports....

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty win 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.
- ▶▶ 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. They were the second seeds in the tournament and played exceptionally well in the final match, winning the first set 21-19. Although their opponents, Ren Xiang Yu and Tan Qiang from China, put up a good fight to take the game into a deciding set, Satwiksairaj and Chirag held their nerve and won the second set 24-22, closing out the match in 54 minutes. Overall, it was a clinical and impressive performance by the Indian pair.



History of Swiss Open 2023 -

- ▶▶ The Swiss Open is an annual badminton tournament that has been held in Switzerland since 1955. It is one of the oldest and most prestigious badminton tournaments in Europe, and it is part of the Badminton World Federation's Super 300 category. The tournament was first held in the city of Geneva in 1955 and was known as the Geneva International. Over the years, it has been held in various cities throughout Switzerland, including Zurich, Lausanne, Basel, and Bern. In 1962, the tournament was renamed the Swiss Open and has since been held under that name.
- ▶▶ The Swiss Open has a rich history of attracting some of the world's top badminton players. The tournament has seen many legendary players compete, including Rudy Hartono, Morten Frost, Liem Swie King, and Peter Gade, among others. In recent years, the Swiss Open has become a popular tournament on the badminton circuit, attracting players from all over the world. In addition to the men's and women's singles and doubles events, the tournament also features mixed doubles and has a prize money of USD 300,000. It has also been used as a testing ground for new rule changes and formats in badminton.

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.
- ▶▶ 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.



Most wickets in men's T20Is



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

- ▶▶ WPL 2023 Final: In the WPL 2023 final, held at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai, the Mumbai Indians won against the Delhi Capitals by seven wickets.
- WPL 2023 Final -**
- ▶▶ 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.



WPL 2023 Final: Brief Score -

- ▶▶ Delhi Capitals: 131 for 9 in 20 overs (Meg Lanning 35; Hayley Matthews 3/5, Issy Wong 3/42).
- ▶▶ Mumbai Indians: 134 for 3 in 19.3 overs (Nat Sciver-Brunt 60 not out, Harmanpreetkaur 37; Radha Yadav 1/24).

WPL 2023 Final : Orange Cap

- ▶▶ After an outstanding performance throughout the tournament, Meg Lanning was crowned the winner of the WPL 2023 Orange Cap. The captain of the Delhi Capitals was the top scorer for her team in the final, contributing 35 runs in the first innings. Throughout the season, Lanning scored a total of 345 runs and finished with an impressive average of 49.29 and a strike rate of 139.11 in nine matches.



WPL 2023 Final : Purple Cap -

Hayley Matthews, who plays for Mumbai Indians, was awarded the Purple Cap for her excellent performance in the WPL 2023 final. Matthews, who is an all-rounder from the Caribbean, triggered the collapse of the Delhi Capitals by taking three wickets for just five runs in her four overs. With this performance, her total wicket tally in the tournament reached 16, which led her to clinch the Purple Cap....

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.

IBA Women's World Boxing Championship 2023 -

- ▶ 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, NituGhanghas, NikhatZareen, and LovlinaBorgohain 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.



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

Weight Class	Athlete Name	Country	Medal
Welterweight	Yang Liu	China	Gold
Flyweight	Wu Yu	China	Gold
Middleweight	LovlinaBorgohain (75 kg)	India	Gold
Bantamweight	Huang Hsiao-wen	Chinese Taipei	Gold
Minimumweight	NituGhanghas (48 kg)	India	Gold
Light flyweight	NikhatZareen (50 kg)	India	Gold
Light welterweight	Yang Chengyu	China	Gold
Light middleweight	AnastasiiaDemurchian	Russia	Gold
Featherweight	Irma Testa	Italy	Gold
Light heavyweight	Saweety Boora (81 kg)	India	Gold
Heavyweight	Khadija Mardi	Morocco	Gold
Lightweight	Beatriz Ferreira	Brazil	Gold...

