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**Most Important Current Affairs**

**Most Important Current Affairs March**

**ICC Women's T20 World Cup: Australia clinch 6th Women's T20 World Cup title**

**ICC Women's T20 World Cup Final**

ICC Women's T20 World Cup Final: **Australia** won the **Women's T20 World Cup** for the sixth time when they beat **South Africa** by 19 runs in the final at Newlands. Opening batter Beth Mooney anchored the Australian innings, scoring an unbeaten 74 in a total of 156 for six. Victory for the Aussies is their sixth in Women's T20 World Cup history and completes a hat-trick of tournament wins under captain Meg Lanning after their triumphs in 2018 and 2020. Australia's previous victories came in 2010, 2012, 2014, 2018 and 2020.

**ICC Women's T20 World Cup: Key Awards**

- Australia's **Ashleigh Gardner** is the winner of the **ICC Player of the Tournament** award. The outstanding Gardner took ten wickets and smashed 110 runs in Australia's triumphant campaign, playing a huge part in helping the team to a sixth Women's T20 World Cup title.
- **Beth Mooney** is Player of the Match for her excellent half-century. Beth Mooney top-scored with 74\*.

**ICC Women's T20 World Cup: Brief scores**

- Australia 156-6 in 20 overs (B. Mooney 74 not out; S. Ismail 2-26, M. Kapp 2-35) vs South Africa 137-6 in 20 overs (L. Wolvaardt 61).
- Result: Australia won by 19 runs
- Toss: Australia

**8th National Photography Awards**

Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting **Dr L. Murugan** presented the 8th National Photography awards in New Delhi. A total of thirteen awards were presented during the ceremony today including 6 each in the Professional and Amateur category. The theme for the Professional category was **"Life and Water"**, while in the Amateur category the theme was **"Cultural Heritage of India"**.

A total of 13 awards were presented comprising of one Lifetime Achievement Award with cash prize of Rs.3,00,000; one award each in Professional Photographer of the Year category and Amateur Photographer of the Year category with cash prize of Rs.1,00,000 and Rs.75,000 respectively; and 5 Special Mention Awards in both Professional and Amateur categories with cash prize of Rs.50,000/- and Rs.30,000/- each respectively.

**Winners of the 8th National Photography Awards Lifetime Achievement Award**

- Ms Sipra Das

**Professional Photographer of the Year Award**

- Shri Sasi Kumar Ramachandran

**Special Mention Awards in the Professional category**

- Shri Dipjyoti Banik
- Shri Manish Kumar Chauhan
- Shri R S Gopakumar
- Shri Sudipto Das
- Shri Umesh Harishchandra Nikam

**Amateur Photographer of the Year Award**

- Shri Arun Saha

**Special Mention Awards in the Amateur category**

- Shri C S Sreeranj
- Dr Mohit Wadhawan
- Shri Ravishankar S L
- Shri Subhadip Bose
- Shri Tharun Adurugatla

**Jury for 8th National Photography Awards**

Shri Vijay Kranti, Chairman of Jury for the awards informed the audience that a total of 9 entries were received for Lifetime Achievement Award while 12 were entered in the category on recommendation of Jury members. He further informed that 462 entries with a total of 4,535 images were received for the Professional category. These entries were received from 21 States and 4 Union Territories. In the Amateur category, 874 entries with 6,838 images were received from 24 States and 6 Union Territories.

**Members of the Jury for 8th National Photography Awards**

- Shri Vijay Kranti, Chairman
- Shri Jagdish Yadav, Member
- Shri Ajay Aggarwal, Member
- Shri K. Madhavan Pillai, Member
- Ms. Ashima Narain, Member, and
- Shri Sanjiv Misra, Photographic Officer, Photo Division, Member Secretary





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

**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 will be held on March 13 IST in Los Angeles' Dolby theatre. It was hosted by popular late-night show host **Jimmy Kimmel**.

**Oscars awards 2023- Here is the complete list of winners**  
Oscars Awards 2023 full winner list is given below.

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

Category	Winners
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Costume Design	Ruth Carter for 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever'
Oscars Awards 2023 Best International Feature Film	'All Quiet on the Western Front' - Germany
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Documentary Short Film	'The Elephant Whisperers' by Kartiki Gonsalves and Guneet Monga
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Animated Short Film	The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Original Score	All Quiet on the Western Front
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Production Design	All Quiet on the Western Front

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

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

Rank	10 most polluted countries in the world
1	Chad
2	Iraq
3	Pakistan
4	Bahrain
5	Bangladesh
6	Burkina Faso
7	Kuwait
8	India
9	Egypt
10	Tajikistan

**Key points of the reports:**

Australia, Estonia, Finland, Grenada, Iceland, and New Zealand met the World Health Organization (WHO) PM2.5 guideline (annual average of 5 Aug/m3 or less).

Countries that meet WHO PM2.5 guidelines
Australia
Estonia
Finland
Grenada
Iceland
New Zealand





**'World Air Quality Report' 2022: About India**

1. In India, the transport industry is responsible for 20–35% of the country's PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution. The use of biomass fuels, industrial facilities, and coal-fired power plants are other contributors to air quality degradation.
2. Among the top 50 most polluted cities worldwide, Delhi comes in at number four. The city with the highest pollution in Lahore, Pakistan, followed by Hotan, China. Rajasthan's Bhiwadi is ranked third.
3. According to the data, Delhi's PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration is about 20 times higher than the recommended amount.
4. The research makes a distinction between "big" Delhi and the capital city of New Delhi because Delhi has historically been the most polluted capital in the world. Both cities rank among the top 10, but N'Djamena, in Chad, has the dubious distinction of being the world's most polluted capital.
5. Pollution levels have decreased in NCR areas including Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram, and Faridabad.
6. According to the data, Gurugram had a 34% decrease in PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels and Faridabad saw a 21% decrease from the average levels observed in prior years.
7. There has been an 8% decrease in Delhi.
8. The research claims that pollution levels have significantly decreased in 31 cities, including 10 cities in Uttar Pradesh and 7 cities in Haryana.
9. According to the survey, there has been an increase in pollution in 38 cities and towns overall compared to the national average over the previous years.

The survey placed Kolkata as the most polluted of the six major cities, followed by Delhi. Chennai, on the other hand, was said to be the cleanest, with pollution there "only" 5 times the WHO-recommended safe threshold. Since 2017, pollution levels in the major cities of Hyderabad and Bengaluru have been higher than average.

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

2 Indian places grabs spot in list of World's Greatest Places of 2023

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

TIME magazine's list of World's Greatest Places of 2023: Key Points

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

- The magazine asked its global network of journalists and contributors for suggestions of locations, keeping an eye out for those offering novel and interesting experiences, in order to construct this list of the World's Best Places.
- The senior editor at TIME, **Emma Barker Bonomo**, was reported by CNN as saying that the list highlights two current major trends in travel: sustainability and authenticity.
- Many of the places on this list are figuring out ways to allow tourists to visit with less of an impact on the environment.
- And many have catered to tourists' yearning for distinctive, regional encounters by providing native-led tours or carefully selected homestays.

TIME list of World's Greatest Places of 2023

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

- Tampa, Florida
- Willamette Valley, Oregon
- Rio Grande, P. R.
- Tucson, Arizona
- Yosemite National Park, California
- Bozeman, Montana
- Washington, D.C.
- Vancouver, Canada
- Churchill, Manitoba
- Dijon, France
- Pantelleria, Italy
- Naples, Italy
- Aarhus, Denmark
- St. Moritz, Switzerland
- Barcelona, Spain
- Timisoara, Romania
- Sylt, Germany
- Berat, Albania
- Budapest, Hungary
- Vienna, Austria
- Brisbane, Australia
- Kangaroo Island, Australia
- Dominica
- Mexico City, Mexico
- Guadalajara, Mexico
- Torres del Paine National Park, Chile
- Pantanal, Brazil
- Medellín, Colombia
- Ollantaytambo, Peru
- Roatán, Honduras
- **Ladakh, India**
- **Mayurbhanj, India**
- Kyoto, Japan
- Nagoya, Japan
- Isan, Thailand





- Phuket, Thailand
- Jeju Island, South Korea
- Luang Prabang, Laos
- Giza and Saqqara, Egypt
- Chyulu Hills, Kenya
- Musanze, Rwanda
- Rabat, Morocco
- Dakar, Senegal
- Loango National Park, Gabon
- Freetown Peninsula, Sierra Leone
- The Red Sea, Saudi Arabia
- Aqaba, Jordan
- Jerusalem, Israel
- Sharjah, UAE
- Tuamotu Archipelago, French Polynesia

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

**Afghanistan** remains the country most impacted by terrorism for the fourth consecutive year, despite attacks and deaths falling by 75 per cent and 58 per cent, respectively, the **tenth Global Terrorism Index (GTI) report** showed. **India** ranked 13th on the index, marking only a marginal decrease from the previous year. In spite of being among the 25 worst-hit nations on the index, Indian respondents desisted from selecting war and terrorism as the biggest threat to their daily safety.

**What Is Global terrorism index(GTI):**

- The **Global Terrorism Index** is an annual ranking produced by the **Institute for Economics and Peace**. As even the definition of terrorism is hotly debated, it is essential to highlight that the methodologies used to measure terrorism are also contested.
- The Global Terrorism Index ranks **163 countries** on four indicators weighted over five years. These four factors are: the number of terrorist incidents per year, the number of fatalities caused by terrorists per year, the number of injuries caused by terrorists per year, and total property damage caused by terrorism per year.
- The index provides a comprehensive summary of the key global trends and patterns in terrorism since 2000. It produces a composite score in order to provide an ordinal ranking of countries on the impact of terrorism.
- The GTI is based on data from the **Global Terrorism Database (GTD)** which is collected and collated by the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) at the University of Maryland.

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

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

**Pakistan: Global Terrorism Index (GTI):**

**Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA)** is the rebel group with the largest growth rate in Pakistan, where terror-related deaths have increased by 120%. The number of people killed as a result of terrorism in **Pakistan** increased dramatically to 643, which is the second-largest rise in the past year, as the number was 292 in the previous year. The number of deaths due to terrorism in Afghanistan in the same year was 633. As a result of the rapid increase in deaths, Pakistan has climbed four spots to rank sixth on the index.

**Top five countries with the highest impact of terrorism:**

Global deaths from terrorism:

- It fell by **9 %** to **6,701 deaths, from 38 % in 2015**.
- The West African Country of Burkina Faso had the largest number of deaths globally, increasing from 759 to 1,135 in 2022. Pakistan was in 4th position in terms of the number of terrorism deaths, after Burkina Faso, Mali and Somalia.

South Asia: GTI score: Most Affected With The Terrorism:

- South Asia remains the region with the worst average GTI score.
- It recorded **1,354 deaths** from terrorism in 2022, a **decrease of 30 %** when compared to the previous year.
- **Afghanistan and Pakistan** remain amongst the ten countries most affected by terrorism in 2022.

The List of Deadliest terrorist groups:

**Islamic State (IS) and its affiliates** were the deadliest terrorist groups in the world in 2022, followed by al-Shabaab, Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), and Jamaat Nusrat Al-Islam wal Muslimeen (JNIM).

**World Happiness Report 2023**

World Happiness Report 2023

**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.







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
<b>126</b>	<b>India</b>

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.

**India's most valuable celebrity of 2022**

India's most valuable celebrity of 2022

According to a report by **Kroll**, a corporate investigation and risk consulting firm, actor **Ranveer Singh** has been named **India's most valuable celebrity of 2022**, surpassing cricketer **Virat Kohli** who held the top spot for five years. The report titled "Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2022: Beyond the Mainstream" reveals that Singh's brand value is **\$181.7 million**. **Virat Kohli**, who previously held the top spot, has fallen to the second position with a brand value of **\$176.9 million**, according to the Kroll report. Kohli's brand value has been decreasing for the past two years since he resigned as the captain of the Indian men's cricket team. In 2020, his brand value was over \$237 million but steeply declined in 2021 to \$185.7 million, resulting in his current second-place ranking.

Other celebrities in the list:

- The Kroll report reveals that **Akshay Kumar and Alia Bhatt** have maintained their positions as the third and fourth most valuable celebrities in India, with brand values of \$153.6 million and \$102.9 million, respectively.
- **Deepika Padukone** has moved up two ranks to the fifth spot with a brand value of \$82.9 million, and has since become the brand ambassador of Qatar Airways and PotteryBarn.
- The report also includes **Amitabh Bachchan, Hritik Roshan, and Shah Rukh Khan** in the top 10 most valuable celebrities.
- Former cricketer **MS Dhoni** is ranked sixth with a brand value of over \$80 million, while **Sachin Tendulkar** has entered the top 10 for the first time, ranking eighth with a brand value of \$73.6 million.
- For the first time, South Indian stars **Allu Arjun and Rashmika Mandanna** have made it to the list of India's top 25 most valuable celebrities.
- Olympic gold medallist **Neeraj Chopra and PV Sindhu** tied at the 23rd spot with a brand value of \$26.5 million, according to the report.

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

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, Nitu Ghanghas, Nikhat Zareen, and Lovlina Borgohain were the top performers in their respective categories, contributing to India's historic success in the competition. This was the second time India achieved such a remarkable feat, the first being in the 2006 event. The 13th edition of the Women's World Boxing Championship 2023 was organised by the International Boxing Association (IBA) and took place from **March 15 to March 26, 2023**.





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
<b>Middleweight</b>	<b>Lovlina Borgohain (75 kg)</b>	<b>India</b>	<b>Gold</b>
Bantamweight	Huang Hsiao-wen	Chinese Taipei	Gold
<b>Minimumweight</b>	<b>Nitu Ghanghas (48 kg)</b>	<b>India</b>	<b>Gold</b>
<b>Light flyweight</b>	<b>Nikhata Zareen (50 kg)</b>	<b>India</b>	<b>Gold</b>
Light welterweight	Yang Chengyu	China	Gold
Light middleweight	Anastasiia Demurchian	Russia	Gold
Featherweight	Irma Testa	Italy	Gold
<b>Light heavyweight</b>	<b>Saweety Boora (81 kg)</b>	<b>India</b>	<b>Gold</b>
Heavyweight	Khadija Mardi	Morocco	Gold
Lightweight	Beatriz Ferreira	Brazil	Gold

- **Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Program** with an outlay of ₹2200 crore to be launched to boost availability of disease-free, quality planting material for high value horticultural crops.
- 157 new nursing colleges to be established in co-location with the existing 157 medical colleges established since 2014.
- Centre to recruit 38,800 teachers and support staff for the 740 Eklavya Model Residential Schools, serving 3.5 lakh tribal students over the next three years.
- Outlay for **PM Awas Yojana** is being enhanced by 66% to over Rs. 79,000 crore.
- Capital outlay of Rs. 2.40 lakh crore has been provided for the Railways, which is the highest ever outlay and about nine times the outlay made in 2013-14.
- **Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF)** will be established through use of priority Sector Lending shortfall, which will be managed by the national Housing Bank, and will be used by public agencies to create urban infrastructure in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
- **Entity DigiLocker** to be setup for use by MSMEs, large business and charitable trusts to store and share documents online securely.
- 100 labs to be setup for 5G services based application development to realize a new range of opportunities, business models, and employment potential.
- 500 new 'waste to wealth' plants under **GOBARdhan** (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) scheme to be established for promoting circular economy at total investment of Rs 10,000 crore. 5 per cent compressed biogas mandate to be introduced for all organizations marketing natural and bio gas.
- Centre to facilitate one crore farmers to adopt natural farming over the next three years. For this, 10,000 **Bio-Input Resource Centres** to be set-up, creating a national-level distributed micro-fertilizer and pesticide manufacturing network.
- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0**, to be launched to skill lakhs of youth within the next three years covering new age courses for Industry 4.0 like coding, AI, robotics, mechatronics, IOT, 3D printing, drones, and soft skills.
- 30 **Skill India International Centres** to be set up across different States to skill youth for international opportunities.
- Revamped credit guarantee scheme for MSMEs to take effect from 1st April 2023 through infusion of Rs 9,000 crore in the corpus. This scheme would enable additional collateral-free guaranteed credit of Rs 2 lakh crore and also reduce the cost of the credit by about 1 per cent.
- **Central Processing Centre** to be setup for faster response to companies through centralized handling of various forms filed with field offices under the Companies Act.

## Most Important Current Affairs February

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE UNION BUDGET 2023-24

The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2023-24 in Parliament today. The highlights of the Budget are as follows:

#### PART A

- Per capita income has more than doubled to ₹1.97 lakh in around nine years.
- Indian economy has increased in size from being 10th to 5th largest in the world in the past nine years.
- EPFO membership has more than doubled to 27 crore.
- 7,400 crore digital payments of ₹126 lakh crore has taken place through UPI in 2022.
- 11.7 crore household toilets constructed under Swachh Bharat Mission.
- 9.6 crore LPG connections provided under Ujjwala.
- 220 crore covid vaccination of 102 crore persons.
- 47.8 crore PM Jan Dhan bank accounts.
- Insurance cover for 44.6 crore persons under PM Suraksha Bima and PM Jeevan Jyoti Yojana.
- Cash transfer of ₹2.2 lakh crore to over 11.4 crore farmers under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi.
- **Seven priorities of the budget 'Saptarishi'** are inclusive development, reaching the last mile, infrastructure and investment, unleashing the potential, green growth, youth power and financial sector.





- The maximum deposit limit for Senior Citizen Savings Scheme to be enhanced from Rs 15 lakh to Rs 30 lakh.
- Targeted Fiscal Deficit to be below 4.5% by 2025-26.
- **Agriculture Accelerator Fund** to be set-up to encourage agri-startups by young entrepreneurs in rural areas.
- To make India a global hub for 'Shree Anna', the Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad will be supported as the Centre of Excellence for sharing best practices, research and technologies at the international level.
- ₹20 lakh crore agricultural credit targeted at animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries
- A new **sub-scheme of PM Matsya Sampada Yojana** with targeted investment of ₹6,000 crore to be launched to further enable activities of fishermen, fish vendors, and micro & small enterprises, improve value chain efficiencies, and expand the market.
- **Digital public infrastructure for agriculture** to be built as an open source, open standard and inter operable public good to enable inclusive farmer centric solutions and support for growth of agri-tech industry and start-ups.
- Computerisation of 63,000 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) with an investment of ₹2,516 crore initiated.
- Massive decentralised storage capacity to be set up to help farmers store their produce and realize remunerative prices through sale at appropriate times.
- **Sickle Cell Anaemia elimination mission** to be launched.
- Joint public and Private Medical research to be encouraged via select ICMR labs for encouraging collaborative research and innovation.
- New Programme to promote research in Pharmaceuticals to be launched.
- Rs. 10 lakh crore capital investment, a steep increase of 33% for third year in a row, to enhance growth potential and job creation, crowd-in private investments, and provide a cushion against global headwinds.
- **Aspirational Blocks Programme covering 500 blocks** launched for saturation of essential government services across multiple domains such as health, nutrition, education, agriculture, water resources, financial inclusion, skill development, and basic infrastructure.
- Rs. 15,000 crore for implementation of **Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission** over the next three years under the Development Action Plan for the Scheduled Tribes.
- Investment of Rs. 75,000 crore, including Rs. 15,000 crore from private sources, for one hundred critical transport infrastructure projects, for last and first mile connectivity for ports, coal, steel, fertilizer, and food grains sectors.
- **New Infrastructure Finance Secretariat** established to enhance opportunities for private investment in infrastructure.
- **District Institutes of Education and Training** to be developed as vibrant institutes of excellence for Teachers' Training.
- A National **Digital Library for Children and Adolescents** to be set-up for facilitating availability of quality books across geographies, languages, genres and levels, and device agnostic accessibility.
- Rs. 5,300 crore to be given as central assistance to Upper Bhadra Project to provide sustainable micro irrigation and filling up of surface tanks for drinking water.
- **'Bharat Shared Repository of Inscriptions'** to be set up in a digital epigraphy museum, with digitization of one lakh ancient inscriptions in the first stage.
- 'Effective Capital Expenditure' of Centre to be Rs. 13.7 lakh crore.
- Continuation of 50-year interest free loan to state governments for one more year to spur investment in infrastructure and to incentivize them for complementary policy actions.
- Encouragement to states and cities to undertake urban planning reforms and actions to transform our cities into 'sustainable cities of tomorrow'.
- Transition from manhole to machine-hole mode by enabling all cities and towns to undertake 100 percent mechanical desludging of septic tanks and sewers.
- **iGOT Karmayogi**, an integrated online training platform, launched to provide continuous learning opportunities for lakhs of government employees to upgrade their skills and facilitate people-centric approach.
- More than 39,000 compliances reduced and more than 3,400 legal provisions decriminalized to enhance Ease Of Doing Business.
- Jan Vishwas Bill to amend 42 Central Acts have been introduced to further trust-based governance.
- Three centres of excellence for Artificial Intelligence to be set-up in top educational institutions to realise the vision of "**Make AI in India and Make AI work for India**".
- **National Data Governance Policy** to be brought out to unleash innovation and research by start-ups and academia.
- One stop solution for reconciliation and updation of identity and address of individuals to be established using DigiLocker service and Aadhaar as foundational identity.
- PAN will be used as the common identifier for all digital systems of specified government agencies to bring in Ease of Doing Business.
- 95 per cent of the forfeited amount relating to bid or performance security, will be returned to MSME's by government and government undertakings in cases the MSME's failed to execute contracts during Covid period.
- Result Based Financing to better allocate scarce resources for competing development needs.





- **Phase-3 of the E-Courts project** to be launched with an outlay of Rs. 7,000 crore for efficient administration of justice.
- **R & D grant for Lab Grown Diamonds (LGD) sector** to encourage indigenous production of LGD seeds and machines and to reduce import dependency.
- Annual production of 5 MMT under **Green Hydrogen Mission** to be targeted by 2030 to facilitate transition of the economy to low carbon intensity and to reduce dependence on fossil fuel imports.
- ₹35000 crore outlay for energy security, energy transition and net zero objectives.
- Battery energy storage systems to be promoted to steer the economy on the sustainable development path.
- 20,700 crore outlay provided for renewable energy grid integration and evacuation from Ladakh.
- **"PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth" (PM-PRANAM)** to be launched to incentivize States and Union Territories to promote alternative fertilizers and balanced use of chemical fertilizers.
- **'Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes', MISHTI**, to be taken up for mangrove plantation along the coastline and on salt pan lands, through convergence between MGNREGS, CAMPA Fund and other sources.
- **Green Credit Programme** to be notified under the Environment (Protection) Act to incentivize and mobilize additional resources for environmentally sustainable and responsive actions.
- **Amrit Dharohar scheme** to be implemented over the next three years to encourage optimal use of wetlands, enhance bio-diversity, carbon stock, eco-tourism opportunities and income generation for local communities.
- A **unified Skill India Digital platform** to be launched for enabling demand-based formal skilling, linking with employers including MSMEs, and facilitating access to entrepreneurship schemes.
- **Direct Benefit Transfer under a pan-India National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme** to be rolled out to provide stipend support to 47 lakh youth in three years.
- At least 50 tourist destinations to be selected through challenge mode; to be developed as a complete package for domestic and foreign tourists.
- Sector specific skilling and entrepreneurship development to be dovetailed to achieve the objectives of the **'Dekho Apna Desh'** initiative.
- Tourism infrastructure and amenities to be facilitated in border villages through the **Vibrant Villages Programme**.
- States to be encouraged to set up a **Unity Mall** for promotion and sale of their own and also all others states' **ODOPs (One District, One Product)**, GI products and handicrafts.
- **National Financial Information Registry** to be set up to serve as the central repository of financial and ancillary information for facilitating efficient flow of credit, promoting financial inclusion, and fostering financial stability. A new legislative framework to be designed in consultation with RBI to govern this credit public infrastructure.
- Financial sector regulators to carry out a comprehensive review of existing regulations in consultation with public and regulated entities. Time limits to decide the applications under various regulations would also be laid down.
- To enhance business activities in GIFT IFSC, the following measures to be taken.
- Delegating powers under the SEZ Act to IFSCA to avoid dual regulation.
- Setting up a single window IT system for registration and approval from IFSCA, SEZ authorities, GSTN, RBI, SEBI and IRDAI.
- Permitting acquisition financing by IFSC Banking Units of foreign bank.
- Establishing a subsidiary of EXIM Bank for trade re-financing.
- Amending IFSCA Act for statutory provisions for arbitration, ancillary services, and avoiding dual regulation under SEZ Act
- Recognizing offshore derivative instruments as valid contracts.
- Amendments proposed to the Banking Regulation Act, the Banking Companies Act and the Reserve of India Act to improve bank governance and enhance investors' protection.
- Countries looking for digital continuity solutions would be facilitated for setting up of their Data Embassies in GIFT IFSC.





- SEBI to be empowered to develop, regulate, maintain and enforce norms and standards for education in the National Institute of Securities Markets and to recognize award of degrees, diplomas and certificates.
- Integrated IT portal to be established to enable investors to easily reclaim the unclaimed shares and unpaid dividends from the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority.
- To commemorate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, a one-time new small savings scheme, **Mahila Samman Savings Certificate** to be launched. It will offer deposit facility upto Rs 2 lakh in the name of women or girls for tenure of 2 years (up to March 2025) at fixed interest rate of 7.5 per cent with partial withdrawal option.
- The maximum deposit limit for Monthly Income Account Scheme to be enhanced from Rs 4.5 lakh to Rs 9 lakh for single account and from Rs 9 lakh to Rs 15 lakh for joint account.
- The entire fifty-year interest free loan to states to be spent on capital expenditure within 2023-24. Part of the loan is conditional on States increasing actual Capital expenditure and parts of outlay will be linked to States undertaking specific loans.
- Fiscal Deficit of 3.5% of GSDP allowed for States of which 0.5% is tied to Power sector reforms.

**Revised Estimates 2022-23:**

- The total receipts other than borrowings is Rs 24.3 lakh crore, of which the net tax receipts are Rs 20.9 lakh crore.
- The total expenditure is Rs 41.9 lakh crore, of which the capital expenditure is about Rs 7.3 lakh crore.
- The fiscal deficit is 6.4 per cent of GDP, adhering to the Budget Estimate.

**Budget Estimates 2023-24:**

- The total receipts other than borrowings is estimated at Rs 27.2 lakh crore and the total expenditure is estimated at Rs 45 lakh crore.
- The net tax receipts are estimated at Rs 23.3 lakh crore.
- The fiscal deficit is estimated to be 5.9 per cent of GDP.
- To finance the fiscal deficit in 2023-24, the net market borrowings from dated securities are estimated at Rs 11.8 lakh crore.
- The gross market borrowings are estimated at Rs 15.4 lakh crore.

**PART – B**

**DIRECT TAXES**

- Direct Tax proposals aim to maintain **continuity and stability** of taxation, further **simplify and rationalise** various provisions to **reduce the compliance burden**, promote the **entrepreneurial spirit** and provide tax relief to citizens.

- Constant endeavour of the Income Tax Department to improve Tax Payers Services by making **compliance easy and smooth**.
- To further improve tax payer services, proposal to roll out a next-generation **Common IT Return Form** for tax payer convenience, along with plans to strengthen the grievance redressal mechanism.
- **Rebate limit** of Personal Income Tax to be **increased to Rs. 7 lakh** from the current Rs. 5 lakh in the new tax regime. Thus, persons in the new tax regime, with income up to Rs. 7 lakh to not pay any tax.
- Tax structure in new personal income tax regime, introduced in 2020 with six income slabs, to change by reducing the **number of slabs to five** and **increasing the tax exemption limit to Rs. 3 lakh**. Change to provide major relief to all tax payers in the new regime.

Total Income (Rs)	Rate (per cent)
Up to 3,00,000	Nil
From 3,00,001 to 6,00,000	5
From 6,00,001 to 9,00,000	10
From 9,00,001 to 12,00,000	15
From 12,00,001 to 15,00,000	20
Above 15,00,000	30

- Proposal to **extend the benefit of standard deduction** of Rs. 50,000 to salaried individual, and deduction from family pension up to Rs. 15,000, in the new tax regime.
- **Highest surcharge rate to reduce** from 37 per cent to 25 per cent in the new tax regime. This to further result in reduction of the maximum personal income tax rate to 39 per cent.
- The limit for tax exemption on **leave encashment** on retirement of non-government salaried employees to increase to **Rs. 25 lakh**.
- The new income tax regime to be made the **default tax regime**. However, citizens will continue to have the option to avail the benefit of the old tax regime.
- **Enhanced limits for micro enterprises and certain professionals** for availing the benefit of presumptive taxation proposed. Increased limit to apply only in case the amount or aggregate of the amounts received during the year, in cash, does not exceed five per cent of the total gross receipts/turnover.
- Deduction for expenditure incurred on payments made to MSMEs to be allowed only when payment is actually made in order to support MSMEs in timely receipt of payments.
- **New co-operatives** that commence manufacturing activities till 31.3.2024 to get the **benefit of a lower tax rate** of 15 per cent, as presently available to new manufacturing companies.





- Opportunity provided to sugar co-operatives to claim payments made to sugarcane farmers for the period prior to assessment year 2016-17 as expenditure. This expected to provide them a relief of almost Rs. 10,000 crore.
- Provision of a **higher limit of Rs. 2 lakh per member** for cash deposits to and loans in cash by Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies (PACS) and Primary Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (PCARDBs).
- A **higher limit of Rs. 3 crore for TDS** on cash withdrawal to be provided to co-operative societies.
- **Date of incorporation** for income tax benefits to start-ups to be **extended** from 31.03.23 to 31.3.24.
- Proposal to provide the benefit of carry forward of losses on change of shareholding of start-ups from seven years of incorporation to ten years.
- Deduction from capital gains on investment in residential house under sections 54 and 54F to be capped at Rs. 10 crore for better targeting of tax concessions and exemptions.
- Proposal **to limit income tax exemption** from proceeds of **insurance policies with very high value**. Where aggregate of premium for life insurance policies (other than ULIP) issued on or after 1st April, 2023 is above Rs. 5 lakh, income from only those policies with aggregate premium up to Rs. 5 lakh shall be exempt.
- Income of authorities, boards and commissions set up by statutes of the Union or State for the purpose of housing, development of cities, towns and villages, and regulating, or regulating and developing an activity or matter, proposed to be exempted from income tax.
- **Minimum threshold** of Rs. 10,000/- for **TDS to be removed** and taxability relating to online gaming to be clarified. Proposal to provide for TDS and taxability on net winnings at the time of withdrawal or at the end of the financial year.
- Conversion of gold into electronic gold receipt and vice versa not to be treated as capital gain.
- TDS rate to be reduced from 30 per cent to 20 per cent on taxable portion of EPF withdrawal in non-PAN cases.
- Income from Market Linked Debentures to be taxed.
- Deployment of about 100 Joint Commissioners for disposal of small appeals in order to reduce the pendency of appeals at Commissioner level.
- Increased selectivity in taking up appeal cases for scrutiny of returns already received this year.
- Period of **tax benefits** to funds relocating to **IFSC, GIFT City** extended till 31.03.2025.
- Certain acts of omission of liquidators under section 276A of the Income Tax Act to be **decriminalized** with effect from 1st April, 2023.
- Carry forward of losses on strategic disinvestment including that of IDBI Bank to be allowed.

- **Agniveer Fund** to be provided **EEE status**. The payment received from the Agniveer Corpus Fund by the Agniveers enrolled in Agnipath Scheme, 2022 proposed to be exempt from taxes. Deduction in the computation of total income is proposed to be allowed to the Agniveer on the contribution made by him or the Central Government to his Seva Nidhi account.

#### INDIRECT TAXES

- Number of basic customs duty rates on goods, other than textiles and agriculture, reduced to 13 from 21.
- **Minor changes in the basic custom duties, cesses and surcharges** on some items including toys, bicycles, automobiles and naphtha.
- Excise duty exempted on **GST-paid compressed bio gas** contained in blended compressed natural gas.
- Customs Duty on specified capital goods/machinery for manufacture of **lithium-ion cell for use in battery of electrically operated vehicle (EVs)** extended to 31.03.2024
- Customs duty exempted on vehicles, specified automobile parts/components, sub-systems and tyres when imported by notified testing agencies, for the purpose of testing and/or certification, subject to conditions.
- Customs duty on **camera lens and its inputs/parts** for use in manufacture of camera module of cellular mobile phone **reduced to zero** and concessional duty on lithium-ion cells for batteries extended for another year.
- Basic customs duty reduced on **parts of open cells of TV panels** to 2.5 per cent.
- Basic customs duty on **electric kitchen chimney** increased to 15 per cent from 7.5 per cent.
- Basic customs duty on **heat coil for manufacture of electric kitchen chimneys** reduced to 15 per cent from 20 per cent.
- **Denatured ethyl alcohol** used in chemical industry exempted from basic customs duty.
- Basic customs duty reduced on **acid grade fluorspar** (containing by weight more than 97 per cent of calcium fluoride) to 2.5 per cent from 5 per cent.
- Basic customs duty on **crude glycerin** for use in manufacture of epichlorohydrin reduced to 2.5 per cent from 7.5 per cent.
- Duty reduced on key inputs for domestic manufacture of **shrimp feed**.
- Basic customs duty reduced on seeds used in the manufacture of **lab grown diamonds**.
- Duties on articles made from **dore and bars of gold and platinum** increased.
- Import duty on **silver dore, bars and articles** increased.
- Basic Customs Duty exemption on raw materials for manufacture of CRGO Steel, ferrous scrap and nickel cathode continued.





- Concessional BCD of 2.5 per cent on copper scrap is continued.
- Basic customs duty rate on **compounded rubber** increased to 25 per cent from 10 per cent or 30 per kg whichever is lower.
- National Calamity Contingent Duty (NCCD) on **specified cigarettes** revised upwards by about 16 per cent.

**Legislative Changes in Customs Laws**

- Customs Act, 1962 to be amended to specify a time limit of nine months from date of filing application for passing final order by Settlement Commission.
  - Customs Tariff Act to be amended to clarify the intent and scope of provisions relating to Anti-Dumping Duty (ADD), Countervailing Duty (CVD), and Safeguard Measures.
- CGST Act to be amended** to raise the **minimum threshold of tax amount** for launching prosecution under GST from one crore to two crore; to reduce the **compounding amount** from the present range of 50 to 150 per cent of tax amount to the range of 25 to 100 per cent; **decriminalise certain offences**; to **restrict the filing of returns/statements** to a maximum period of three years from the due date of filing of the relevant return/statement; and to enable unregistered suppliers and composition taxpayers to make the intra-state supply of goods through E-Commerce Operators (ECOs).

**Fund Allocation for Ministry**

- Ministry of Defence-594 lacs Cr.
- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways-2.70lacs Cr.
- Ministry of Railways-2.41 lacs cr.
- Ministry of Consumer affairs, Food and Public Distribution-2.06 lacs cr.
- Ministry of Home Affairs- 1.96lacs Cr.
- Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers- 1.78 Lacs Cr.
- Ministry of Rural Development- 1.60 lacs Cr.
- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare-1.25 lacs Cr.
- Ministry of Communications-1.23 lacs Cr.

**Grammy Awards 2023 Winners List: All you need to Know 65th Grammy Awards**

**65th Grammy Awards 2023 Winners List**

The Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles played host to the 65th Annual Grammy Awards ceremony on February 5, 2023. It honoured the top performers, songs, and recordings from the eligibility year, which spanned October 1, 2021, to September 30, 2022. November 15, 2022 saw the announcement of the nominations. The 63rd and 64th ceremonies were presented by South African comedian Trevor Noah, who served as host once more this year. Let us know all about the 65th Grammy Awards and the Grammy Awards 2023 Winners list:

**65th Grammy Awards 2023: Key Highlights**

- The biggest night in music made a comeback to Los Angeles on Sunday at Crypto.com Arena, with Trevor Noah serving as host once more.
- Lizzo, Bad Bunny, Brandi Carlile, Harry Styles, and others performed at this year's show.
- The ceremony honoured three "lost icons": Takeoff, the Migos rapper who was shot and killed in November, one of the glories of country music, who passed away in November, and Christine McVie, the Fleetwood Mac vocalist who passed away in October.
- With nine nominations, Beyoncé is the most nominated artist this year. She announced her 2023 world tour last week.
- The top nominees also include Carlile (seven nominations), Adele (seven nominations), and Kendrick Lamar (eight nominations each).
- Viola Davis became only the third Black woman in history to acquire the elusive and prestigious EGOT status.
- She won her first Grammy for her reading of her biography "Finding Me" on audiobook.
- As the first transgender woman to get a Grammy in the best pop duo/group performance category, Kim Petras created Grammy history.

**Grammy Awards 2023 Winners List: Know all the Nominations**

The 65th Grammy Awards was presented in Los Angeles on 5th February 2023. With nine total nominations, Beyoncé is in first place, followed by Kendrick Lamar with eight, Adele with seven, and Brandi Carlile with six.

Category	Winner
Record of the Year	Lizzo
Album of the Year	Harry Styles - Harry's House
Song of the Year	Lizzo - About Damn Time
Best New Artist	Samara Joy
Best Pop Solo Performance	Bonnie Raitt wins for 'Just like That'
Best Pop Duo/Group Performance	Sam Smith & Kim Petras - Unholy
Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album	Michael Buble – Higher
Best Pop Vocal Album	Harry Styles – Harry's House
Best Dance/Electronic Recording	Beyoncé – Break My Soul
Best Contemporary Instrumental Album	Snarky Puppy – Empire Central
Best Rock Performance	Brandi Carlile – Broken Horses
Best Metal Performance	Ozzy Osbourne Featuring Tony Iommi – Degradation Rules





Category	Winner
Best Rock Song	Brandi Carlile – Broken Horses
Best Rock Album	Ozzy Osbourne – Patient Number 9
Best Alternative Music Performance	Wet Leg – Chaise Lounge
Best Alternative Music Album	Wet Leg – Wet Leg
Best R&B Performance	Muni Long – Hrs & Hrs
Best Traditional R&B Performance	Beyoncé– Plastic Off the Sofa
Best Progressive R&B Album	Steve Lacy – Gemini Rights
Best R&B Album	Robert Glasper – Black Radio III
Best Rap Performance	Kendrick Lamar – The Heart Part 5
Best Melodic Rap Performance	Future Featuring Drake & Tems – Wait for U
Best Rap Song	Kendrick Lamar – The Heart Part 5
Best Country Solo Performance	Willie Nelson – Live Forever
Best Country Duo/Group Performance	Carly Pearce & Ashley McBryde – Never Wanted to Be That Girl
Best Country Song	Cody Johnson – 'Til You Can't
Best New Age, Ambient, or Chant Album	Mystic Mirror – White Sun
Best Improvised Jazz Solo	Wayne Shorter & Leo Genovese – Endangered Species
Best Jazz Vocal Album	Samara Joy – Linger Awhile
Best Jazz Instrumental Album	Stevens – New Standards, Vol. 1
Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album	Steven Feifke, Bijon Watson & Generation Gap Jazz Orchestra – Generation Gap Jazz Orchestra
Best Gospel Performance/Song	Maverick City Music & Kirk Franklin – Kingdom
Best Contemporary Christian Music Performance/Song	Maverick City Music & Kirk Franklin – Fear Is Not My Future
Best Gospel Album	Maverick City Music & Kirk Franklin – Kingdom Book One (Deluxe)
Best Contemporary Christian Music Album	Maverick City Music – Breathe
Best Roots Gospel Album	Tennessee State University – The Urban Hymnal
Best Latin Pop Album	Rubén Blades & Boca Livre – Pasieros

**"Golden Book Awards" 2023 announced**

The "Golden Book Awards" is announced its winner for 2023. This prestigious event recognizes and celebrates the best book in literature. There were more than 75,000 books published in India and nominees include a diverse mix of literary genres, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and children's books. The awards are judged by a panel of literary experts, like **Dr Kailash Pinjani** (President Indian Authors Association), **Dr Deepak Parbat** (Founder of Superfast Author) & **Murali Sundaram** (Founder of TLC), who choose the winners based on factors such as originality, creativity, and impact on the literary world.