Important Days

22nd March World Water Day

- ▶▶ To highlight the importance of water and raise awareness about the global water crisis, World Water Day is being observed on March 22 every year.
- ▶▶ 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 Water Day 2023 : Theme

- ▶▶ The focus of World Water Day 2023 is on the theme of 'Accelerating the change to solve the water and sanitation crisis,' underlining the vital importance of taking decisive action to address the global water crisis. According to the UN, there are billions of people, as well as numerous schools, businesses, healthcare centers, farms, and factories, who lack access to safe water and sanitation facilities. Therefore, it is imperative to move beyond the status quo and take swift measures to accelerate change and address this pressing issue

23rd March Shaheed Diwas or Martyrs' Day

- ▶▶ Shaheed Diwas or Martyrs' Day: This day marks the anniversary of the execution of three Indian freedom fighters- Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar and Shivaram Rajguru in 1931.
- ▶▶ Shaheed Diwas 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, Sukhdev Thapar and Shivaram Rajguru 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.



The President, the Vice-President, and the Prime Minister of India pay tribute to these great freedom fighters at their respective memorials in Delhi. There is also a tradition of organizing processions, marches and rallies on this day in various parts of the country. Schools and colleges also hold special programs to commemorate the occasion and to educate the students about the sacrifices of the martyrs. The day is a reminder to the people of India about the value of freedom and the sacrifices made by the freedom fighters for the country...

24th March World Tuberculosis Day

▶▶ 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.

▶▶ 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.



World Tuberculosis Day 2023 : Theme

▶▶ 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. The theme highlights the significance of various factors, including increased funding, prompt action, collaboration among different sectors, swift implementation of new WHO guidelines, and innovative approaches to eliminate tuberculosis.

World Tuberculosis Day 2023 : History

▶▶ World Tuberculosis Day has been observed annually on March 24th since 1982, commemorating the date when Dr. Robert Koch announced his discovery of the tuberculosis (TB) bacterium in 1882. Koch's discovery paved the way for diagnosing and treating TB, which had been a major cause of illness and death in Europe at the time....

Important Days & Dates in March 2023

Date	Days
1 March	Zero Discrimination Day
	World Civil Defence Day
	Self-Injury Awareness Day
3 March	World Wildlife Day
	World Hearing Day
4 March	National Safety Day
	Employee Appreciation Day
4 March	Ramakrishna Jayanti
8 March	International Women's Day
9 March	No Smoking Day (Second Wednesday of March)
10 March	CISF Raising Day
12 March	Mauritius Day
14 March	Pi Day
14 March	International Day of Action for Rivers
15 March	World Consumer Rights Day
16 March	National Vaccination Day
18 March	Ordnance Factories Day (India)
20 March	International Day of Happiness
20 March	World Sparrow Day
21 March	World Forestry Day
21 March	World Down Syndrome Day
21 March	World Poetry Day
22 March	World Water Day
23 March	World Meteorological Day
24 March	World Tuberculosis (TB) Day
25 March	International Day of the Unborn Child
25 March	International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members
26 March	Purple Day of Epilepsy
27 March	World Theatre Day...

BANK-SSC-RLY-INS-IBPS-RRB Quiz



- As per the 'Indian States' Energy Transition' report, which states made the most progress in transition to clean electricity?
 [A] Karnataka and Gujarat [B] Telangana and Tamil Nadu
 [C] Gujarat and Punjab [D] Haryana and Himachal Pradesh
- Which Union Ministry launched the 'Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC)'?
 [A] Ministry of Finance [B] Ministry of Electronics and IT
 [C] Ministry of Home Affairs [D] Ministry of Defence
- Which bank has completed the acquisition of Citigroup's India consumer business?
 [A] HDFC Bank [B] Axis Bank
 [C] ICICI Bank [D] Yes Bank
- Which country announced the Indo-Pacific tech envoy?
 [A] UK [B] USA [C] Australia [D] Germany
- Which city is the host of the 'G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting (FMM)'?
 [A] Mumbai [B] Chennai [C] New Delhi [D] Ahmedabad
- Which Ministry implements the 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana'?
 [A] Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers [B] Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
 [C] Ministry of Rural Development [D] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- Dibang Multipurpose Project, India's largest-ever hydropower project, is being set up in which state?
 [A] West Bengal [B] Arunachal Pradesh
 [C] Sikkim [D] Uttarakhand
- The 'Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD)' has found the presence of lithium reserves in which state?
 [A] Karnataka [B] Madhya Pradesh
 [C] Assam [D] Gujarat