**The winners of Golden Book Awards 2023:**

- J.K Rowling - Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets Of Dumbledore
- Gaur Gopal Das - Energize Your Mind: A Monk's Guide To Mindful Living
- Deepak Chopra - The Seven Spiritual Law Of Success: A Practical Guide To Achieving Your Dreams
- Kamlesh Patel - The Wisdom Bridge: Nine Principles To A Life That Echoes In The Hearts Of Your Loved Ones
- Jeff Kinney - Diary Of A Wimpy Kid: Diper Overlode
- Ashneer Grover - Doglapan: The Hard Truth About Life And Start-Ups
- Ruskin Bond - How To Live Your Life
- Namita Thapar - The Dolphin And The Shark: Stories On Entrepreneurship
- Sneh Desai, Sunil Tulsiani & Brian Tracy - Ultimate Secrets To Wealth
- Raj Shamani - Build, Don't Talk - Things You Wish You Were Taught In School
- Bhupendra Singh Raathore - The Magic Of Thinking Rich
- Deepak Bajaj - Network Marketing In 60 Minutes
- Deepti Naval - A Country Called Childhood: A Memoir
- Smita Goswamy - Family Run To Family Led
- Subadra Ilan - An Enticing Career
- Aadya Dube - Always Be Unique
- Navin Reuben Dawson - Chimaera
- Rajeev Kumar Dubey - Urvi
- Dr Soumendra Nath Bandyopadhyay - The Mysteries Of The Universe-Where Fact Is More Interesting Than Fiction
- Ankush Pare - Secret to overcome stammering and becoming an effective speaker
- Parag Pandya - Padagha ( Japanese Version - Bussokusekika )
- Moasenla R. Jamir - Foreign Engine In Flight - A Light Of Passage In Poems
- Gowri Venket - Superstar Of My Life - Saibaba
- Dr Sreeveni V - Self-Worth As Your First Impression - Signature Of Your Expression
- Ashutosh Madhukar Marathe - The Extra In Ordinary







- Dr K. Sreekumar - Buddhavelicham
- Rakhi Kapoor - Now You Breathe - Overcoming Toxic Relationships And Abuse
- Chandrima Chowdhury - The Tales Of The Uncommon Commons
- Dr P. Madhurima Reddy - The Awakening
- Aashish Patidar Property Shastra - A Vedic Guide To Buy The Right Property
- S. Ilanchezhian - 10x Ceo To The Board Joy To Yoy
- Kiran Sidde - Vidyarthi-Betal
- Osama Regaah - Travel And Thoughts

**About the Golden Book Awards**

Golden Book Awards is sponsored by **Wings Publication International**; they have a presence in many countries, and they are supporting literature and upcoming authors in the entire world. Wings Publication supports entrepreneurs, coaches, trainers & consultants to establish authority and thought leadership in form of the book. They are constantly seeking new ways to build your brand and showcase your expertise. One often overlooked opportunity for doing so is by writing a book.

**RBI Monetary Policy: Repo rate raised by 25 basis points; FY23 GDP growth estimate raised**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das released the Monetary Policy statement, which included the highly anticipated increase in the repo rate of 25 basis points. The central bank had increased the important benchmark interest rate by 35 basis points in its December monetary policy review (bps). In order to keep inflation under control, the Reserve Bank has raised the short-term lending rate by 250 basis points, including the rate in effect today.

Following are the revised rates in the RBI Monetary Policy 2023:

- Repo Rate: 6.50%
- Standing Deposit Facility (SDF): 6.25%
- Marginal Standing Facility (MSF): 6.75%

**Important Takeaways from RBI Monetary Policy Q1 FY23:**

- Governor Shaktikanta Das Core inflation has not changed. As of January 27, 2023, non-food credit growth was up 16.7% from the prior corresponding period. In order to reduce the CPI, we must never waver.
- As the policy likely defied expectations of a dovish turn, bonds declined, with the yield on benchmark 10-year notes jumping by as far as four basis points to 7.36%, while the currency was trading higher.
- In 12 cities, RBI will roll out a prototype programme for coin-operated machines that use QR codes.
- After the RBI policy announcement, the Sensex was trading almost 300 points higher and the Nifty was up 0.6%.

- Current account deficit will remain eminently controllable and moderate in the second half of 2022–2023: RBI Governor
- In 2022 and thus far this year, the Indian Rupee has remained the least volatile of its Asian counterparts: RBI Governor
- According to the RBI Governor, a rate increase of 25 bps is acceptable at this time, and monetary policy should remain flexible and responsive to inflation.
- According to the RBI, retail inflation will be 6.5% instead of 6.7% in FY23 and 5.3% in FY24.
- Estimated growth of the gross domestic product (GDP) for FY23 was raised to 7% from 6.8%.
- The RBI anticipates 6.4% GDP growth for 2023–2024.
- Rate adjustment for the SDF (Standing Deposit Facility) to 6.25% from 6%.
- Early trading sees the Indian rupee gain 4 paise to 82.66 against the US dollar as traders assess Jerome Powell's remarks and wait for the Reserve Bank of India to announce its policy.

**Here are the inflation rate projections by the RBI Monetary Policy:**

- FY23 Inflation Rate Projection: 6.5%
- Inflation FY23: 6.5%
- Inflation Average (Jan-March FY23): 5.6%
- Inflation FY24 Projection: 5.3%
- Real GDP Growth FY24: 6.4%

**World Happiness Index 2023 Country Wise List**

The **World Happiness Index 2023 Report** will mark its tenth anniversary with this year's Globe Happiness Reflect, which uses data from international surveys to show how people rank their lives in more than 150 countries. In these dark times, there is a glimmer of optimism revealed by the World Happiness Index 2023. The pandemic not only caused anguish and suffering, but it also led to a rise in social assistance and charitable giving.





RANK	Country	Happiness Index 2023	Population in 2022
1	Finland	7.842	5,554,960
2	Denmark	7.62	5,834,950
3	Switzerland	7.571	8,773,637
4	Iceland	7.554	345,393
5	Netherlands	7.464	17,211,447
6	Norway	7.392	55,11,370
7	Sweden	7.363	10,218,971
8	Luxembourg	7.324	642,371
9	New Zealand	7.277	48,98,203
10	Austria	7.268	90,66,710
<b>136</b>	<b>India</b>	<b>3.819</b>	<b>14,06,631,776</b>

**World Happiness Index 2023: Key Highlights**

- Finland was named the world's happiest country for the fifth year in a row, according to the World Happiness Report.
- The Sustainable Development Solutions Network of the UN has published a new report, which was made public two days prior to the yearly International Day of Happiness.
- It rates 150 countries (146 in 2023) based on factors such as GDP, life expectancy, and other quality-of-life indicators.
- The ranking, now in its eleventh year, assigns a score between 0 and 10 based on an average of data gathered over three years and a mathematical formula.
- According to a yearly UN survey released, Russia is not having a happy year as it drops in the global happiness rankings again this year.
- According to factors that contribute to happiness, such as GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, social freedom, charity, and lack of corruption, the World Happiness Report ranks 156 nations.

**5th Khelo India Youth Games 2022: Maharashtra topped the medal tally**

The fifth edition of the **Khelo India Youth Games** conclude on February 11. In the Khelo India Youth Games - 2022, **Maharashtra** was the overall champion by securing a total of **161 medals including 56 gold, 55 silver and 50 bronze** medals. On the other hand, Haryana has been at the second position by getting a total of 128 medals including 41 gold, 32 silver and 55 bronze. Host Madhya Pradesh finished third with 96 medals including 39 gold.

**Khelo India Youth Games**

- The Games were hosted in Madhya Pradesh from 31 January 2023 to 11 February 2023. For the first time water sports namely Kayaking Canoeing, Canoe Salam and Fencing were part of this edition of Khelo India Games. It was organized in eight different cities of the state.

- These eight host cities are Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Gwalior, Ujjain, Maheshwar, Mandla and Balaghat.
- Over 5,000 athletes from 36 states and union territories of India participated in the Khelo India Youth Games 2022. Where athletes competed for 973 medals – 295 gold, 295 silver and 383 bronze – in 27 sports. The participation of girls in these games was about 40 percent.

**Khelo India Youth Games: Medal Tally**

Rank	State	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Maharashtra	56	55	50	161
2	Haryana	41	32	55	128
3	Madhya Pradesh	39	30	27	96
4	Rajasthan	19	10	19	48
5	Delhi	16	22	26	64
6	Kerala	15	12	19	46
7	Manipur	13	9	12	34
8	Tamil Nadu	12	19	21	52
9	Odisha	11	8	11	30
10	Punjab	11	7	15	33

**President Draupadi Murmu named new governors in 12 states and 1 UT**

**President Draupadi Murmu named new governors in 12 states and 1 UT**

President of India **Droupadi Murmu** appointed 13 new Governors while accepting the resignations of Bhagat Singh Koshyari as Governor of Maharashtra and of Radha Krishnan Mathur as Lt. Governor of Ladakh on 12 February. Following is the complete list of new governors who have been appointed. These appointments will take effect from the dates they assume charge of their respective offices :-

**The fresh appointments**

State	Name
Governor of Arunachal Pradesh	Lt. General Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik (Retired)
Governor of Sikkim	Lakshman Prasad Acharya,
Governor of Jharkhand	C P Radhakrishnan,
Governor of Himachal Pradesh	Shiv Pratap Shukla,
Governor of Assam	Gulab Chand Kataria,
Governor of Andhra Pradesh	S. Abdul Nazeer,





**Change of states of some current governors**

State	Name
Governor of Andhra Pradesh appointed as Governor of Chhattisgarh	Justice (Retd) Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
Governor of Chhattisgarh appointed as Governor of Manipur	Anusuiya Uikye
Governor of Manipur appointed as Governor of Nagaland	La. Ganesan
Governor of Bihar appointed as Governor of Meghalaya	Phagu Chauhan
Governor of Himachal Pradesh appointed as Governor of Bihar	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Governor of Arunachal Pradesh appointed as Lt. Governor of Ladakh	Brig (Dr) B D Mishra (Retd)
Governor of Jharkhand appointed as Governor of Maharashtra	Ramesh Bais

**How are Governors appointed?**

- **Article 153** of the Constitution says "There shall be a Governor for each State."
- According to **Article 155** "the Governor of a State shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal".
- Under **Article 156**, "the Governor shall hold office during the pleasure of the President", but his term shall be five years.
- **Articles 157 and 158** lay down the qualifications and terms of office of the Governor.

**Age and eligibility**

- The Governor must be a citizen of India and must have completed **35 years** of age.
- The Governor should not be a member of Parliament or State Legislature, and should not hold any other office of profit.
- The position of Governor is envisaged as a political head who has to act on the advice of the Council of Ministers of the State.

**Here are some Constitutional Articles related to Governor:**

- **Article 153**- Governors of states
- **Article 154**- Executive power of state
- **Article 155**- Appointment of Governor
- **Article 156**- Term of office of Governor
- **Article 157**- Qualifications for appointment as Governor
- **Article 158**- Conditions of Governor's office
- **Article 159**- Oath or affirmation by the Governor
- **Article 160**- Discharge of the functions of the Governor in certain contingencies
- **Article 161**- Power of the Governor to grant pardons and others

- **Article 162**- Extent of executive power of state
- **Article 163**- Council of ministers to aid and advise the Governor

**Who can remove the Governor of a State from its office?**

He/she is appointed by the President and holds his office during the pleasure of the latter. A Governor's normal term of office is five years. However, he can be removed by **the President** at any time without assigning any cause.

**76th BAFTA Awards 2023: Check the complete list of winners**

**76th BAFTA Awards 2023**

At the Royal Festival Hall in London, England, the **76th British Academy Film Awards**, also referred to as the BAFTAs, were presented. The award was hosted by actor **Richard E Grant**, the star-studded ceremony saw the German anti-war film *All Quiet on the Western Front* winning seven awards, including the two big wins awards, Best Film and Best Director. Shaunak Sen's documentary *All That Breathes from India* was a nominee for the Best Documentary award, which went to Daniel Roher's *Navalny*.

**Here are the complete list of winners:**

Category	Winner
Best Film	All Quiet on the Western Front
Leading Actress	Cate Blanchett, Tar
Leading Actor	Austin Butler, Elvis
Best Director	Edward Berger, All Quiet on the Western Front
Best Casting	Elvis
Best Cinematography	All Quiet on the Western Front
Adapted Screenplay	All Quiet On The Western Front, Edward Berger, Lesley Paterson, Ian Stokell
Editing	Everything Everywhere All At Once, Paul Rogers
Cinematography	All Quiet On The Western Front, James Friend
Best Documentary	Navalny (Daniel Roher)
EE Bafta Rising Star Award	Emma Mackey
Film Not In The English Language	All Quiet On The Western Front
Best Costume Design	Catherine Martin, Elvis
British Short Film	An Irish Goodbye
Make up & Hair	Elvis; Jason Baird, Mark Coulier, Louise Coulston, Shane Thomas





Category	Winner
Production design	Babylon; Florencia Martin, Anthony Carlino
Sound	All Quiet On The Western Front; Lars Ginzsel, Frank Kruse, Viktor Prášil, Markus Stemler
Original Score	All Quiet On The Western Front; Volker Bertelmann
Supporting Actress	Kerry Condon, The Banshees of Inisherin
Supporting Actor	Barry Keoghan, The Banshees of Inisherin

**About BAFTA**

BAFTA – the British Academy of Film and Television Arts - is a world-leading independent arts charity that brings the very best work in film, games and television to public attention and supports the growth of creative talent in the UK and internationally. Through its Awards ceremonies and year-round programme of learning events and initiatives – which includes workshops, masterclasses, scholarships, lectures and mentoring schemes in the UK, USA and Asia – BAFTA identifies and celebrates excellence, discovers, inspires and nurtures new talent, and enables learning and creative collaboration.

**Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2023: Check the winners list**

**Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2023**

The **Dadasaheb Phalke Award** is the country’s highest award in the field of cinema. The 2023 winners were revealed by the Directorate of Film Festivals. Mumbai will host the **2023 Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival ceremony**. Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor won the Best Actor and Best Actress awards at the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards.

**Here is the complete list of winners**

Category	Winner
Best Film	The Kashmir Files
Film Of The Year	RRR
Best Actor	Ranbir Kapoor (Brahmastra Part One: Shiva)
Best Actress	Alia Bhatt (Gangubhai Khatriawadi)
Critics Best Actor	Varun Dhawan (Bhediya)
Critics Best Actress	Vidya Balan (Jalsa)
Best Director	R Balki (Chup)
Best Cinematographer	PS Vinod (Vikram Vedha)
Most Promising Actor	Rishab Shetty (Kantara)
Best Actor In A Supporting Role	Manish Paul (Jugjugg Jeeyo)

Category	Winner
Best Playback Singer (Male)	Sachet Tandon (Maiyya Mainu – Jersey)
Best Playback Singer (Female)	Neeti Mohan (Meri Jaan – Gangubhai Khatriawadi)
Best Web Series	Rudra: The Edge Of Darkness (Hindi)
Most Versatile Actor	Anupam Kher (The Kashmir Files)
Television Series Of The Year	Anupamaa
Best Actor In A Television Series	Zain Imam for Fanaa (Ishq Mein Marjawaan)
Best Actress In A Television Series	Tejasswi Prakash (Naagin)
Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2023 for Outstanding Contribution In The Film Industry	Rekha
Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2023 for Outstanding Contribution In The Music Industry	Hariharan

**About the Dadasaheb Phalke Award**

The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is India's highest award in the field of cinema. It is presented annually at the National Film Awards ceremony by the Directorate of Film Festivals, an organisation set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The recipient is honoured for their "outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema" and is selected by a committee consisting of eminent personalities from the Indian film industry. The award comprises a Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) medallion, a shawl, and a cash prize of ₹1,000,000 (US\$13,000).

**Sansad Ratna award 2023: Check the list of nominated MP's**

**Sansad Ratna award 2023**

13 members of Parliament (MP) have been nominated for the **Sansad Ratna Awards 2023**. The Jury Committee of eminent Parliamentarians and civil society, chaired by **Arjun Ram Meghwal** (State Minister of Parliamentary Affairs) and Co-Chaired by **T S Krishnamurthy** (Former Chief Election Commissioner of India) has nominated eight MPs from Lok Sabha and five from Rajya Sabha for the Sansad Ratna Awards 2023. These nominations are based on cumulative performance in questions, private members' bills and members' debates from the beginning of the 17th Lok Sabha till the end of the Winter Session 2022.

**Notably:** The 13th Sansad Ratna Awards 2023 will be presented on March 25 in the national Capital.





**Sansad Ratna Awards 2023 nominated from Lok Sabha**

1. Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury (INC, West Bengal),
2. Gopal Chinayya Shetty (BJP, Maharashtra),
3. Sudhir Gupta (BJP, Madhya Pradesh) and
4. Dr. Amol Ramsing Kolhe (NCP, Maharashtra)
5. Bidyut Baran Mahato (BJP, Jharkhand),
6. Dr. Sukanta Majumdar (BJP, West Bengal),
7. Kuldeep Rai Sharma (INC, Andaman Nicobar Islands),
8. Dr Heena Vijayakumar Gavit (BJP, Maharashtra),

**Sansad Ratna Awards 2023 from Rajya Sabha**

1. Smt Fauzia Tahseen Ahmed Khan (NCP, Maharashtra)
2. Dr. John Brittas (CPI-M, Kerala),
3. Dr. Manoj Kumar Jha (RJD, Bihar),
4. Vishambhar Prasad Nishad (Samajwadi Party, UP) and
5. Smt Chhaya Verma (INC, Chhattisgarh)

**Two Parliamentary Committees of Lok Sabha nominated for Sansad Ratna Award 2023**

1. Rajya Sabha's Standing Committee on Tourism, Transport, and Culture, chaired by **Vijay Sai Reddy**
2. Lok Sabha's Parliamentary Committee on Finance, chaired by **Jayant Sinha**

**Lifetime Achievement Award**

Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Lifetime Achievement Award: **T K Rangarajan**, (Former Rajya Sabha MP for two terms and a Senior CPIM Leader).

**Some facts about Sansad Ratna Awards:**

Sansad Ratna Awards were instituted on the suggestion of **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam** to honour top performing Parliamentarians. He himself inaugurated the first edition of the award ceremony in **2010 in Chennai**. So far, 90 top performing parliamentarians have been honoured and all of them have received the award individually. **K. Srinivasan** is the Founder Chairman of the Sansad Ratna Award Committee and **Ms. Priyadarshini Rahul** is the Chairman.



**Most Important Current Affairs January**

**Mascot, torch and anthem of Khelo India Youth Games 2022 unveiled in Bhopal**

**Khelo India Youth Game 2022:-**

The **anthem, mascot and a 'smart torch'** for the fifth edition of the youth games were unveiled by chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union MoS sports Nisith Pramanik and state sports minister at a glittering event in **Bhopal** on Saturday evening. The highlight was a drone show that created magic in Bhopal's night sky with hundreds of drones forming a sprinting cheetah, maps of India and Madhya Pradesh and 'Khelo India Youth Games 2022' The Games will be organised in eight districts of Madhya Pradesh from January 30, with **Malkhamb and water sports** making their debut.

The **5th KIYG 2022** will be held from **January 30 to February 11**. There are **27** sporting disciplines on the schedule, with over **6,000** athletes competing. '**Hindustan Ka Dil Dhadka Do**' - this is the heartpounding **anthem** of the Khelo India Youth Games 2022. And **cheetah Asha**, who was named by PM Narendra Modi, the **Games mascot**.

**About Khelo India**

The importance of sports and fitness in one's life is invaluable. Playing sports inculcates team spirit, develops strategic & analytical thinking, leadership skills, goal setting and risk taking. A fit and healthy individual leads to an equally healthy society and strong nation.

Sports is an extremely important component for the overall development of our nation. India, in the last few years has made steady progress in the field of sports. This tremendous potential needs to be showcased at a global platform. It's time we inspire young talent, give them top-notch infrastructure and training of the highest level. We need to inculcate a strong spirit of participation in sports that enables players to demonstrate their true potential. Only then can India realise its dream of becoming a sports super power.

The Khelo India programme has been introduced to revive the sports culture in India at the grass-root level by building a strong framework for all sports played in our country and establish India as a great sporting nation.

**Golden Globes Winners 2023 announced**

The **80th edition of 2023 Golden Globes** show, hosted by **Jerrold Carmichael**, airs live on NBC and Peacock. The 80th Golden Globe Awards is the first edition of the annual spectacle to be on TV since an ethics, finance and diversity scandal involving the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, the group behind the awards, led NBC to decide not to air the 2022 ceremony. As in years past, the show will hand out honors in both film and TV categories.





Follow below for updates as winners are announced:

Category	Winners
Best TV Series, Musical or Comedy	"Abbott Elementary"
Best Performance by an Actor in a TV Series, Drama	Kevin Costner, "Yellowstone"
Best Director, Motion Picture	Steven Spielberg, "The Fabelmans"
Best Screenplay, Motion Picture	Martin McDonagh, "The Banshees of Inisherin"
Best Motion Picture, Non-English Language	"Argentina, 1985"
Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture, Drama	Cate Blanchett, "Tár"
Best Performance by an Actress in a TV Series, Drama	Zendaya, "Euphoria"
Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture, Drama	Austin Butler, "Elvis"
Best Motion Picture, Animated	"Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio"
Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture, Musical or Comedy	Michelle Yeoh, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"
Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture, Musical or Comedy	Colin Farrell, "The Banshees of Inisherin"
Best Performance by an Actress in a TV Series, Musical or Comedy	Quinta Brunson, "Abbott Elementary"
Best Performance by an Actor in a TV Series, Musical or Comedy	Jeremy Allen White, "The Bear"
Best Original Song, Motion Picture	"Naatu Naatu," "RRR"
Best Original Score, Motion Picture	Justin Hurwitz, "Babylon"

**Henley Passport Index 2023, Japan retained its top position**

According to the latest Henley Passport Index, **Japan** has retained its position as the most favourable passport in the world, allowing visa-free entry to 193 global destinations. which the country tops for the fifth consecutive year. **Singapore and South Korea** came in a joint second on the ranking, followed by Germany and Spain, and then a slew of other European nations.

**Where does India rank?**

The Indian passport was ranked **85th**, giving visa-free entry to 59 destinations worldwide. In 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, the country ranked at 82nd spot, 84th, 85th and 83rd respectively. Indian passport holders can travel visa-free to 59 destinations like Bhutan, Indonesia, Macao, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Iran and Qatar. However, some countries require visa-on-arrival.

**India's Neighbouring country**

- 66. China (80 destinations)
- 100. Sri Lanka (42 destinations)
- 101. Bangladesh (41 destinations)
- 103. Nepal (38 destinations)
- 106. Pakistan (32 destinations)

**Here's the list of the top 10 strongest passports in the world:**

1. Japan (193 destinations)
2. Singapore, South Korea (192 destinations)
3. Germany, Spain (190 destinations)
4. Finland, Italy, Luxembourg (189 destinations)
5. Austria, Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden (188 destinations)
6. France, Ireland, Portugal, United Kingdom (187 destinations)
7. Belgium, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, United States, Czech Republic (186 destinations)
8. Australia, Canada, Greece, Malta (185 destinations)
9. Hungary, Poland (184 destinations)
- 10 Lithuania, Slovakia (183 destinations)

**List of 10 countries that fall in the bottom 10:**

- 100. Sri Lanka/Sudan (42)
- 101. Bangladesh/Kosovo/Libya (41)
- 102. North Korea (40 destinations)
- 103. Nepal, Palestinian territory (38 destinations)
- 104. Somalia (35 destinations)
- 105. Yemen (34 destinations)
- 106. Pakistan (32 destinations)
- 107. Syria (30 destinations)
- 108. Iraq (29 destinations)
- 109. Afghanistan (27 destinations)

**About the Henley Passport Index:**

The ranking, published by London-based immigration consultancy **Henley & Partners**, uses data from the **International Air Transport Association to rank 199 passports' access to 227 travel destinations**. The methodology differs from other passport indexes like one published by financial advisory Arton Capital, which put the United Arab Emirates in pole position. The ranking is based on data from the International Air Transport Association, which maintains the world's largest database of travel information, and it is enhanced by extensive, ongoing research by the Henley & Partners Research Department.

**United States R'Bonney Gabriel crowned 71st Miss Universe 2022**

**Miss Universe 2022**

The United States candidate **R'Bonney Gabriel** has crowned **Miss Universe 2022** at a ceremony held in New Orleans, Mexico. The crown was presented to her by India's **Harnaaz Kaur Sandhu** who had won the 2021 title. She was handed a bouquet of flowers, draped in the winner's sash and crowned with a tiara onstage at the 71st Miss Universe Competition. The second runner-up was Miss Dominican Republic, **Andreina Martinez**. Miss Curacao, Gabriela Dos Santos, and Miss Puerto Rico, Ashley Carino, rounded out the top five finalists.





**Indian participant**

**Divita Rai** of India reached the top 16, but she was unable to advance further. India's participation in the 71st Miss Universe was restricted to the top 16 since she was unable to make it into the top 5. Ms. Rai, a native of Mangaluru, who could not make it to the top-5 cut, hails from a family in Thiruvail. Daughter of Dilip Rai and Pranita Rai, Ms. Divita studied in Mumbai. She was adjudged Liva Miss Diva Universe 2022 and got qualified for the Miss Universe contest. Only two Indians before **Ms. Sandhu** had won the title of Miss Universe— actors **Sushmita Sen in 1994** and **Lara Dutta in 2000**.

**About Miss Universe R'Bonney Gabriel**

According to Miss Universe, Gabriel is a former high school volleyball player and graduate of the University of North Texas. A short bio posted on the organization's website said she is also CEO of her own sustainable clothing line. The 28-year-old Gabriel is a fashion designer from Houston, Texas.

**Critics Choice Awards 2023 full winners list: RRR bags two more awards**

**28th Critics Choice Awards**

The **28th Critics Choice Awards** were held, and once again, SS Rajamouli's RRR has made India proud, as the film scored two awards. RRR won Best Song award for **Naatu Naatu**, as well as Best Foreign Language film. RRR was also nominated for Best Director, Best Picture and Best Visual Effects.

The American Canadian Critics Choice Association CCA show Who shows for the finest In cinematic achievement. The Critics Choice Movie award Formerly known as the Broadcast Film Critics Association award was held. Critics Choice Awards Winner 2023 shows were hosted by **Chelsea Handler**.

**Indian Movie**

The 28th Critics Choice Awards were held, and once again, SS Rajamouli's RRR has made India proud, as the film scored two awards. RRR won Best Song award for Naatu Naatu, as well as Best Foreign Language film. RRR was also nominated for Best Director, Best Picture and Best Visual Effects.

**Critics Choice Movie Awards**

The Critics Choice Movie awards were given according to the nominees selected. You can see the Critics Choice Movie awards list in the given. The list is given according to the movie, series etc.

- Best Animated Series: "Harley Quinn"
- Best Foreign Language Series: "Pachinko"
- Best Comedy Special: "Norm Macdonald: Nothing Special"
- Best Talk Show: "Last Week Tonight With John Oliver"
- SeeHer Award: Janelle Monáe
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Jeff Bridges
- Best Picture: "Everything Everywhere All at Once"

- Best Director: Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"
- Best Actor: Brendan Fraser, "The Whale"
- Best Actress: Cate Blanchett, "Tár"
- Best Supporting Actor: Ke Huy Quan, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"
- Best Supporting Actress: Angela Bassett, "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever"
- Best Young Actor or Actress: Gabriel LaBelle, "The Fabelmans"
- Best Acting Ensemble: "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery"
- Best Original Screenplay: Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"
- Best Adapted Screenplay: Sarah Polley, "Women Talking"
- Best Cinematography: Claudio Miranda, "Top Gun: Maverick"
- Best Production Design: Florencia Martin and Anthony Carlino, "Babylon"
- Best Editing: Paul Rogers, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"

**Critics Choice Super Award 2023**

The Critics choose super award 2023 for the films and the television series you can see in the given below. In this above section you see the various actors and their award. But now you can see the Indian movie and the best song award which goes to an RRR movie. The movie was made by SS Rajamouli. The list of the Critics Choice Super award 2023 is given below as you can see it.

- **Best Foreign Language Film: "RRR"**
- **Best Song: "Naatu Naatu," "RRR"**
- Best Score: Hildur Gudnadóttir, "Tár"

**Television**

- Best Drama Series: "Better Call Saul"
- Best Actor in a Drama Series: Bob Odenkirk, "Better Call Saul"
- Best Actress in a Drama Series: Zendaya, "Euphoria"
- Best Supporting Actor in a Drama Series: Giancarlo Esposito, "Better Call Saul"
- Best Supporting Actress in a Drama Series: Jennifer Coolidge, "The White Lotus"
- Best Comedy Series: "Abbott Elementary"

**Other Category**

- #SeeHer Award: Janelle Monáe
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Jeff Bridges





**Mukesh Ambani Number 1 Among Indians And 2 Globally On Brand Guardianship Index**

**Brand Guardianship Index 2023**

Billionaire **Mukesh Ambani** ranked **No.1** among Indians and **second** globally on the Brand Guardianship Index 2023, overtaking the likes of Satya Nadella of Microsoft and Google's Sundar Pichai. Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang topped the list globally, with Microsoft's Satya Nadella occupying third place.

S.NO	CEO	CORPORATION
1	Jensen Huang	Nvidia
2	Mukesh Ambani	Reliance
3	Satya Nadella	Microsoft
4	Shantanu Narayen	Adobe
5	Sundar Pichai	Google
6	Punit Renjen	Deloitte
7	Fabrizio Freda	Estee Lauder Companies
8	Natarajan Chandrasekaran	Tata
9	Piyush Gupta	DBS
10	Huateng Ma	Tencent

**About Brand Guardianship Index**

- The Brand Guardianship Index by **Brand Finance**, a leading global independent brand consultancy, is a global recognition of CEOs, who are building business value in a sustainable manner, by balancing the needs of all stakeholders — employees, investors, and the wider society.
- The Brand Guardianship Index includes 'equity' factors, which reflect current perceptions, 'performance' factors which reflect the tangible results of these perceptions, and 'Investment' factors which support future performance.

**About Brand Finance**

**Brand Finance** is the world's leading independent brand valuation and strategy consultancy. Headquartered in the City of **London**, we are present in over 20 countries. **Founded in 1996** with the aim of 'bridging the gap between marketing and finance', for more than 20 years we have helped companies and organisations of all types to connect their brands to the bottom line.

**Parakram Diwas 2023 celebrates as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Birth Anniversary**

**Parakram Diwas 2023:**

**Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti** or **Netaji Jayanti** is a national event celebrated in India as **Parakram Diwas** on **January 23** to mark the birth of prominent Indian freedom fighter Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. This year nation celebrates **126th birth anniversary** of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. For the first time, Netaji Jayanti was celebrated as Parakram Divas in 2021 on the occasion of his 124th birthday. In West Bengal, Jharkhand, Tripura, and Assam, it is a recognised holiday. On this day, the Indian government honours Netaji.

**Importance of Parakram Diwas:**

The purpose of the holiday is to recall and honour Netaji's tremendous devotion to the country and his unwavering spirit. He was crucial to the cause for Indian independence. Netaji was a prominent nationalist, politician, and freedom fighter. This day has been designated to encourage Indians, especially young people, to aspire to his strength, perseverance, selflessness, and patriotic fervour despite oppression. He oversaw the Indian National Army (Azad Hind Fouj). He was the founder-head of the Azad Hind Government.

**About Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose**

- Netaji' was born on **January 23, 1897, in Cuttack in Odisha**. He acquired a degree in philosophy and was later selected for the Indian Civil Services. He refused to join as he did not want to serve the British Government.
- Later, in 1919, he travelled to England to complete the **Indian Civil Service (I.C.S. )**, finishing fourth in his class with the highest English score. He didn't want to work for the British government, therefore in 1921 he resigned and went back to India.
- Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das**, who later served as his political mentor, encouraged Netaji to join the **Indian National Congress (I.N.C.)** when he returned to India. Netaji joined the Indian National Congress in 1921.
- He regarded Swami Vivekananda as his spiritual guru and was greatly affected by his ideas. Bose was elected president of the All India Youth Congress in 1923 and later served as president of the Congress in 1938 and 1939.
- Bose was a great student and a true Indian nationalist. At the Scottish Church College, part of the University of Calcutta, Netaji Bose earned a B.A. in philosophy.
- During World War II, in Southeast Asia, Netaji formed and led a 5,000-man force known as the Azad Hind Fauj (Indian National Army) under the slogan 'Delhi Chaló' In order to garner popular support in his home state of Bengal, he also founded a new political party.
- According to government reports, on **August 18, 1945, a plane crash near Tohuku, Japanese Taiwan**, caused Netaji to suffer third-degree burns. Although the authorities announced his death in 2017, there are still a number of rumours about his whereabouts.

**Exam related facts**

- Netaji started a newspaper called "**Swaraj**".
- He had written a book called "**The Indian Struggle**". The book covers the Indian Independence movement between 1920 and 1942.
- The term "**Jai Hind**" was coined by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
- With the slogan "**Give me blood and I will give you freedom**", he awakened the country towards fighting against the British







**Padma Awards 2023 Winners List Announced: Check All Padma Winners**

**Padma Awards 2023 Winners List**

**Padma Awards 2023 winners List:** The Government of India has announced the Padma Awards 2023 Winners List. According to the Padma Awards website, the Padma Awards are India's highest civilian honors after the [Bharat Ratna](#), seeking to "recognize achievements in all fields of activities or disciplines where an element of public service is involved". These Awards are distributed by the [President of India](#) at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March/ April every year.

For the year 2023, the President has approved conferment of 106 Padma Awards including 3 duo cases (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one) as per list below. The list comprises **6 Padma Vibhushan, 9 Padma Bhushan and 91 Padma Shri Awards**. 19 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 2 persons from the category of Foreigners/Non Resident India

(NRI)/Person of Indian Origin (PIO) /Overseas Citizen Of India (OCI) and 7 Posthumous awardees.

**Notably:** Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service), Padma Bhushan (distinguished service of higher order) and Padma Shri (distinguished service).

**Padma Awards 2023 Highlights**

- **ORS icon Dilip Mahalanabis** (Medicine), Samajwadi Party founder and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Mulayam Singh Yadav (Public Affairs)**, and architect **Balakrishna Doshi (Others-Architecture)** have been picked to be awarded Padma Vibhushan posthumously.
- Mahalanabis pioneered the wide use of **ORS (Oral Rehydration Solution)** which is estimated to have saved more than 5 crore lives globally. Mahalanabis demonstrated the effectiveness of ORS while serving in Refugee camps during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, having returned from USA to serve.

**Padma Vibhushan Winners List**

S. No	Name	Field	State / Country
1	Shri Balkrishna Doshi ( <b>Posthumous</b> )	Others - Architecture	Gujarat
2	Shri Zakir Hussain	Art	Maharashtra
3	Shri S M Krishna	Public Affairs	Karnataka
4	Shri Dilip Mahalanabis ( <b>Posthumous</b> )	Medicine	West Bengal
5	Shri Srinivas Varadhan	Science & Engineering	United States of America
6	Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav ( <b>Posthumous</b> )	Public Affairs	Uttar Pradesh

**Padma Bhushan Winners List**

S. No	Name	Field	State / Country
7	Shri S L Bhyrappa	Literature & Education	Karnataka
8	Shri Kumar Mangalam Birla	Trade & Industry	Maharashtra
9	Shri Deepak Dhar	Science & Engineering	Maharashtra
10	Ms. Vani Jairam	Art	Tamil Nadu
11	Swami Chinna Jeeyar	Others - Spiritualism	Telangana
12	Ms. Suman Kalyanpur	Art	Maharashtra
13	Shri Kapil Kapoor	Literature & Education	Delhi
14	Ms. Sudha Murty	Social Work	Karnataka
15	Shri Kamlesh D Patel	Others - Spiritualism	Telangana

**Padma Sri Winners List**

S. No	Name	Field	State / Country
16	Dr. Sukama Acharya	Others - Spiritualism	Haryana
17	Ms. Jodhaiyabai Baiga	Art	Madhya Pradesh
18	Shri Premjit Baria	Art	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu
19	Ms. Usha Barle	Art	Chhattisgarh
20	Shri Munishwar Chanddawar	Medicine	Madhya Pradesh
21	Shri Hemant Chauhan	Art	Gujarat





S. No	Name	Field	State / Country
22	Shri Bhanubhai Chitara	Art	Gujarat
23	Ms. Hemoprova Chutia	Art	Assam
24	Shri Narendra Chandra Debbarma (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Tripura
25	Ms. Subhadra Devi	Art	Bihar
26	Shri Khadar Valli Dudekula	Science & Engineering	Karnataka
27	Shri Hem Chandra Goswami	Art	Assam
28	Ms. Pritikana Goswami	Art	West Bengal
29	Shri Radha Charan Gupta	Literature & Education	Uttar Pradesh
30	Shri Modadugu Vijay Gupta	Science & Engineering	Telangana
31	Shri Ahmed Hussain & Shri Mohd Hussain (Duo)	Art	Rajasthan
32	Shri Dilshad Hussain	Art	Uttar Pradesh
33	Shri Bhiku Ramji Idate	Social Work	Maharashtra
34	Shri C I Issac	Literature & Education	Kerala
35	Shri Rattan Singh Jaggi	Literature & Education	Punjab
36	Shri Bikram Bahadur Jamatia	Social Work	Tripura
37	Shri Ramkuiwangbe Jene	Social Work	Assam
38	Shri Rakesh Radheshyam Jhunjhunwala (Posthumous)	Trade & Industry	Maharashtra
39	Shri Ratan Chandra Kar	Medicine	Andaman & Nicobar Islands
40	Shri Mahipat Kavi	Art	Gujarat
41	Shri M M Keeravaani	Art	Andhra Pradesh
42	Shri Areez Khambatta (Posthumous)	Trade & Industry	Gujarat
43	Shri Parshuram Komaji Khune	Art	Maharashtra
44	Shri Ganesh Nagappa Krishnarajanagara	Science & Engineering	Andhra Pradesh
45	Shri Maguni Charan Kuanr	Art	Odisha
46	Shri Anand Kumar	Literature & Education	Bihar
47	Shri Arvind Kumar	Science & Engineering	Uttar Pradesh
48	Shri Domar Singh Kunvar	Art	Chhattisgarh
49	Shri Risingbor Kurkalang	Art	Meghalaya
50	Ms. Hirabai Lobi	Social Work	Gujarat
51	Shri Moolchand Lodha	Social Work	Rajasthan
52	Ms. Rani Machaiah	Art	Karnataka
53	Shri Ajay Kumar Mandavi	Art	Chhattisgarh
54	Shri Prabhakar Bhanudas Mande	Literature & Education	Maharashtra
55	Shri Gajanan Jagannath Mane	Social Work	Maharashtra
56	Shri Antaryami Mishra	Literature & Education	Odisha
57	Shri Nadoja Pindipapanahalli Munivenkatappa	Art	Karnataka
58	Prof. (Dr.) Mahendra Pal	Science & Engineering	Gujarat
59	Shri Uma Shankar Pandey	Social Work	Uttar Pradesh
60	Shri Ramesh Parmar & Ms. Shanti Parmar (Duo)	Art	Madhya Pradesh
61	Dr. Nalini Parthasarathi	Medicine	Puducherry
62	Shri Hanumantha Rao Pasupuleti	Medicine	Telangana
63	Shri Ramesh Patange	Literature & Education	Maharashtra





S. No	Name	Field	State / Country
64	Ms. Krishna Patel	Art	Odisha
65	Shri K Kalyanasundaram Pillai	Art	Tamil Nadu
66	Shri V P Appukuttan Poduval	Social Work	Kerala
67	Shri Kapil Dev Prasad	Art	Bihar
68	Shri S R D Prasad	Sports	Kerala
69	Shri Shah Rasheed Ahmed Quadri	Art	Karnataka
70	Shri C V Raju	Art	Andhra Pradesh
71	Shri Bakshi Ram	Science & Engineering	Haryana
72	Shri Cheruvayal K Raman	Others - Agriculture	Kerala
73	Ms. Sujatha Ramdorai	Science & Engineering	Canada
74	Shri Abbareddy Nageswara Rao	Science & Engineering	Andhra Pradesh
75	Shri Pareshbhai Rathwa	Art	Gujarat
76	Shri B Ramakrishna Reddy	Literature & Education	Telangana
77	Shri Mangala Kanti Roy	Art	West Bengal
78	Ms. K C Runremsangi	Art	Mizoram
79	Shri Vadivel Gopal & Shri Masi Sadaiyan (Duo)	Social Work	Tamil Nadu
80	Shri Manoranjan Sahu	Medicine	Uttar Pradesh
81	Shri Patayat Sahu	Others - Agriculture	Odisha
82	Shri Ritwik Sanyal	Art	Uttar Pradesh
83	Shri Kota Satchidananda Sastry	Art	Andhra Pradesh
84	Shri Sankurathri Chandra Sekhar	Social Work	Andhra Pradesh
85	Shri K Shanathoiba Sharma	Sports	Manipur
86	Shri Nekram Sharma	Others - Agriculture	Himachal Pradesh
87	Shri Gurcharan Singh	Sports	Delhi
88	Shri Laxman Singh	Social Work	Rajasthan
89	Shri Mohan Singh	Literature & Education	Jammu & Kashmir
90	Shri Thounaojam Chaoba Singh	Public Affairs	Manipur
91	Shri Prakash Chandra Sood	Literature & Education	Andhra Pradesh
92	Ms. Neihunuo Sorhie	Art	Nagaland
93	Dr. Janum Singh Soy	Literature & Education	Jharkhand
94	Shri Kushok Thiksey Nawang Chamba Stanzin	Others - Spiritualism	Ladakh
95	Shri S Subbaraman	Others - Archaeology	Karnataka
96	Shri Moa Subong	Art	Nagaland
97	Shri Palam Kalyana Sundaram	Social Work	Tamil Nadu
98	Ms. Raveena Ravi Tandon	Art	Maharashtra
99	Shri Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari	Literature & Education	Uttar Pradesh
100	Shri Dhaniram Toto	Literature & Education	West Bengal
101	Shri Tula Ram Upreti	Others - Agriculture	Sikkim
102	Dr. Gopalsamy Veluchamy	Medicine	Tamil Nadu
103	Dr. Ishwar Chander Verma	Medicine	Delhi
104	Ms. Coomi Nariman Wadia	Art	Maharashtra
105	Shri Karma Wangchu (Posthumous)	Social Work	Arunachal Pradesh
106	Shri Ghulam Muhammad Zaz	Art	Jammu & Kashmir

**Note:** \* In Duo case, the Award is counted as one.





**About the Padma Awards**

Instituted in 1954, these civilian awards, are generally announced on the occasion of [Republic Day](#) every year, and these awards seek to recognize 'work of distinction' and is given for distinguished and exceptional achievements/service in all fields/disciplines, such as, Art, Literature and Education, Sports, Medicine, Social Work, Science and Engineering, Public Affairs, Civil Service, Trade and Industry etc.