1-A 2-B 3-B 4-A 5-C 6-A 7-B 8-A

9. When is the 'National Science Day' celebrated every year?
[A] February 21 [B] February 24
[C] February 28 [D] March 3
10. The United Kingdom signed 'Windsor Framework' with which institution?
[A] ISA [B] EU [C] G-20 [D] G-7
11. Which state is the host of the 'Global Responsible Tourism Summit'?
[A] Sikkim [B] Kerala [C] Goa [D] Himachal Pradesh
12. What is the rank of India in the International Intellectual Property Index 2023?
[A] 26 [B] 32 [C] 42 [D] 55
13. Which neighbouring country of India signed MoU with ISA to increase use of solar energy?
[A] Sri Lanka [B] Nepal [C] Bangladesh [D] Myanmar
14. As per IMF, which country has the potential to contribute 15 per cent of the global growth in 2023?
[A] China [B] India [C] Brazil [D] France
15. Dharoi wetland, where a bird survey was conducted recently, is located in which state?
[A] Gujarat [B] Karnataka [C] Tamil Nadu [D] Kerala
16. Which city is the host of 'International Bio-resource Conclave & Ethno-pharmacology Congress 2023' ?
[A] Mumbai [B] Imphal [C] Kolkata [D] Bengaluru
17. Which city is the host of the W20 Inception Meeting under India's G-20 Presidency?
[A] Chennai [B] Kochi [C] Aurangabad [D] Bhubaneswar
18. Which city has been renamed as 'Chatrapati Sambhajnagar' ?
[A] Pune [B] Aurangabad [C] Nashik [D] Ahmed Nagar
19. Which institution launched India's first municipal bond index?
[A] RBI [B] SEBI [C] BSE [D] NSE
20. Which is the first platform to launch 'UPI LITE payments' ?
[A] Google Pay [B] Mi Pay
[C] Paytm Payments Bank [D] Airtel Payments Bank
21. 'Bahu Balli', the world's first 200-meter-long Bamboo Crash Barrier has been installed in which state?
[A] West Bengal [B] Maharashtra
[C] Assam [D] Odisha

9-C 10-B 11-B 12-C 13-C 14-B 15-A 16-B 17-C 18-B
19-D 20-C 21-B

22. BrahMos Missile has been developed by a partnership between Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya and which organisation of India?
 [A] ISRO [B] DRDO [C] HAL [D] BHEL
23. Which country has proposed to create 'International Big Cat Alliance'?
 [A] USA [B] India [C] Indonesia [D] Japan
24. The Draft Central Electricity Authority Regulations was issued recently to protect which species?
 [A] One-horned Rhinos [B] Great Indian Bustard
 [C] Asian Elephant [D] Asiatic Lion
25. 'Digital India Bill' is associated with which Union Ministry?
 [A] Ministry of Home Affairs [B] Ministry of External Affairs
 [C] Ministry of Electronics and IT [D] Ministry of Science and Technology
26. HUID Number, which was seen in the news, is associated with which element/product?
 [A] Rice [B] Cotton [C] Gold [D] Lithium
27. Which institution has designed the 'Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS)'?
 [A] HAL [B] DRDO [C] BEL [D] ISRO
28. As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report for 2021-22, what is the employment fraction in the farm sector?
 [A] 26.5 % [B] 32.5 % [C] 45.5 % [D] 55.5 %
29. Which organisation released the 'Women, Business and the Law Index'?
 [A] World Bank [B] World Economic Forum
 [C] International Monetary Fund [D] Asian Development Bank
30. Which country has claimed to have discovered around 8.5 million metric tons of lithium ore?
 [A] Australia [B] Iran [C] Israel [D] UAE
31. What is the theme of National Safety Day 2023?
 [A] Our Aim – Zero Harm [B] Our Aim- Zero Accident
 [C] Health and Safety [D] Elimination of Occupational Hazard
32. 'SAMARTH scheme', which was seen in the news, is associated with which Ministry?
 [A] Ministry of Textiles
 [B] Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
 [C] Ministry of Home Affairs
 [D] Ministry of Defence