All nominations received for Padma Awards are placed before the Padma Awards Committee, which is constituted by the Prime Minister every year. The Padma Awards Committee is headed by the Cabinet Secretary and includes Home Secretary, Secretary to the President and four to six eminent persons as members. The recommendations of the committee are submitted to the Prime Minister and the President of India for approval.

**ICC annual awards 2022 announced: Check the complete list of Winners**

**ICC annual awards 2022**

The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has announced its first individual award winners in the **ICC Awards 2022**, naming the stars honoured in the Associate, Emerging and T20 categories following a global vote conducted among the specialist panel of media representatives, the ICC Voting Academy and global fans who voted for their favourite stars. Winners in the 13 individual categories were based on overall performances and achievements throughout the calendar year, with winners announced across ICC digital channels.

**ICC awards winners for 2022**

- **Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy:** Babar Azam (Pakistan)
- **Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy:** Nat Sciver (England)
- **Men's Test Cricketer of the Year:** Ben Stokes (England)
- **Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year:** Babar Azam
- **Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year:** Nat Sciver
- **Men's T20 International Cricketer of the Year:** Suryakumar Yadav (India)
- **Women's T20 International Cricketer of the Year:** Tahlia McGrath (Australia)
- **Men's Emerging Cricketer of the Year:** Marco Jansen (South Africa)
- **Women's Emerging Cricketer of the Year:** Renuka Singh (India)
- **Men's Associate Cricketer of the Year:** Gerhard Erasmus (Namibia)
- **Women's Associate Cricketer of the Year:** Esha Oza (India)
- **David Shepherd Trophy:** Richard Illingworth (England)
- **Spirit of Cricket Award:** Aasif Sheikh (Nepal)

**Australian Open 2023: Check the complete list of winners**

**Australian Open 2023:**

- **Novak Djokovic** defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas in the final of men's singles match of the **Australian Open 2023**. Djokovic wins 10th Australian Open and 22nd grand slam. He levels Rafael Nadal with his 22nd Grand Slam title. In the Women's Singles category, **Aryna Sabalenka** defeated **Elena Rybakina** in the final, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 to win the women's singles tennis title at the 2023 Australian Open.
- The 2023 Australian Open was a Grand Slam level tennis tournament held at **Melbourne Park**, from 16-29 January 2023. It was the 111th edition of the Australian Open, the 55th in the Open Era, and the first major of the year. There is a total prize pot of **AUD \$76.5 million (around £43.3m)** for the Australian Open 2023.

**Table showing Winners in all categories:**

Category	Winner	Runner-Up
<b>Men's Singles</b>	N. Djokovic (Serbia)	Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece)
<b>Women's Singles</b>	A. Sabalenka (Belarus)	E. Rybakina (Kazakhstan)
<b>Men's Doubles</b>	J. Kubler & R. Hijikata (Australia)	H. Nys (Monaco) & J. Zieliński (Poland)
<b>Women's Doubles</b>	B. Krejčíková & K. Siniaková (Czechia)	S. Aoyama & E. Shibahara (Japan)
<b>Mixed Doubles</b>	L. Stefani & R. Matos (Brazil)	R. Bopanna & S. Mirza (India)

**History of Australian Open**

- **Australian Open**, one of the world's major tennis championships (the first of the four annual Grand Slam events), held at the National Tennis Centre at Melbourne Park in Melbourne, Australia. The Australian Open is managed by Tennis Australia, formerly the Lawn Tennis Association of Australia (LTAA), and was **first played at the Warehouseman's Cricket Ground in Melbourne in November 1905** and the first for women in 1922. The facility is now known as the Albert Reserve Tennis Centre, and was a grass court.





**Who has won the most Australian Open titles?**

- **Novak Djokovic** has won his 10th Australian Open championship and record-equalling 22nd Grand Slam title overall by beating Stefanos Tsitsipas in the final at Rod Laver Arena.

**Republic Day 2023: Uttarakhand tableau wins first prize**

**Republic Day 2023: Uttarakhand tableau wins first prize**  
**Uttarakhand tableau** which showcased the state’s wildlife and religious sites at the **74th Republic Day parade** has won the top prize. Uttarakhand’s tableau showcased the state’s wildlife and religious sites during the ceremonial parade at Kartavya Path on January 26. In the foreground of the **tableau, reindeer, deer and various birds** were shown roaming in the **world-famous Corbett National Park**. The central part of the tableau depicted the state animal of Uttarakhand, musk deer, national bird peacock and ghoral. Jageshwar Dham, a group of 125 small and big ancient temples in Manaskhand’s Almora district, and popular deodar trees were shown in the rear part of the tableau. Uttarakhand won the first prize for its tableau, followed by **Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh** in the second and third positions respectively. The tableau of Maharashtra on Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav presented “Sade Tin Shaktipithe” and “Nari Shakti”, while that of Uttar Pradesh showcased Ayodhya Deepotsav.

**Republic Day 2023: Other winners in different categories:**

- **Gujarat’s tableau** emerged as the numero uno in the popular choice segment.
- **Army’s Punjab Regiment** has been adjudged the best marching contingent among the three services, while the **Central Reserve Police Force’s (CRPF)** marching contingent won the top prize among the CAPFs and other auxiliary forces.
- Among the ministries and departments, the tableau of the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Eklavya Model Residential Schools)** won the best prize.
- The Central Public Works Department’s tableau on biodiversity conservation and **‘Vande Bharatam’** dance group earned a special prize.
- The IAF’s marching contingent emerged as the winner among the three services in the popular choice category.
- Among the tableaux from states and union territories, **Gujarat** won the first prize in the category, followed by **Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra** in that order. Kutchi embroidery and decoration, known for its mirror work, traditional ‘bhungas’ and renewable energy production were the focus elements in the Gujarat tableau. The **village of Modhera, famous for its Sun Temple**, and being India’s first round-the-clock solar-powered village was also showcased in the tableau.

- Among the central ministries and departments, the tableau by the CAPF, the Ministry of Home Affairs, emerged as the best in the popular choice segment.

**How these tableau selected?**

Three panels of judges were appointed for assessing the performance of the marching contingents from the three services, those from Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and other auxiliary forces, and tableaux from various states and union territories, and various ministries and departments. Citizens voted in an online poll on MyGov for their favourite tableaux and marching contingents in the popular choice category. The poll for the popular choice was conducted between January 25 and 28.

**Most Important Current Affairs December 2022**

**India’s 100 Richest 2022: Gautam Adani tops Forbes rich list**

**India’s 100 Richest 2022:**

The **Forbes 2022 list of India’s 100 richest** is finally here, according to which, the combined wealth of India’s 100 richest grew by \$25 billion to touch a colossal \$800 billion. **Top 10 names in the list:**

RANK	NAME	NET WORTH (in Rupees)
1	Gautam Adani	Rs 1,211,460.11 crore
2	Mukesh Ambani	Rs 710,723.26 crore
3	Radhakishan Damani	Rs 222,908.66 crore
4	Cyrus Poonawalla	Rs 173,642.62 crore
5	Shiv Nadar	Rs 172,834.97 crore
6	Savitri Jindal	Rs 132,452.97 crore
7	Dilip Shanghvi	Rs 125,184.21 crore
8	Hinduja Brothers	Rs 122,761.29 crore
9	Kumar Birla	Rs 121,146.01 crore
10	Bajaj Family	Rs 117,915.45 crore

**New Faces on India’s 100 richest list:**

- **Falguni Nayar:** With a net worth of \$4.8 billion, as per the Forbes data, Nayar is on the 44th spot in the list.
- **Rekha Jhunjhunwala:** The wife of Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, who is fondly remembered as India’s very own Warren Buffet. At the 30th spot, Rekha Jhunjhunwala, 59, has replaced her husband on the list. She has a net worth of \$5.9 billion.
- **Nehal Vakil:** The representative of the third generation of the Vakil family that is running Asian Paints, which was founded in 1942. The family’s total worth is \$.52 billion.
- **Venu Srinivasan:** The founder of the TVS group, one of the largest two-wheeler manufacturers in the world, is also a new entrant on the list this year. He is also the recipient of Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian award in the country.





- **Ravi Modi:** The owner of Vedant Fashions, named after his only son. The manufacturer of Indian ethnic wear — known for the Manyawar brand — went public in 2022. His total worth is about \$3.6 billion.
- **Nirmal Minda:** The Chairman and MD of UNO Minda (formerly Minda Industries), has the net worth of \$2600 crore.
- **Rafique Malik:** Having listed Metro Brands last December, Rafique Malik figures on No. 89 with \$2.22 billion. The privately held company is known for its brands such as Mochi, Metro and Walkway.

**The returnees on India's 100 richest list:**

- Among the four returnees on the list is Anand Mahindra with a net worth of \$2.2 billion or Rs 17,768.08 crore. Bhadrash Shah (Rs 15,345.16 crore), Anu Aga (Rs 18,010.37 crore) and Joy Alukkas (Rs 25,036.84 crore) are also among the returnees on the rich list.
- Paytm CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma was a notable name among the drop-offs, who saw shares of his One97 Communications tank amid the global tech rout. The cutoff for the top 100 was \$1.9 billion this year.

**Reserve Bank of India implements 4 tiered regulatory norms for UCB**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a four-tiered regulatory framework for categorisation of **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)**. Besides, the central bank has come out with norms pertaining to the net worth and capital adequacy of these banks.

The Reserve Bank of India had constituted the Expert Committee on Urban Co-operative Banks, under the Chairmanship of **Shri N. S. Vishwanathan**, former Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank to examine the issues in urban cooperative banking sector and to review regulatory/supervisory approach for strengthening the sector. Based on the recommendations of the Expert Committee, RBI had released the Revised Regulatory Framework for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) on July 19, 2022. The four-tiered regulatory framework, based on size of deposits of the UCBs, will come into force with immediate effect.

**RBI has now categorized Urban Co-Operative Banks in India into four tier depending upon the deposit with the bank:**

- Tier 1: UCB are those banks having deposits up to **Rs 100 crore** operating in a single district or having branches in contiguous districts.
- Tier 2: UCBs with deposits more than **Rs.100 crore and up to Rs.1000 crore.**
- Tier 3 – UCBs with deposits more than **Rs.1000 crore and up to Rs.10, 000 crore.**
- Tier 4 – UCBs with deposits more than **Rs.10, 000 crore.**

**Minimum Net worth Requirement of the banks**

- The minimum net worth (have a minimum capital and reserves) requirement for the Tier 1 UCBs operating in single districts shall be Rs 2 crore.

**For other UCB it shall be Rs 5 crore.**

- Those UCBs which do not meet the requirement, have to achieve the minimum net worth of ₹2 crore or ₹5 crore in a phased manner in five years. The banks will have to achieve the 50% minimum net worth requirement in three years and the remaining 50% in next two years.

**What is Urban Cooperative Banks?**

Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) are registered as cooperative societies under the provisions of, either the State Cooperative Societies Act of the State concerned under the provisions of the or the **Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002**. There is a duality of control over the UCB. It is regulated by the **Registrar of Cooperatives and also by the RBI**. UCB registered under the State Cooperative Societies Act are regulated and supervised by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS) of the State concerned. UCB which are set up under the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 are regulated by the **Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS)**.

**Regulation of banking function**

The Banking Regulation Act 1949 was made applicable on these banks from 1 March 1966. The Reserve Bank regulates and supervises the banking functions of UCBs under the provisions of **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.

**Earthshot Prize 2022**

**Earthshot prize 2022:**

**India's Greenhouse-in-a-box** was among the five winners announced by the Prince of Wales, Prince William, in Boston, United States. It is a sustainable solution for small-scale farmers developed by an **Indian startup, Kheyti**, in Telangana which has won one million pounds (\$1.2 million). Co-founder and CEO of Kheyti, Kaushik Kappagantulu, said that he had launched the solution for at least 100 million local smallholder farmers who are most impacted by climate change. The aim of greenhouse-in-a-box is to reduce costs and increase yields which in turn would help protect the livelihoods of these farmers.

**About the Earthshot prize:**

Founded by Prince William this was the second edition of the Earthshot prize which has also been dubbed the 'Eco Oscars' and witnessed the presence of several celebrities who walked the green carpet. Kheyti won the prize in the Protect and Restore Nature category which saw hundreds of entries from across the world.





**Here are the 2022 Earthshot Prize winners:**

- Mukuru Clean Stoves tackles clean air in Kenya
- Kheyti is protecting and restoring nature in India
- The Queensland Indigenous Women Rangers Network is helping revive Australia's oceans
- Notpla's circular solution to waste in the U.K.
- The 44.01 Project in Oman is turning CO<sub>2</sub> into rock

**RBI Monetary Policy 2022: RBI Repo Rate Hike by 35 bps to 6.25%**

**RBI Monetary Policy 2022:**

The decision of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor **Shaktikanta Das** headed six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has been announced. In the consecutive fifth hike this year, the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee has raised the repo rate by **35 basis points (bps) to 6.25 per cent** with immediate effect, making loans expensive. The policy rate is now at the highest level since August 2018. The RBI has maintained policy stance at **'withdrawal of accommodation'**.

**RBI Repo Rate: Consequently, the various rates are as under**

- Policy Repo Rate: **6.25% (Changed)**
- Standing Deposit Facility (SDF): **6.00% (Changed)**
- Marginal Standing Facility Rate: **6.50% (Changed)**
- Bank Rate: **6.50% (Changed)**
- Fixed Reverse Repo Rate: **3.35%**
- Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR): **4.50%**
- Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR): **18.00%**

**Key Points of the Monetary Policy:**

- RBI has maintained consumer price index (CPI) inflation forecast for FY23 at **6.7%**. Real FY23 GDP forecast lowered to **6.8% from 7%**.
- Inflation expected to be above **4% in the next 12 months**.
- Standing Deposit Facility rate, Marginal Standing Facility rate also increased by **35 basis points each to 6% and 6.5%**
- India's retail inflation fell to a three-month low of **6.77%** in October, down from **7.41%** in September. However, remained above the RBI's tolerance band for the 10th consecutive row.
- Equities open flat with a negative bias as Sensex dips over 55 points, Nifty falls 0.2% ahead of RBI's policy decision.
- Liquidity conditions are set to improve. Weighted average lending rate is up 117 bps in May-October.

**The Monetary Policy Committee:**

**Section 45ZB of the amended RBI Act, 1934** provides for an empowered six-member **monetary policy committee (MPC)** to be constituted by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette. The first such MPC was constituted on September 29, 2016. The present MPC members, as notified by the Central Government in the Official Gazette of October 5, 2020, are as under:

1. Governor of the Reserve Bank of India—Chairperson, ex officio;
2. Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, in charge of Monetary Policy—Member, ex officio;
3. One officer of the Reserve Bank of India to be nominated by the Central Board—Member, ex officio;
4. **Prof. Ashima Goyal**, Professor, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research—Member;
5. **Prof. Jayanth R. Varma**, Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad—Member; and
6. **Dr. Shashanka Bhide**, Senior Advisor, National Council of Applied Economic Research, Delhi—Member.

**United Nations: "Diwali Stamp-Power of One" awarded to four veteran diplomats and a US lawmaker**

**Diwali Stamp-Power of One Awards:**

Four veteran diplomats and a US lawmaker have been honoured with this year's annual **'Diwali- Power of One'** award here for their efforts in working towards a peaceful and secure world. The award, which is also known as the **'Oscars of Diplomacy'**, is presented to former top diplomats of the United Nations or a member state for their effort to help form a more perfect, peaceful and secure world for all."

**Award Winner 2022:**

- Former Permanent Representative of Georgia to the UN **Kaha Imnadze**,
- Former Permanent Representative of Grenada to the UN **Keisha McGuire**,
- Former Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the UN **Georgi Velikov Panayotov**,
- Former Permanent Representative of Benin to the UN **Jean-Claude do Rego**,
- Former Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee of the US House of Representatives **Eliot Lance Engel**.

**BBC Releases 100 Most Influential Women's List: 4 Indian women's in the list**

**BBC Releases 100 Most Influential Women's List:**

The **British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)** has published the list of **100 most influential women in the world** and has included women from several areas such as **politics, science, sports, entertainment, and literature**. The BBC's 100 most influential women's list also includes four Indians: **Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas**, author **Geetanjali Shree**, engineer and astronaut **Sirisha Bandla**, and social worker **Sneha Jawale**.

**Some of the notable names included in the BBC 100 most influential women's lists:**

- European Commission President **Ursula von der Leyen**,
- Barbados Prime Minister **Mia Mottle**,
- Ukraine's First Lady **Olena Zelenska**,





- Music star **Billie Eilish**,
- Actress and disability activist **Selma Blair**,
- Iranian climber **Elnaz Rekab** who recently made waves in Iran for competing in South Korea without wearing a headscarf.
- From sport, Iranian climber **Elnaz Rekab** who recently made waves in her home country for competing in South Korea without wearing a headscarf.
- Tunisian tennis star **Ons Jabeur** who became the first Arab or African woman to reach a Grand Slam final in the Open era.

**About the BBC Releases 100 Most Influential Women’s List:**

The BBC most influential women’s list is celebrating its 10th season, as well as the goth anniversary of the BBC World Service and the centenary of the BBC. The theme for 100 Women’ in 2022 is progress and the related set of programmes for the season will take the opportunity to look back at what’s changed over the past decade, as well as highlighting the inspiring women who have made a difference.

**Time Magazine’s 2022 Person of the Year: Volodymyr Zelensky and “Spirit of Ukraine”**

Time magazine named President **Volodymyr Zelensky** as well as **“the spirit of Ukraine”** as its 2022 person of the year, for the resistance the country has shown in the face of Russia’s invasion. Zelensky shares the 2022 title with “the spirit of Ukraine,” which Felsenthal said was embodied by the “countless individuals inside and outside the country” who fought behind the scenes, including everyday people such as chefs and surgeons. The Time magazine editor **Edward Felsenthal** wrote that “spirit of Ukraine” referred to Ukrainians around the world, including many who “fought behind the scenes” against the Russian invasion. The magazine said Mr Zelensky had inspired Ukrainians and was recognised internationally for his courage in resisting the Russian invasion.

**Other categories winners:**

- **Time Heroes of the Year:** Women in Iran were named the **Time Heroes of the Year**. Iranian women who are protesting for over three months against the custodial death of 22-year-old **Mahsa Amini**. She was arrested for not wearing hijab publicly and she died while in the custody of the Iranian morality police. Her death has triggered a mass protest from the Iranian women against public wearing of Hijab and the morality police.
- **Time’s Entertainer of the year:** The South Korean K-pop band **Blackpink** were recognised as.
- **Athlete of the Year:** American baseball player **Aaron Judge**.
- **Icon of the Year:** Malaysian actress **Michelle Yeoh** .

**Named the Indian who featured time person of the Year:**

- **Mahatma Gandhi** is the only Indian to be named TIME Person of the Year, having been given the honour in 1930. The magazine described him as ‘Saint Gandhi’ and later named him as one of the 25 Political Icons of all time.
- The tradition of naming Time person of the year started in 1927. Initially it was named the Time Man of the Year. Other past winners have included the former dictator of **Germany, Adolf Hitler in 1938, and Russian President Vladimir Putin, who was 2007’s Person of the Year.**
- Time first presented its Person of the Year award in 1927. Last year’s honoree was Tesla and **SpaceX chief Elon Musk**, who has since made major headlines with his high-profile purchase of Twitter.

**IPL remains the most searched query on Google in India on 2022**

Google released its **“Year in Search 2022”** report, which highlights the topics that generated the most interest and were most frequently searched on the website this year. India’s search trends have changed noticeably since last year, according to the list, which is published annually for various nations.

**Year in Search 2022: Key points**

- **The Indian Premier League (IPL)**, which was also the most searched sporting event in the nation, came out on top of all 2022 trending search results in India.
- **CoWIN**, a government website portal that streamlines COVID-19 vaccine registration and appointment scheduling and issues digital vaccine certificates, followed IPL.
- **The FIFA World Cup**, which began on November 20 in Qatar, ranked third among trending topics in searches in India. Sports competitions, **the Asia Cup and the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup, respectively, took the fourth and fifth spots.**
- Bollywood blockbuster **Brahmastra: Part One – Shiva** earned the sixth spot on the list, while **KGF: Chapter 2** came in at number nine.
- **Nupur Sharma**, a spokesperson for the BJP who has since been suspended, was among the top-searched individuals in India in 2022.
- **Droupadi Murmu**, the president of India, was subsequently followed by **Rishi Sunak**, the new prime minister of the **United Kingdom, and Lalit Modi.**
- In terms of news events, Google headlined that the demise of **Lata Mangeshkar, Sidhu Moose Wala, Queen Elizabeth and Shane Warne** were the most searched topics.
- People also took interest in the **Russia-Ukraine war, UP Elections, and Har Ghar Tiranga campaign.**







- Depicting a logical transition in annual trends, the most popular “near me” searches were for “movies near me,” “water parks near me,” swimming pools near me,” and other travel and outing-related terms. In contrast, searches for “COVID test near me,” “Oxygen cylinder near me,” and “COVID hospital near me” were made last year.

**FIFA World Cup 2022 concludes**

**FIFA World Cup 2022:**

**FIFA World Cup 2022:** Messi’s **Argentina** clinched their **3rd World Cup trophy** from six final appearances in history, seeing off France 4–2 on penalties (3–3 after extra time) to win the biggest prize in men’s football. It had won two in **1978 and 1986 under Diego Maradona**. Lionel Messi had come close to winning in 2014 but La Albiceleste lost the final 0-1 to Germany. The only similarity from Messi’s 2014 campaign in Qatar was his Golden Ball award for Player of the Tournament award. He became the first player to win two World Cup Golden Balls.

**Notably:** The **22nd edition** of the World Cup just ended and for another 4 years for the next World Cup. Also, The 2026 World Cup will be held across three different countries, **the United States, Canada and Mexico**.

**2022 FIFA World Cup Awards:**

- Top 4 team Rankings: Argentina (Winner), France (2nd), Croatia (3rd) and Morocco (4th)
- Golden Boot Award: **Kylian Mbappe (France); (8 Goals)**
- Golden Ball Award: **Lionel Messi (Argentina); (7 goals and registering 3 assists)**
- Golden Glove Award: **Emiliano Martinez (Argentina)**
- FIFA Young Player Award: **Enzo Fernandez Enzo Fernandez**
- FIFA Fair Play Award: **England**
- Silver Boot Award: **Lionel Messi**
- Bronze Boot Award: **Olivier Giroud (France)**
- Silver Ball Award: **Kylian Mbappe**
- Bronze Ball Award: **Luka Modric (Croatia)**



**Hurun Global 500 rankings: India ranked 5th in the list of valuable companies**

**2022 Hurun Global 500 list**

**India**, with 20 of the most valuable companies in the world, has moved into the **fifth position** among countries that are home to the world’s top 500 firms. Last year, it ranked ninth with eight companies. The US continued to top the charts, according to the **2022 Hurun Global 500 list**. The list, released by the **Hurun Research Institute**, is a compilation of the 500 most valuable non-state-controlled companies in the world. Companies were ranked according to their market capitalisation (for listed companies) and valuations for non-listed companies.

**Key points in the ranking:**

- Of the 20 Indian companies featuring on the list this year, 11 are based in Mumbai, four in Ahmedabad and one each in **Noida, New Delhi, Bengaluru and Kolkata**.
- With a \$202-billion valuation, **Reliance Industries (RIL)** topped the charts of Indian companies, while it ranked 34th in the world. It was followed by **Tata Consultancy Services (\$139 billion) and HDFC Bank (\$97 billion)**.
- The list also saw the entry of four companies — Adani Transmission, Adani Green Energy, Adani Enterprises and Adani Total Gas — led by billionaire Gautam Adani, with a total valuation of \$173 billion.
- The other new entrants in the list from India include **ITC (\$52 billion), Avenue Supermarts (\$33 billion), Axis Bank (\$33 billion), Bajaj Finserv (\$32 billion) and Larson & Toubro (\$32 billion)**.
- Interestingly, 50 per cent or 250 companies in the Hurun Global 500 companies have presence in India.

**Tops global charts:**

- Globally, **Apple** retained the title of the most valuable company in the world with a market cap of \$2.4 trillion and **Microsoft** came second (\$1.8 trillion), while Alphabet, the parent company of **Google, displaced Amazon** to take the third place.
- **China** came in second with 35 companies, followed by **Japan (28) and the UK (21)**. India and Canada moved up to the fifth place with 20 companies each, adding eight and three companies, respectively, overtaking **France and Germany**.

**Jos Buttler & Sidra Ameen named as ICC Player of the Month award for November 2022**

England’s T20 World Cup-winning captain **Jos Buttler** was named **ICC men’s Player of the Month** for the first time following his stupendous show in **November**. Pakistan’s **Sidra Ameen** became the second successive winner of the **women’s Player of the Month award** from the country, thanks to her brilliant performance in the ODI series win over Ireland.





**ICC Men's Player of the month award for November: Jos Buttler**

Buttler, who is one of the destructive batters in white-ball cricket in the world, beat **Adil Rashid and Shaheen Shah Afridi** to win the ICC Player of the Month award for his brilliant performance in the crunch semi-final match against India and leading England to their first T20 World Cup title since 2010.

England opener smashed 73 from 47 balls against New Zealand, and then 80 from 49 balls, as well stitched unbeaten 170-run partnership with Alex Hales during England's victory in the semi-final against India before making a valuable 26 in the final against Pakistan to guide the side to T20 World Cup title.

**ICC Women's Player of the month award for November: Sidra Ameen**

Sidra Ameen beat Ireland's **Gaby Lewis** and Thailand's **Natthakan Chantam** to win the ICC Women's Player of the Month for her outstanding performance against Ireland in the ODI series, where she amassed 277 runs in three matches at home. She became the second Pakistani cricketer after Mohammad Rizwan (September) to win this award.

**Ex-Vice President Venkaiah Naidu receives SIES award for public leadership**

Former vice president **Venkaiah Naidu** has been conferred with the **25th Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award (SIES)**. The award was presented during the event held at Shanmukhananda auditorium, King's Circle in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The awards are given in the fields of public leadership, community leadership, science and technology, and social thinkers who have made outstanding contributions in their respective fields. The SIES was set up in 1932 by M. V. Venkateshwaran in Mumbai.

**Other Awardees in various categories:**

- **Public Leadership:** Arif Mohammed Khan Governor of Kerala
- **Community Leadership:** Ratan Tata, an eminent industrialist
- **Science and Technology:** Dr Marthanda Varma Sankaran Valianathan, renowned cardiologist and Padma Vibhushan awardee
- **Science and Technology:** Prof Ajay Kumar Sood, Scientific Advisor to the Government of India
- **Spiritual Leadership:** Vishakha Hari Harikatha artiste.

**About Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award:**

- The Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award was instituted by SIES in 1998 in memory of late seer of Kanchi, Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi. This award is given annually in the field of Public eminence, Community leadership, Science and Technology, Social thinkers and the International category.
- SIES was set up in 1932 by M. V. Venkateshwaran in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

**Gamosa, Tandur Redgram, and Ladakh apricots get GI tags from Assam**

**GI tags from Assam:**

The Assam Gamosa, the Telangana Tandur Redgram, and a Ladakh apricot variety are just a few of the items that have received the Geographical Indications (GI) label from the government. The overall number of GI has reached 432, according to a statement made on Wednesday by the ministry of business and industry.

**GI tags from Assam: Key Points**

- Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, and Kerala are the top five states with the greatest number of GIs, it was said.
- The government approved spending of Rs 75 crore for three years for GI promotion at awareness programmes, supporting the promotion of GIs.

**What is GI tag?**

- A GI is primarily a produced product (handicrafts and industrial goods), an agricultural product, or a natural product that comes from a specific geographic region. Such a name typically carries a guarantee of quality and originality, which is mostly attributed to the location of its origin.

**What are the popular products with GI tags?**

- The well-known products that have the GI tags include Basmati rice, Darjeeling tea, Chanderi fabric, Mysore silk, Kullu shawl, Kangra tea, Thanjavur paintings, Allahabad surkha, Farrukhabad prints, Lucknow zardozi, and Kashmir walnut wood carving.

**PETA India's 2022: Sonakshi Sinha named as 'Person of the Year' title**

**Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize Shortlist for 2021-22:**

1. A Play for the End of the World: **Jai Chakrabarti (Knopf, 2021)**
2. Manual for a Decent Life: **Kavita A. Jindal (Linen Press, 2020)**
3. Two and a Half Rivers: **Anirudh Kala (Niyogi, 2021)**
4. A Sky Full of Bucket Lists: **Shobhana Kumar (Red River, 2021)**
5. Osmosis: **Debarshi Mitra (Hawakal Publishers, 2020)**
6. The Elegant Nobody: **Jagari Mukherjee (Hawakal Publishers, 2020)**
7. My City is a Murder of Crows: **Nikita Parik (Hawakal Publishers, 2022)**
8. I Want a Poem and Other Poem: **Jerry Pinto (Speaking Tiger Books, 2021)**
9. The Earthspinner: **Anuradha Roy (Mountain Leopard Press, 2021)**





10. Anthropocene: Climate Change, Contagion, Consolation: **Sudeep Sen (Pippa Rann Books&Media, 2021)**
11. Love Without a Story: **Arundhati Subramaniam (Bloodaxe Books, 2021)**

**About the Awards:**

- The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize was started in 2018 to annually recognise literary and social accomplishments. In 2020, the award was won by Raj Kamal Jha, Chief Editor, The Indian Express, for The City and The Sea (2019, Penguin Books), and in 2019, it was awarded posthumously to Kabir for One Hundred Poems of Kabir, translated by Rabindranath Tagore.

**BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2022 Award**

**Beth Mead** has been awarded the **BBC Sports Personality of the Year for 2022** as she was the player of the tournament and top scorer at **Euro 2022**. Beth Mead defeated Germany in the finals at **Wembley** to win England’s first major **women’s football** trophy. The 27-year-old competed against Ben Stokes and Ronnie O’Sullivan for the BBC Sports Personality of the Year for 2022 award.

**Beth Mead Awarded BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2022 Award- Key Points**

- Beth Mead defeated eight-time champion **Germany** with her six goals and five assists at the Wembley finals.
- England secured their first major trophy for the first time since **1966**.
- They also won the **team of the year** and coach of the year for **Sarina Wiegman**.
- England’s Cricketer **Ben Stokes** was second with winter Olympics curling champion **Eve Muirhead Third**.
- Seven-time snooker world champion **Ronnie O’Sullivan**, gymnast **Jessica Gadirova**, who won the floor title and 1,500 m athletics World Champion **Jake Wightman** were also shortlisted for the award.
- Beth Mead won the player of the tournament and won the **Golden boot** with six goals and five assists.
- She has been also named Arsenal’s player of the season.
- Her international goal tally for the **2021-22 season** was 20 in 19 matches, beating the record of 13 scored by Jimmy Greaves in 1960-61.

**About Beth Mead**

**Bethany Jane Mead** was born on 9th May 1995. She is an English Professional footballer who plays forward for the **women’s super league club Arsenal** and the England national team. At **UEFA Women’s Euro 2022**, she became the Golden Boot Winner, Player of the Tournament, and top assist provider, leading England to win a major tournament for the first time.

**Forbes annual list, PV Sindhu among top 25 highest-paid female athletes**

**Forbes annual list:** India’s badminton star, **PV Sindhu** is the only Indian sportsperson to feature in the top 25 of Forbes’ annual list of the world’s highest-paid female athletes. Sindhu, the 2016 Tokyo Olympics silver medallist, occupies the 12th spot in the list. Japanese tennis star Naomi Osaka tops the list. For the third straight year, Osaka tops Forbes’ annual list of the World’s highest-paid female athletes. The list is dominated by tennis players once again.

**List of 10 highest paid female athletes of the year:**

1. Naomi Osaka (Japan) – Tennis – \$51.1 million
2. Serena Williams (USA) – Tennis – \$41.3 million
3. Elieen Gu (China) – Skiing – \$20.1 million
4. Emma Raducanu (UK) – Tennis – \$18.7 million
5. Iga Swiatek (Poland) – Tennis – \$14.9 million
6. Venus Williams (USA) – Tennis – \$12.1 million
7. Coco Gauff (USA) – Tennis – \$11.1 million
8. Simone Biles (USA) – Gymnastics – \$10 million
9. Jessica Pegula (USA) – Tennis – \$7.6 million
10. Minjee Lee (Australia) – Golf – \$7.3 million

**FIFA officially announced the 2022 world rankings**

**FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association):** **FIFA** has officially announced the **2022 world rankings**, and Brazil hold on to their No. 1 spot and 22nd FIFA Men’s World Cup 2022 Champions Argentina ranked 2nd. Morocco has improved from 22nd to 11th in the FIFA world ranking, following their achievements at the 2022 FIFA Global Cup.

**Who are the big climbers?**

- **Morocco** are the big winners as the Atlas Lions surged up 11 spots to 11th in the world. The job Walid Regragui did was sensational and they were the darlings of the 2022 World Cup.
- **Japan** also moved up four spots to 20th, while the USA and Switzerland each moved up three spots with the Americans ranked 13th in the world and Switzerland in 12th.
- **Australia** moved up 11 spots to 27th as the Socceroos shocked us all by reaching the last 16 at the World Cup, where they gave eventual champs Argentina a really tough game.
- Cameroon moved up 10 places to 33rd, thanks largely to their famous victory against Brazil in the group stage.

**FIFA rankings top 10:**

Ranking	Country	Points
106.	India	1192.09
1.	Brazil	1840.77
2.	Argentina	1838.38
3.	France	1823.39
4.	Belgium	1781.30
5.	England	1774.19





## National Current Affairs

### National Current Affairs of March

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressed the '**Kol Janjati Mahakumbh**' organized on the occasion of Shabri Mata Janm Jayanti at Satna, Madhya Pradesh.
- **Chief Minister Eknath Shinde** confirmed that Aurangabad city will be renamed Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, and Osmanabad city will be called Dharashiv.
- The **Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela** is organized every year by the **Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)** and this year it will be held in New Delhi.
- The '**Catch the Rain 2023**' campaign was introduced by **President Droupadi Murmu** in New Delhi. The campaign's central idea is the sustainability of drinking water sources.
- PM **Narendra Modi** dedicated the World's longest railway platform of 1.5 kilometers at Sri Siddhaarooda railway station in **Hubballi** in the state of **Karnataka**.
- The first methanol-powered buses in Bengaluru will be unveiled by Union Minister for Road and Transport, **Nitin Gadkari**.
- **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 organisations, is to showcase the hospitality industry's potential and showcase technologies, goods, and services to both domestic and foreign consumers.
- **Indian Railways** has set a target of becoming a '**net-zero carbon emitter**' by 2030.
- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare **Narendra Singh Tomar** on 15 March 2023, inaugurated "**AgriUnifest**" in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Government to set up 7 Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks with a total outlay of Rs. 4,445 crores. The Parks will come up in **Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra**.
- A 70-foot tall statue of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar will be unveiled in **Latur city, Maharashtra**.
- PM, Modi, inaugurated the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** Area Office and Innovation Centre in the country.
- **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.
- An **Indian** delegation led by the **Department of Commerce** recently participated in the second round of negotiations for the **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)** in Bali, Indonesia. Representatives from **13** other countries also took part in the discussions covering all **four pillars of the IPEF: Trade, Supply Chains, Clean Economy, and Fair Economy**. India was involved in talks related to the latter three pillars.

- The Real-time Performance Monitoring Dashboard of MoPSW called '**Sagar Manthan**' was virtually launched by Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and **Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal**.
- The Agriculture Minister of India, **Narendra Singh Tomar**, has introduced a new platform called '**DigiClaim**' on the national crop insurance portal.
- **Income Tax Department** launched a mobile application called "**AIS for Taxpayer**".
- The Union Cabinet approved an increase in the **dearness allowance** and dearness relief by 4 per cent to 42 per cent, benefiting 47.58 lakh **central government employees** and 69.76 lakh pensioners.
- For the upcoming **2023-24 season**, the Indian government has increased the **minimum support price (MSP)** for **raw jute by Rs 300 to Rs 5,050 per quintal**.
- PM Modi has recently launched an app called "**Call Before You Dig**" to prevent uncoordinated digging that can cause damage to underground utility assets, such as **optical fibre cables**.
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** inaugurated the **Vedic Heritage portal** in New Delhi.
- India's first quantum computing-based telecom network link has been made operational between **Sanchar Bhawan** and National Informatics Centre office in **New Delhi**.
- The government increased the **maximum age** for Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority's (PFRDA) ombudsman from 65 to 70 years.

### National Current Affairs of February

- **Azad Engineering Private Limited**, a Hyderabad-based market leader in engineering, has been approved as the first Indian company to supply critical rotating parts for nuclear turbines.
- **India** will be invited as the focal country at the **Madrid International Book Fair** in 2025, the **Ambassador of Spain** to India, **Jose Maria Ridaó** said. Spain is the theme country at the 46th International Kolkata Book Fair. The **Madrid International Book Fair** is an annual event held in the Buen Retiro Park in Madrid.
- **Haj pilgrimage quota** has been restored to the original **Haj quota** which stands at **1,75,025**.
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** laid the foundation stone of a ₹450 crore nano urea plant and township of the **Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO)** in **Deoghar, Jharkhand**. The nano urea plant will be the fifth such plant in India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **world's first nano urea plant in Gujarat in 2021**. According to Union Minister Amit Shah Nano Urea will benefit farmers and it is already being exported to five countries.





- PM Narendra Modi dedicated the **HAL Helicopter Factory** to the nation in Tumakuru.
- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the **36th Surajkund International Crafts Mela** at Faridabad, Haryana.
- **Reliance Jio** in collaboration with **GSMA** has unveiled a nationwide Digital Skill initiative. This collaborative effort intends to provide rural women and people from low-income groups with training based on their specific needs.
- The **Yuva Sangam registration portal** was launched in New Delhi. The Yuva Sangam is an initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to build close ties between the youth of the **Northeast Region** and the rest of India under the spirit of **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Aljameatus-Saifiyah**, Arabic Academy of the Dawoodi Bohra Community in Mumbai.
- **Meta**, announced its partnership with the ministry of electronics and information technology (**MeitY**) for the G20 stay safe online campaign.
- The "**Digital Payments Utsav**," a comprehensive campaign aiming at encouraging digital payments throughout India.
- India is the highest milk producer in the world contributing twenty-four per cent of global milk production in the year 2021-22.
- The Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Railways, **Ashwini Vaishnav** inaugurated **AMRITPEX 2023** - National Philatelic Exhibition.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** celebrated the **200th birth Anniversary of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati**, who founded the Arya Samaj in 1875.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **National Aadi Mahotsav** on 16th February 2023 at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi.
- Twelve more cheetahs will be flown in from South Africa.
- **Jal Jan Abhiyan** was inaugurated virtually on Abu Road in the Sirohi district of Rajasthan.
- The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** has recently launched a chatbot to help people get an answer to their queries related to the Aadhaar card. It is called "**Aadhaar Mitra**".
- Advancing India's cyber-preparedness, **KAVACH-2023**, a national level hackathon was launched to identify innovative ideas and technological solutions for addressing the cyber security and cybercrime challenges of the 21st century.
- Agricultural and Process Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) is participating in the **28th edition of Gulfood 2023** which will be held in UAE.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the '**Barisu Kannada Dim Dimava** cultural festival at Talkatora Stadium in Delhi.

- The Chief Justice of India **DY Chandrachud** announced that the Supreme Court has launched "**neutral citations**" of judgments to ensure a uniform pattern of citing its decisions.
- Power Minister RK Singh launched South Asia Distribution Utility Network (**SADUN**) which aims to modernise distribution of utilities in **South Asia** via knowledge sharing among discoms. SADUN is a joint initiative of the **Ministry of Power, USAID and PFC**. Singh said that all the member nations would benefit from the synergy, exchange of experiences and the sharing of vision-enabled by the network.

### National Current Affairs of January

- **Coffee shipments from India, Asia's third-largest producer and exporter**, rose 1.66 per cent to 4 lakh tonne in 2022 on rise in instant coffee exports and re-exports. Exports stood at 3.93 lakh tonne in 2021. In value terms, coffee export was higher at Rs 8,762.47 crore in 2022 as against Rs 6,984.67 crore in the previous year. India ships both **Robusta and Arabica** varieties, besides instant coffee.
- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri **Amit Shah** has laid the foundation stone of the **Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI)** at **Devanahalli in Karnataka** and inaugurated the residential and administrative complexes of the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**. The residential complexes of ITBP inaugurated by Shri Amit Shah include Residential Quarters, Joint Building, Barracks for 120 Jawans, Staff Officers' Mess and Officers' Mess.
- The **National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM)** and the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), the two prominent institutions under the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India for regulating medical education and conducting scientific research respectively, have launched '**SMART**' (**Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research in Teaching Professionals**). The program aimed to boost scientific research in priority healthcare research areas through Ayurveda colleges and hospitals.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation (SPM-NIWAS)** at Joka in Kolkata via video conferencing. SPM-NIWAS has been set up with a budget of Rs 100 crore, on 8.72 acres of land at Joka, Diamond Harbour Road, Kolkata, West Bengal.
- The President of India **Droupadi Murmu** inaugurated Samvidhan Udyan, Mayur Stambh, National Flag Post, Statue of Mahatma Gandhi, and Maharana Pratap at Raj Bhavan, Jaipur on **3rd January 2023**. The President of India virtually inaugurated the **Transmission System for Solar Energy Zones** in Rajasthan and laid the foundation stone for the 1000 MV Bikaner Solar Power Project of SJVN Limited.





- Prime Minister Narendra Modi to launch the world's longest river cruise, "Ganga Vilas" from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh to Dibrugarh, Assam on 13th January 2023. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has informed us that all preparations for the arrival of the Prime Minister and the launch ceremony in Varanasi should be finished.
- The President of India Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the 18th National Jamboree of the Bharat Scouts and Guides at Pali, Rajasthan on 4th January 2023. The President of India noted that the Bharat Scouts and Guides is the largest voluntary, non-political, uniformed youth organization and educational movement in the country.
- India has taken over the leadership of the Asia Pacific Postal Union (APPU) in January 2023. Dr Vinaya Prakash Singh will take over the charge of Secretary General of the Union for a tenure of 4 years. This is the result of the elections during the 13th APPU Congress held in August-September 2022.
- Silent Valley National Park in the last month identified 141 species of birds of which 17 were new species of birds. A total of 175 species of birds have been spotted in Silent Valley. The bird survey was conducted at Silent Valley on the 27th, 28th, and 29th of December 2022 and marked the 30th Anniversary of the first bird survey in Silent Valley. The bird survey was first conducted in the last week of December 1990, however, due to Covid-19, the anniversary could not be celebrated in December 2020.
- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the three-day 'North East Krishi Kumbhar-2023' and took part in the 49th Foundation Day celebration of the ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Umiam. The Minister inaugurated the administrative cum academic block office and Girl's Hostel of the College of Agriculture at Kyrdemkulai, Ri Bhoi district.
- India's first-ever coal gasification-based Talcher Fertilizer Plant in Odisha will be ready to be dedicated to the nation by October 2024.
- The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2023 convention in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, was formally opened by PM Modi.
- Prime Minister has launched the government's Aspirational Block Programme (ABP), which is aimed at improving the performance of blocks lagging on various development parameters.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh released the theme for the "National Science Day 2023", titled "Global Science for Global Wellbeing" at National Media Centre.
- Amit Shah inaugurated the 'Jai Hindi' Light and Sound Show at Red Fort.
- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, along with Tripura Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha, inaugurated the School of Logistics, Waterways and Communication in Agartala.
- The world's longest river cruise, the MV Ganga Vilas launched by PM Modi. The Ministry of Culture has organized a grand curtain raiser cultural program 'Sur Sarita'-Symphony of Ganga' on the launch event of the world's longest river cruise.
- Digital India Startup Hub, through the Software Technology Parks of India, shall set up India's first Centre of Excellence in Online Gaming at Shillong by March 2023.
- New addition to Vande Bharat Train will run between Secunderabad and Visakhapatnam.
- National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) has submitted a pre-feasibility report to the Central Electricity Authority of India for the 'Upper Siang Multipurpose Storage', India's largest hydel power project to date to come up in Arunachal Pradesh. This will be 11 gigawatt (GW) project. India may spend ₹1.13 trillion to build the Upper Siang multi-purpose storage project at Yingkiang in Arunachal Pradesh.
- SPIC MACAY, in association with the Ministry of Culture and the New Delhi Municipal Council, presents "Shruti Amrut," a new instalment of its wildly popular "Music in the Park" series.
- PM Modi shared snippets titled "Your Exam, Your Methods-Choose Your Own Style" from the Exam Warriors Book and has urged students to share how they prepare for exams.
- The National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) has released India's first national assessment regulator, PARAKH, which will work on setting norms, standards, and guidelines for student assessment and evaluation for all recognized school boards in the country.
- On Parakram Diwas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi participate in a ceremony to name 21 largest unnamed islands of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The islands would be named after the 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees.
- U-WIN, the programme to digitise India's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) has been launched in a pilot mode in two districts of each state and Union Territory.
- The six-day mega event "Bharat Parv" Event is to be organized by the Government of India at the Lawns and Gyan Path in front of Red Fort, Delhi from 26th to 31st January 2023, as part of the Republic Day Celebrations.
- The biennial air show and aviation expo, Aero India 2023, is scheduled for February 13-17. Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru, which has hosted it since 1996, will serve as the venue.
- The nation observes the 158th birth anniversary of the freedom fighter Lala Lajpat Rai, popularly known as Punjab Kesari. Lala Lajpat Rai was born on 28th January 1865.
- The Mughal Garden of Rashtrapati Bhavan has been called Amrit Udyan. As President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday inaugurated Udyan Utsav-2023.





- **National Logistic Portal (marine) (NLP)** It is a one-stop platform aimed at connecting all the stakeholders of the logistics community using IT.

### National Current Affairs of December

- **India** will formally take over the **G-20 presidency** from 1st December 2022
- The **world's leading** full-stack debt support and risk mitigation platform has inaugurated **India's first Innovation Lab (SIL)** dedicated to the debt collection segment of banking industries in **India and the Middle East**.
- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurates the two-day long 65th Foundation Day celebrations of the **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)** in New Delhi. During the event, DRI said it will take the opportunity of its founding day to **organise Regional Customs Enforcement Meeting (RCEM)** for effectively engaging with partner Customs organisations and International agencies like **World Customs Organisation, INTERPOL** for enforcement-related issues.
- **India's total coal production** went up by 11.66 per cent to 75.87 million tonnes in November 2022 from 67.94 million tonnes recorded during the corresponding period of last year.
- **TRAI issued Telecom Tariff (69th amendment) order 2022** on Tariff for SMS and cell Broadcast alerts disseminated through **Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) platform during disasters/non-disasters**. During both disasters and non-disasters, the **Department of Telecom (DoT)** requested that TRAI provide a tariff for SMS and cell broadcast alerts and messages that TSPs will distribute via the CAP platform.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has flagged off India's **sixth Vande Bharat Express** between **Bilaspur (Chattisgarh)-Nagpur (Maharashtra)** route.
- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** participated in a programme commemorating **Sri Aurobindo's 150th birth anniversary**, on 13th December, 2022. The programme, being held in Kamban Kalai Sangam, **Puducherry**, under the aegis of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, witnessed the Prime Minister releasing a commemorative coin and postal stamp in honour of Sri Aurobindo.
- **Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud** virtually inaugurated **10 district court digitisation hubs (DCDH) in Odisha**, and said that modernisation of judiciary is the need of the hour. The hubs at **Angul, Bhadrak, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh and Sonepur**, will take care of digitisation work of all 30 districts of the state.

- **India** plans to commission **20 nuclear power plants** by 2031, adding nearly 15,000 MW in power generating capacity, the government told the Lok Sabha. The first of these 20 nuclear power plants, a 700 MW unit, is expected to be commissioned in 2023 at **Kakrapar in Gujarat**, which already has three atomic power generating units operational.
- **India** will be the first country to auction **spectrum for satellite communication**, and it should be designed to attract investments in the sector, **telecom regulator Trai chairman PD Vaghela**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and several Union Ministers paid tribute to **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** on his **71st death anniversary on 15th December**.
- **Ministry of Culture** in collaboration with Prasiddha Foundation inaugurated **Delhi International Arts Festival** at Kartavya Path with the tag-line – **'Where Bharat Meets India**.
- Union Steel Minister, **Jyotiraditya Scindia** has launched India's first Green Steel Brand **"KALYANI FERRESTA"** in New Delhi.
- To raise awareness about the **importance of millet**, the **Agriculture Ministry** is hosting a **Millet food festival** in Parliament for the members.
- Stock brokerage firm **HDFC Securities** has launched **Roots**, a dedicated platform providing comprehensive **investor education and market analysis**.
- Rajya Sabha Chairman **Jagdeep Dhankhar** has nominated legendary former athlete **PT Usha** to the panel of vice-chairperson in the upper house of the Parliament. YSRCP member **Vijai Sai Reddy** has also been nominated along with her. PT Usha was also elected as the president of the Indian Olympic Association recently.
- **India votes for UNSC resolution** on the mental health of UN peacekeepers has India's support. According to India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ruchira Kamboj, as one of the nations that has sent the most troops over the years
- **HDFC borrows USD 400 million from IFC**: As part of their efforts to promote climate goals,
- **Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal** launched a host of new initiatives, including the **right to repair portal** and an **NTH mobile app** and opened new premises of **National Consumer Helpline centre** in the national capital. A memorandum of understanding was also signed between the **Consumer Affairs Department and IIT (BHU)**, Varanasi as well launched a capacity building programme of consumer commissions.
- Esports received a huge boost from the Indian government. It is incorporated into the nation's mainstream sports disciplines. Droupadi Murmu, the President of India, amended the regulations governing eSports in accordance with the authority "conferred by clause (3) of article 77 of the Constitution" and requested that "e-Sports be included as part of multi-sports events" from the Ministries of Electronics and Information Technology and Sports.





- An **Indian firm** has bagged a contract for providing consultancy for a capacity building project at **Mongla port**, the second largest seaport in **Bangladesh**, which will boost sub-regional connectivity in South Asia. The contract was signed between **Mongla Port Authority and EGIS India Consulting Engineers Pvt Ltd**. The total project cost under **Government of India concessional Line of Credit is USD 530 million** of which PMC contract awarded to EGIS India Consulting Engineers Ltd. is for USD 9.60 million.
- **Smt. Droupadi Murmu** has laid the foundation stone of the project '**Development of Pilgrimage Facilities at**

**Bhadrachalam Group of Temples'** at Sri Seetha Ramachandra Swamivari Devasthanam, Bhadrachalam in Telangana.

- **President Murmu** inaugurated the project "**Development of Srisailam Temple in the State of Andhra Pradesh**" at Srisailam Temple Complex, **Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh**. The project has been sanctioned and executed under **PRASHAD scheme** viz. National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive of the **Ministry of Tourism**.

## International Current Affairs

### International Current Affairs of March

- The Afghan embassy in **Pakistan's capital, Islamabad**, announced the reopening of the Torkham border.
- The **United Kingdom and European Union** have unveiled an agreement on the Northern Ireland Protocol, called the **Windsor Framework**.
- **Ales Bialiatski**, a leading defender of human rights in **Belarus** and a candidate for the **2022 Nobel Peace Prize**, was given a 10-year prison term in **Minsk**, the Capital of Belarus.
- The **United Nations(UN)** inked the first '**High Seas Treaty**' in a bid to protect the ocean bodies of the world that lie outside the national boundaries and form almost two-thirds of the world's oceans. The treaty will create a new body to manage **the conservation of marine life** and establish marine protected areas in the high seas. Also referred to as the '**Paris Agreement for the Ocean**', the treaty to **deal with Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)**.
- **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).
- **Indonesia** is all set to move its capital from **Jakarta** to **Borneo** over environmental issues such as being congested, sinking into seawater, and being prone to earthquakes.
- **Colombia** has opened military service **to women** for the first time in 25 years.
- **Indonesia's Mount Merapi**, one of the world's most active volcanoes, erupted.
- Startup-focused lender **Silicon Valley Bank** Financial Group became the largest bank to fail since the 2008 financial crisis, in a sudden collapse that roiled global markets, and left billions of dollars belonging to companies and investors stranded.
- **Denmark** inaugurates a project to store carbon dioxide 1,800 meters beneath the **North Sea**, the first country in the world to bury CO<sub>2</sub> imported from abroad.
- An **earthquake** of 7.1 magnitudes struck New Zealand's Kermadec Islands region.
- The US Senate Committee has announced the appointment of **Eric Garcetti** as the new **US Ambassador to India**.
- **Bhutan** will no longer be on the list of **United Nations Least Developed Countries (LDC)** and will become only the seventh country to graduate from the list.
- A bipartisan resolution was passed by the US, formally recognizing **the McMahon Line** as the international boundary between **China and India's Arunachal Pradesh**.
- The **International Criminal Court (ICC)** issued an arrest warrant for Russian President **Vladimir Putin** over the forced transfer of children to Russia after the Kremlin's invasion of **Ukraine**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, and his Bangladesh counterpart **Sheikh Hasina**, will inaugurate the **India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline** via video conference.
- Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** inaugurated the first submarine base of Bangladesh '**BNS Sheikh Hasina**' at **Pekua in Cox's Bazar**.
- **Egypt** has become a member of the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB).
- **Hindenburg Research's** recent report accusing **Block Inc.** of ignoring extensive fraud has had a significant impact on co-founder **Jack Dorsey's** net worth.
- 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 Saudi Arabian government** has taken a significant step towards joining the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**, a regional alliance dominated by China and Russia.







**International Current Affairs of February**

- **India and the United States** launched an **Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET)** program to enhance their strategic partnership.
- The United Nations cultural organization, UNESCO, designated the historic center of Odesa as a World Heritage Site and categorized it as being "in danger" during a committee meeting in Paris.
- **Australia** announced it will erase the British monarch from its banknotes.
- Indian-American Congressman **Dr. Ami Bera** has been appointed as a member of **House Permanent Selection Committee on Intelligence**.
- A **7.8 magnitude** earthquake shook Turkey followed by another strong quake which was felt in several provinces in the region, knocking down a number of buildings, reports said.
- **India, France and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)** announced the creation of a **formal trilateral cooperation** initiative for projects in **solar and nuclear energy**, the fight against **climate change** and joint production of **military hardware**.
- Indian-American student at Harvard Law School, **Apsara Iyer** has been elected president of the prestigious **Harvard Law Review**, becoming the first woman from the community to be named to the position in the **prestigious publication's 136-year history**. She was elected the 137th president of the Harvard Law Review, which was founded in 1887 and is among the oldest student-run legal scholarship publications.
- The **6th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI) Leaders' Meeting** is being hosted by the **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** of India in **Lucknow** on 6 February.
- A 13-year-old girl, **Natasha Perianayagam** won the title of "world's brightest" student.
- **Peru** reported the death of 585 sea lions and 55,000 wild birds due to the **H5N1 bird flu virus** in recent weeks.
- **International Seabed Authority with headquarters in Jamaica** has officially designated India as a "**Pioneer Investor**".
- As part of "**Operation Dost**," India is deploying a field hospital, supplies, and rescue personnel to the earthquake-stricken countries of Turkey and Syria.
- The first-ever woman astronaut of **Saudi Arabia** will go to space this year, Saudi woman astronaut **Rayyana Barnawi** will join fellow Saudi **Ali Al-Qarni** on a 10-day mission to the International Space Station (ISS) this year.
- The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore** Students won AED 1 million by winning the gold medal at the World Government Summit in Dubai. **Niyati Totala and Neel Kalpeshkumar Parikh** of The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore, were awarded the prestigious medal by Egyptian President Abel Fattah Al-Sisi.

- World Bank chief **David Malpass** has announced his resignation nearly a year early.
- The **Spanish government** approved a historic law granting paid medical leave to women suffering from severe menstrual pain is the first for any **European country**.
- In a move to boost the transition to **electric vehicles (EVs)**, the European Parliament has approved the law to ban the sale of new gas and diesel cars in the EU, starting in 2035.
- **Saudi Arabia's** Crown Prince unveiled The **Mukaab**, which is a 400-meter-high, wide, and long indoor supercity in the center of Riyadh.
- **Afshan Khan**, an Indo-Canadian, has been named the coordinator of the "**Scaling Up Nutrition Movement**," according to UN Secretary-General António Guterres.
- The **Seattle City Council** passed an ordinance adding caste to the list of protected classes in the city's municipal code, along with groups like race, religion, and gender identity. **Seattle** created history by becoming the **first US city** to pass an explicit ban on caste-based discrimination.
- US President **Joe Biden** is nominating former Mastercard Chief Executive **Ajay Banga** to lead the World Bank, after its current chief **David Malpass** announced plans to step down early.
- The **Bhutan National Digital Identity (NDI) mobile wallet**, Royal Highness The Gyalsey (Prince) **Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck** has become the first digital citizen of Bhutan.
- **Pakistan's** Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said his country has received **\$700 million funds** from the **China Development Bank**.
- **India and Guyana** have agreed to cooperate in the oil and gas sector, including long-term crude purchase from the South American country and investment in its upstream sector.
- The **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**, a global organization that monitors financial crime, suspended Russia's membership after finding that **Moscow (Russia's)** conflict in **Ukraine** breached the **FATF's** principles.





**International Current Affairs of January**

- **Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva** took office for a third term as **Brazil's president**, vowing to fight for the poor and the environment and "rebuild the country" after far-right leader **Jair Bolsonaro's divisive administration**. The 77-year-old veteran leftist, who previously led Brazil from 2003 to 2010, took the oath of office before Congress, capping a remarkable political comeback for the metalworker-turned-president less than five years after he was jailed on controversial, since-quashed corruption charges.
- The **10th edition** of Dhaka Lit Fest (DLF), the largest international literary festival in Bangladesh, which was postponed three years in a row owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, is scheduled for January 5-8, 2023. The Bangla Academy in Dhaka's historic grounds will serve as the venue for the event.
- **Croatia** has switched to the euro and entered **Europe's passport-free zone** – two important milestones for the country after joining the **European Union (EU)** nearly a decade ago. At midnight, the Balkan nation bid farewell to its **kuna currency** and became the **20th member of the eurozone**. It is now the **27th nation in the Schengen zone**, the world's largest passport-free travel area, which enables more than 400 million people to move freely around its members.
- **China** has appointed **Qin Gang**, its ambassador to the United States and a trusted aide of **President Xi Jinping**, to be its **new foreign minister**, as Beijing and Washington seek to stabilize rocky relations. This decision was made by the **13th National People's Congress (NPC)** Standing Committee. Qin, 56, replaces **Wang Yi**, who has been foreign minister for the past decade.
- China's CRRC Corporation Ltd. Launched a **hydrogen urban train**, and it is the first in Asia and the second such train in the world. **Germany** introduced green trains a few months back. The hydrogen trains have a speed of 160 km per hour and the operational range without refueling is 600 km. The trains launched by **Germany** have a record of 1175 km range set. The Indian Railway on the other hand is moving fast to induct the '**World's Greenest Train**' soon.
- The **Indian government** has proclaimed that they have identified **two lithium mines and one copper mine** in Argentina and they are moving forward to acquiring it or taking long term lease. The government of India said that they had sent a **team of geologists to Argentina** to assess and find potential lithium deposits in the month of November 2022. They have been able to identify a possible source of lithium and copper deposits in the south American country.
- **US** has approved the **first-ever vaccine for honey bees** which will confer protection from the **American foulbrood disease**, raising hopes of a new weapon against diseases that routinely ravage colonies that are relied upon for **food pollination**. The **US Department of Agriculture (USDA)** has permitted a conditional license for a vaccine, developed by **Dalan Animal Health**, a **US-based biotech company**. The vaccine will be supplied on a "limited basis" to commercial beekeepers in the US and is expected to be available this year.
- The United States Parliament has elected **Kevin McCarthy** of the Republican Party as the speaker of the House of Representatives
- **Manpreet Monica Singh** became the **first ever female Sikh judge** in the US.
- **Hawaii's Kilauea volcano erupted again**.
- **"Start Me Up" first-ever orbital launch from the U.K. that failed**.
- **Punjabi** to be taught as a school curriculum in western **Australia**.
- **United States** to extend **Title 42**, to expel migrants from **Nicaragua, Cuba and Haiti** caught crossing the **U.S.-Mexico border back to Mexico**.
- **United States** said its **ballistic missile submarine, USS West Virginia**, visited its **Indian Ocean military base at Diego Garcia**.
- European officials and **Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf** inaugurated the **EU's first mainland orbital launch complex**.
- **India** has announced donation of 12,500 doses of **pentavalent vaccines to Cuba**.
- **New Zealand** Prime Minister **Jacinda Ardern** announces **resignation**. **Chris Hipkins** will replace **Jacinda Ardern** as prime minister.
- **FITUR** is the **second** most important tourism fair in the world. **FITUR** is the global meeting point for tourism professionals and the leading trade fair for inbound and outbound markets in **Latin America**. The fair is being organized in **Madrid, Spain**.
- **Janani Ramachandran** has emerged as the youngest and the first queer woman of colour to take oath as the **Oakland City Council member** in the U.S. state of California.
- President **Nguyen Xuan Phuc** of Vietnam to announce his resignation.
- **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** has extended a concessional USD 40 million Line of Credit for developing sporting infrastructure in the **Maldives**.
- **India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (IBFPL)** would begin supplying diesel to Bangladesh on an experimental basis in June of this year.





- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) formed a seven-member committee, including M C Mary Kom and Yogeshwar Dutt, to probe the allegations of sexual harassment against Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh by top grapplers.
- "Nari Shakti" (women power) will be driving the theme of this year's Republic Day tableau of Navy.
- Brazil and Argentina aim for greater economic integration, including the development of a common currency, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Argentine leader Alberto Fernandez said in a joint article they penned.
- Brazil's ministry of health has declared a medical emergency in the Yanomami territory, the country's largest indigenous reservation bordering Venezuela, following reports of children dying of malnutrition and other diseases caused by illegal gold mining.
- World's longest calligraphic mural Makkah: The Grand Mosque Road in Makkah now features the longest calligraphic painting in the world, the most recent addition to the holy city's aesthetic appeal. The 75-metre mural, created by the artist Amal Felemban.
- Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced a new federal investment to build and commercialise the world's first photonic-based, fault-tolerant quantum computer.
- A US Military raid in Somalia killed a key regional leader of the Islamic State group, Bilal al-Sudani.
- A Gender Toolkit based on "Enabling gender-responsive urban mobility and public spaces" was launched in a session conducted by the World Bank and the Chennai Urban Metropolitan Transport Authority.
- The U.S. The Treasury (United States of America's Finance Ministry) has printed the first US banknotes (currency notes) with two women's signatures. The new currency notes of \$1 and \$5 value carry the signature of the Secretary of Treasury (American Finance Minister) Janet Yellen and Lynn Malerba. The United States currency notes are popularly called as Greenback.
- Japan is elated and proud of its space startup that successfully launched a spacecraft to the moon recently, marking a significant step towards what would be a historic first, both for the nation and a private company.
- The 20th Edition of the Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival kicked off in Kathmandu, Nepal. This year, the festival was scheduled to be held from December 8 to 12, 2022. The festival is resuming its physical screening after two years, because of the pandemic and is ready to showcase numerous films from across the world.
- Russia has for the first time emerged as top oil supplier to India replacing Iraq as refiners last month snapped up oil from Moscow fearing a price cap from Dec. 5 could hit supplies and choke payment avenues.
- According to the French embassy, France will host an International conference "Standing with the Ukrainian People" in Paris with an aim to coordinate international support for civilian resilience in Ukraine and address the Ukrainian people's urgent humanitarian needs.
- The New Zealand government has passed a law to completely end tobacco smoking by banning youth from buying cigarettes for life. The Smoke Free Environments and Regulated Products (Smoking Tobacco) Amendment Bill has been passed in New Zealand which aims to make New Zealand smoke free by 2025.
- The value of global trade is set to reach a new record this year, increasing by about 12 per cent to an estimated \$32 trillion, according to a UN report that signaled a slowdown heading into 2023. "The substantial trade growth during the last year was largely due to increases in the value of the trade of energy products," the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development said in the report.
- A group of nine rich industrialized nations approved a deal to provide Vietnam with \$15.5 billion to help the Southeast Asian nation move faster from coal power to renewable energy, cutting its climate-damaging pollution.
- United States has announced a nuclear fusion breakthrough, a historic step towards the promise of 'near-limitless' clean energy and may help the fight to curb climate change. US Department of Energy said, researchers at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) in California for the first time produced more energy in a fusion reaction than was used to ignite it, something called net energy gain.

### International Current Affairs of December

- India will provide technical support to Sri Lanka to enhance its dairy industry and milk output,
- Dina Boluarte became Peru's first female president amid a political maelstrom when her predecessor and former boss Pedro Castillo)
- Indian-origin teacher VEENA Nair in Australia has received the 2022 Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching in secondary schools.
- FAO, United Nations, organized an opening ceremony for the International Year of Millets – 2023 (IYM2023) in Rome, Italy.
- The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, also called as Conference of Parties (COP-15) commenced in Montreal, Canada was scheduled in Kunming, China in October but was shifted to Montreal, Canada due to covid situation in China.
- Japan has announced that it will jointly develop its next-generation fighter jet Mitsubishi F-X fighter jet with the United Kingdom and Italy as it looks to expand defense cooperation beyond its traditional ally, the United States.





- In an unprecedented move, **Iran** has been expelled from the **United Nation's Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)** in a vote on which India abstained. The **US proposal** at the **UN Economic and Social Council** to remove Iran from the panel received 29 votes, while there were eight votes against and 16 abstentions in the 54-member elected body.
- The **Japanese capital** local assembly passed a new regulation which stated that all **new houses in Tokyo** built by **large-scale homebuilders** after April 2025 must install **solar power panels** to cut household **carbon emissions**. Currently, Japan stands at **fifth spot** in the **world's largest carbon emitters list**.
- **Indian-origin Leo Varadkar** has returned for a second term as **Ireland's Prime Minister** as part of a job-sharing deal made by the country's centrist coalition government. His appointment was confirmed when he received the seal of office from **President Michael D. Higgins**, Ireland's head of state.
- On the 70th anniversary of the establishment of **diplomatic relations between India and Japan**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** said that the ties between the two countries have deepened in every sphere, be it **strategic, economic or people-to-people contacts**.
- **Use of rupee in foreign trade:** In order to facilitate international trade, Sri Lanka has agreed to utilize the Indian Rupee (INR). It occurs shortly after the Indian government announced it was looking into ways to include nations who are particularly short on dollars in the Indian rupee trade settlement process.
- **BF.7, New Covid Variant** : The **BF.7 sub-variant of Omicron** that is prevalent in China is thought to be the cause of the present spike in Covid-19 infections there. This isn't the first time BF.7 has been in the spotlight; back in October, it began to displace the main variations in the US and several other European nations.
- The **U.N. Security Council** has adopted its **first ever resolution** on **Myanmar** in 74 years to demand an end to violence and urge the **military junta** to release all political prisoners, including ousted leader **Aung San Suu Kyi**. Ms. Kyi, 77, has been a prisoner since the army toppled her government almost two years ago and violently cracked down on dissent.
- The **United States** is finalizing plans to send the **Patriot missile defense system** to Ukraine. **Ukraine** has asked its Western partners for air defenses, including **U.S.-made Patriot systems**, to protect it from heavy Russian missile bombardment including against its energy infrastructure. The system is part of **\$1.85 billion in assistance** unveiled in parallel with a **visit to Washington by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky**.
- The lower house of the Spanish Parliament approved a measure allowing individuals over the age of 16 to change their legally recorded gender without the need for medical supervision. According to the law, drafted by the center-left coalition government, minors between the ages of 14 and 16 must be accompanied by their parents or legal guardians and those between the ages of 12 and 13 will require a judge's permission to make the move.
- **Sitiveni Rabuka** was confirmed as **Fiji's next Prime Minister** more than two decades after the former military commander first held the office in a term lasting nearly seven years. The 74-year-old won the nomination by one vote over incumbent Frank Bainimarama at a sitting of the Fijian Parliament in Suva.
- **Bomb Cyclone:** Bomb Cyclone has thrashed **US and Canada** with extreme climate and has trapped the residents inside their houses with snow and power outages. During the Christmas season, the bomb cyclone occurred due to a low temperature of **-40 degrees Fahrenheit**. Thousands of flights have been canceled and several highways have been blocked. People are advised not to step outside their homes as it can be life-threatening.
- The **Maldives** criminal court sentenced **former president Abdulla Yameen** to **11 years in prison** and fined him \$5 million after finding him **guilty of corruption and money laundering** charges related to receiving kickbacks from a private company. Yameen has denied any wrongdoing.
- **Antarctica's Biodiversity** new research has indicated that more has to be done to safeguard Antarctic ecosystems, and if we don't make a change, up to 97% of Antarctic species with land-based populations might go extinct by the year 2100. The study, which was just released, also discovered that ten crucial techniques to lessen threats to Antarctica's biodiversity may be implemented with just USD 23 million annually.
- **Brain-eating amoeba infection reported in South Korea:** For the first time ever, a rare and potentially fatal brain-eating amoeba has been discovered in South Korea. Primary amebic meningoencephalitis (PAM) is a rare and serious infection caused by the amoeba naegleria fowleri, which is commonly found in warm freshwater and soil.
- Bangladesh **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** inaugurated the first metro rail in Dhaka. The metro train was flagged off in Dhaka for the first journey between **Diabari and Agargaon station**. The metro rail is part of the Bangladesh project of Mass Rapid Transit to be completed by 2030.
- India-assisted 720 Megawatts **Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Power Project** has been recently handed to Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) in **Bhutan**. With this project, **India and Bhutan** have successfully completed four mega hydroelectric power projects. The commissioning of the project has increased **Bhutan's Electrical Power Generation Capacity** by 44 per cent.





- **Benjamin Netanyahu** was sworn-in as **Israel's prime minister** for a sixth time, leading the Jewish state's most right-wing government to date. Netanyahu, 73, already **Israel's longest-serving Prime Minister**, has the support of 63 lawmakers in the **120-member Knesset (Israeli parliament)**. In the house, 54 lawmakers voted against his government.
- **Vice President Kamala Harris** has named **Indian American Rajeev Badyal** to a key **national space advisory group**, which is tasked to maintain a robust and responsible US space enterprise and preserve space for current and future

generations. Badyal, vice-president of **Project Kuiper** of Amazon, is among the 30 space experts named by Harris to the National Space Council's **Users Advisory Group (UAG)**.

- **British Indian Army Memorial** will be erected in Glasgow, Scotland, to honour the millions of Indian troops who gave their lives fighting alongside the British throughout the two World Wars. Recently, Glasgow City Council approved the planning proposal subject to limitations, clearing the way for the memorial's final designs to be created next to Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum.

## Current Affairs Related to States in India

### Current Affairs Related to States in India of March

#### Assam

- The foundation stone-laying ceremony for the first-ever compressed **biogas plant project** in **northeast India** took place at **Domora Pathar** in Sonapur under the Kamrup (Metropolitan) district.
- Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma, inaugurated the **'Mission Lifestyle for Environment' (LiFE)** in the state, which is a global mass movement led by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.
- The **World Bank** has given the nod to provide a loan of **\$108 million (about ₹ 889 crores)** to assist **Assam** in its efforts to improve its disaster preparedness and enhance **flood forecasting**.

#### Karnataka

- The **Karnataka Government** will build the country's **first Marina** or a boat basin offering dockage, at Byndoor in Udupi district to promote coastal tourism in Karnataka.
- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation **Shri Amit Shah** unveiled the statues of **Lord Basaveshwara ji and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda ji** at the State Assembly premises in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The **World Bank** has granted a loan of **USD 363 million** to the state of **Karnataka** in India, which will help to provide clean drinking water to **two million** rural households.
- The Election Commission (EC) in the Indian state of **Karnataka** has selected **Manjamma Jogati**, a transgender folk dancer, as a poll icon to encourage more members of the transgender community to register and vote.

#### Kerala

- The **Kerala government** and **UN Women** entered into an agreement, in order to promote activities that are welcoming to women in the State's tourist industry.
- The **Kerala government** has been fined Rs 10 crore by the Principal Bench of the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** for their inability to prevent the uncontrolled pollution of the designated **Ramsar sites**.

#### Madhya Pradesh

- **Mauganj** was declared as 53rd district of Madhya Pradesh by **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, the chief minister of **Madhya Pradesh**. Mauganj is a tehsil of the **Rewa district**.
- "Laadli Behna" Yojana, under which qualified women will get 1,000 rupees every month in support.
- A Namibian Cheetah passed away at **Kuno National Park** in MP, India.

#### Maharashtra

- In **Nagpur, Maharashtra**, a new project known as "**beggar-free city**" has been launched.

#### Manipur

- **Yaoshang, Manipur's version of Holi**, which lasts for five days, has begun. On the full moon of Lamta (February–March) in the Meitei lunar calendar, the event is observed annually.

#### Meghalaya

- **Conrad Kongkal Sangma** was sworn in as the **Meghalaya chief minister** for the second successive term.

#### Nagaland

- **Salhoutuonuo Kruse and Hekani Jakhalu**, both from the ruling Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party, made history by becoming the first women candidates to be elected in the state assembly election. In a significant milestone, people in **Nagaland** have elected two women candidates after 60 years since it attained statehood. **Kruse won from Western Angami AC and Jakhalu clinched Dimapur-III constituencies**.
- **Neiphu Rio**, the leader of the **Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP)**, took the oath of office as the **fifth Chief Minister of Nagaland**.

#### Rajasthan

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





**Sikkim**

- First state of the world to get recognized as an Organic state by the **World Book of Records (London)**.

**Tamil Nadu**

- The **government of Tamil Nadu** has decided to declare **Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary** as the **18th wildlife sanctuary in the state**.
- A team of scientists from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has discovered a new species of **Moray Eel fish** from the **Cuddalore coast in Tamil Nadu**.

**Tripura**

- **Manik Saha** took oath as 13th chief minister for the second time as **Tripura Chief Minister**.

**Uttarakhand**

- The **International Yoga Festival 2023** was held in Rishikesh from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The International Yoga Festival 2023 is the main attraction of **Bharat Parv** this year.
- **Mukhyamantri Ekal Mahila Swarozgar Yojana** in the state at the end of **Women Empowerment and Safety Week**.
- **Uttarakhand** launched the country's first "**Resham Keet Bima**" program to safeguard its sericulturists.
- The government of **Uttarakhand** has approved a 10% horizontal reservation for statehood campaigners in state government positions.
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami** has announced the government will set up a sports university in the **Kumaun region's Haldwani town**.

**Uttar Pradesh**

- **Japan's** eminent hospitality group Hotel Management International Company Limited (HMI) will be opening 30 new properties across **Uttar Pradesh**.

**West Bengal**

- **Merlin Group** has partnered with the World Trade Centers Association to develop a **World Trade Center in Kolkata** that will cover an area of 3.5 million square feet.

TEST SERIES  
BILINGUAL  
IRDAI 2023  
Assistant Manager  
PHASE-I  
50+ TOTAL TESTS

**Current Affairs Related to States in India of February**

**Andhra Pradesh**

- **Visakhapatnam** set to be the state's new capital.

**Arunachal Pradesh**

- **Statehood Day** in Arunachal Pradesh is a state holiday observed on 20<sup>th</sup> February in the Northeastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh.

**Goa**

- The **Government of Goa** has launched the **Vision for All School Eye Health program** in partnership with One Sight Essilor Luxottica Foundation and Prasad Netralaya.

**Gujarat**

- **Gujarat Legislative Assembly** has unanimously passed a Bill that provides for up to **10 years in prison** to curb paper leaks in government recruitment exams.