22-B 23-B 24-B 25-C 26-C 27-B 28-C 29-A 30-B 31-A 32-A

33. Which institution released the 'Mind the Gender Gap' Report?
 [A] SEBI [B] CFA Institute
 [C] Oxfam International [D] Amnesty International
34. Central Board of Irrigation and Power (CBIP) award was conferred on which institution?
 [A] REC [B] NTPC [C] ONGC [D] GAIL
35. Which institutions released the report titled 'More than a billion reasons: The urgent need to build universal social protection'?
 [A] World Bank- ILO [B] UNICEF- ILO
 [C] UNESCO- ILO [D] World Bank – UNICEF
36. Dr ManikSaha was sworn-in as the Chief Minister of which Indian state in 2023?
 [A] Tripura [B] Meghalaya [C] Mizoram [D] Assam
37. Which city was the host of the second Meeting of Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion?
 [A] Chennai [B] Mumbai [C] Hyderabad [D] Bengaluru
38. Salhoutuonuo Kruse made history by becoming the first woman Cabinet minister of which state?
 [A] Sikkim [B] Nagaland [C] Jharkhand [D] Bihar
39. Which Union Ministry launched the 'Swachhotsav' women-led cleanliness campaign?
 [A] Ministry of Women and Child Development
 [B] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
 [C] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
 [D] Ministry of Home Affairs
40. Which institution introduced the 'Global Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Infrastructure'?
 [A] World Bank [B] WEF [C] IMF [D] WMO
41. Exercise 'Al-Mohed-Al Hindi-23' is held between India and which country?
 [A] UAE [B] Saudi Arabia [C] Israel [D] Oman
42. Which country is the host of the 'United Nations 2023 Water Conference'?
 [A] USA [B] UK [C] India [D] Bangladesh
43. Which country brokered the 'Saudi-Iran Détente' peace deal?
 [A] USA [B] China [C] India [D] Russia
44. Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, which was seen in the news, is located in which state/UT?
 [A] Gujarat [B] West Bengal [C] Andhra Pradesh [D] Karnataka

33-B 34-B 35-B 36-A 37-C 38-B 39-B 40-D 41-B 42-A
 43-B 44-A

45. Which state/UT hosted the 'Kodava Hockey Festival'?
- [A] Andhra Pradesh [B] Odisha
[C] Karnataka [D] West Bengal
46. Which institution launched 'ATL Sarthi', a comprehensive self-monitoring framework?
- [A] RBI [B] SEBI [C] NITI Aayog [D] BSE
47. What is the Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation in India in February 2023?
- [A] 7.85 % [B] 6.85 % [C] 5.85 % [D] 3.85 %
48. The pilot trial of MD15 buses and Prototype launch of M100 (100% Methanol) was launched in which city?
- [A] Chennai [B] Bengaluru [C] Hyderabad [D] Pune
49. As of 2023, banks from how many countries were permitted by the Reserve Bank of India to trade in rupees?
- [A] 12 [B] 15 [C] 18 [D] 21
50. Who is the first female loco pilot to operate the semi-high-speed Vande Bharat Express train?
- [A] Surekha Yadav [B] Bhawana Kant
[C] Avani Chaturvedi [D] Mohana Singh
51. Which state approved the 10% horizontal reservation to statehood activists in state government job?
- [A] Jharkhand [B] Uttarakhand [C] Punjab [D] Rajasthan
52. Which state/UT is the host of the 'First international conference on Shared Buddhist Heritage'?
- [A] New Delhi [B] Assam [C] Kerala [D] Bihar
53. As per the recent MoSPI data, what is India's retail inflation recorded in February 2023?
- [A] 7.44 % [B] 6.44 % [C] 5.44 % [D] 4.44 %
54. Which film won seven awards during the Oscars 2023 event?
- [A] Everything Everywhere All at Once [B] Elvis
[C] Tar [D] Top Gun: Maverick
55. What is the name of the cyclone that has caused winds and torrential rain in Malawi and Mozambique?
- [A] Feddy [B] Freddy [C] Mousie [D] Rhino
56. Madhav National Park, which was seen in the news, is in which state/UT?
- [A] Tamil Nadu [B] Madhya Pradesh
[C] Gujarat [D] Kerala