**Haryana**

- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** has presented the **President's Colour to Haryana Police** in recognition of its exceptional service.
- The first nuclear power plant in **North India would be built in Gorakhpur, Haryana**.

**Jammu and Kashmir**

- 5.9 million tonnes of lithium reserves have been discovered.

**Kerala**

- The **Kerala** government announced a scheme of Rs 200 crore for developing **green hydrogen hubs** at Trivandrum and Kochi.
- On February 21, also known as International Mother Language Day, the **Kerala High Court** published two of its most recent decisions in Malayalam, making it the first high court in the nation to do so.
- The **Kerala government** has launched robotic scavenger, "**Bandicoot**", to clean sewages in the temple town of Guruvayur, becoming the first state in the country to use robotic technology to clean all its commissioned manholes.

**Madhya Pradesh**

- The seven-day **49th Khajuraho Dance Festival** will begin with Bharatnatyam and kathak at the temple declared as UNESCO heritage. The annual event of the Khajuraho Dance Festival is being organized by **Ustad Allauddin Khan Sangeet Evam Kala Akademi** and the directorate of culture in association with the tourism department and the Archaeological Survey of India.





**Maharashtra**

- The **Maharashtra government** announced the **Jai Jai Maharashtra Majha** as the **state song**, which is usually performed at school cultural events on May 1, second only to the national anthem.
- The **Kala Ghoda Arts Festival** began on 4th February and will go on till 12th February 2023. The Kala Ghoda Arts Festival is Asia's biggest multicultural festival.
- India's first air-conditioned **double-decker electric bus** was inducted into the fleet of BEST- the civic transport public body in Mumbai.
- The state government of Maharashtra has announced that renowned social worker, preacher and reformer **Dattatreya alias Appasaheb Dharmadikari** will be honoured with **Maharashtra Bhushan award for the year 2022**.
- Foundation Stone laid for the world's largest and unique **Divyang Park - Anubhuti Inclusive Park** in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- The **Election Commission** recognized the faction led by **Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde** as the real Shiv Sena and allocated it the bow and arrow symbol.
- The **Churchgate railway station** in Mumbai will soon be called as '**Chintamanrao Deshmukh station**', named after the first governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) CD Deshmukh.

**Nagaland**

- **Nagaland government** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Patanjali Foods Limited** for development and area expansion under palm oil cultivation and processing for Zone-II (Mokokchung, Longleng, and Mon districts) of Nagaland under the **National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)**.

**Odisha**

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

**Punjab**

- **Punjab Government** has organized its first state-level '**Prawn Fair**' (Shrimp mela).

**Uttarakhand**

- The country's strictest **Anti-Copying Law** has come into force in Uttarakhand.
- **The Uttarakhand government** has signed a contract to construct a 3.38 km ropeway from **Janki Chatti in Kharsali to Yamunotri Dham**.

**Uttar Pradesh**

- **Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan** will work under the Aarohini Initiative Training Programme for the safety and security of girls in 746 Kasturba Gandhi Residential Girls Schools in Uttar Pradesh.
- The **Uttar Pradesh government** has launched the portal for the creation of '**Family ID - One Family One Identity**', to identify families as a unit for implementing the 'one job per family' proposal.
- **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** inaugurated the **IFFCO Nano Urea Liquid Plants** at Aonla and Phulpur in Uttar Pradesh.

**Current Affairs Related to States in India of January**

**Arunachal Pradesh**

- Defence minister **Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated the **Siyom bridge in Arunachal Pradesh**, along with 27 other infrastructure projects completed by the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**. Built at a cost of 724 crore rupees, these projects will hugely augment India's border infrastructure, mostly along the Chinese border, from Ladakh to Arunachal.

**Assam**

- **Mongeeet** is a festival of music, poetry, art, craft, food, culinary techniques, indigenous herbs, and culture celebrated in Majuli, Assam.
- Centre has nominated the **maidams of Ahom Kingdom in Charaideo** to seek a UNESCO World Heritage Site tag.

**Chhattisgarh**

- The **Cherchera festival** of Chhattisgarh is celebrated on the full moon night of the 'Paush' Hindu calendar month.
- A rare **orange-colored bat** was spotted in the Banana plantation in Parali Bodal village of **Kanger Valley National Park** in Bastar, Chhattisgarh. The orange-colored bat is identified as a 'Painted Bat' and is characterized by bright orange and black wings.

**Goa**

- The eagerly anticipated Purple Fest, Celebrating Diversity, the state's first-ever inclusive festival for people with disabilities (PwDs), will take place in Goa. Panjim will host the festival from January 6–8, 2023, with all the fanfare.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the naming of **Greenfield International Airport** at Goa's Mopa as Manohar International Airport after former Defence Minister and **Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar**. The airport was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December 2022 at Mopa Goa. The airport will be named after the late Manohar Parrikar to honor his contribution to building modern Goa.





**Gujarat**

- India's first green hydrogen blending operation in the **piped natural gas (PNG)** network at **NTPC Kawas**, Gujarat. The project is a joint effort of NTPC and Gujarat Gas (GCL). The power generation company stated that the first molecular of green hydrogen from the project was set in motion by **P Ram Prasad**, Head of Project, Kawas in presence of other senior executives of NTPC Kawas and GCL. After the start of blending and operation, **NTPC Kawas** held an awareness workshop for township residents with help of GCL officials. The foundation stone of the project was laid by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi on 30th July 2022.

**Himachal Pradesh**

- Five-time MLA from **Bhattiyat Kuldeep Singh Pathania** is all set to be the next Speaker of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly. Pathania submitted his nomination papers to Vidhan Sabha secretary **Yash Pal** in the presence of senior leaders including HPCC president Pratibha Singh. Three sets of nomination papers were filed for him. His name was proposed by the Chief Minister **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** and was seconded by the leader of the opposition in the house and BJP leader Jai Ram Thakur.
- Himachal Pradesh **Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** announced to set up of Rs 101 crore **CM's Sukhashraya Sahayata Kosh** for the destitute in the state. Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh informed that 40 Congress MLAs agreed to contribute Rs one lakh each from their first salary for the fund and also requested the MLAs from BJP and other parties to contribute.
- The **Himachal Pradesh government** restored the **old pension scheme**.
- **Himachal Pradesh** celebrates its **53rd Statehood Day** with joy and enthusiasm across the state on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

**Ladakh**

- Lieutenant Governor **R K Mathur** launched the Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) in the Union Territory.

**Karnataka**

- **Mysuru and Hampi** are the two popular destinations in **Karnataka** to be promoted as a part of the new Tourism policy '**The Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme**'.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** distributed **title deeds** or '**Hakku Patra**' to over **52,000 eligible beneficiaries** from the **Lambani nomadic tribes** residing in northern Karnataka.

**Kerala**

- Kerala Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan** inaugurated **Indian Library Congress** in Kannur, Kerala. The inauguration event of the Indian Library Congress was organized by the People's Mission for Social Development and Library Council.

- Kerala Chief Minister(CM) **Pinarayi Vijayan** has inaugurated the **Palm leaf Manuscript Museum** with modern audio-visual technology at the renovated Central Archives, Fort area in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The Museum, promoted as "**World's First Palm-Leaf Manuscript Museum**" was set up by the Archives Department in association with the Kerala Museum of History and Heritage at a cost of Rs 3 crore.
- **Kerala** becomes the first state in the country to go **fully digital in its banking service**.
- The **Kerala Cabinet** approved a scheme to ensure those employed under the **Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme(MGNREGS)** in the poll-bound state get benefits like pension and medical assistance. With this, **Kerala** became the first state to have a **welfare board** for the beneficiaries of employment guarantee programmes in the country.
- Kerala's '**Year of Enterprises**' Project was recognized as the best practices model at the National Conference on Micro Small and Medium Enterprises chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- **Kerala** has kicked itself into the **Guinness Book of World Records** by taking **4,500 penalty kicks in 12 hours**.
- **Kollam** has become the country's first constitution literate district.
- **R Bindu** announced that girls students above the age of 18 years will get maternity leave of 60 days.
- **Wayanad** becomes the first district in the country to provide basic documents and facilities such as Aadhaar cards, ration cards, birth/death certificates, election ID cards, bank accounts and health insurance to all tribespeople.

**Madhya Pradesh**

- **Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched the **Madhya Pradesh Residential Land Rights scheme (Mukhyamantri Awasiya Bhu Adhikar Yojana)** to distribute free leases of residential land to selected beneficiaries. The scheme aims to provide **free plots to the poor** living in rural areas for building their houses. The land will be offered **completely free of cost** and along with the plot, the benefits of all other schemes will also be delivered.
- **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, the chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, has made a significant statement for the women to launch the "**Ladli Bahna Yojana**" in the state following the success of the Ladli Laxmi Yojana for the girls. No matter their caste or status, underprivileged women would receive Rs 1,000 each month under this Yojna in order to gain financial independence.







**Manipur**

- The **Gaan Ngai** of the **Zeliangrong Community** celebrated in Manipur. The Gaan Ngai festival is one of the major festivals of Manipur which is celebrated every year after harvesting. The festival also marks the end of the year when the farmers have stored their foodgrains in their granaries. During the festival, the **Zeliangrong Community** shows their gratitude by offering the Almighty a good harvest and praying for a better and prosperous life in the coming year.
- **Imoinu Day** is celebrated in Manipur as a part of the Meitei Cultural ritual. The traditional festival of Imoinu Day is celebrated on the 12th day of the **Meitei Lunar Month of Wakching**. Every year on this day, people of the valley serve dishes in odd numbers as part of the Imoinu Eratpa ritual. They regard Imoinu Eratpa as a goddess of health, prosperity, abundance, and order of domesticity in Manipur.

**Nagaland**

- The third edition of the two-day **Orange Festival** has been organized in **Nagaland's Rusoma village** to mark the harvest of organic oranges in the district.

**Odisha**

- Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik inaugurated an **'International Craft Summit'** in Jajpur.

**Punjab**

- Union Territory Administrator, **Banwari Lal Purohit** has inaugurated **northern India's largest floating solar power project** of 2000kWp worth Rs 11.70 crore at waterworks, Sector 39, Chandigarh. He also inaugurated a 500kWp floating solar project with fountains at Dhanas Lake.
- Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann launched the **'School of Eminence'**, an ambitious project of the Punjab government.

**Rajasthan**

- **Rajasthan** becomes the **first state to have a policy** for Blindness Control with the objective of **'Right to Sight'**, Under the campaign of **Nirogi Rajasthan**.

**Tamil nadu**

- **Octave 2023** is a festival being held under the aegis of the **South Zone Culture Centre**, Thanjavur, **Tamil Nadu** to showcase the indigenous art and culture of Northeast India. Octave 2023 was inaugurated by Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi.

**Telangana**

- The sole centre in India with a focus on healthcare and life sciences will be created in **Hyderabad** as the **World Economic Forum Centre** for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR Telangana).

- **Woxsen University** has launched **Project Aspirations** with its firm belief in developing its ecosystem and empowering the community around the campus. Woxsen University has conceptualized the project for the ambitious girls of Classes IX-XII, **Telangana Model School & Junior College**. Under **Project Aspiration**, students are selected by the school principal to take part in the **"Train the Trainer"** workshop which commenced in December 2022.

**Tripura**

- The **Election Commission (EC)** is focusing on 929 polling booths across **Tripura**, setting a target of **92 per cent voter turnout** in the assembly elections due early this year. These booths recorded a voter turnout of less than 89 per cent, which was the average across 3,328 booths in the 2018 assembly polls. The EC is also working on **'Mission Zero Poll Violence'** to make the assembly elections peaceful.
- The **'Saharsh'** will be extended to all **government and aided schools** in Tripura from the second week of January.

**Uttarakhand**

- The **Uttarakhand** government has decided to abolish the **revenue policing system** in the state. The Pushkar Singh Dhami government has also announced that revenue villages will be brought under the regular policing system. Law and order in 1,800 revenue villages of Uttarakhand will now be handled by the state police, according to a statement by the Chief Minister's Office.
- **Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen Gurmit Singh (retd)** has approved the **30 percent** horizontal reservation to domicile women of the state in the government jobs bill.
- **Luminous Power Technologies** revealed that it has planned to build India's first green energy-based solar panel manufacturing plant in Uttarakhand which will be operational by the end of this year. The location of the new **India's first green energy-based solar panel** is Rudrapur.

**West Bengal**

- West Bengal Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** launched a new campaign **"Didi'r Surakha Kavach"** for her party, Trinamool Congress. The campaign "Didi'r Surakha Kavach" ahead of the panchayat polls due in April. The "Didi'r Surakha Kavach" will begin on 10th January 2023.

**Current Affairs Related to States in India of December**

**Assam**

- As the growth in the **tourism sector** is vital for socio-economic development in a state, the **Assam State Cabinet led by CM Himanta Biswa Sarma** approved the proposal for grant of **industrial status** to the tourism sector in the state.





- **Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma** launched the second version, the flagship scheme **Orunodoi** of the state government aimed at providing **financial security** to financially disadvantaged families

**Gujarat**

- A polling booth located in a remote forest area of **Gir Somnath district in Gujarat** recorded 100 per cent voting after its lone voter cast his vote in the first phase of the state Assembly elections. The area is part of Una Assembly constituency, which went to polls along with 88 other seats in the state. **The Election Commission (EC)** had set up a polling booth at Banej village located inside Gir forest so that the only voter there can exercise his franchise.
- **Bhupendra Patel** took oath as the Chief Minister of Gujarat for a second straight term in Gandhinagar. He was administered oath as the 18th Chief Minister of Gujarat by Governor Acharya Devvrat.

**Karnataka**

- **Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai** said that a **National Youth festival** is poised to be hosted at **Hubballi-Dharwad** twin cities, which will be inaugurated by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**. The National Youth Festival will be organized on January 12 in connection with the **birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda**.

**Himachal Pradesh**

- Congress leader **Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu** has taken oath as the New Chief Minister of **Himachal Pradesh** at historic ridge ground in Shimla. Deputy Chief Minister **Mukesh Agnihotri** also took oath with him. Governor **Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar** administered the oath to both.

**Odisha**

- The **'Dhanu Yatra' festival**, the largest open-air theatre festival began after a gap of two years, in **Bargarh at the Odisha**. The vibrant Dhanu Yatra is associated with the culture of **Odisha**. The Festival is being held from December 27 to Jan 6, 2023. Several artists from 130 cultural troupes from across the country are scheduled to perform during the festival. Around 3,000 artistes of 130 cultural troupes from across the country is participating in the festival. However, Kansa is the central attraction of the Dhanu Yatra.

**Goa**

- **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** in partnership with **Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR)** and the Goa government will organize the **International Lusophone Festival** in Goa from 3-6 December. It will be inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Goa, **Pramod Sawant** at Durbar Hall in Raj Bhavan.

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated **Mopa International Airport in Goa**, which has been named after former Chief Minister **Manohar Parrikar**. The new airport, which is about 35 km from capital city Panaji, can handle 44 lakh passengers annually. Its capacity can be raised to over 3 crore passengers per year after expansion plans in the future.
- **'Goa Liberation Day'** is celebrated on **December 19** to commemorate the **state's liberation from Portuguese rule in 1961**. As part of **Operation Vijay**, the Indian armed forces used the armed forces triftecta with the help of local resistance movements to eradicate European rule from the country.

**Kerala**

- **Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan** inaugurated the country's first chartered gateway, and a business jet terminal at the **Cochin International Airport**. With this, Cochin airport has become the fourth airport in the country to operate a **private jet terminal**.
- Kerala Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan's constituency** has achieved a new record recently. It has become the only constituency in India to have a library in all the wards. CM Vijayan's constituency **Dharmadam** has achieved the position of complete library constituency in India, the first in India. Out of the total 138 wards in the constituency, there were no libraries in 63 wards. Dharmadam reached the achievement with the opening of libraries in these wards too.
- The 'Spice Coast' in the far north of **Kerala**, better known as **North Malabar**, bask in myriad colours and the pomp and splendour of the cultural extravaganza titled **'Bekal International Beach Festival'**. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has inaugurated the 10-day first international beach festival, that captures the wholeness and the essence of the district's cultural and artistic uniqueness and displays the rich cultural diversity and grandeur of the country, at the majestic Bekal Beach Park.

**Telangana**

- The **Election Commission** informed **TRS president and Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao** that it has accepted the name change of his party from **Telangana Rashtra Samithi to Bharat Rashtra Samithi**. In a letter to TRS, the EC cited a letter that the party sent to the poll body on October 5 requesting its name change.

**Uttarakhand**

- **Uttarakhand Government** is planning for **genetic enhancement of Badri Cow** through sex-sorted semen and embryo transfer technology with the aim to increase its productivity. The Badri breed derived its name from the **holy shrine of Char Dham at Badrinath**. It is found **only in the hill districts of Uttarakhand** and was earlier known as the **'pahadi' cow**.





- **World Class Kayaking Canoeing Academy** to be set up at Tehri in Uttarakhand. The Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy R.K.Singh announced the World Class Kayaking Canoeing Academy. Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami** also inaugurated the National Championship "Tehri Water Sports Cup" at Tehri Lake.

#### Meghalaya

- The **Meghalaya cabinet** has approved a policy aimed at addressing the issues of mental health and social care through collaborative engagement with communities. The **Meghalaya Mental Health & Social Care Policy** was approved at the cabinet meeting, chaired by the Chief Minister. In **2014**, the Centre launched the first-ever **National Mental Health Policy** in an attempt to provide universal psychiatry care.
- The **Meghalaya government** in partnership with startup **TechEagle** has unveiled Asia's first drone delivery hub and network which is aimed at providing universal access to healthcare for the people in the state.
- The **Meghalaya government**, which has adopted a '**Jan Andolan**' (people's movement) against Tuberculosis received an award for best practices in controlling the disease that affects 2.6 million people in India every year. The award for Best Practice in **Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilisation (ACSM)** in Tuberculosis control was presented to representatives of the health department at a national workshop, aimed at ending TB infections, in the national capital.

#### Maharashtra

- **Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde** has announced that the state will establish a **separate Divyang department for the welfare of differently-abled persons** with a fund allocation of 1,143 crore rupees.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** to lay the foundation stone and inaugurate projects worth **Rs 75,000 crores in Maharashtra**. According to the Prime Minister's Office, PM Modi inaugurated Phase-I of Hindu Hrudaysamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra **Samruddhi Mahamarg**, covering a distance of 520 Kms and **connecting Nagpur and Shirdi**.
- Maharashtra **assembly** has passed the **Lokayukta Bill 2022**, which brings the chief minister and council of ministers under the ambit of the anti-corruption ombudsman. The bill was passed without discussion as the opposition had staged a walkout over the alleged scam in the Teachers Entrance Test. Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis termed the bill a historic legislation. Cabinet Minister Deepak Kesarkar introduced the Bill which has a provision to bring the Chief Minister and the cabinet under the purview of the anti-corruption ombudsman.

#### Madhya Pradesh

- **Madhya Pradesh government:** According to **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, a huge statue of former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** will be installed and a research centre will be built as part his grand memorial in Gwalior. On December 26 at the 'Gwalior Gaurav Diwas' function to mark the late leader's **98th birth anniversary**.

#### Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **M K Stalin** has inaugurated an industrial park at **Eraiyrur in Tamil Nadu's Perambalur district**. He also laid the foundation stone for the **Phoenix Kothari Footwear Park**. The inauguration of the 243.39-acre park of the **State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (Sipcot)** followed an announcement in the 2022-23 budget session that new parks would be set up in Coimbatore, Perambalur, Madurai, Vellore and Tiruvallur districts.
- The **Karthigai Deepam Chariot festival** was held at **Thiruparankundram in Madurai, Tamil Nadu** after a gap of two years due to the **COVID-19 pandemic**. This is one of the most important festivals in Madurai which many devotees attend.
- **Tamil Nadu** is set to become the **first state** to launch its own **Climate Change Mission**. It had launched the **Green Tamil Nadu Mission** last September and the **Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission** this August. A Special Purpose Vehicle—the **Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company (TNGCC)**—will implement the State Climate Action Plan.
- The **Karthigai Deepam Chariot festival** was held at **Thiruparankundram in Madurai, Tamil Nadu** after a gap of two years due to the **COVID-19 pandemic**. This is one of the most important festivals in Madurai which many devotees attend.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **M.K.Stalin** inaugurated the statue of **Mahakavi Subramanian Bharathiyar** at the renovated house of Bharathiyar at Varanasi via video conference on 11th December. Stalin also released a souvenir on his centenary. Bharathiyar's 141st birth anniversary celebrates on the behalf of State Government in various places in the State.
- The **Tamil Nadu government** has announced that all those who are eligible for benefits (other than minor children) under various government schemes are required to submit proof of possession of an Aadhaar number or undergo **Aadhaar identification**.
- The '**Friends of Library**' programme, under which books would be directly given to those who are unable to access state-run libraries, was introduced by the **Tamil Nadu government**. The project will be helpful to people with disabilities, seniors, kids, and hospital in-patients, among others, who are unable to visit a library. Volunteers will hand over the books to such people from the libraries.





- The **Tamil Nadu Government**, issued a notification declaring **Arittapatti and Meenakshipuram villages in Madurai district** the first biodiversity heritage site in the State. The site comprising 139.63 hectares in Arittapatti village (Melur block) and 53.8 hectares in Meenakshipuram village (Madurai East taluk) will be known as the Arittapatti Biodiversity Heritage site.
- The Madurai Bench of **Madras High Court** has prohibited devotees from carrying mobile phones inside temples in Tamil Nadu. The Division Bench of Justice R. Mahadevan and J Sathya Narayana Prasad held that the gadgets divert the attention of the devotees from the purpose of visiting the temple. The **Tamil Nadu Temple Entry Authorisation Act 1947**, and the Rules empower the trustees or any authority in charge of the temple to make regulations for the maintenance of order and decorum in the temple.

**Uttar Pradesh**

- **UP's Sania Mirza Clears NDA Exam:** Sania Mirza, a **Mirzapur** resident and the daughter of a TV mechanic, successfully passed the National Defense Academy admission examination (NDA). Sania Mirza is from the Jasovar village, which is within the jurisdiction of the Mirzapur Dehat Kotwali Police Station.

- Stage is all set in **Uttar Pradesh** to rename two places after the state government got the approval by Union Home Ministry. The Union Home Ministry has given its consent to change the names, a Municipal Council in Gorakhpur and a village in Deoria, both in eastern UP, following recommendations from the state government. The 'no-objection' certificates were issued by the Union Home ministry for changing the name of '**Mundera Bazaar municipal council**' in Gorakhpur district to 'Chauri-Chaura' and that of '**Telia Afghan**' village in Deoria district to '**Telia Shukla**'.
- The **Uttar Pradesh** Deputy Chief Minister **Brijesh Pathak** and Minister of State for Medical Education **Mayankeshwar Sharan Singh** inaugurated the '**E-Sushrut Hospital Management Information System (HMIS)**' in 22 state medical colleges. The initiative was launched by the state medical education department in collaboration with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC).
- The **Bulandshahr prison of Uttar Pradesh** was awarded a five-star rating and the tag '**Eat Right Campus**' by the **Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI)**. The FSSAI team inspected the kitchen's food quality, storage and hygiene on stringent measures, based on which the Bulandshahr prison was given a five-star rating, the 'Eat Right Campus' tag in addition to the remark of 'Excellent' by the FSSAI. Bulandshahr Jail is the second prison after **Farrukhabad jail** to get this tag from Uttar Pradesh.

**Union Territories of India**

**Union Territories of India of February**

**Jammu and Kashmir**

- Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor **Manoj Sinha** inaugurated the 33rd Police-Public Mela at Gulshan Ground, Jammu.

**Ladakh**

- **Yaya Tso**, known as **birds' paradise** for its beautiful lake located at an altitude of 4,820 metres, has been proposed as **Ladakh's first biodiversity heritage site (BHS)**.
- The Pangong Tso Lake in **Ladakh** will host the first-ever frozen lake marathon on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023, at an altitude of roughly 13,862 feet. The **first-ever frozen lake marathon** which is of 21-kilometer is India's first of its kind. The marathon will occur at a height of 13,862 feet and it will be the first of its kind to ever take place in the globe at this altitude.

**Delhi**

- **Delhi State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT)** has organized a 5-day '**Jeevan Vidya Shivir**' for the teachers of Delhi government schools at Thyagaraja stadium.

- The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) unveiled "**Bal Mitra**," a WhatsApp chatbot designed to improve communication between kids and parents in Delhi.
- India's first indigenously developed **Train Control and Supervision System**, the i-ATS (Indigenous-Automatic Train Supervision) deployed on the Delhi Metro.
- **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation** will soon launch India's first virtual shopping app called **Momentum 2.0** for metro commuters to purchase products, book services and collect orders at the destination stations.

**Union Territories of India of December**

**Jammu and Kashmir**

- A first-of-its-kind **Tribal Winter Festival** was held in the **Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir**. The festival is organised by the district administration in collaboration with various departments at Ketson, the festival witnessed huge public participation. The festival witnessed music, dance, and cultural events that left the people enthralled.
- **India's longest escape tunnel**, which is 12.89 km long constructed on the 111 km under-construction **Banihal-Katra railway line in Jammu and Kashmir** was completed by the Indian Railways. The longest tunnel is part of the **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line (USBRL)** project.





- With the onset of **winter solstice**, one of the harshest winter periods of 40 days, called **Chillai Kalan**, has begun in **Kashmir**. Chillai Kalan is a Persian term meaning 'major cold'. The ongoing cold wave is said to reach its peak with **Kashmir's mountains covered** in snow for weeks, and the famous Dal Lake also reaching freezing point.
- **Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha** announced three New Schemes- **Holistic Development of Agriculture & Allied Sectors, Aspirational Towns, and Aspirational Panchayat for J&K Union Territory**. The projects which have now been approved by the administrative council, have an **outlay of 5013 crore rupees**.

**Ladakh**

- **Ladakh** celebrated **Losar Festival** to mark the Ladakhi New Year. Losar Festival is celebrated in Ladakh on 24th December 2022. The Losar Festival or the **Ladakhi New year** is a major socio-religious festival of Ladakh celebrated during winter. The **Losar Festival** will continue for nine days from the new year. People will celebrate by offering prayers in the name of God and goddess. They will also dance and sing in honor of **Ibex and the pilgrimage of Mount Kailash**.

**New Appointments: National**

**New Appointments: National of March**

S.No.	Designation/Post	Who is appointed
1	Director General Quality Assurance	Lt Gen RS Reen
2	Principal director general of the Press Information Bureau	Rajesh Malhotra
3	Director-General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)	Rashmi Shukla
4	Chairperson of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission	Jishnu Barua
5	Controller General of Accounts	S.S. Dubey

**CEO'S/Chairman of Companies/Organizations/Banks/ Or Appointments**

S.No.	Designation/Post	Who is appointed	Replacing whom
1	Secretary General	Shailesh Pathak	
2	CEO-Designate of GIL-Chemicals Business	Vishal Sharma	
3	MD & CEO of Pramerica Life Insurance	Pankaj Gupta	Kalpna Sampat
4	CEO of Axis Mutual Fund	B Gopkumar	Chandresh Nigam
5	Managing director and CEO of HUL	Rohit Jawa	
6	Managing director and CEO of Mohit Joshi	Mohit Joshi	
7	Interim CEO of LIC	Siddhartha Mohanty	
8	Chairman-Cum-Managing Director	Amitava Mukherjee	
9	Chief executive officer of Honeywell International HON	Vimal Kapur	Darius Adamczyk
10	CEO-designate of TCS	K Krithivasan	Rajesh Gopinathan
11	Chairman of Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)	Deepak Mohanty	Supratim Bandyopadhyay
12	Managing director of UCO Bank	Ashwani Kumar	
13	Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI)	Lalit Kumar Gupta	
14	Chairman and Managing Director of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)	G. Krishnakumar	
15	MD & CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance	Anup Bagchi	N S Kannan
16	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Invest India	Manmeet K Nanda	
17	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of CEAT	Arnab Banerjee	
18	AHF Athletes Ambassador from India	Salima Tete	
19	non-executive chairperson and independent director of the NDTV board of directors	Upendra Kumar Sinha	
20	independent director of the NDTV board of directors	Dipali Goenka	





CEO'S/Chairman of Companies/Organizations/Banks/ Or Appointments			
S.No.	Designation/Post	Who is appointed	Replacing whom
21	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Axis Securities	Pranav Haridasan	B Gopkumar
22	President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).	Ajay Singh	Sumant Sinha
23	Senior Vice-President of ASSOCHAM	Sanjay Nayar	
24	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director of Tata Power	Praveer Sinha	
25	Cheif Executive Officer of Hero MotoCorp	Niranjan Gupta	
26	Managing Director of Hitachi Payment Services	Sumil Vikamsey	

Other's		
S.No.	Designation/Post	Who is appointed
1	celebrity endorser	Ranveer Singh
2	Hand Ambassador	Sachin Tendulkar
3	India's ambassador for She Changes Climate	Shreya Ghodawat
4	Viacom 18 brand ambassador	MS Dhoni
5	Luxor Writing Instruments Pvt Ltd brand ambassador	Virat Kohli
6	Star Sports brand ambassador	Ranveer Singh

**New Appointments: National of February**

Constitutional & Other Posts		
S.No.	Designation/Post	Who is appointed
1	Vice Chief of Army Staff	Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar

CEO'S/Chairman of Companies/Organizations/Banks/ Or Appointments			
S.No.	Designation/Post	Who is appointed	Replacing whom
1	India Head of Morgan Stanley	Arun Kohli	Sanjay Shah
2	CEO of Gujarat Ports Infrastructure Company Limited of the Gujarat Maritime Cluster	Madhvendra Singh	
3	Chief Executive Officer Designate	Raul Rebello	
4	MD & CEO	K Satyanarayana Raju	L V Prabhakar
5	MD	Meenakshi Nevatia	S Sridhar
6	President and Vice President	Aniket Sunil Talati & Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal	
7	MD of Jaguar Land Rover India	Rajan Amba	Rohit Suri
8	CEO of NITI Aayog	BVR Subrahmanyam	Parameswaran Iyer

Other's		
S.No.	Designation/Post	Who is appointed
1	Brand Ambassador of Puma India	Harmanpreet Kaur
2	Member of the Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM)	Shamika Ravi
3	Brand Ambassador of UnCrave	Vir Das
4	National Ambassador of UNICEF	Ayushmann Khurrana
5	Drug Controller General of India	Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi





**New Appointments: National of January**

1.	Ajay Kumar Srivastava has been elevated as <b>Managing Director and CEO</b> of <a href="#">Indian Overseas Bank</a> with effect from January 1, 2023 from his current posting as executive director. He started his banking career as a probationary officer in 1991 with Allahabad Bank where he worked in various capacities in different parts of the country.
2.	Folk singer <b>Maithili Thakur</b> was appointed the state icon for <b>Bihar by the Election Commission</b> . The singer will create awareness among the voters for their participation in the electoral process. This recognition will give her (Maithili) more impetus to spread Bihar's folk music across continents and generate awareness about the importance of participating in the electoral process.
3.	<b>The All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC)</b> its members have elected <b>Saiyam Mehra</b> as Chairman and <b>Rajesh Rokde</b> as Vice Chairman of the industry body for a period of two years (2023-24). GJC represents over 6,00,000 industry players comprising manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, distributors, laboratories, gemologists, designers and allied services providers
4.	According to the Ministry of Communications, <b>Vinaya Prakash Singh</b> , a former Member (Personnel), <b>Postal Services Board</b> , was elected as the union's Secretary General and will assume responsibility for the position for a four-year term following the successful elections held during the 13th APPU Congress, which was held in Bangkok during the months of August and September 2022.
5.	<b>Chetan Sharma</b> was reappointed as the chairman of the senior selection committee by BCCI. <b>Salil Ankola, Shiv Sunar Das, Subroto Banerjee and Sridharan Sharath</b> are new members of the selection committee.
6.	<a href="#">Paytm Payments Bank</a> has received banking regulator RBI's nod to appoint <b>Surinder Chawla</b> as its Managing Director and CEO.
7.	<b>Anurag Kumar</b> was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of <b>Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL)</b> .
8.	Meta announced the appointment of former <b>Tata CLiQ CEO Vikas Purohit</b> as the <b>director of global business group</b> in India.
9.	Senior IAS Officer <b>A Santhi Kumari</b> has been appointed as the new <b>Chief Secretary of Telangana</b> .
10.	<b>Herbalife Nutrition India Private Limited</b> is partnering with international women's cricketer, <b>Smriti Mandhana</b> as a 'nutrition sponsor'.
11.	<b>Pankaj Kumar Singh</b> was appointed as the <b>Deputy National Security Adviser</b> in <b>National Security Council Secretariat</b> for a period of two years.
12.	<b>Praveen Sharma</b> has been selected for appointment as <b>Director</b> in the National Health Authority.
13.	<b>Vikram Dev Dutt</b> has been selected for appointment as the next <b>director general</b> in the <b>Directorate of General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)</b> .
14.	<b>Naresh Lalwani</b> has taken over as the new <b>General Manager of Central Railway</b> .
15.	<b>Air Marshal A P Singh</b> has been appointed as the new Vice Chief of the <b>Indian Air Force</b> .
16.	The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has recommended the name of <b>Dr Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi</b> as the new <b>Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)</b> .
17.	<b>Nikhat Zareen</b> to represent NMDC as its brand ambassador.

**CEO'S/Chairman of Companies/Organizations/Banks/ Or Appointments**

1.	<b>Shamalbhai B Patel</b>	Chairman	<b>Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF)</b>
2.	<b>Valamjibhai Humbal</b>	vice chairman	<b>Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF)</b>
3.	<b>Siddharth Sharma</b>	CEO	<b>Tata Trusts</b>
4.	<b>Aparna Uppaluri</b>	Chief operating officer	<b>Tata Trusts</b>
5.	<b>Prabdev Singh</b>	Chief Executive Officer in India	<b>JP Morgan Chase &amp; Co.</b>





**New Appointments: National of December**

1.	Prasanth Kumar, CEO, South Asia of GroupM Media (India) Pvt Ltd, : president of the <b>Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI)</b> .	
2.	Institute of Cost Accountants of India(statutory body) said that <b>Vijender Sharma</b> : as the <b>new president</b> and <b>Rakesh Bhalla</b> as <b>vice-president for 2022-23</b> .	
3.	<b>Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar</b> , Professor Emeritus at Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI), as the part-time chairperson of the <b>National Statistical Commission (NSC) of India</b> for a period of three years.	
4.	Distinguished Scientist of Department of Atomic Energy, <b>K.V. Suresh Kumar</b> : Chairman and Managing Director of <b>BharatiyaNabhikiyaVidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI)</b>	
5.	<b>K V Shaji</b> ,Chairman <b>NABARD</b>	
	president of the <b>Table Tennis Federation of India</b>	<b>Meghna Ahlawat</b> (first female President)
	new secretary general of the TTFI	<b>Patel Nagender Reddy</b>
6.	<b>MD, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)</b>	<b>Meenesh C Shah</b>
7.	Chairman of Tata Sons, <b>N Chandrasekaran</b> has been appointed as the chair of <b>B20 India</b> which represents the entire <b>G20 business community</b> . He will lead the business agenda during India's G20 Presidency.	
8.	first woman president , <b>Indian Olympic Association (IOA)</b>	<b>Pilavullakandi Thekkeraparambil Usha or PT Usha</b>
9.	<b>Ajay Patel</b> of National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) has been elected unopposed as senior vice-president. <b>IOA</b>	
10.	Justice <b>Dipankar Dutta</b> has took oath as a judge of the <b>Supreme Court</b>	
11.	Senior cardiologist from Hyderabad, <b>Dr PC Rath</b> , was formally elected president of the <b>Cardiological Society of India (CSI) for the year 2023-24</b>	
12.	Major General <b>Mohit Seth</b> has took over as the <b>General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Counter Insurgency Force Kilo</b> .	
13.	<b>Dinesh Kumar Shukla</b> :Chairperson of the <b>Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)</b> .	
14.	Former Supreme Court judge, <b>Hemant Gupta</b> has been appointed as the chairperson of <b>New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC)</b> . .	
15.	<b>Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan</b> next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of <b>Saudi Arabia</b> .	
16.	<b>The Air India management</b> has appointed Air India Express CEO <b>Aloke Singh</b> as the chief of Air India's low-cost airline business	
17.	Former Union Minister <b>Hansraj Gangaram Ahir</b> has assumed charge as Chairperson of the <b>National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)</b> .	
18.	Indian tech brand "Noise" has appointed <b>Virat Kohli</b> as its new brand ambassador for its smartwatches.	
19.	<b>Anil Kumar Lahoti</b> : Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the <b>Railway Board</b> .	
20.	<b>Shri Ganji Kamala V Rao IAS</b> :Chief Executive Officer of the <b>Food Safety &amp; Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)</b> .	
21.	<b>Santosh Kumar Yadav</b> , Chairman of the <b>National Highway Authority of India (NHAI)</b> .	
22.	Lieutenant General <b>Arvind Walia</b> has been appointed as the next <b>Engineer-in-Chief of the Indian Army</b>	
23.	<b>Baskar Babu Ramachandran</b> as the MD & CEO of <b>Suryoday Small Finance bank</b>	

**New Appointments: International**

**New Appointments: International of March**

President/PM/Heads of Countries/Organizations		
S.No.	Designation/Post	Who is Appointed?
1	President of Nigeria	Bola Tinubu
2	President of Vietnam	Vo Van Thuong(Võ Văn Thưởng)
3	PM of Qatar	Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani
4	President of Nepal	Ram Chandra Paudel

5	CEO of Silicon Valley Bank	Tim Mayopoulos
6	Vice President of Nepal	Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav
7	President of New Development Bank (NDB)	Dilma Vana Rousseff
8	Scotland's First Minister	Humza Yousaf
9	Vice President of UAE	Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan







**New Appointments: International of February**

- The **Nepal Cricket Association** has appointed former Indian cricketer **Monty Desai** as the head coach of the Nepal national cricket team.
- An Indian-American, **Neal Mohan** will become the next **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of Alphabet-owned **YouTube** following **Susan Wojcicki's** announcement that she will be stepping down from her role as the head of the video-sharing platform.
- **Ruchira Kamboj**, India's permanent representative to the UN, has been chosen to serve as the commission's chair during the **62nd session**.
- **Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**, has named **Professor Meghana Pandit**, a renowned physician of Indian descent, as its CEO.
- The International Labour Organization (ILO), Geneva has chosen the **Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)** to serve as its external auditor for a four-year term from 2024 to 2027, the apex auditor announced. The CAG is **Girish Chandra Murmu**.

President/PM/Heads of Countries/Organizations		
S.No.	Designation/Post	Who is Appointed?
1	Prime minister of Equatorial Guinea	Manuela Roka Botey
2	President of Bangladesh	Mohammad Shahabuddin Chuppu
3	President of Cyprus	Nikos Christodoulides

**New Appointments: International of January**

- **Bank of Singapore (BoS)**, the private banking arm of Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation (OCBC), announced that it has appointed **Jason Moo** as its new CEO.
- **Sultan al-Jaber** to preside over the upcoming **United Nations climate negotiations** in Dubai.

S.No.	Designation/Post	Who is Appointed?
President/PM/Heads of Countries/Organizations		
1.	Prime Minister of Gabon	Alain-Claude Bilie By Nze
2.	Vice president of Gabon	Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda

S.No.	Designation/Post	Who is Appointed?
3.	Ministry of Indigenous People (Brazil)	Sônia Guajajara
4.	Lieutenant Governor in the state of Maryland	Aruna Miller
5.	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Chief Economist.	Clare Lombardelli
6.	Chief Executive Officer of Cairn Oil & Gas	Nick Walker
7.	Chief of staff to US President	Jeff Zients
8.	CEO of Toyota Motor Corp	Koji Sato
9.	Unilever Chief Executive Officer	Hein Schumacher
10.	President of the Czech Republic	Petr Pavel

**New Appointments: International of December**

President/PM/Heads of Countries/Organizations	
1.	The <b>Federal Reserve Bank of New York</b> has appointed Indian-origin <b>Sushmita Shukla</b> as its <b>First Vice President, and Chief Operating Officer (COO)</b>
2.	The <b>Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games</b> organising committee has named American executive <b>Cindy Hook</b> as its first CEO.
3.	<b>Harvard University</b> named <b>Claudine Gay</b> , a dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science, as its new president, the <b>first African American</b> to hold the post at the prestigious university.





## Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings

### Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of March

- **India and Australia** signed a Framework Mechanism for Mutual **Recognition of Qualifications** that will help ease the mobility of students and professionals between the two countries.
- In order to reduce carbon footprint in its operations, **Tata Steel Mining Limited** has signed a memorandum of understanding with **GAIL (India) Limited** for supply of natural gas to its ferro alloys plant at Athgarh in Odisha's Cuttack district.
- The National Anti-Doping Agency (**NADA**) under the Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry; and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (**NCERT**) signed an MoU to strengthen value-based sports education amongst school children and teachers.
- A **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** on Research, Technology, and Innovation Collaborations between **India** and **Mexico** has been inked.
- The Centre and the **World Bank** have signed two complementary loans of \$500 million each to support and enhance the country's **health sector development**. Through this combined financing of \$1 billion, the World Bank will support India's flagship **Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM)**, launched in October 2021.
- The **United States and India** will sign a memorandum of understanding on semiconductors as both countries discuss coordination of investment and continue the dialogue around policies to spur private investment.
- Punjab National Bank, the nation's public sector bank, and **Central Warehousing Corporation** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate financing under **e-NWR (Electronic Negotiable Warehousing Receipt)**.
- The Government of **India and the World Bank** have signed an agreement for the Green National Highway Corridors Project, with loan assistance of \$500 million against total project cost of \$1,288.24 million (Rs 7,662.47 crore).
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates** for promoting innovation in financial products and services.
- The **Ministry of Steel** has signed 57 **Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** with 27 companies for specialty steel production under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme.

- **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)**, an Indian multinational that specializes in EPC projects, hi-tech manufacturing, and services, has signed a binding agreement with **McPhy Energy**, a leading electrolyzer technology and manufacturing company based in **France**. The agreement establishes a long-term partnership between the two companies to explore opportunities in the emerging green hydrogen market.
- **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.

### Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of February

- **India** has welcomed **Congo to International Solar Alliance**. The External Affairs Ministry said the Ambassador of the Republic of Congo, Raymond Serge Bale signed the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement in the presence of the Joint Secretary (Economic Diplomacy).
- The **Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI)** and the **National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for setting up digital forensic laboratories along with the exchange of information and knowledge, technological advancement and skill development in the field of digital forensics.
- **Samsung Semiconductor India Research (SSIR)** has announced a new partnership with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to promote research and development in the field of on-chip Electrostatic Discharge (ESD) Protection.
- India and Fiji have signed a pact to **exempt visas** for holders of diplomatic and official passports. As of now, India has diplomatic and official passport holders' visa exemption pacts with 59 other countries as per the PassportIndia.gov.in website.
- The Central Water Commission (**CWC**), Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti entered into a Memorandum of Agreement for Development of International Centre of Excellence for Dams (**ICED**) under externally funded Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project Phase II and Phase III. This MoA will remain valid for ten years or till the duration of the DRIP Phase-II and Phase-II Scheme, whichever is earlier, from the date of signing.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri **Narendra Modi**, has approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales (ICAEW). The MoU is to provide recognition of the qualification, training of **each other's members** and admit the members in good standing by prescribing a bridging mechanism on the prevailing terms and conditions.





- **Ministry of Rural Development** signed an MoU between the ministry and **Meesho** an e-commerce platform owned by Bengaluru-based Fashnear Technologies Private Limited.
- India's lunar mission, **Chandrayaan-3** has successfully underwent **EMI-EMC (Electro-Magnetic Interference/Electro-Magnetic Compatibility)**.
- Navratna Defence PSU **Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL)** said, it signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), DRDO, for the **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)** programme.
- Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland, New Zealand, and Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH), Mumbai, the largest and the most renowned **cancer care hospital** and research centre in India, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to engage in long-term cooperation in cancer care.
- **Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL)**, an aerospace company in India, and **EDGE**, the top defence company in the UAE, inked a Memorandum of Understanding at the International Defense Exhibition and Conference (IDEX).
- **CSC Academy**, a subsidiary of Common Service Centre e-Governance Services India Limited, and **NIELIT** (National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology) have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to enhance **digital literacy** and **skill development** in India.
- German Chancellor **Olaf Scholz's** visit to India on February 25–26 will focus on advancing a **\$5.2 billion agreement** between **Germany** and **India** to jointly construct six conventional submarines in India.

### Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of January

- **IIT Madras** Centre of Excellence working with DRDO on **Advanced Defence Technologies** including Combat Vehicle Technologies. Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) is operating a **Research Centre** dedicated to defence technologies jointly with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to develop advanced technologies for the national defence and security needs of the nation. It was established by DRDO but IIT Madras has now taken over and converted it into a centre of excellence.
- Chief Minister of Odisha **Naveen Patnaik** directed the distribution of **five kilograms of rice** per month free of cost to beneficiaries of the **State Food Security Scheme (SFSS)** for the next one year. The state government has decided to provide 5 kilograms of rice under SFSS to the beneficiaries free of cost for a period of one year starting from January 2023 to December 2023. The total expenditure of the plan will be **Rs 185 crore**.

- **The International Hockey Federation (FIH)** has signed a partnership with the **JSW Group** for the upcoming **FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela**, which will kick-off later this month. The group supports and promotes Olympics in India and has created an Olympic Training Institute in the Inspire Institute of Sport as well as has Olympic training centres across the country. The 15th edition of FIH's flagship event for men will be played from 13 January to 29 January in Odisha, India.
- **ISRO** and **Microsoft** signed a MoU to help Indian Space tech start-ups with technology tools, go-to-market support, and mentoring to help them scale and become business ready. Through this MoU, the space tech startups identified by ISRO will be onboarded onto the Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub.
- India and Panama have signed MoU to encourage cooperation in the training of diplomats
- **Sony Sports Network**, which will air the **Australian Open** this month across its channels and **OTT app SonyLiv**. It has roped in sponsors like Hyundai Ioniq 5 and Samsonite as co-presenting sponsors and Panasonic as an associate sponsor for the upcoming open.
- **Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with chapters of 8 countries of the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) at the 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas convention. The MoUs were signed with **France Metropole Paris, Mauritius, Reunion Island, Martinique, Sri Lanka, GOPIO International, Malaysia, and Mauritius**.
- **The Indian High Commission** signed an MoU with the **Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka** to establish a Hindi Chair.
- **Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (WDRA)** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **State Bank of India** to help farmers in getting low-interest-rate loans.
- **The Indian Ports Association (IPA)** and **Research & Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)** signed a Memorandum of Agreement for setting up a Centre for Maritime Economy and Connectivity.
- **Gogoro** along with **Belrise Industries** (formerly known as Badve Engineering) has inked a **strategic energy partnership** with the **Maharashtra government** to establish a battery swapping infrastructure. This follows up to Gogoro's earlier announced partnership with Hero MotoCorp and Zypp Electric among others.
- **The International Hockey Federation (FIH)** Partners with **JSP Foundation for Hockey Development and Men's World Cup Lausanne, Switzerland**.
- **The National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH)** and Healthcare Sector Skill Council (HSSC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU). The pact between NABH and HSSC aims at recognition of the HSSC certificate for **NABH** accreditation and develops training programs for skilling, reskilling, and upskilling required for healthcare professionals.





- **India and Egypt** signed an MOU to facilitate content exchange, capacity building, and Co-Productions between **Prasar Bharati** and the **National Media Authority** of Egypt.
- **South Africa** said that it had reached a deal to transfer more than **100 cheetahs to India** as part of an ambitious project to reintroduce the spotted cats in the **south Asian country**. The environment ministry said an **initial batch of 12 cheetahs** would be flown to India next month, after **eight cheetahs arrived from Namibia** last September.
- **Defence PSU** Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd has signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** with **Rolls Royce Solutions** of Germany for manufacture of high-quality marine diesel engines at the former's **plant in Ranchi**.

**Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of December**

- **India and Germany** signed a **comprehensive migration and mobility partnership**, which will facilitate easier access for people to study, research and work in both countries.
- MoU signed between The **National Small Industries Corporation Ltd.** and **Walmart Global Sourcing India Private Limited**, to facilitate services to MSMEs in Walmart **Vriddhi program**.
- **IIT Ropar** and the **Army Training Command (ARTRAC)** of the Indian Army signed a **MoU** for setting up a **centre of excellence** for studies and applied research in **defence and security** at the premier institute.
- In a bid to promote **Ayurveda** across continents, the **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)** has signed **MoU** with the University of **Medical Sciences, Cuba**, and extended the agreement with **Rosenberg European Academy of Ayurveda (REAA)**, Germany, for five more years to take forward collaborative programmes.

- **Airbnb** signed **MoU** with the **Department of Tourism, Government of Goa**, to jointly promote Goa as one of the most sought-after high potential tourism destinations in India and around the world.
- **The European Union** has adopted a plan for a global minimum **15% tax on big business**.
- The next **World Trade Organization** ministerial conference will be held in **Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates** in February **2024**. The UAE and Cameroon were both vying to host the event
- **Atal Incubation Centre (AIC)** at the **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** signed agreements with **MSMEs** for incubation of newer technologies into commercial products.
- **NTPC** signed a non-binding MoU with **Tecnimont Private Limited**, the Indian subsidiary of Maire Tecnimont Group, Italy, to jointly **evaluate and explore** the possibility to develop a commercial-scale Green Methanol production facility at the NTPC project in India.
- The tripartite agreement was signed by the central and Manipur governments and the **Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF)** rebel group which mostly operated in Manipur. The agreement was signed by senior home ministry officials and the government of Manipur and the representatives of ZUF in presence of **Chief Minister N Biren Singh**.
- **Ministry of Power** has signed a MoU with the **DRDO** to implement an **early warning system** for vulnerable hydro projects and power stations in hilly regions.
- In conjunction with the Learning Links Foundation, the **National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS)** was setting up a two-day face-to-face capacity building program, for EMRS teachers to implement the **Amazon Future Engineer Program (LLF)**.
- **Tata Steel and TuTr Hyperloop** signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) at IIT Madras to collaborate on the development and wide-scale use of Hyperloop technology.

**Banking Current Affairs**

**Banking Current Affairs of March**

S.No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1	SBI	announced the completion of a <b>\$1 billion</b> syndicated social loan facility. It is the largest Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) loan by a commercial bank in the Asia Pacific and the second-largest social loan globally.
2	Kotak	'DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality'
3	SBI	has raised Rs 3,717 crore through its third Basel III compliant Additional Tier 1 bond issuance in the current financial year at coupon rate of 8.25 per cent.
4	Suryoday Small Finance Bank	announced the launch of ' <b>Blossom Women's Savings Account</b> ' with 7 percent per annum interest rate with monthly interest credit.
5	IDFC FIRST Bank	has become the official banking partner of the <b>Mumbai Indians</b> , a franchise cricket team that competes in the Indian Premier League (IPL).
6	ICICI Bank	offering a comprehensive bouquet of digital and physical solutions to cater to all banking needs of startups across their various life stages.





S.No.	Bank Name	Scheme/ App Name/ Mou	Purpose
1	RBL	MoU with EXIM bank	under the <b>Trade Assistance Programme (TAP)</b> in order to facilitate cross-border commercial operations.
2	Canara Bank	in collaboration with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)	launched the Rupay Credit Card through UPI using the BHIM app.
3	Yes bank	National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)	to issue its first electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG).
4	IDFC First Bank	Crunchfish	to launch a pilot project to demonstrate offline retail payments.
5	Axis Bank	Ezetap by Razorpay and MyPinpad	introduced a groundbreaking payment solution called "MicroPay"
6	SBI	NGO That's Eco Foundation	to donate ₹48 lakh for the plantation of 32,000 tree saplings at Garden City University in Bengaluru.

**Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities**

S.No.	Name	Purpose
1	<b>RBI</b>	"Har Payment Digital" – with the aim of making every citizen in the country a user of digital payments as part of Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW) 2023.

**Other Important Banking Related Current Affairs**

- **Axis Bank** completed the acquisition of Citibank's consumer business. The deal, which was announced in March 2022, will see India's third-largest private sector bank absorbing Citibank's consumer businesses, covering loans, credit cards, wealth management, and retail banking operations in India.
- **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corp Ltd (IRCTC)** and **HDFC Bank**, announced the launch of a co-branded travel credit card. Known as the IRCTC HDFC Bank Credit Card, the newly launched co-branded card is available exclusively on NPCI's Rupay network.
- Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (**ABSLI**), the life insurance subsidiary of **Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL)** launched a new-age savings solution **ABSLI Nishchit Aayush Plan**, which aims to provide financial security to policyholders while also providing long-term savings benefits.
- **IDFC Mutual Fund** has rebranded itself as **Bandhan Mutual Fund**.
- **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.
- **Canara Bank** has announced that it sold its stake in Commercial Indo Bank LLC (CIBL), a joint venture with **State Bank of India (SBI)**, to SBI for approximately ₹121.29 crore. CIBL, which was established in 2003, operates in **Russia** and is owned 60% by SBI and 40% by Canara Bank. According to Canara Bank, the sale agreement was executed on November 11, 2022.
- **ICICI Lombard General Insurance** has introduced an industry-first feature for health insurance policyholders called '**Anywhere Cashless**,' which allows them to receive cashless facilities at any hospital, regardless of whether or not it is currently part of ICICI Lombard's hospital network.
- **First-Citizens Bank** and Trust Company, based in Raleigh, North Carolina, has entered a purchase and assumption agreement with the **Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)** to acquire all loans and deposits of the recently failed **Silicon Valley Bridge Bank** in the United States.

**Banking Current Affairs of February**

S.No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1	SBI	3rd dedicated branch for startup opened in Gurugram.
2	Indian Overseas Bank	launched the facility of issuance of e-BG (Electronic Bank Guarantee) scheme in association with the National e-Governance Services Ltd.
3	Kotak Mahindra Bank	' <b>Kotak fyn</b> ', an integrated portal developed to offer comprehensive digital banking and value-added services to its business banking and corporate clients.





S.No.	Bank Name	Scheme/ Name/ Mou	App	Purpose
1	ICICI	BNP Paribas		have signed an initial pact to cater to the banking requirements of European corporates operating in India and Indian companies in the European Union.
2	SBI	PayNow		for cross-border payments
3	HDFC	Lulu Exchange		to strengthen cross-border payments between India and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region.
4	Saraswat Bank	Tagit		to implement omnichannel digital banking solutions for its retail and corporate customers.
5	Karnataka Bank	Paisalo Digital Ltd		entered into a co-lending arrangement to provide financial support to the small income segment and to give impetus to the micro and small enterprise segment of the country.

**Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities of February**

S.No.	Name	Purpose
1	RBI	expand the scope of <b>TReDS platform</b> allowing the use of insurance facilities, permitting entities eligible to undertake factoring business to participate as financiers on TReDS and allowing secondary market operations on the platform.
2	RBI	a pilot programme to introduce <b>coin vending machines</b> that use <b>QR codes</b> will begin shortly.
3	RBI	<b>'Financial Literacy Week'</b> started on <b>13th</b> and will last till <b>February 17, 2023</b> .
4	RBI	second global hackathon - <b>'HARBINGER 2023</b> - Innovation for Transformation' with the <b>theme</b> 'Inclusive Digital Services'

**Other Important Banking Current Affairs**

- In Mumbai, an industry first for banks and NBFCs, **Mobicule**, a specialist in debt collection, has announced the release of its mCollect Repossession module. As a component of its debt collection and recovery product, the ground-breaking Asset Repossession Solution is a comprehensive solution that maps all the intricate steps involved in the repossession of an asset.
- New India Assurance (NIA)** has launched a **'Pay as You Drive'** (PAYD) policy, which offers a comprehensive motor insurance policy that charges a premium based on vehicle usage.
- The Reserve Bank of India said it has cancelled the registration of Pune-based **Kudos Finance** and Investments and Mumbai-based **Credit Gate** for regulatory lapses in lending practices.

- Karnataka Bank was awarded with 'Prathista Puraskar' under 'Digidhan Awards 2021-22' by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), government of India for achieving target with highest percentage in BHIM-UPI transactions in private sector bank category.
- Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** has emerged as the top performer among state-owned lenders in terms of loan growth percentage during the third quarter of 2022-23, an analysis of the latest financial results of **public sector banks** showed.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** due to insufficient capital and earning potential revoked the licence of Madhya Pradesh's Garha Co-operative Bank, Guna.
- The **NSE** has got the greenlight from the capital markets regulator to launch its **Social Stock Exchange**.
- Federal Bank** has constructed a 100-KWp on-grid solar power plant, at its corporate headquarters in **Aluva**.

**Banking Current Affairs of January**

Sno.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	<b>Bandhan Bank</b>	'Jahaan Bandhan, Wahaan Trust' campaign along with the bank's <b>brand ambassador</b> Sourav Ganguly. 'Jahaan Bandhan, Wahaan Trust' is an integrated marketing campaign in which the company has emphasized the 'trust' that the brand has been able to earn in a span of seven years as a bank.
2.	<a href="#">Equitas Small Finance Bank</a>	The <b>Reserve Bank of India</b> gave its approval to <b>SBI Funds Management Ltd</b> to acquire up to 9.99% stake in <a href="#">Equitas Small Finance Bank</a> through the schemes of <b>SBI Mutual Fund</b> , the bank said in an exchange filing. <b>Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund</b> and <b>DSP Mutual Fund</b> have also received RBI's approval to buy 9.99% stake each in the bank.





Sno.	Bank Name	Purpose
3.	SBI	SBI has raised <b>Rs 9,718 crore</b> through its <b>second infrastructure bond</b> issuance at a coupon rate of <b>7.70 per cent per annum</b> for the <b>15-year money</b> . This is the <b>second</b> fund-raising since early December when it had mopped up <b>Rs 10,000 crore</b> via infra bonds.
4.	PNB	PNB offers <b>credit cards</b> against <b>Fixed Deposit</b> to customers who don't meet the eligibility criteria for regular credit cards.
5.	Canara Bank	Canara Bank said it plans to sell its stake in <b>Russian Joint Venture(JV) Commercial Indo Bank LLC (CIBL)</b> to the other venture partner <b>State Bank of India (SBI)</b> for about <b>Rs 114 crore</b> .

Sno.	Bank Name	Scheme/ App Name/ Mou	Purpose
1	Punjab and Sind Bank (PSB)	SBI Card	to launch co-brand credit cards for the bank's customers. PSB has also entered the credit card market as a new product segment in its portfolio as a result of this collaboration. Three card variants—the <b>PSB SBI Card ELITE, PSB SBI Card PRIME, and PSB Simply SAVE SBI Card</b> —have been launched by both partners. This collaboration also marks the entry of PSB into 'credit cards' as a new product segment under the bank's portfolio.
2	HDFC Bank	Microsoft	HDFC Bank as a part of its Future Ready strategy is developing in house IPs as well as partnering with several companies including FinTechs' to co -create technology lps
3	Axis Bank	OPEN	provide a fully native digital current account journey for its customers including <b>SMEs (small and medium enterprises)</b> , freelancers, homepreneurs, influencers and more. This has been the <b>bank's first-ever partnership</b> with a fintech player to launch a fully digital current account. Using this account, customers can avail <b>250+ banking services and claim up to 50 per cent</b> cashback through grab-deals.
1	ICICI Prudential Life Insurance	'360° Financial Protection with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance'	digital-first campaign featuring cricketer <b>Suryakumar Yadav</b>
2.	Axis Bank	Max Financial	to acquire the remaining <b>7 percent stake in Max Financial</b> .
3.	Axis Bank	Indian Institute of Science (IISc)	to establish a <b>Centre for Mathematics and Computing</b>
4.	State Bank of India (SBI)	e-Bank Guarantee (e-BG) facility	in association with <b>National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)</b>
5.	AU Small Finance Bank	SwipeUp platform	Bank will provide an opportunity to <b>other bank Credit Cardholders</b> to upgrade their card to one of <b>AU Credit Cards</b> .

**Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities**

Sno.	Bank Name	Purpose
1	RBI	fifth volume of the <b>Reserve Bank of India's</b> history is released. Under the guidance of an <b>Advisory Committee chaired by Dr. Narendra Jadhav</b> , former Member of Parliament and former Principal Adviser & Chief Economist of the Reserve Bank.
2	RBI	The <b>Reserve Bank of India's Medium-term Strategy Framework</b> for the period 2023-2025 ' <b>Utkarsh 2.0</b> '





3	Reserve Bank of India	<b>Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH)</b> which will provide useful inputs for <b>monetary policy</b> . In the January 2023 round, the survey will be conducted <b>across 19 cities</b> . It aims to capture subjective assessments of <b>price movements and inflation</b> , based on individual consumption baskets.
9.	Reserve Bank of India	will auction <b>₹16,000 crore</b> of <b>sovereign green bonds (SGrBs)</b> in two tranches.
10.	Reserve Bank of India	told <b>banks and other financial institutions</b> to stop using the <b>London Interbank Offered Rate (Libor)</b> benchmark as soon as possible and mandatorily by December 31 and move to any <b>Alternative Reference Rates (ARR)</b> .
11.	Reserve Bank of India	issued the list of <b>six credit rating agencies</b> that banks can use for the purpose of risk weighting banks' claims for <b>capital adequacy</b> purposes. They are Acuite Ratings & Research Limited, Credit Analysis and Research Limited (CARE), CRISIL Ratings Limited, ICRA Limited, India Ratings and Research Private Limited (India Ratings) and INFOMERICS Valuation and Rating Pvt Ltd.
12.	SEBI	allowed <b>Alternative Investment Funds(AIFs)</b> to participate in the <b>Credit Default Swaps(CDS)</b> market as protection buyers and sellers in a bid to facilitate the deepening of the domestic corporate bond segment.
13	Reserve Bank of India	' <b>Master Direction – Reserve Bank of India (Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights in Banking Companies) Directions, 2023</b> '.
14	RBI	has proposed a new set of rules governing <b>loan loss provisioning</b> by banks as it looks to enhance the resilience of the <b>banking system</b>
15	RBI	The <b>sovereign green bonds</b> issued by the Indian government will <b>not have any restrictions on foreign investment</b>
16	EPFO	<b>Nidhi Aapke Nikat program</b> The aim of this program is to reach all the districts of the country on the same day i.e. 27th of every month.

#### Other Important Banking Related Current Affairs

- **Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)** account deposits is 7.2% compounded annually.

#### Banking Current Affairs of December

Sno.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	SBI	plans to raise <b>Rs 10,000 crore</b> worth of <b>infrastructure bonds</b> during the current financial year.
2.	SBI	The <b>Reserve Bank of India (RBI)</b> and the <b>Financial Services Agency (FSA), Japan</b> exchanged letters of cooperation in the field of <b>Central Counter Parties (CCPs)</b> with the objective of improving mutual cooperation.
3.	SBI	<b>SBI</b> announced that its <b>personal banking advances</b> excluding high value home loans have crossed the <b>₹ 5 lakh-crore mark</b> . The largest lender in the country took a year to book the <b>last ₹ 1 lakh crore of advances</b> , as against over 15 months for the previous ₹ 1 lakh crore and over 30 months for the previous ₹ 1 lakh crore, as per an official statement.
4.	HDFC Bank	<b>HDFC Bank</b> announced the launch of its <b>sixth annual grants</b> program for <b>social startups</b> in partnership with the Government of India's flagship initiative ' <b>Startup India</b> '. Known as <b>Parivartan SmartUp Grants</b> .
5.	Bank of Baroda	bagged an <b>EAG Laureate award</b> in the International Olympiad of Financial Security held at <b>Sochi, Russia</b>
6.	BOB	it plans to <b>sell</b> its majority stake in <b>Nainital Bank</b> .
7.	Indian Bank	launched its flagship business mentoring program for MSME entrepreneurs ' <b>MSME Prerana</b> ' in the state of <b>Rajasthan</b> .
8.	Axis Bank	<b>Fintech player Spice Money</b> has partnered with <b>Axis Bank</b> to facilitate opening of instant, zero balance savings or current accounts for rural citizens through its <b>Adhikari network</b> .







**Regulatory authorities**

9.	RBI	It has for now declined to entertain <b>Paytm Payments Services'</b> (PPSL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Paytm, application for an authorisation to provide payment aggregator services for online merchants
10.	RBI	RBI imposed a <b>monetary penalty</b> of Rs 1.25 crore on <b>Zoroastrian Co-operative Bank, Bombay</b> , for non-compliance with <b>RBI directions on 'Discounting of Bills by UCBs – Restricted Letters of Credit'</b>
11.	RBI	<b>RBI</b> announced a trial for <b>retail digital rupee</b> (e ₹-R) beginning 1 December, with <b>four banks</b> in as many cities participating in the pilot programme. While it has identified eight banks for gradual participation in the pilot, the first phase will begin with four: <b>State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank and IDFC First Bank.</b>
12.	RBI	A pan-Indian "Financial Literacy and Inclusion survey" found that awareness and knowledge of digital banking are on par between the rural and urban population nationwide, with the average for both segments being 11.7 on a scale of 21
13.	RBI	It put in place a framework to allow <b>overseas subsidiaries and branches of Indian banks and financial institutions</b> to undertake activities not specifically permitted in the Indian domestic market.
14.	RBI	Enhanced the capabilities of the <b>Unified Payments Interface (UPI)</b> by introducing a ' <b>single-block-and-multiple debits</b> ' functionality, which allows a customer to enable a payment mandate against a merchant by blocking funds for specific purposes in his/her bank account which can be debited, whenever needed.
15.	RBI	<b>Currency Swap Agreement</b> with the <b>Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA)</b> to enable MMA to make drawals in multiple tranches up to a maximum of <b>\$200 million</b> from the RBI. This agreement has been signed under the <b>SAARC Currency Swap Framework.</b>
16.	RBI	In its bid to extensively use <b>advanced analytics, artificial intelligence</b> and machine learning to analyse database and improve regulatory supervision over banks and <b>NBFCs</b> , the <b>Reserve Bank of India (RBI)</b> is mulling over to hire external experts.
17.	RBI	recently said that <b>all leading banks</b> should issue the locker agreement to its holders <b>before January 1, 2023</b> , as the new locker rules will be implemented from that date.
18.	RBI	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stated in its annual report on trend and progress of banking in India that the health of Indian banks continued to improve in 2021–2022 with their balance sheet rising at double digits after a gap of seven years and their asset quality and capital position improving.
19.	RBI	The 26th edition of the Financial Stability Report was released by the Reserve Bank of India on December 29. The Reserve Bank of India publishes a financial stability report (FSR) twice in every year.
20.	SEBI	came out with a uniform format for reporting <b>over-the-counter (OTC) trades</b> in listed <b>non-convertible securities</b> . The development comes after Sebi observed that information on OTC trades in listed non-convertible securities provided to the stock exchanges by the investors is <b>incomplete and inaccurate.</b>

**Economy/Financial Current Affairs**

**Economy/Financial Current Affairs of March**

- The amount of various subsidies and sops transferred to recipients through **direct benefit transfer (DBT)** has reached almost **Rs 5.5 trillion** so far in the current fiscal year, **FY23**, almost on par with **FY21**'s total and falling just 13% shy of **FY22**'s total achievement.
- India's purchasing managers' index (PMI) declined to a 4-month low at 55.3 in February owing to a rise in input costs, according to the **S&P Global India Manufacturing PMI** report.
- The gross goods and service tax (GST) revenue collection in the month of February 2023 stood at Rs 1,49,577 crore, up around 12% on an annual basis.
- Joblessness as measured by the CMIE All India unemployment rate remained elevated in February 2023 and rose to 7.45% from 7.14% in the previous month.

- India's digital payments market is at an inflection point and is expected to increase more than **threefold** from the current **US\$3 trillion to US\$10 trillion by 2026.**
- **Finance Ministry** has tweaked the **anti-money laundering law** by bringing **cryptocurrencies** and other virtual digital assets trade under its ambit.
- India's **Wholesale price index (WPI)**-based inflation eased below the 4 per cent-mark in February and was recorded at 3.85 per cent, data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry showed.
- **India's retail inflation** for February slows down to 6.44 percent as against 6.52 percent in January 2023, according to data published by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on March 13.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has permitted banks from **18 countries** to open Special Vostro Rupee Accounts (SVRAs) to settle payments in rupees.





- **CRISIL** expects India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth to touch 6% in fiscal 2024, compared with 7% estimated by the National Statistics Office (NSO) for fiscal 2023.
- **The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** has increased the interest rate on employees' provident fund (EPF) deposits for the financial year 2022-23. At its meeting, the retirement fund body has fixed the interest rate at **8.15 per cent**.
- The National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**) has issued a circular stating that merchants conducting transactions on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) using Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI) will be charged an interchange **fee of 1.1%** on the transaction amount for amounts over Rs 2,000.
- During the ASSOCHAM Annual Session 2023, Mr. Piyush Goyal, who serves as the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Textiles, declared that **India's merchandise and services exports** are expected to surpass **US\$ 760 billion** in the present fiscal year, which will end on March 31, 2023.
- A recent report by GlobalData suggests that the fixed communication services revenue of India is set to experience a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6.4%, with an estimated increase from \$10.2 billion in 2022 to \$13.9 billion in 2027.

### Economy/Financial Current Affairs of February

- India's unemployment rate fell to **7.14%** in January, the lowest in four months, from 8.30% in the previous month, data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) showed.
- **Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC)** has launched India's first public issue of municipal bonds intending to raise up to Rs 244 crore to fund a solar power project. This would be the first time a municipal body is targeting individual investors in India.
- The Centre said that around **39 crore loans** have been extended under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana till 27th of January 2023. The scheme was introduced in 2015.
- India's consumer inflation hit a three-month high in January at 6.5%, reversing its downtrend because of higher food prices.
- The government has said that it proposes to set up a **Bima Sugam portal** to address the existing protection gap across life, health and general insurance businesses in the country.
- **Gross direct tax collections** grew 24 per cent to Rs 15.67 trillion so far this fiscal, the finance ministry said.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** in order to help India fulfil its most pressing development requirements, pledged up to **\$25 billion** over the course of the next five years to support social development, climate change, and infrastructure development in India under the **PM Gati Shakti project**.

### Economy/Financial Current Affairs of January

- According to a government announcement, India's goods and services tax receipts increased 15% year over year in December to Rs 1.49 lakh crore (\$18.07 billion), suggesting robust economic activity throughout the holiday season. In November, revenue from goods and services taxes totaled Rs. 1.46 lakh crore.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** said **SBI, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank** remain **domestic systemically important banks (D-SIBs)**. D-SIBs are those interconnected entities whose failure can impact the whole of the financial system and create instability. In addition to the usual capital conservation buffer, D-SIBs will need to maintain **additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1)**.
- **India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** processed a **record 7.82 billion transactions** in December, worth a total of **INR 12.82tn (\$174.6bn)**. This represents an increase of 7.12% in volume and 7.73% in value compared to November. On a year-on-year basis, **volume and value increased by 71% and 55% respectively**.
- **Unemployment rate in India** rose to **8.30 per cent** in December 2022, the highest in 16 months, according to data from **Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)**. It was 8 per cent in the month of November. While **urban unemployment** rose to 10.09 per cent in December, from 8.96 per cent in November, **rural unemployment** moved to 7.44% from 7.55%, the data revealed
- India's economy is expected to grow 7.0% in the current financial year, according to the first advance estimates by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**. New Delhi had pegged India's growth at **8.7%** in the last fiscal year that ended March 31, 2022.
- In a major development, **India has surpassed Japan** in terms of auto sales last year to become the **third-largest auto market globally** for the first time. India's total sales of new vehicles stood at around **4.25 million units**, based on preliminary results, topping the **4.2 million sold in Japan**.
- **Retail inflation** declined to a one-year low of 5.72 per cent in December 2022, mainly due to softening **prices of food items**.
- The phased roll-out of **E20 (20 per cent ethanol blending in gasoline)** will begin on April 1..
- The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **incentive scheme with financial outlay of Rs 2,600 crore** for the promotion of **RuPay Debit Cards** and low-value **BHIM-UPI transactions** (person-to-merchant) for the current financial year.
- In December 2022, the wholesale price-based inflation fell to **4.95 percent**.
- **India** becomeS the **first major economy** to move to a **T+1(trade plus one)** market settlement cycle.





**Economy Current Affairs of December**

- **India's milk production** has registered a **monumental growth** in the last eight years as it has increased by **83 Million Tonnes**. In 2013-14, the production was **138 Million Tonnes** which increased to **221 Million Tonnes** in 2021-22.
- **Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections** for the month of **November 2022** stood at **Rs 1,45,867 crore**, according to the data shared by finance ministry. The revenue for the month of November are 11% higher than the GST revenue in the same month last year, which itself was **Rs 1,31,526 crore**.
- **National Stock Exchange's** subsidiary **NSE Indices** has said it has launched one more index under the **Nifty Bharat Bond Index series**. :measures the performance of a portfolio of **'AAA' rated bonds** issued by government owned entities maturing in a specific year
- **IDFC Asset Management Company Limited (AMC)**, has received **regulatory clearances from regulators** for its proposed change in ownership. for IDFC AMC's acquisition by a consortium comprising **Bandhan Financial Holdings Limited (BFHL)**, GIC (GIC), and ChrysCapital (CC).
- **India** will be the **first country in the world** to receive **\$100 billion** from **remittances** during 2022, the **World Bank** has said. Though remittances to the rest of the **South Asian countries** declined by 10%, it rose by 12% in India's case.
- **Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL)**, the renewables arm of Adani Group, has commissioned its third wind-solar hybrid power plant at **Jaisalmer in Rajasthan**.
- **Retail inflation of India** has been eased to **5.88% in November 2022** from 6.77% in October. It is the first time in this Financial Year when the inflation rate came within the tolerance band of RBI i.e. 2 to 6%.
- The **wholesale price-based inflation** declined to a 21-month low of 5.85 per cent in November on easing prices of **food, fuel and manufactured items**. After remaining in double digits for 19 months, the **wholesale price index (WPI)** based inflation declined to 8.39 per cent in October. The inflation was 14.87 per cent in November 2021.
- **India's overall trade deficit** for **goods and services** in November this year **has fallen to \$11.11 billion**, lower than year-ago and month-ago levels. Moreover, thanks to a recovery in exports, India's monthly **merchandise trade deficit** came down to a six-month low of \$23.81 billion.
- The **Gross collection of Direct Taxes** has registered a **growth of 25.90 percent** which stood at 13,63,649 crore rupees in the financial year 2022-23. The Gross collection in the corresponding period stood at 10,83,150 crore rupees.

According to the **Finance Ministry** data, the **Net Direct tax collection** for FY 2022-23 stood at 11,35,754 crore rupees, registering a **growth of 19.81 percent**.

- The **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** received in-principle approval from **Sebi** to set up a **Social Stock Exchange (SSE)** as a separate segment.)
- The **Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR)** predicted that **India** will become the **third-largest economy** by 2037. **14th** edition of the report noted that over the next five years, the **annual rate of GDP growth** is expected to **average 6.4%**. After that, the growth is expected to **average 6.5%** in the subsequent nine years.
- The **government's fiscal deficit** in end-November touched 59 per cent of the full year Budget Estimate on increased **capital expenditure** and slow growth in non-tax revenue. In actual terms, the **fiscal deficit**, which is the difference between expenditure and revenue, was Rs 9.78 lakh crore during the April-November period of 2022-23. In the corresponding period last year, the deficit was 46.2 per cent of the Budget Estimates of 2021-22.
- **Production of eight infrastructure sectors** increased by 5.4 per cent in November against a 3.2 per cent growth in the same month last year on a better show by **coal, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity segments**. **Crude oil, natural gas and refinery products**, however, recorded negative growth in November this year. The **production growth of eight key sectors** slowed down to 0.9 per cent in October.
- The **central government hiked interest rates** on various **small savings schemes** including senior citizen savings scheme during the January to March quarter **but kept the rate for Public Provident Fund (PPF) and Sukanya Samridhi scheme** unchanged for this period. The rates on the various instruments have been raised between 20 to 110 basis points and now range from 4.0 % to 7.6%.





## Business Current Affairs

### Business Current Affairs of March

- **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.
- Tata group-owned Air India's order for a record **470 aircraft from Airbus and Boeing** Co will be at a list price of \$70 billion.
- **Air India, owned by the Tata group**, will discontinue the Vistara brand on completion of its merger with Tata SIA Airlines Ltd.
- India's **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** is shortly to be connected to comparable networks in **Indonesia, Mauritius, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)**. This occurs a week after Singapore's **PayNow** launched a cross-border connection for real-time digital payments.
- A 300-acre plot adjacent to **Bengaluru's international airport** has been agreed upon by **Foxconn**, a Taiwanese company that assembles iPhones, as the location for its largest technology manufacturing campus in India.
- Facebook co-founder **Mark Zuckerberg** announced Meta Platforms' impending release to researchers of a new large language model called **LLaMA (Large Language Model Meta AI)**.
- India's top oil firm IOC will set up green hydrogen plants at all its refineries as it pivots a **Rs 2-lakh crore** green transition plan to achieve net-zero emissions from its operations by 2046.
- Indian commercial vehicle manufacturer, **Ashok Leyland**, has launched an "**All Women Production Line**" with 100 per cent female employees at its **Hosur plant in Tamil Nadu**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** granted an 'Infrastructure Finance Company (IFC)' status to Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (**IREDA**).
- **Pfizer** is spending about \$43 billion to acquire **Seagen** to reach deeper into new cancer treatments that target tumor cells while sparing surrounding healthy tissue.
- **Competition Commission of India** said that it has cleared Reliance Industries Ltd's Rs 2,850 crore acquisition of the Indian business of German retailer **Metro AG**.
- **Microsoft** strikes a deal to make **Xbox** PC video games available on the **Boosteroid** cloud gaming platform, its latest move to appease antitrust regulators scrutinising its purchase of game maker Activision Blizzard.
- To prevent further turmoil in the **global banking system**, Swiss authorities have orchestrated a shotgun merger between **UBS and Credit Suisse**, with UBS agreeing to buy its rival for 3 billion Swiss francs (\$3.23 billion) and assuming up to \$5.4 billion in losses.

- **Ashneer Grover**, co-founder of **BharatPe**, has launched a new cricket-focused fantasy sports app named **CrickPe** ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) tournament.
- After **Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL)** withdrew from acquiring **Bisleri International**, Ramesh Chauhan, the chairman of the company, announced that his daughter **Jayanti Chauhan** will now lead the bottled water company.
- **SJVN Ltd**, a state-owned company, has secured Rs 915 crore in '**GREEN**' financing from **Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)** to support its 90 MW Omkareshwar floating solar project in Madhya Pradesh and 100 MW Raghnesda solar project in Gujarat.
- **Herbalife**, a leading global nutrition company, has teamed up with the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** to become an official partner of the **TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) for the 2023 season**.