45-C 46-C 47-D 48-B 49-C 50-A 51-B 52-A 53-B 54-A
55-B 56-B

57. Which Union Ministry is set to host the 'World Food India-2023' event?
 [A] Ministry of Agriculture [B] Ministry of Food Processing Industries
 [C] Ministry of Rural Development [D] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
58. Which Union Ministry launched the 'LEAN Scheme' ?
 [A] Ministry of Civil Aviation [B] Ministry of MSME
 [C] Ministry of Defence [D] Ministry of Commerce and Industry
59. Which institution released the 'Landslide Atlas of India' ?
 [A] DRDO [B] NABARD [C] ISRO [D] NITI Aayog
60. The Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) is an alpha-numeric number with how many digits?
 [A] 10 [B] 12 [C] 14 [D] 18
61. What is the name of the world's first-ever radio platform powered by artificial intelligence?
 [A] AIRadio [B] Go Radio [C] RadioGPT [D] Radio Bing
62. Torino Scale, which was seen in the news, is associated with which field?
 [A] Poverty [B] Space Science [C] Earth quake [D] Cryptocurrency
63. Which country holds the Presidency of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in 2023?
 [A] USA [B] Israel [C] India [D] Germany
64. 'Safe Harbour Principle' which was seen in the news, is associated with which act?
 [A] The Major Port Authorities Act, 2021
 [B] Information Technology Act, 2000
 [C] Merchant Shipping Act 1958
 [D] Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
65. Which state/UT released the 'Master Plan for 2041' to guide the development of city in various areas?
 [A] Karnataka [B] New Delhi
 [C] Odisha [D] West Bengal
66. 'TROPEX 2023' is a major Operational level exercise conducted by which country?
 [A] India [B] Australia [C] UK [D] USA
67. Centre has recently directed NAFED, NCCF for immediate intervention in market for purchase of which product?
 [A] Potato [B] Red onion [C] Cotton [D] Jute

57-B 58-B 59-C 60-C 61-C 62-B 63-C 64-B 65-B 66-A
 67-B

68. Which country has opened military service to women for the first time in 25 years?
[A] Sri Lanka [B] Colombia [C] UK [D] Japan
69. Which country introduced the 'Illegal Migration Bill' ?
[A] USA [B] UK [C] China [D] Greece
70. Mimeusemia ceylonica, rare moth species, has been spotted for the first time in India, in which state?
[A] Kerala [B] Tamil Nadu [C] Karnataka [D] Odisha
71. Which state's Governor returned the Prohibition of Online Gambling Bill passed by the state cabinet?
[A] Kerala [B] Tamil Nadu [C] West Bengal [D] Punjab
72. Which country hosted the third session of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR)?
[A] Sri Lanka [B] Nepal [C] India [D] USA
73. The Prevention of Money Laundering Act was recently expanded to include which products?
[A] Virtual digital assets [B] Real Estate
[C] Jewellery [D] Electronics
74. Which Union Ministry implements the 'Swadesh Darshan 2.0 programme' ?
[A] Ministry of Culture [B] Ministry of Railways
[C] Ministry of Tourism [D] Ministry of Home Affairs
75. NASA's Curiosity Rover recently captured the crepuscular rays on which planet?
[A] Earth [B] Mars [C] Jupiter [D] Venus
76. Sajibu Nongma Panba is a lunar new year celebrated in which state?
[A] Assam [B] Manipur [C] Arunachal Pradesh [D] Odisha
77. What is the name of the second Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), which was launched recently?
[A] Andrea [B] Androth [C] Arnab [D] Arnala
78. What is the theme of the 'International Day of Forests 2023' ?
[A] Forests and health [B] Forests and Climate Change
[C] Forests and Global Warming [D] Forests are Friends
79. IMF Executive Board has approved a USD 3 billion bail-out programme for which country?
[A] Sri Lanka [B] Afghanistan [C] China [D] Pakistan

68-B 69-B 70-B 71-B 72-C 73-A 74-C 75-B 76-B 77-B
78-A 79-A

80. 'Accelerating the change to solve the water and sanitation crisis' is the theme of which day?
[A] World Forest Day [B] World Water Day
[C] World Earth Day [D] World Sanitation Day
81. When is the 'International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination' observed?
[A] March 18 [B] March 21 [C] March 23 [D] March 24
82. What is the theme of the 'World Sparrow Day 2023' ?
[A] Sparrows are our Friends [B] I love Sparrows
[C] Sustainability and Sparrows [D] Climate Change and Sparrows
83. UBS Group is a multinational investment bank based in which country?
[A] USA [B] UK [C] Switzerland [D] China
84. Which institution has released 'Ethical Guidelines for AI in Healthcare and Biomedical Research' ?
[A] IMA [B] ICMR [C] AIIMS [D] NITI Aayog
85. Polio cases were recently recorded in which country for the first time in 30 years
[A] Burundi [B] Japan [C] Australia [D] South Africa
86. Which state is the key state partner of the International SME Convention 2023 (ISC)?
[A] Uttar Pradesh [B] Madhya Pradesh
[C] Assam [D] Odisha
87. What is the name of the form of artificial intelligence that can take actions using past data?
[A] Generative AI [B] Reformative AI
[C] Memory AI [D] Storage AI
88. International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant against the President of which country?
[A] UK [B] Russia [C] North Korea [D] Sri Lanka
89. Which year has been proposed to be marked as the year of tourism?
[A] 2023 [B] 2024 [C] 2025 [D] 2027
90. Which state has tabled the Advocates Protection Bill, 2023?
[A] Gujarat [B] Tamil Nadu [C] Rajasthan [D] Karnataka
91. Which city is the host of 'Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference' ?
[A] Mumbai [B] New Delhi [C] Varanasi [D] Ahmedabad
92. Which Union Ministry implements the 'PM MITRA' scheme?
[A] Ministry of Education [B] Ministry of Textiles
[C] Ministry of Steel [D] Ministry of External Affairs