### Business Current Affairs of February

- **The Adani Group** acquired the strategic **Israeli port of Haifa** for **USD 1.2 billion** and vowed to transform the skyline of this **Mediterranean city** as part of its decision to invest more in the Jewish nation, including opening an **artificial intelligence lab in Tel Aviv**.
- **Adani group's** flagship company **Adani Enterprises** has been removed from the **Dow Jones Sustainability Indices**.
- In the process of the adoption of the Central Bank of Digital Currency (CDDC), **Reliance Retail** started accepting digital rupees or **e-rupee** for payments at its store.
- The government has approved conversion of over Rs 16,133 crore interest dues of debt-ridden Vodafone Idea into equity, after receiving a firm commitment from Aditya Birla Group to run the company and bring necessary investment.
- **PhonePe** announced the debut of a service that will enable its Indian users who are travelling overseas to pay foreign businesses using the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**.
- **Airtel Payments Bank** announced the availability of its current account, **BizKhata**, which offers small businesses and business partners across the nation fast activation and limitless transactions.
- **Edelweiss General Insurance** has rebranded itself as **Zuno General Insurance Limited (Zuno GI)**, which is a new age digital insurer with an aspiration to reimagine and redefine Insurance to make it easy, friendly, and transparent.
- **MobiKwik** has become the first fintech apps to support **RuPay Credit Cards on UPI**.
- During 2021-22, India received foreign inward remittances of **USD 89,127 million** which was the highest ever inward remittances received in a single year





- China's **Alibaba** Group has sold its remaining stake in Indian digital payments firm **Paytm** for about 13.78 billion rupees (**\$167.14 million**) through a block deal, stock exchange data showed.
- **GA Infra Pvt Ltd**, a leading infrastructure company in India, has been awarded the contract for designing and constructing the country's first **National Metro Rail Knowledge Centre**. The centre will be located at the Vishwavidyalaya Metro Station in Delhi and built on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.
- A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed by **Rolls-Royce Marine North America** and **Kalyani Strategic Service Limited (KSSL)**, a 100% subsidiary of Bharat Forge, to investigate the possibility of KSSL serving as an in-country provider for propeller sales in the Indian market.
- **Bill Gates** has acquired a minority stake in **Heineken Holding NV**, the controlling shareholder of the world's second-largest brewer, for about \$902 million.
- **Infosys**, announced that it will expand its collaboration with **Microsoft**, to help accelerate enterprise cloud transformation journeys worldwide, via an exchange filing.
- **Philips** Domestic Appliances has announced the change of its company name to **Versuni**.
- **The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) of India** and **PayNow of Singapore** will be integrated, to facilitate quicker and more affordable cross-border remittance transfers.
- Vikramaditya Singh Khichi appointed to a panel to advise the administrator of debt-ridden **Reliance Capital (RCap)**.
- **Amazon** announced that it will join the Indian government's **ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) platform**, and as part of its initial collaboration will integrate its Smart Commerce and logistics services with the ONDC network.
- Anil Agarwal-led **Vedanta** and manufacturing behemoth **Foxconn** announced their joint venture's plans to build a semiconductor and display manufacturing facility in **Gujarat's Dholera Special Investment Zone**.
- India's largest IT services company **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** announced that it has won a deal to digitally transform **Telefonica Germany's** specific operations.
- **BharatPe** received in-principle authorisation from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to operate as an online **payment aggregator (PA)**.
- India's fastest payment app **PayRup** was launched in India on 9th January 2023. PayRup is built with the finest technology of web 3.0.
- **China's Alibaba Group** sold a 3.1% stake in Indian digital payments firm **Paytm** for a total of **\$125 million** through a block deal
- **India** was among the top five markets, globally, in terms of equity fundraising.
- **PVR-Inox merger** has been approved by the **National Company Law Tribunal**.
- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has instructed members of the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) ecosystem** to allow non-resident account types such as **non-resident external (NRE)/ non-resident ordinary (NRO) accounts** having international mobile numbers to get onboarded and transact through UPI. To begin with, NPCI will be enabling transactions from mobile numbers having country codes of **Singapore, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar, USA, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom**, along with the current domestic country code.
- **Paytm Payments Bank** said it has received final approval from the **Reserve Bank of India** to operate as a **Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU)**.
- The collaboration between **Adani Enterprises** and **Ashok Leyland**, India, and **Ballard Power**, Canada marks Asia's first planned **hydrogen-powered** mining truck.
- LIC has launched **LIC Jeevan Azad Plan**.
- **Mastercard** announced the expansion of its signature **Girls4Tech, STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education program in India. The **Girls4Tech** is supported by Mastercard Impact Fund and in partnership with the American India Foundation (AIF).
- **Bharti Airtel Group** announced that it will be **investing Rs 2,000 crore** for setting up a large **hyperscale data centre** in **Hyderabad**.
- **PhonePe** has raised **\$350 million** in funding from **General Atlantic**. It is owned by **Walmart**.
- Lenders have transferred the entire **Rs 9,234-crore Jaypee Infratech** loan to newly constituted **National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL)**. This is the maiden acquisition by the government-promoted bad loan bank that was set a year ago.
- **Microsoft Corp.** will be making a **\$10 billion** worth investment in **OpenAI**, the research lab behind the famous **ChatGPT** and **DALL-E**.

### Business Current Affairs of January

- **Zerodha-backed GoldenPi Technologies** has become the **first online bond platform provider** to receive a **debt brokerage license** from market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)**. The Bengaluru-based fintech firm expects this development to spur greater trust in **online bonds and debentures investment space**.





**Business Current Affairs of December**

- **Singapore Airlines (SIA) and Tata Sons** announced that they have agreed to **merge Air India and Vistara**, with SIA getting a 25.1 per cent stake in the merged entity at an investment of **Rs 2,058.5 crore (\$250 million) in Air India as part of the transaction.**
- **News Broadcaster New Delhi Television Ltd (NDTV)** promoter firm **RRPR Holding** announced that it has transferred shares constituting 99.5 percent of its equity capital to Adani group-owned **Vishvapradhan Commercial (VCPL)**. The transfer of shares will give **Adani Group** control over a 29.18 percent stake in NDTV. They are also open to offer for another 26 percent stake in the media firm.
- **Hindustan Unilever's (HUL)** acquisition of two digital first brands — **OZiva and Wellbeing Nutrition** — is in line with the premiumisation trend with an increasing number of FMCG players foraying in the high growth **wellness and nutrition category**, which has gained prominence amongst consumers in the post-pandemic world.
- **IPL surpasses \$10 billion valuation:** The Indian Premier League (IPL), whose total valuation has surpassed \$10 billion, has evolved into a decacorn. A D and P Advisory report made public on Tuesday states that the league is currently worth \$10.9 billion. Notably, it has shown a startling 75% rise since 2020.
- Reliance Projects and Property Management Services — a subsidiary of telecom major **Reliance Jio** — has deposited **Rs 3,720 crore** in an SBI escrow account to acquire mobile tower and fibre assets of **Reliance Infratel**. Reliance Infratel has fibre assets of about **178,000 route kilometres** and **43,540 mobile towers across the country**. The **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** gave an approval to Jio for the acquisition of Reliance Infratel (RITL).
- **Goldsikka** with technology support from **Hyderabad-based startup, Opencube Technologies** has launched its first **Gold ATM** at Begumpet and described it India's first Gold ATM and world's first Real Time Gold ATM. This ATM can dispense gold coins in different denominations ranging from 0.5 gm to 100 grams.

- Indian Billionaire **Gautam Adani** is to control 64.71% of **New Delhi Television Ltd (NDTV)** as the founders have decided to sell most of the shares. The founders of **NDTV**, Prannoy Roy and his wife Radhika Roy have decided to transfer most of the shares in the company giving Gautam Adani his conglomerate control of about 65% of NDTV. The decision comes after four months after Gautam Adani announced his takeover of the news channel.
- **Reliance Jio** announced it has launched **True 5G services in Andhra Pradesh**. The 5G services were launched in **Tirumala, Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, and Guntur districts**. Apart from their existing investment of Rs 26,000 crore, additionally **Jio has invested over Rs 6,500 crore** for deploying 5G network in Andhra Pradesh. By December 2023, Jio True 5G services will be made available in every town, taluka, mandalam and village of Andhra Pradesh.
- **Rupay-based credit card on UPI platform:** By March 2023, State Bank of India (SBI), ICICI Bank, and Axis Bank want to start issuing RuPay credit cards over the UPI. Currently, the RuPay credit card segment on the UPI platform is live with three public sector banks—Union Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, and Indian Bank—and one private sector bank—HDFC Bank.
- **Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL)**, a subsidiary of **Reliance Industries Ltd** signed definitive agreements to acquire 100 percent equity stake in **Metro Cash and Carry India Pvt Ltd**, which operates under the '**Metro India**' brand, for a cash consideration of **Rs 2,850 crore**.
- **Tata Motors** to complete the acquisition of **Ford India's** manufacturing plant at Sanand through its subsidiary on 10th January 2023. The company has announced that its arm **Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd (TPEML)** would acquire **Ford India Pvt Ltd (FIPL)** Sanand Plant in Gujarat for Rs 725.7 crore.
- The **Adani Group** informed stock exchanges that it has acquired additional 27.26 per cent equity stake in **NDTV from founders Prannoy Roy** and his wife Radhika Roy. The billionaire **Gautam Adani**-backed Adani Group acquired shares from Roys at Rs 342.65 per share which was 16.55 per cent higher than the open offer price of Rs 294 per share.

**India's GDP Reports by Different Organizations**

**India's GDP Reports by Different Organizations of March**

S.No.	Name of Organization	GDP Growth of India predicted
1	Moody's	5.5%
2	OECD	5.9%
3	S&P Global Ratings	6%





**India's GDP Reports by Different Organizations of February**

S.No.	Name of Organization	GDP Growth of India predicted
1	Morgan Stanley	6.2%
2	IndiaRatings (Ind-Ra)	5.9%

**India's GDP Reports by Different Organization of January**

S.No.	Name of Organization	GDP Growth of India predicted
1.	World Bank	6.9
2.	UN	5.8
3.	IMF	6.1

**India's GDP Reports by Different Organization of December**

S.No.	Name of Organization	GDP Growth of India predicted
1.	IMF, World Economic Outlook report	6.8% (2022-23)
2.	Nomura	5.2% in 2023-24 (FY24)
3.	World Bank cut its 2022-23 (FY23)	6.9%,
4.	UNCTAD	5.7 percent (FY23)
5.	OECD	6.9 per cent
6.	S&P	7.0 per cent
7.	ICRA (Investment & Credit Rating Agency of India Limited)	Indian economy will grow <b>12-13%</b> in first quarter (Q1) of new fiscal year, i.e. FY23.
8.	Asian Development Bank	7% FY23
9.	Fitch Ratings	7% FY23
10.	Goldman Sachs	7.2% fy23
11.	Moody's Global Macro Outlook 2022-2023	7.7% FY23
12.	India Ratings	6.9% FY23
13.	Morgan Stanley	7% FY23
14.	RBI	7.0% FY23 (1 October change)
15.	Nomura	4.7% FY23
16.	FICCI	7% fy23
17.	Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development (OECD)	6.9 per cent for FY23

**Defense Current Affairs**

**Defense Current Affairs of March**

- For the first time, **India's** indigenously-made **light combat aircraft Tejas** will be participating in an international multilateral air exercise — Exercise Desert Flag VIII — in the UAE.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) participated in Exercise Shinyuu Maitri with the Japan Air Self-Defence Force (JASDF).
- The Indian warship **INS Trikand** has arrived in Bahrain for her first participation in the **International Maritime Exercise** organized by the US-led Combined Maritime Forces, a 34-nation naval group.

- Indian Army** and the **French Army** will hold their first joint military exercise, **FRINJEX-23**, at **Pangode Military Station** in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**.
- The Indian Navy's exercise, called the "Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise for 2023" (**TROPEX-23**), culminated in the **Arabian Sea** after running for four months from November 2022 to March 2023.
- Indian Navy's** indigenously built guided missile frigate, **INS Sahyadri** participated in a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with **French Navy (FN)** ships FS Dixmude, a Mistral Class Amphibious Assault Ship and FS La Fayette, a La Fayette Class Frigate, in the **Arabian Sea**.





- **Indian Ocean Area** will host the **third edition of the multilateral exercise La Perouse**.
- **Operation Bold Kurukshetra**, a bilateral armour training exercise, in Jodhpur Military Station in India.
- The Indian Navy deployed a P8I aircraft to Guam, USA, to participate in the third edition of 'Exercise Sea Dragon 23', a coordinated multi-lateral Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) exercise for Long Range MR ASW aircraft organized by the US Navy.
- The Indian Navy's top gunnery school, **INS Dronacharya**, will be presented with the **President's Colour** in honor of its outstanding services.
- The **Union home ministry** has announced a 10 per cent reservation for **former Agniveers** in vacancies in the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), just after taking a similar initiative for jobs for them in the BSF.
- A two-day workshop on "**Human Factors Engineering in Military Platforms**" was inaugurated by the Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan on March 15 in New Delhi.
- The annual bilateral maritime exercise called **Konkan 2023** was conducted between the **Indian Navy and the Royal Navy** from 20th to 22nd March 2023 off the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea.
- The Indian **Defence Ministry** has recently signed two contracts with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** worth more than **Rs 3,700 crore**, with the aim to enhance the operational capabilities of the **Indian Air Force**.
- Recently, during the on-going tensions between India and China at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the **Indian Army and Air Force** carried out a 96-hour joint exercise named '**Vayu Prahar**' in the eastern region.
- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** signed a contract worth over Rs 1,700 crore with **BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL)** for the procurement of Next Generation Maritime Mobile Coastal Batteries (Long range) (NGMMCB-LR) and BrahMos Missiles under the Buy (Indian) Category.

### Defense Current Affairs of February

- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** is celebrating its **47th Raising Day on 1st February 2023**. From a modest beginning with just seven surface platforms in 1978, the ICG today has 158 ships and 78 aircraft and is likely to achieve the targeted force levels of 200 surface platforms and 80 aircraft by 2025.
- A joint training exercise "**Exercise Trishakri Prahar**" was conducted in North Bengal from **21 January to 31 January 2023**. The exercise aimed to practice the security forces' battle preparedness using the latest weapons and equipment in a networked, integrated environment, involving all arms and services of the Army, the Indian Air Force, and CAPFs. The exercise culminated on 31 January 2023 with an Integrated Fire Power Exercise in Teesta Field Firing Ranges.

- **In Aero India**, the **Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd** has received the Indian Technical Standard Order (ITSO) authorisation from **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** for its indigenously developed Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) and Flight Data Recorder (FDR). CVR and FDR are popularly known as '**black boxes**'.
- A joint counter-terrorism exercise **Tarkash** between **National Security Guard (NSG) and US Special Operations Forces (SOF)** culminated in Chennai, after four weeks of intense training and joint anti-terror exercises.
- **India and Japan** has kick started an exercise '**Ex Dharma Guardian**' at Camp Imazu in Shiga Province, Japan from February 17 to March 2, 2023.
- **The Indian Air Force** has developed an innovative solution '**Vayulink**' that would aid pilots in dealing with bad weather and also provide jammer-proof uninterrupted communication with the base station. The data link communication uses the **Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) that is also known as NAVIC**, to send radio communication to the base station when the signals are low.
- Navratna Defence PSU **Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL)** has signed an MoU with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) for the domestic manufacture and supply of its **Long-Range Artillery Weapon System (LORA)** for the Indian Tri-services.
- The fourth iteration of the biennial training exercise **DUSTLIK (2023)** will be held in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, from February 20, 2023 through March 5, 2023, as part of a military-to-military exchange programme between the **Indian Army and the Uzbekistan Army**.
- In commemoration of India's late Chief of Defence Staff **General Bipin Rawat**, a bell has been placed at **Nepal's revered Shree Muktinath Temple**.
- **Malabar multilateral naval exercise** will be hosted by Australia for the first time this year, which includes participation from **India, Australia, Japan, and the United States**.

### Defense Current Affairs of January

- On the occasion of **Chillai Kalan** in the Kashmir Valley, 44 Bn CRPF organized a function "**Jashn-e-Chillai Kalan**" on 26/12/2022 at HMT Complex, Zainakote, Srinagar. During this competition, 54 participants (including 12 Female participants) from Schools/colleges & other educational institutions were present along with their guardians & teachers. All the participants were awarded with appreciation certificates, prizes and the winners and runner ups of each event were awarded with the trophies.







- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** Headquarters in New Delhi has marked the **65th Foundation Day** of the Organisation, which is celebrated on 1st January every year. **DRDO** Chairman Dr S V Kamat addressed the DRDO fraternity on the occasion. He reaffirmed DRDO's commitment towards R&D excellence and briefed about the development of cutting edge technologies for self-reliance in defence.
- **Captain Shiva Chauhan** from the Corps of Engineers has been posted at a frontline post in **Siachen Glacier**, in first such operational deployment of an woman Army officer at the **world's highest battlefield**. The officer was posted at the Kumar post, located at an altitude of around 15,600 feet in Siachen, for a three-month stint after she underwent rigorous training. The training included endurance training, ice wall climbing, avalanche and crevasse rescue and survival drills.
- India will deploy a platoon of women peacekeepers to UN Mission in Sudan. This will be India's **largest single unit of women Peacekeepers** in a UN Mission since it deployed the **first-ever all-women contingent in Liberia in 2007**. The Indian contingent, comprising two officers and 25 Other Ranks, will form part of an Engagement platoon and specialize in Community outreach, though they will be performing extensive security-related tasks as well. The deployment in **Abyei** will also herald **India's intent of increasing significantly the number of Indian women in Peacekeeping contingents**.
- **BPCL** has announced the launch of **Low Smoke Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO)** for the Indian Army.
- DRDO has developed an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) to carry out logistic operations in the Himalayan frontier.
- iDEX has signed its **50th SPRINT** contract with **Sagar Defence** for **Autonomous Weaponised Boat Swarms** for the Indian Navy.
- **Su-30MKI** pilot Squadron Leader **Chaturvedi** will be assigned to the **Veer Guardian 2023** in Japan.
- **India** successfully carried out a test launch of the tactical ballistic missile **Prithvi-II** from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha coast.
- The DAC has accorded approval for procurement of **HELINA Anti-Tank Guided Missiles**, launchers and associated support equipment which will be integrated to the **Advanced Light Helicopter**.
- The DAC cleared the proposal for procurement of **VSHORAD (IR Homing) missile system** under design and development by the **DRDO**.
- "**Veer Guardian-2023**" joint air exercise between India and Japan.
- **Aadi Shaurya - Parv Parakram Ka Tribal Dance Festival** and Military Tattoo at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi on 23 January.
- '**Kamla Devi**' the Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) which is designed, built, and delivered by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd to Indian Coast Guard was commissioned in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Captain **Surbhi Jakhmola** of the Indian Army's 117 Engineer Regiment will be the first woman officer to be posted on a foreign assignment at the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**. The officer will be sent to Bhutan as part of Project **Dantak**.
- **21st** edition of "**Varuna**" the bilateral naval exercise between **India and France** commenced on the western seaboard.
- **Indian Army** has organized the second edition of the Hackathon named "**SAINYA RANAKSHETRAM 2.0**" from October 2022 to January 2023.
- '**Exercise Cyclone - I**' first joint exercise between the special forces of the Indian and the Egyptian Army.
- **AMPHEX 2023 - The "largest" biennial tri-services amphibious exercise was conducted from January 17 to 22.**
- **PRALAY Indian Air Force (IAF) Exercise in the northeastern sector of India.**
- **Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX)** - This operational level exercise is conducted biennially and witnesses participation not only by all Indian Navy units but also of Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Coast Guard assets.
- "**Ops Alert**" **Border Security Force** programme to enhance security along the International Border (IB) with Pakistan in the Kutch region of Gujarat and Barmer in Rajasthan.
- '**Veer Guardian 2023**' – inaugural bilateral air exercise between the **Indian Air Force and the Japan Air Self-Defence Force** has concluded in Japan.
- PM Modi released **special ₹ 75 Coins on the Occasion of completion of 75 years of National Cadet Corps (NCC).**

### Defence Current Affairs of December

- In a first, **four US Army officers** part of the **11th Airborne Division** were promoted high up on **Nanda Devi**, India's second-highest Himalayan peak, during the 18th edition of India-US joint military exercise '**Yudh Abhyas**' in Uttarakhand. **Capt. Cerruti, Lt. Russell, Lt. Brown and Lt. Hack** became the first four US Army Officers to be promoted in the Himalayas during Yudh Abhyas Exercise.
- **Indian Army's Sudarshan Chakra Corps** carried out **Exercise Sudarshan Prahar** in the deserts of **Rajasthan**.
- **12th Edition of Exercise Agni Warrior**, a bilateral exercise between the **Singapore & Indian Army**, which had commenced at Field Firing Ranges, Devlali (Maharashtra).





- To mark the **51st anniversary of India's victory** in the **Longewala battle** during the 1971 war, **Parakram Diwas** celebrated at Jaisalmer Military Station and Longewala War Memorial in Rajasthan on **December 5**.
- The **7th edition of Exercise Sangam**, a joint Naval Special Forces exercise between **Indian Navy MARCOs and US Navy SEALs** commenced in Goa
- The **Bangladesh Navy** is hosting the **first-ever International Fleet Review** at Inani of Cox's Bazar. Naval commanders, ships from some **30 countries** including the **United States, China, India** and the neighbouring Myanmar would participate in the international gathering. Indian Navy ships **Kochi, Kavaratti and Sumedha** will participate in this.
- 39<sup>th</sup> edition of **India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT)** between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy is being conducted at **Belawan, Indonesia**.
- Indian Army's Airawat Division** conducted **Ex Sanchaar Bodh** in extensive obstacle ridden terrain of Punjab.
- 6th Edition of **Indo – Kazakhstan** joint training exercise "**KAZIND-22**" is conducted at **Umroi (Meghalaya)**
- 16<sup>th</sup> Edition of **Indo-Nepal joint training Exercise "SURYA KIRAN-XVI"** at Nepal Army Battle School, Saljhandi (Nepal),
- Indian Air Force (IAF)** and **Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF)** are set to hold their maiden bilateral air exercise, "**Veer Guardian 23**", at Hyakuri air base and Iruma air base in Japan.
- Indian Air Force** successfully tested the extended range version of the **BrahMos Air Launched Missile** against the Ship Target in the Bay of Bengal from the SU-30 MKI fighter jet.
- Indian Army** inaugurated its first) for soldiers.

## Equipment's

### Equipment's of March

EQUIPMENT	BUILDER	IMP. FACTS
Advanced Towed Artillery Gun Systems (ATAGS)	DRDO	
70 HTT-40	HAL	Trainer aircraft
Dornier aircraft	HAL	
INS Androth	Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)	"most silent ship in the country"

### Other Defence Current Affairs

- Every year on **March 10**, the **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Raising Day** is observed to mark the CISF's founding in 1969. This year, the **54th CISF Raising Day** celebrated to appreciate the efforts and contributions of Central Industrial Security Force.

### Equipment's of February

EQUIPMENT	BUILDER	IMP. FACTS
41 indigenous modular bridges	L&T	
SWARM drones	New Space Research	
"SURAJ"	Garuda Aerospace	Solar Powered

### Equipment's of January

EQUIPMENT	BUILDER	IMP. FACTS
K-9 Vajra	Larsen & Toubro	self-propelled howitzers, Technology transferred from South Korean defence major Hanwha Defence
Fuselage	TBAL	first of six AH-64 Apache attack helicopters ordered by the Indian Army.
fifth Kalvari class submarine Vagir	Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited	





**Equipment's of December**

3-D Printed House Dwelling Unit (with Ground plus One configuration)	Military Engineering Services (MES)	at Ahmedabad Cantt. The dwelling unit has been constructed in collaboration with MiCoB Pvt Ltd incorporating the latest 3D Rapid Construction Technology
high-tech strategic bomber – the B-21 Raider	United States	is capable of carrying a nuclear payload and can be flown without a crew on board. The next-generation stealth bomber was rolled out at arm's manufacturer Northrop Grumman's facility in California. The US Air Force plans to buy at least 100 of the B-21 aircraft, which comes with a \$700m price tag per plane.
Nuclear-capable ballistic missile Agni V,		India has successfully conducted night trials, capable of striking targets at ranges more than 5,000 kilometers with very high degree of accuracy. The missile test firing was conducted from APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast. This was the latest test in the Agni missile series.
All 36 Rafale aircraft		were delivered to India by France, with the last one touching down. India and France struck an intergovernmental agreement wherein Paris committed to pay India 60,000 crore rupees for 36 Rafale fighter jets in 2016.
the 'Pralay' ballistic missile	Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)	The Indian armed forces are now set to procure that can hit the target from 150 to 500 km. had successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the indigenously developed surface-to-surface missile 'Pralay', from Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha in December 2021.
Indian Navy's sailboat INSV Tarini		has set sail for an expedition to Cape Town, South Africa for participating in the 50th edition of Cape to Rio Race 2023.
Scorpène submarine, Vagir of Project – 75 Kalvari Class submarines	Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai.	has been delivered to the Indian Navy
'Arnala'	Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE),	The Indian Navy launched first of the eight indigenously-built anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft (ASW-SWC), at the shipbuilding facility of L&T in Chennai's Kattupall.
kisan drones	Drone manufacturer Garuda Aerospace	has received the Type Certification and RPTO (Remote Pilot Training Organisation) approvals from the Director General of Civil Aviation for the indigenously designed.

**Awards & Recognition**

**Awards & Recognition of March**

S.No.	Name of Award	Winner
1	Marconi Prize	Hari Balakrishnan
2	Best adventure tourism award by The India Today Tourism Survey	Jammu & Kashmir Tourism
3	Government Leadership Award 2023	India
4	Business Standard Banker of the Year 2022	Sashidhar Jagdishan
5	Porter Prize 2023	Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry
6	PEN/Nabokov Award for Achievement in International Literature	Vinod Kumar Shukla
7	Airport Service Quality (ASQ) best airport for 2022	Delhi Airport
8	Central Board Of Irrigation And Power (CBIP) Award 2022 for 'Best Contribution in Solar Energy'	Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)





S.No.	Name of Award	Winner
9	Central Board of Irrigation and Power Award 2022 for the 'best-performing transmission power sector'	Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL)
10	2023 Laureate of The Pritzker Architecture Prize	Sir David Alan Chipperfield
11	The International Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2023	Indian Ministry of Tourism and Government of India
12	32nd Vyas Samman	Pagalkhana
13	"Governor of the Year" for 2023	Shaktikanta Das
14	World Airport Awards	Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA)
15	Saraswati Samman award for the year 2022	Sivasankari
16	Honorary Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO)	Ratan Tata
17	2021 National Humanities Medals	Mindy Kaling, also known as Vera Mindy Chokalingam
18	Sangita Kalanidhi award	Bombay Jayashri
19	2022 Christopher Martin-Jenkins Spirit of Cricket Award	Aasif Sheikh
20	2023 Abel Prize	Luis Caffarelli
21	Kerala Jyothi	M T Vasudevan Nair
22	wildlife conservation award	Aliya Mir
23	Children's Champion Award 2023	Tapoban
24	lifetime achievement award by the University of Texas at Dallas	Naveen Jindal

### Awards & Recognition of February

S.No.	Name of Award	Winner
1	Lifetime Achievement Honour	Dr Manmohan Singh
2	FIH President's Award	VK Pandian
3	Hurun India's award	VP Nandakumar
4	ATMA Lifetime Achievement Award	K.M. Mammen
5	'ATD Best Awards 2023'	NTPC Limited
6	Raja Ram Mohan Roy National Award	A.B.K. Prasad
7	UNESCO Peace Prize	Anela Merkel
8	Akbar Kakkattil Award	Subhash Chandran's novel Samudrashila
9	2nd Annual Anthem Awards	'Don't Choose Extinction' campaign, launched by the UN Development Programme (UNDP)
10	Swaraj Trophy	Kollam district panchayat
11	National Geographic's "Pictures of the Year" competition	Karthik Subramaniam
12	Jnanappana Award - 2023	V. Madhusoodanan Nair
13	World Mother Language Award	Dr. Mahendra Kumar Mishra
14	EY Entrepreneur of the Year (EOY) 2022	Sajjan Jindal
15	Best International Film at the Hollywood Critics Association Film Awards	'RRR'





**Awards & Recognition of January**

S.No.	Name of Award	Winner
1.	27 people have been awarded pravasiya Bhartiya samman	
2.	<b>UN-Habitat's World Habitat Awards 2023</b>	<b>Odisha, for Jaga Mission.</b> The Jaga mission is the land titling and slum upgrading program that aims at empowering the lives of slum dwellers
3.	<b>Odakuzhal Award 2022</b>	<b>Ambikasuthan Mangad</b> for short stories titled <b>Pranavayu</b>
4.	<b>Award for Global Leadership</b>	<b>Chief Justice of India Dr. DY Chandrachud</b>
5.	<b>Overall Championship' at Padma Tarang</b>	<b>University of Kerala</b>
6.	<b>Platinum Award in the Digital Empowerment of Citizens Category in Digital India Awards 2022</b>	<b>e-NAM</b>
7.	Actress <b>Aparna Sen</b> was honored with the lifetime achievement award at the opening ceremony of the <b>15th Edition of the Jaipur International Film Festival</b>	
8.	<b>UN medals.</b>	Over 1,000 Indian peacekeepers serving with the <b>United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)</b>
9.	<b>Golden Globes Best Original Song, Motion Picture</b>	<b>"Naatu Naatu," "RRR"</b>
10.	<b>Federal Bank Literary Award 2022</b>	<b>K Venu</b> for his autobiography ' <b>Oranweshananthinte Katha.</b> '
11.	<b>'Golden Kailasha'</b>	<b>Naanera A</b> Rajasthani film directed by Deepankar Prakash
12.	<b>"Best Sustainable Greenfield Airport" award</b>	<b>New Goa Manohar International Airport</b>
13.	<b>ISA Award</b>	<b>Dr Sanduk Ruit</b> for Service to Humanity, a top civilian award of Bahrain.
14.	<b>Inclusive Finance India Awards 2022</b>	<b>ESAF Small Finance Bank</b>
15.	<b>Best Small Bank award</b>	<b>Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited</b>
16.	<b>28th Critics Choice Awards</b>	<b>RRR</b> won Best Song award for <b>Naatu Naatu</b> , as well as Best Foreign Language film.
17.	<b>Indian Achievers Award has been given to R Vishnu Prasad</b>	
18.	Anik Dutta directed film <b>Aparajito (The Undeafated)</b> got the best scriptwriting award while <b>Ketaki Narayan</b> was judged the best actress for her role in Krishnendu Kalesh directed film <b>Prappeda (Hawk's Muffin)</b> at the <b>Asian Film Competition section</b> at the <b>21st Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF), Bangladesh.</b>	
19.	Hindustani vocalist Padma Vibhushan, <b>Dr. Prabha Atre</b> was conferred with the the <b>Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia Lifetime Achievement Award.</b>	
20.	Union Home Minister Amit Shah awarded the <b>Aska Police Station</b> of Ganjam, district of Odisha as the number one police station in the country.	
21.	<b>Jeevan Raksha Padak</b>	<b>Jaipal Singh, Surendra Kumar, Bhuda Ram Saini</b>

**Awards & Recognition of December**

**Other Important Awards**

S.No.	Name of Award	Winner
1.	South Korea's <b>Mina Sue Choi</b> was crowned <b>Miss Earth 2022</b> at Cove Manila, Okada Hotel, <b>Parañaque City.</b>   <b>Miss Fire 2022</b> is Andrea Aguilera of Columbia, <b>Miss Water 2022</b> is Nadeen Ayoub of Palestine, and <b>Miss Air 2022</b> is Sheridan Mortlock of Australia.	
2.	Filmmaker <b>SS Rajamouli</b> won the <b>Best Director Award for RRR</b> at the <b>New York Film Critics Circle 2022.</b>	
3.	<b>Canara Bank</b> : ' <b>Banker's Bank of the Year Award 2022</b> ' for India segment at the <b>Global Banking Summit</b> held in <b>London.</b>	
4.	Cardiologist and director of Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research <b>C.N. Manjunath</b> , writer <b>Krishnappa G.</b> and social activist and businessman <b>S. Shadakshari</b> have been selected for the <b>Nadoja Award</b> given by Kannada University in Hampi.	
5.	<b>Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), Maharashtra-based organisation</b> : <b>Local Adaptation Champions Awards</b> , organised by the <b>Global Center on Adaptation (GCA)</b> at the ongoing <b>COP27</b> in <b>Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.</b>	





S.No.	Name of Award	Winner
6.	US President <b>Joe Biden</b> has recognised Indian-American and a longtime Houstonian, <b>Krishna Vavilala</b> , with the <b>Presidential Lifetime Achievement (PLA) Award</b>	
7.	<b>Jammu and Kashmir: 1st prize</b> in the category for <b>Ayushman Bharat health account ID generation</b> and <b>2nd prize</b> in the category for <b>Teleconsultation</b> conducted during the celebration of <b>Universal Health Coverage Day 2022</b> .	
8.	<b>SpiceJet</b> : 'Safety Performer of the Year' award by <b>GMR Delhi Airport Awards</b> for being the top performer among the self-handling airlines	
9.	The <b>Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA)</b> has nominated 'RRR' in the Best Picture: <b>Non-English language and Best Original Song Naatu Naatu. At Golden Globe Awards</b>	
10.	<b>Mrs World 2022</b> : Sargam Koushal. India won Mrs World 2022 title after 21 years Las Vegas after defeating competitors from 63 other nations.	
11.	<b>National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)</b> won <b>IEI (Institution of Engineers, India) Industry Excellence Award 2022</b> in Chennai.	
12.	<b>Ministry of Housing &amp; Urban Affairs</b> has won the <b>Platinum Icon</b> in the <b>Digital India Awards 2022</b> for their initiative " <b>DataSmart Cities: Empowering Cities through Data</b>	
13.	The Gujarati-language <b>Chhello Show (The Last Show)</b> , which is India's official entry for the <b>2023 Academy Awards or Oscars awards</b> in the International Feature film category, has been shortlisted for next year's Academy Awards. Meanwhile, the track <b>Naatu Naatu from SS Rajamouli's RRR</b> has been shortlisted in the <b>Best Original Song Category</b> .	
14.	<b>Rohini Nayyar prize: Sethrichem Sangtam</b> , who helped triple the incomes of <b>1,200 marginalised farmers</b> in Eastern Nagaland	
15.	<b>Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)</b> won <b>GRIHA Exemplary Performance Award 2022</b> , .	
16.	<b>NHPC Limited</b> : 'Best Globally Competitive Power Company of India-Hydropower and Renewable Energy Sector' at <b>PRAKASHmay 15th Enertia Awards 2022</b> .	
17.	<b>Professor Thalappil Pradeep</b> , Indian Scientist, IIT, Madras received <b>VinFuture special Prize</b> in Hanoi. for the innovation of a <b>low-cost filtration system</b> to remove arsenic and other heavy metals from groundwater.	
18.	<b>Kura Pokkhir Shunye Ura (The Golden Wings of Watercocks)</b> of Bangladesh and <b>Upon Entry of Spain</b> won the <b>Best Film Award</b> at the <b>28th Kolkata International Film Festival</b> .	
19.	Indian cyclist <b>Swasti Singh</b> has been honoured with the prestigious <b>30th Ekalabya Puraskar for the year 2022</b> . by IMFA's charitable wing, <b>IMPACT</b> .	
20.	<b>KR Gouri Amma national award</b> : Noted Cuban social worker and human rights advocate, <b>Aleida Guevara</b>	
21.	<b>Wharton-QS Reimagine Education Awards</b> , also known as " <b>the Oscars of Education</b> ," recognition to <b>IIT Madras</b> .	
22.	<b>Prabhu Chandra Mishra</b> has been awarded <b>Atal Samman Award</b> for his excellence in field of science & research.	
23.	<b>International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)</b> , selected the anti-drug & illicit liquor campaign ' <b>Nijaat</b> ' of <b>Chhattisgarh police</b> for ' <b>Leadership in Crime Prevention</b> ' award in the institutional category.	

### Summit and Conference

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the **75th Amrut Mahotsav of Shree Swaminarayan Gurukul Rajkot Sansthan** via video-conferencing. Shree Swaminarayan Gurukul Rajkot Sansthan was established at Rajkot in 1948 by seer **Shri Dharmajivandasji Swami**.
- The **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** has been announced as the **Secretariat for Science 20 (S20)**, the G20 summit's science working group.
- As part of **India's G20 presidency**, the Minister for Electronics & Information Technology, Communications and Railways, **Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw** has launched the "**Stay Safe Online**" campaign and the "**G20 Digital Innovation Alliance**" (G20-DIA).





**Summits |Events |Festivals (National/International)**

**Summits |Events |Festivals (National/International) of March**

Summits Held Nationally		
S.No.	Name of Summit/Events	Venue
1	Raisina Dialogue	Delhi
2	All India Women's Folk Art Conference	Ravindra Natya Mandir in Prabhadevi, Mumbai
3	Yoga Mahotsav 2023	
4	International Ayurved conclave	Rishikul
5	National Youth Conclave 2023	
6	One World TB Summit	

Summits Held Internationally		
S.No.	Name of Summit/Events	Venue
1	Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)	Gangtok, Sikkim
2	International Dharma Dhamma Conference 2023	Bhopal, MP
3	Asean-India Business	Kuala Lumpur
4	23rd Commonwealth Law Conference	Goa
5	B20 Conference	Gangtok, Sikkim
6	Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference	New Delhi
7	International Ayurved conclave	

**Summits |Events |Festivals (National/International) of February**

Summits Held Nationally		
S.No.	Name of Summit/Events	Venue
1	30 <sup>th</sup> National Child Science Congress	Ahmedabad, Gujarat
2	Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023	Lucknow, UP
3	2nd Indian Rice Congress 2023	Cuttack, Odisha
4	DHARA, Driving Holistic Action for Urban Rivers	Pune, Maharashtra
5	SemiconIndia Conference of Electronics Manufacturing Supply Chain Ecosystem'	New Delhi
6	UIC World Security Congress	Jaipur

Summits Held Internationally		
S.No.	Name of Summit/Events	Venue
1	Youth20 (Y20) Inception Meeting 2023	Guwahati, Assam
2	World Government Summit 2023	Dubai
3	12th World Hindi Conference	Nadi, Fiji
4	I2U2	Abu Dhabi, UAE

**Summits |Events |Festivals (National/International) of January**

S.No.	Name of Summit/Events	Venue
<b>Summits Held Nationally</b>		
1.	<b>Indian Science Congress's 108th edition</b> was officially inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University is hosting the five-day 108th session of ISC as it commemorates its centennial. He emphasised the nation's expanding energy requirements and urged the scientific community to develop any advances in the area that would help the nation.	





S.No.	Name of Summit/Events	Venue
2.	<b>Ministry of Jal Shakti</b> organized the "1st All India Annual State Minister Conference on Water" with the theme of "Water Vision@2027" in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh on 5th and 6th January 2023. <b>Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shivaraj Singh Chouhan</b> , and Union Minister of Jal Shakti <b>Gajendra Singh Shekhawat</b> felicitated the occasion.	
3.	<b>Dr. Jitendra Singh</b> , the Union Minister for Science and Technology, launched the Geospatial Hackathon to encourage innovation and start-ups in India's geospatial ecosystem.	
4.	The first 15 meetings of the <b>Business 20 (B20) India Inception Meeting</b> will be held in <b>Gandhinagar</b> from January 22nd to 24th, 2023.	
5.	The <b>Election Commission of India (ECI)</b> is hosting the <b>2nd International Conference</b> on the theme 'Use of Technology and Elections Integrity' in New Delhi.	
6.	The inaugural <b>India Stack Developer Conference</b> was held on January 25 in <b>New Delhi</b> .	
7.	<b>Khadi Fest- 23</b> was inaugurated by the Chairman of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission(KVIC) <b>Mr. Manoj Kumar</b> in Mumbai.	