80-B 81-B 82-B 83-C 84-B 85-A 86-B 87-A 88-B 89-A
90-C 91-B 92-B

93. Which Union Ministry launched the 'Women and Men in India 2022 Report'?
- [A] Ministry of Women and Child Development
[B] Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
[C] Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
[D] Ministry of MSME
94. 'Geoffrey Bawa: It is Essential To be There' Exhibition was inaugurated to mark 75 years of bilateral relations between India and?
- [A] Bangladesh [B] Sri Lanka [C] France [D] Singapore
95. Raccoon Dog, which was seen in the news, is endemic to which region?
- [A] America [B] Africa [C] Asia [D] Europe
96. Which Article of the Indian constitution deals with the disqualification of MPs from Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha?
- [A] Article 10 [B] Article 20 [C] Article 32 [D] Article 102
97. Which country launched the 'Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM4C)' along with the US?
- [A] India [B] UAE [C] Israel [D] Sri Lanka
98. 'Sahakar Samridhi Soudha' is to be constructed in which state/UT?
- [A] Tamil Nadu [B] Karnataka [C] Odisha [D] West Bengal
99. Defence Ministry recently signed a contract with which organisation under Project Himshakti?
- [A] ISRO [B] DRDO [C] BEL [D] HAL
100. Which paramilitary force is responsible for guarding the Indo-Myanmar border?
- [A] ITBP [B] Assam Rifles [C] CISF [D] BSF

93-B 94-B 95-C 96-D 97-B 98-B 99-C 100-B

ANSWERS

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State Bank of India
Probationary Officer (PO)



Sumit Dandia
State Bank - Probationary Officer (PO)



Sumit Gajbhiye
State Bank of India



Krunal Kulkarni
ICICI Bank PO



Purnam Gupta
Saraswat Bank - Deputy Manager



Sonu Singh
Axis Bank - Account Manager



JEETNA NIS
CDOO - Account Clerk



Gaurav Meena
Canara Bank - Clerk



Shruti Shah
Bank Of India Clerk



Hitesh Vaidhara
Punjab National Bank (P.N.B.)



Ravi Prakash
DIB Bank Asst. Manager



Shankar Redhat
Jr. Electric Supervisor



Nitesh Ghoshkar
Sr. Section Engg. Railway



Shruti Shah
Bank Of India Clerk



Manish Kumar Singh
PNB - Clerk



Nandu Satu
Union Bank of India-Clerk



Mohar Kumbhare
CDOO 1st in Maharashtra



Prateek Seeri
Bank of India - Clerk



Pawan Shinde
Senior Cash of State Bank



Shreshth Inam
SBI Clerk
State Bank of India



Jeena Turak
CDOO - Account Clerk



Sarvesh Arnie
Air Force Officer



Sumit Kori
Indian Security Press



Sumit Gajbhiye
SBI - PO



Nitya Pykar
Punjab National Bank (P.N.B.)



Ashwini Dhadwad
SBI Clerk



Shruti Kumbhare
Saraswat Bank Junior Officer



VIKAS MEENA
SBI of INDA-Clerk



Sanghmitra Gaiwad
Technical Assistant



Abhishek Kumar
SBI Clerk



Manish Vikas Singh
EGGC - PO



Pritya Wani
DIB Bank Asst. Mgr.



Vishvika Roke
Saraswat Bank Junior Assistant



Nashvi Pawar
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