S.No.	Name of Summit/Events	Venue
<b>Summits Held Internationally</b>		
8.	<b>Puducherry Lieutenant governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan</b> said that the <b>first G-20 meeting</b> will be held in <b>Puducherry</b> on 31st January. The G20 logo for the meeting was released by Lieutenant Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan at a function held at Beach Road Gandhi Tidal. Dr. Tamisai thanked <b>Prime Minister Narendra Modi</b> for giving all the states the opportunity to host the G-20 meetings. He released stickers, posters and badges and also inaugurated a selfie booth in the presence of <b>Chief Minister Rengasamy</b> .	
9.	<b>India</b> will host ' <b>The Voice of Global South</b> ' Summit on January 12-13. The 'Voice of Global South Summit' under the theme ' <b>Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose</b> ' envisages bringing together countries of the Global South to share their perspectives and priorities on a common platform.	

## List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports)

### List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) of March

S.No.	Name	Organization	Important facts
1	International IP Index	U.S. Chambers of Commerce	<b>India has ranked 42nd</b> among 55 leading global economies
2	ILO-UNICEF report	ILO-UNICEF	
3	Electoral Democracy Report	V-Dem Institute	India at 108th spot
4	Wealth Report 2023	Knight Frank	
5	'Global Air Quality'	IQAir	<b>India</b> fell from the fifth to the <b>eighth most polluted nation</b> in the world in 2022.
6	Arms Importer	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri)	India is still the world's largest importer of military equipment
7	human rights practices in India	United States State Department	
8	2023 M3M Hurun Global Rich List	Hurun	India is ranked third in terms of the number of billionaires
9	QS World University Rankings	QS	The Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi has been ranked among the top 50 engineering institutions
10	Passport Index	Arton Capital	India's Mobility Scores have decreased







**List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) of February**

S.No.	Name	Organization	Important facts
1	Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF)		Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad (Gujarat), is the top government college in India for pursuing the Master of Business Administration (MBA) course
2	Global Leader Approval survey	Morning Consult	<b>PM Narendra Modi</b> has been pegged as the <b>world's most popular leader</b> with an approval rating of <b>78 per cent</b> .
3	World's Most Admired Companies	Fortune	<b>Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)</b> has been named
4	Global Quality Infrastructure Index		India's national accreditation system under the Quality Council of India (QCI) has been ranked 5th in the world
5	ICAO's Aviation Safety Oversight Ranking	ICAO	India ranks 55th.
6	Genuine Impact Newsletter		Lionel Messi is the highest paid athlete in 2021-22
7	IEA annual report	International Energy Agency	Asia will use half of the world's electricity for the first time by 2025.
8	IQAir	Swiss air tracking index	Mumbai has been ranked as the most-polluted city in India.
9	Hedgewithcrypto Research	Hedgewithcrypto	<b>India</b> emerged as <b>7th biggest nation</b> ready to adopt crypto in 2023. <b>Australia</b> is the biggest country when it comes to the adoption of cryptocurrency in 2023.

**List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) of January**

S.No.	Name	Organization	Important facts
1.		Reporters without borders	1668 journalist killed
2.		Avtar	<b>Chennai</b> is India's top city for women's employment. Pune, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Mumbai are the next best cities for women's employment.
3.		<b>Power Grid Corporation of India</b>	ranked 1st in Services Sectors across categories Gross Block, Value Addition, Net Profit, Net Worth, Dividend Declaration, and Contribution to the Central Exchequer and has also been ranked 3rd among the Top 10 profit-making Closes.
4.	Delhi		<b>most polluted city</b> in India in 2022
5.	Henley Passport Index	Henley & Partners	Indian passport was ranked 85 <sup>th</sup> , Japan rank 1
6.	"Survival of the Richest: The India Supplement"	Oxfam India	The richest one per cent of Indians own over 13 times more wealth than the bottom 50 per cent
7.	The Global Risks Report 2023	World Economic Forum	
8.		World of Statistics	<b>Shah Rukh Khan</b> took the fourth position in the list of eight richest actors of the world
9.	Global Firepower Index	Global Firepower	India is ranked fourth in the index.
10.	'IT Services 25'	Brand Finance	<b>Tata Consultancy Services</b> and <b>Infosys</b> grew their brand value to retain their positions as the second and third most valuable IT services brands.





S.No.	Name	Organization	Important facts
11.	India@100: Realizing the potential of a US\$26 trillion economy	Ernst & Young	Indian economy will reach GDP size of US\$26 trillion by 2047
12.	'Global 500 – 2023'	Brand Finance	Reliance Jio has been ranked as the <b>strongest brand in India</b> and placed <b>ninth among the world's strongest brands</b> .
13.	India Mobile Gaming Report 2022	Mobile Premier League (MPL)	<b>Uttar Pradesh (UP)</b> has emerged as the top location for mobile gamers, followed by <b>Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Bihar, and West Bengal</b> .
14.	Global 500 2023	Brand Finance	<b>Amazon</b> has become the <b>most valued brand, overtaking Apple</b> .
15.	Hindenburg report	Hindenburg Research LLC	<b>Malpractices at adani enterprise</b> .
16.	Bloomberg Billionaires Index	Bloomberg	<b>Gautam Adani</b> has fallen out of the exclusive group of the top 10 wealthiest billionaires in the world after losing \$36 billion of his wealth.

**List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) of December**

Name	Organization	Important facts
State of Global Water Resources Report 2021	WMO (World Meteorological Organization)	is to support monitoring and management of <b>global freshwater resources</b> in an era of growing demand and limited supplies. The report gives an <b>overview of river flow</b> , as well as <b>major floods and droughts</b> . It provides insights into hotspots for changes in freshwater storage and highlights the crucial role and vulnerability of the cryosphere (snow and ice).
global aviation safety ranking	International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)	According to <b>DGCA</b> officials, <b>India</b> has jumped to the <b>48th position</b> in the global aviation safety ranking by the <b>International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)</b> . Four years ago, the country was ranked at the 102nd position
highest risk for mass killing in 2022 and 2023	Early Warning Project	<b>India</b> is ranked <b>8th</b> among the countries that are at the highest risk for mass killing in 2022 and 2023. India has seen a drop in rank from second position in the earlier year. <b>Pakistan</b> is estimated to have about a one in six chance of experiencing a new mass killing in 2022 or 2023
	GroupM'	<b>end-of-year forecast</b> , <b>India</b> is expected to <b>surpass Brazil to become the eighth-largest advertising market</b> in 2023. In 'This Year, Next Year 2022', <b>GroupM</b> has ranked <b>India as the ninth-largest</b> advertising market globally
16th edition of Forbes Asia's Heroes of Philanthropy list		Billionaires <b>Gautam Adani</b> , HCL Technologies's <b>Shiv Nadar</b> , and Happiest Minds Technologies' <b>Ashok Soota</b> are the three Indians who have been named in the <b>16th edition</b> of the annual list
Passport Index 2022	Arton Capital	<b>India</b> was ranked at <b>87th position</b> in the <b>world's strongest passport list</b> . Countries with the weakest passports are <b>Afghanistan (38) Syria (39), Iraq (40), Pakistan (44)</b> . <b>The UAE</b> has the strongest passport in the world
"The World's 100 Most Powerful Women".	Forbes	Finance Minister <b>Nirmala Sitharaman</b> , Biocon Executive Chairperson <b>Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw</b> and Nykaa founder <b>Falguni Nayar</b> are among six Indians who have made it
grievance redressal index	Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances Department (DARPG)	<b>Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)</b> topped the list
Worldwide Cost of Living Index	Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU)	<b>New York and Singapore</b> are the most expensive cities in the world,





Name	Organization	Important facts
2022 Global Food Security Index (GFSI) (11 th edition)	British weekly The Economist	a deterioration in the global food environment for the third year, <b>threatening food security</b> . In this report, <b>South Africa overtook Tunisia</b> to become the most food-secure country in Africa.
Social Progress Index (SPI) for States and Districts	Institute for Competitiveness and Social Progress Imperative	Puducherry has the highest SPI score of 65.99 in the country, attributable to its remarkable performance across components like Personal Freedom and Choice, Shelter, and Water and Sanitation. Lakshadweep and Goa closely follow it with scores of 65.89 and 65.53, respectively. Jharkhand and Bihar scored the lowest, 43.95 and 44.47, respectively.

- **India's electric vehicle (EV)** value chain revenue pool is expected to reach a size of **\$76-100 billion by 2030**, potentially translating to \$8-11 billion profit pool, according to a report by **Bain & Company**.
- The **United Nations** has recognised the **Namami Gange initiative** to rejuvenate India's sacred **River Ganga** as one of the top **10 World Restoration Flagships** to revive the natural world. The award was received by **G Ashok Kumar**, Director General, Namami Gange, at the **15th Conference of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) in Montreal, Canada**.
- Union Minister for Science and Technology, **Jitendra Singh** has revealed that India had jumped from **7th to 3rd** in global scientific publications and scholarly output, according to a report by America's **National Science Foundation**. India also ranks third globally in the number of PhDs produced annually.
- Three new cultural sites in India, including the iconic **Sun Temple at Modhera, historic Vadnagar town in Gujarat, and rock-cut relief sculptures of Unakoti in Tripura**, have been added to the tentative list of UNESCO world heritage sites. The UNESCO website describes a tentative list as an "inventory of those properties which each State Party intends to consider for nomination".
- Bollywood superstar, **Shah Rukh Khan** has become the only Indian to be named in an international list of **50 greatest actors of all time** by a prominent British magazine.
- YouTube's creative ecosystem supported more than 750,000 full-time equivalent jobs in India in 2021 and added more than Rs 10,000 crore to the GDP of the nation. The business also disclosed that Courses, a new product that will provide viewers a greater learning experience and creators a new opportunity to monetize their work, would launch in beta in 2023.
- **India** is ranked **fifth** on the global list of the best cuisines for 2022, according to **Taste Atlas**. The ranking is based on audience votes for ingredients, dishes, and beverages. Italy's food came in first place followed by Greece and Spain. India received 4.54 points and the best rated foods of the country include "**garam masala, malai, ghee, butter garlic naan, keema**", the rating said. It has a total of 460 items in the list. Furthermore, the best restaurants to try Indian cuisine are **Shree Thaker Bhojanalay (Mumbai), Karavalli (Bengaluru), Bukhara (New Delhi), Dum Pukht (New Delhi), Comorin (Gurugram)** and 450 others, according to the list.
- **Punjab** ranks **second** in the country in **average monthly income per agricultural household**. The fact came to light in a data provided by **Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar** in the ongoing session of Rajya Sabha.
- The **Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri** launched draft guidelines for a **new ranking system of cities** based on finance and beauty. The competition is aimed at identifying and promoting financially happy cities and improving municipal finances.

## Books & Authors

### Books & Authors of March

Name of Book	Author
"The Book of Bihari Literature"	Abhay Kumar
'India's Vaccine Growth Story - From Cowpox to Vaccine Maitri'	Sajjan Singh Yadav
"Mundaka Upanishad: The Gateway to Eternity"	Dr. Karan Singh
As Good as My Word	KM Chandrasekhar
India's Struggle for Independence – Gandhian Era	P. Jyothimani





Name of Book	Author
Bipin: The Man Behind the Uniform	Rachna Biswat Rawat
Snakes In the Ganga: Breaking India 2.0	Shri Rajiv Malhotra and Mrs. Vijaya Viswanathan
A Matter of the Heart: Education in India	Anurag Behar
Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (illustrated)	Shrimant Kokate
Azaad	Ghulam Nabi Azad
Pyre	Perumal Murugan's
Phoolange	Lekhnath Chhetri
War and Women	Dr M A Hasan
Why Can't Elephants be Red??	Vani Tripathi Tikoo

### Books & Authors of February

Name of Book	Author
'The Best of Satyajit Ray'	Penguin Random House India
Victory City	Salman Rushdie
Modi: Shaping a Global Order in Flux	Sujan Chinoy, Vijay Chauthaiwala, and Uttam Kumar Sinha

### Books & Authors of January

Name of Book	Author
"Breaking Barriers: The Story of a Dalit Chief Secretary"	Kaki Madhava Rao
"The World: A Family History of Humanity"	Simon Sebag Montefiore
'Human Anatomy' in Hindi Manav sharir Rachna Vigyan	Dr AK Dwivedi
Ambedkar: A Life	Shashi Tharoor
"Revolutionaries: The Other Story of How India Won Its Freedom,"	Sanjeev Sanyal
"Roller Coaster: An Affair with Banking"	Tamal Bandyopadhyay
'Njaan Sakshi'	K.K. Abdul Gaffar's
Jadunama	Arvind Mandloi
"Braving A Viral Storm: India's Covid-19 Vaccine Story"	Aashish Chandorkar and Suraj Sudhir
"Revolutionaries- The Other Story of How India Won Its Freedom"	Sanjeev Sanyal
Irrfan Khan: A Life in Movies	Shubhra Gupta
'Come! Let's Run'	Ma. Subramanian
'COACHING BEYOND: My Days with the Indian Cricket Team'	R. Kaushik & R. Sridhar
"India's Knowledge Supremacy: The New Dawn"	Dr Ashwin Fernandes

### Books & Authors of December

Name of the Book	Author
The Chipko Movement: A People's History	Shekhar Pathak
Super-Infinite: The Transformations of John Donne	Katherine Rundell's
Miracles of Face Yoga'	Mansi Gulati
Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times	Michelle Obama
Fit At Any Age	Air Marshal PV Iyer
The Indian Navy@75 Reminiscing the Voyage'	Commodore Ranjit B Rai
"Forks in the Road: My Days at RBI and Beyond	19th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India , C Rangarajan





## Sports Current Affairs

### Sports Current Affairs of March

**Cricket** {National Game of Australia, Bermuda, England, Jamaica No. of Players: 11

**Important Terms associated:** Arm ball, Beamer, Bottom hand, Bouncer, Cameo, Carrom ball, Chinaman, Flick, Free hit, Gance, Googly, Hat-trick, Hit wicket, Leg bye, Nelson, Night watchman, Pinch hitter, Sweep, Upper Cut.}

- **Indian Premier League (IPL) team Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB)** partnering with Equitas Small Finance Bank as their banking partner for the IPL 2023 season.
- In the final of the Irani Cup 2022/23, **Team Rest of India** secured their 30th title win in the Indian domestic tournament, continuing their dominant performance.
- **Tim Paine**, the former captain of the Australian test cricket team, has announced his retirement from cricket after playing his last **Sheffield Shield first-class match for Tasmania against Queensland**.
- 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.
- **Shakib Al Hasan** has surpassed **Tim Southee** to become the leading wicket-taker in T20 cricket during the second T20 match against Ireland in Chattogram.

**Important Terms associated:** tennis

- **Daniil Medvedev** won the **Qatar Open** in his professional tennis debut by defeating **Andy Murray** 6-4, 6-4, in the final game between two former No. 1s.
- **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**.

**Football** {National Game of Brazil, Italy, Germany, Israel, Mauritius, Poland No. of Players: 11

**Important Terms Associated:** Back Pass, Corner Kick, Free Kick, Dribble, Futsal, Header, Kick off, Banana Kick, Toe Poke, Throw-in, Bicycle Kick}

- Argentina's **Lionel Messi** has bagged the **Best FIFA men's player prize for 2022**.
- **Manchester United** ended their 6-year trophy drought when they defeated **Newcastle United** 2-0 to win the Carabao Cup in Wembley.
- **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.

- **Gianni Infantino** was re-elected as **FIFA president until 2027** by acclamation, after highlighting his strong financial performance as a reason for keeping a CEO in their position for life.
- On March 29, the Premier League inducted former Manchester United manager **Sir Alex Ferguson** and ex-Arsenal boss **Arsene Wenger** into its **Hall of Fame**.

### Grand Prixes

- **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.
- At the **Saudi Arabia Grand Prix** of the 2023 Formula One season, **Sergio Perez** displayed a dominant performance and earned his first win.

### Hockey

- **Hockey Madhya Pradesh** was named the winner of the **13th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship in 2023** after defeating **Hockey Maharashtra** 5-1 in the championship game in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.
- **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.

### Badminton / Boxing / Wrestling / Weightlifting

- **Mirabai Chanu** has bagged the **2022 'BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year'** award after a public vote.
- **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.

### Other Sports Current Affairs

- Indian Grandmaster **D Gukesh** has been honoured with the **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.
- India's top triple-jumper **Aishwarya Babu** has been banned by the **National Anti-Doping Agency's (NADA)** disciplinary panel for four years for using a prohibited anabolic steroid.
- Tamil Nadu's **Jeswin Aldrin** broke the national record in the men's long jump in the second **AFI National Jumps Competition**.
- **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.





- **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**.
- **Lashinda Demus**, a runner from the **United States**, has been awarded an **Olympic gold medal** at the age of 40, more than a decade after the **2012 London Games**.

### Sports Current Affairs of February

**Cricket** {National Game of: Australia, Bermuda, England, Jamaica No. of Players: 11

Important Terms associated: Arm ball, Beamer, Bottom hand, Bouncer, Cameo, Carrom ball, Chinaman, Flick, Free hit, Glance, Googly, Hat-trick, Hit wicket, Leg bye, Nelson, Night watchman, Pinch hitter, Sweep, Upper Cut.}

- Aaron Finch retires from International Cricket.
- Veteran Pakistan wicketkeeper **Kamran Akmal** has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
- **Gary Ballance**, who represented **England** 42 times across all three formats, scored a superb century for **Zimbabwe** on the fourth day of the first Test against West Indies in Bulawayo.
- Indian batter **Shubman Gill** was named ICC Men's Player of the Month for January following a series of impressive innings in the ODI format, while England U-19 skipper **Grace Scrivens** became the youngest player to be named for the women's honour.
- BCCI's Chief selector **Chetan Sharma** has resigned from his post following a sting operation conducted by a TV news channel, where he shared internal information about the team and selection process.
- Indian batter **Smriti Mandhana** was the most expensive buy at the inaugural Women's Premier League auction in Mumbai.
- **Hyundai Motor India Ltd** has signed on two more women cricketers named **Yastika Bhatia** and **Renuka Singh Thakur**, to its roster of brand ambassadors. Bhatia and Thakur will join **Smriti Mandhana**, **Shafali Verma** and **Jemimah Rodrigues**.
- **Sania Mirza** has been roped in as mentor of **Royal Challengers Bangalore** for the inaugural **Women's Premier League (WPL)**.
- **Tata Group** has secured the title sponsorship rights for the **Women's Premier League (WPL) for five seasons (BCCI)**.
- **Virat Kohli** became the sixth and the fastest batter in the world to score **25,000 runs** across formats during the second Test against Australia, which India won by six wickets.

- England Test captain **Ben Stokes** became the player to hit the most number of sixes in the history of Test cricket, surpassing England coach and former New Zealand cricketer **Brendon McCullum** in the match against New Zealand.

### Important Terms associated: tennis

- Top-seeded Spanish player, **Carlos Alcaraz** won his first title since his milestone **U.S. Open triumph** by beating **Cameron Norrie** in straight sets at the Argentina Open tennis Tournament.

**Football** {National Game of: Brazil, Italy, Germany, Israel, Mauritius, Poland No. of Players: 11

Important Terms Associated: Back Pass, Corner Kick, Free Kick, Dribble, Futsal, Header, Kick off, Banana Kick, Toe Poke, Throw-in, Bicycle Kick}

- The **Asian Football Confederation (AFC)** announced that the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)** won the hosting of the **2027 Asian Nations Cup**, for the **first time in its history**, since its inception in 1956.
- **Kerala** has crowned to their bulging cabinet of national football trophies, putting on a show in the final of the National Beach Soccer Championships and overwhelming **Punjab 13-4**, to win the title, at Dumas Beach, Surat.
- France defender **Raphael Varane** is retiring from international football, ending a 10-year career with Les Bleus.
- **Real Madrid** has won the Club World Cup for a record-extending fifth time after beating **Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal 5-3** in the final in **Rabat, Morocco**.
- Paris Saint-Germain's and former Real Madrid defender **Sergio Ramos** has announced that he is retiring from international football.

TEST SERIES  
BILINGUAL



**IRDAI 2023**  
Assistant Manager  
PHASE-I

**50+ TOTAL TESTS**





**Hockey**

- The central ice hockey team of the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** has won the 12th edition of the **Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI) National Ice Hockey Championship for men- 2023** organized in Leh, Ladakh.

**Other Sports Current Affairs**

- Gymnast **Dipa Karmakar** has been handed a 21-month ban for failing a dope test conducted by the **International Testing Agency**.
- Indian Olympian **Aditi Ashok** won the 2023 Magical Kenya Ladies Open Title with a final-round score of 74.
- DS Penske's **Jean-Eric Vergne** won Formula E's first race in India as Porsche's Pascal Wehrlein extended his championship lead with fourth place in Hyderabad.
- After winning the 24th NordWest Cup 2023 at Bad Zwischenahn in Germany and defeating German IM Ilja Schneider, Indian chess player **Vignesh NR** became the **Both Grandmaster of India**.
- Indian teen **Tilottama Sen** won the bronze medal in the women's 10m Air Rifle at **ISSF World Cup 2023** in Cairo in Egypt.
- India's **Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil** won the men's 10m air rifle event at the ISSF World Cup 2023 in Cairo.

**Sports Current Affairs of January**

**Cricket {National Game of: Australia, Bermuda, England, Jamaica No. of Players: 11**

**Important Terms associated: Arm ball, Beamer, Bottom hand, Bouncer, Cameo, Carrom ball, Chinaman, Flick, Free hit, Glance, Googly, Hat-trick, Hit wicket, Leg bye, Nelson, Night watchman, Pinch hitter, Sweep, Upper Cut.}**

- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** announced that **Yo-Yo Test and Dexa** will be a part of the selection criteria. BCCI has also discussed the player's availability, workload management, and fitness parameters in the team review meeting along with the roadmap of the **ICC Cricket World Cup 2023**. ICC Cricket World Cup is scheduled in October and November, and it is to be hosted by India.
- Saurashtra's **Jaydev Unadkat** made a slice of **Ranji Trophy history**, becoming the first bowler to take a hat-trick in the opening over. The left-arm pacer destroyed Delhi by adding two more in the next over in a career-best eight-wicket haul in the Elite Group B match in Rajkot. Unadkat's hat-trick victims included opener **Dhruv Shorey, Vaibhav Rawal and young Delhi captain Yash Dhull**, all of whom departed for duck.
- Australia's **Belinda Clark** has become the first female cricketer to have a statue cast in her honour, a bronze sculpture of the trailblazing former captain unveiled outside **Sydney Cricket Ground**. Clark played 15 tests and over 100 limited overs matches between 1991-2005, and became the first cricketer to score a double-hundred in one-day internationals when she made an unbeaten 229 against Denmark in 1997.

- **Dwaine Pretorius** Proteas all-rounder has retired from international cricket.
- **Suryakumar Yadav** has become the fastest player to reach **1,500 runs** in T20 International cricket.
- **Harry Brook** received the ICC Men's Player of the Month award after a blistering run of scores that helped England claim a historic World Test Championship (WTC) series victory in Pakistan.
- Australia's **Ashleigh Gardner** bagged the ICC Women's Player of the Month award for her contributions with bat and ball in the T20I series against India.
- In Cricket, **India** scripted history by defeating **Sri Lanka** by the largest ever margin of 317 runs in the third and final ODI in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**. Previous record of a win by a largest ever margin was with the **New Zealand, for 290-run win over Ireland in 2008**.
- **Virat Kohli** became the fifth-highest run-scorer in history of ODI cricket with 12,652 runs in 268 ODIs at an average of 57.78, with 45 tons and 65 half-century, overtaking Sri Lankan legend **Mahela Jayawardene** to enter into top-five.
- **Viacom 18** have grabbed the media rights for the upcoming **Women's IPL** for a whopping **Rs 951 crore** for five years.
- **Shubman Gill** hits double hundred and become only the eighth and the youngest player (23 years) in ODI history.
- **Hashim Amla** ended his 22-year playing career, with his legacy secure as one of **South Africa's all-time cricketing greats**.
- The **Rwanda** fast bowler, **Geovanis Uwase** has been suspended by ICC from bowling in international cricket with immediate effect after her action was found illegal at **Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup**.
- Indian captain **Rohit Sharma** has shattered a long-standing record held by **MS Dhoni** to become India's most prolific six-hitter in the history of ODI cricket.
- **International Cricket Council (ICC)**, reportedly lost nearly **\$2.5 million** in online scam last year.
- **The International Cricket Council's (ICC) 92.2 million followers across Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, TikTok and YouTube makes it the most followed international sports federation on social media, according to a study from BCW Sports.**
- **India beat England** in the first-ever **ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup final in Potchefstroom, South Africa**.
- **Murali Vijay** has announced his retirement from all forms of international cricket.
- **New Zealand Cricket (NZC)** has announced that outstanding women's cricketer will be honoured with the inaugural **Debbie Hockley Medal** at this year's annual cricket awards ceremony.





**Important Terms associated: tennis**

- **Sania Mirza** announces her retirement.
- **Novak Djokovic** has defeated America's **Sebastian Korda** in a nerve-wracking final to win the Adelaide International men's singles title.
- At Adelaide International 1, **Aryna Sabalenka** won the women's singles by defeating Linda Noskova of the Czech Republic.

**Football {National Game of: Brazil, Italy, Germany, Israel, Mauritius, Poland No. of Players: 11**

**Important Terms Associated: Back Pass, Corner Kick, Free Kick, Dribble, Futsal, Header, Kick off, Banana Kick, Toe Poke, Throw-in, Bicycle Kick}**

- **Gareth Bale** has announced his retirement from professional football at the age of 33.
- France team captain **Hugo Lloris** has announced his decision to retire from international football at the age of 36.
- **Barcelona** have won the **Spanish Super Cup** for the first time since the competition was revamped and moved to Saudi Arabia with a 3-1 victory over **Real Madrid**.

**Hockey**

- Hockey **Haryana's** women's team won the **Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Women's Under 18** Qualifiers after defeating **Madhya Pradesh** (2-0) in the final at Bhubaneswar. In the final match, Pooja and Gurmail Kaur scored a goal each for Haryana to end the contest in their favour.
- In Hockey, **Madhya Pradesh** defeated Odisha 6-5 to clinch **Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Men's Under-18** Qualifiers title in Bhubaneswar. In a thrilling final, Jamir Mohammad was the star of the final, scoring a hat-trick, while Ali Ahmed, Mohammad Zaid Khan and captain Ankit Pal scored one goal each for Madhya Pradesh.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday **inaugurated** one of the largest hockey stadiums in India in Rourkela ahead of the Men's Hockey World Cup 2023. Built at an estimated cost of **₹261 crore**, the stadium, located in **Sundargarh district**, has been christened as **Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium Complex**. It has been built in **50 acres** in a **record 15 months-time with a seating capacity of 20,000**. The stadium also has practice centres adjacent to it with certified turfs and lighting. The State has also built a **World Cup village**, which has 225 rooms to house the players and officials, within nine months.
- **'Hockeyverse'** a new metaverse product which Hockey India claims marks a first for a national sports federation, has been launched across the governing body's social media platforms and is designed to enhance the tournament experience for fans around the world.

- **Germany beat Belgium 5-4** in the penalty shootout to win the **FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023** at the **Kalinga Stadium** in **Bhubaneswar, India**.

**Badminton / Boxing/ Wrestling/Weightlifting**

- **Akane Yamaguchi and Viktor Axelsen** won the **Malaysia Open Super 1000 women's and men's singles titles** in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- **Shuttler Kunlavut Vitidsarn** from Thailand won the **India Open Badminton Championship 2023** by defeating Denmark's **Viktor Axelsen** in the men's singles. In the **Women's Singles category**, **An Seyoung** of South Korea won the title by defeating Japanese **Akane Yamaguchi**.

**Other Sports Current Affairs**

- Former World rapid champion **K. Humpy** produced a superlative performance to claim India's first-ever silver medal from the **World blitz chess championship** that concluded in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Humpy defeated China's Zhongyi Tan to win Silver in the 17th and final round.
- Nineteen-year-old Kolkata-based chess player, **Koustav Chatterjee** became India's 78th Grandmaster. He is also the tenth GM from West Bengal. Koustav earned his first GM norm in October 2021 at a Grandmasters' chess tournament in Bangladesh
- **Pranesh M** became India's 79th Grandmaster, having completed his three norms prior to this event. IM Pranesh M emerged as the winner of the **Rilton Cup, the first tournament of the FIDE Circuit**. The 16-year-old from India, seeded 22nd, made a clean sweep of the field in Stockholm, winning eight games and finishing a full point ahead of IM Kaan Kucuksari (Sweden) and GM Nikita Meshkovs (Latvia).
- **Anahat Singh** won the Girl's U-15 squash title at **British Junior Open Tournament**.
- **Khelo India Senior Women National Kho Kho league** is to take place at Chandigarh University, Punjab.
- **Falak Mumtaz**, an 11-year-old girl from Jammu and Kashmir has bagged a gold medal in **National Sqay Championship**.
- Laxman Rawat of PSPB emerged victorious in the **'Baulkline'** NSCI All India Snooker Open.
- **Madhya Pradesh** Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the fifth edition of the **Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG)** at a mega function to kick start the **Khelo India Youth Games** that will see participation from nearly 6,000 athletes from across the country in 27 disciplines.
- Dutch player **Anish Giri**, five times the runner-up in **Wijk aan Zee**, has won the **85th edition of Tata Steel Chess**.







**Sports Current Affairs of December**

**Cricket** {National Game of: Australia, Bermuda, England, Jamaica No. of Players: 11

Important Terms associated: Arm ball, Beamer, Bottom hand, Bouncer, Cameo, Carrom ball, Chinaman, Flick, Free hit, Gance, Googly, Hat-trick, Hit wicket, Leg bye, Nelson, Night watchman, Pinch hitter, Sweep, Upper Cut.}

- The **third T20 World Cup Cricket Tournament for the Blind** will be held from **December 5 to 17, 2022 in India**. The participating countries of the World Cup 2022 are Australia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and India. Former India batter **Yuvraj Singh** is the brand ambassador of the tournament.
- Indian skipper **Rohit Sharma** has surpassed former batter **Mohammed Azharuddin** to become the **sixth-highest** run-getter for his country in ODI cricket.
- Former England skipper **Joe Root** became only the third cricketer in history to score **10000 runs** and pick up **50 wickets** in Test cricket.
- **Rehan Ahmed** becomes **England's youngest-ever Test Cricketer** to debut in the final match between Pakistan and England.
- The **Indian national blind cricket team** won the **T20 World Cup** for the Blind for the third time in a row. They defeated Bangladesh at Bengaluru's M Chinnaswamy Stadium by a commanding score of 120 runs. The Indian captain, **Ajay Kumar Reddy**
- **Sam Curran** breaks all the records and became the **most expensive cricketer ever** to be bought by any franchise of the **Indian Premier League (IPL)**.

**Football** {National Game of: Brazil, Italy, Germany, Israel, Mauritius, Poland No. of Players: 11

Important Terms Associated: Back Pass, Corner Kick, Free Kick, Dribble, Futsal, Header, Kick off, Banana Kick, Toe Poke, Throw-in, Bicycle Kick}

- **FIFA** has announced that **Stephanie Frappart of France** will be the first woman to referee a **men's' World Cup match**
- Famous Footballer, **Cristiano Ronaldo** has sensationally joined **Saudi Arabian club Al-Nassr** on a two and a half year deal worth **200 million euros per season**.
- **Deepika Padukone** unveiled the **FIFA World Cup trophy in Qatar** later this month, according to reports.
- **Belgium** captain **Eden Hazard** has announced his retirement from international football after Belgium's early exit from the **FIFA World Cup 2022**.
- France footballer **Karim Benzema** has announced his retirement from International football.
- **Morocco** was rewarded by FIFA with hosting rights for the next Club World Cup in February, with an expanded **32-team edition set to launch in 2025**.

**Hockey** {National Game of: India, Pakistan No. of Players: 11  
Important Terms Associated: Advancing, Bully, Center Pass, Dribble, Drive, Flagrant Foul, Flick, Free Hit, Striker, Tackle, Undercutting, Dodge, Drag Flick, Grip, Hacking, Penalty Corner, Wall Pass}

- The **Indian women Hockey team** led by Captain **Savita Punia** beat **Spain** 1-0 in the final to win the inaugural FIH Nations Cup played at Valencia, Spain. The winning goal was scored by **Gurjit Kaur** of India.

**Tennis**

- **Hyderabad Strikers** has crowned as champions of **4th Tennis Premier League (TPL) 2022** beating **Mumbai Leon Army** (41-32) and was crowned champions of the event for the 2nd year in a row

**Badminton**

- **World No 3 Sukant Kadam** smashed his way to a gold medal at the recently concluded **Peru Para-Badminton International**, defeating ace shuttler **defeated Singapore's Chee Hiong Ang**. India won **14 medals in total** (6 gold, 1 silver and 7 bronze).

**Boxing/ Wrestling/Weightlifting**

- **Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chanu** won **silver at the 2022 World Weightlifting Championships in Colombia**. She beat the Tokyo 2020 champion **Hou Zhihua of China**. China's **Jiang Huihua** took home the **gold medal**

**Sports Events |Tournaments Current Affairs**

- **Sixteen-year-old Aditya Mittal** has become **India's 77th chess Grandmaster** during an ongoing tournament in Spain. The **Mumbai player**, who had secured three GM norms, crossed 2,500 ELO points mark during the sixth round of the ongoing **Ellobregat Open tournament in Spain**. He drew the game against **Spain's No.1 Francisco Vallejo Pons** to achieve the feat.
- **Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur** said one thousand **Khelo India** centres will be opened by the **15th of August** next year across the country. He added that out of these one **thousand centres, 733 centres** have been already sanctioned.
- Karnataka shooter **Divya T.S** has secured her first women's 10m air pistol national title at the **65th National Shooting Championship Competitions** in Pistol events held in Bhopal. Olympian, **Manu Bhaker** has won the junior women's air pistol, after defeating **Esha Singh (Telangana)**. Rhythm Sangwan has won the gold medal in the Youth category.





- **Tata Steel Limited** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Hockey India** on December 13, 2022 to become an **Official Partner** of the **FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023** Bhubaneswar – Rourkela. The FIH Men's World Cup is the pinnacle of men's hockey tournaments. The **15th edition** of the esteemed event will take place in **Bhubaneswar and Rourkela** from January 13 to January 29, 2023.
- **Goa** will host India's first ever **World Table Tennis (WTT)** series event from February 27 to March 5. The top tier WTT Star Contender Goa 2023 will take place at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor stadium, located at the Goa University Campus. **Stupa Analytics**, a homegrown sports analytics firm, will be the tournament host with active support from the Goa government.

#### Other Sports Current Affairs

- **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA India)** is hosts an Inclusion Conclave for the first time to sharpen the focus on anti-doping education and processes for athletes with disabilities..

- **Indian shooter Rudranksh Patil** won **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) President's Cup** held in **Cairo, Egypt**.
- World champion American hurdler **Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone** and Swedish pole vaulter **Mondo Duplantis** won the **World Athlete of the year awards**.
- **Indian swimmer Chahat Arora** set a **national record** in the women's 100-metre breaststroke at the **FINA World Swimming Championships 2022** in **Melbourne, Australia**.
- According to the World Athletics, **Tokyo Olympics gold medalist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra** of India was the most written about track and field athlete in 2022, displacing the Jamaican legend Usain Bolt from the top lists.
- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** announced that **Vicom18 Media Private Limited (Vicom18)** has secured the exclusive media rights to broadcast the **Olympic Games Paris 2024**, plus non-exclusive rights to the **Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon 2024**, in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- **Puma** has roped in Bollywood actor and entrepreneur **Anushka Sharma** as its brand ambassador.

## Science & Technology

### Science & Technology of March

- Postural tachycardia syndrome (PoTS) is when your heart rate increases very quickly after getting up from sitting or lying down. It can get better with changes to your lifestyle, but some people may need treatment with medicines. It's also known as postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome.
- The **CE-20 cryogenic engine**, which will power the nation's rocket for the third moon mission, **Chandrayaan-3**, had a flight acceptance hot test that was successfully completed, according to the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**.
- SpaceX launched NASA's Crew-6 mission to orbit en route to the **International Space Station**, with a Russian cosmonaut and United Arab Emirates astronaut joining two NASA crewmates for the flight.
- Researchers trying to uncover the secrets of **Earth's geology** have revealed the **fifth layer of the planet**. Seismic waves generated by earthquakes have revealed new insights about the deepest parts of Earth's inner core. The fifth layer is made of **iron and nickel**, the same materials that comprise the rest of the inner core.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has received the **NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR)** satellite from the U.S. space agency.
- **SpaceX** launched a Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station with 40 more internet satellites for rival **OneWeb**, followed by the landing of the rocket's first stage booster back at the Florida spaceport.

- **GPT4**, the most recent release of **OpenAI's** large language model, which powers popular apps like **ChatGPT** and the new **Bing**, has been announced.
- Svaya Robotics, a Hyderabad-based company, has partnered with two DRDO labs, the Research and Development Establishment in Pune (R&DE) and Defence Bio-engineering & Electro Medical Laboratory in Bengaluru (DEBEL), to create India's first quadruped robot and wearable exo-skeleton.
- During the **'Adobe Summit'**, software giant Adobe unveiled new generative AI advancements in its Experience Cloud that seek to revolutionize the way companies provide customer experiences. **Adobe** customers can effortlessly switch between **Sensei GenAI** services and current features within their workflows while using Adobe Experience Cloud, according to the company's statement.
- In the latest preview of Bing and Edge, Microsoft has added a new functionality called **'Bing Image Creator'**, which enables users to generate an image based on their written description by utilizing an enhanced version of **Open AI's DALL-E model**.
- NASA and ISRO have collaboratively built an earth science satellite called **NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar)**.
- India has seen a surge in daily **Covid-19** infections, with **349 cases** of the newly detected **XBB1.16 variant**.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully launched its heaviest rocket, **LVM3**, for the sixth consecutive time from the Sriharikota spaceport.





- This summer, the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** is preparing four individuals to live on Mars on **June 2023**.
- In just **30 seconds**, a cost-effective and portable **3D paper-based device** developed by researchers at **IIT Madras** can detect **milk adulteration**.
- The **Punjab** and **Haryana Court** recently utilized the assistance of an AI chatbot called **ChatGPT** to make a decision regarding a bail application in a criminal case, marking the first time an Indian court has done so.
- India has established a new design lab in Ahmedabad that aims to facilitate space sector start-ups in converting their inventive concepts into practical models at a faster pace.

### Science & Technology of February

- **IBM** has partnered with **NASA** to gain new findings on Earth's climate through the power of **AI technology**.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Ashok Leyland unveiled India's first Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (H<sub>2</sub>-ICE) technology solution for heavy duty trucks.
- **Google** has unveiled an experimental conversation AI service called "**Bard**", as it races to catch up with the wildly popular chatbot **ChatGPT** from the Microsoft-backed firm **OpenAI**.
- **NASA's "all-electric" plane X-57** is soon set to take off, the US space agency.
- Chinese search engine **Baidu** revealed its plans of launching a ChatGPT-style AI chatbot called '**Ernie Bot**'.
- **Nitin Gadkari** unveiled **Skye UTM**, which is the most cutting-edge unmanned traffic management system in the world, which is capable of handling 4,000 flights per hour and 96,000 flights per day.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**), jointly developed an Earth-observation satellite, called **NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar)**, got a send-off ceremony at the American space agency's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Southern California.
- **Antaris** announced that the world's first satellite fully conceived, designed, and manufactured using the company's end-to-end cloud platform, **JANUS-1** has successfully reached orbit. JANUS-1 rode on the Indian Space Research Organization's (ISRO) SSLV-D2 rocket.
- **Lexi**, a ChatGPT-powered AI chatbot, has arrived in India. Velocity, a financial technology firm, launched the chatbot to assist e-commerce owners by presenting them with business information in a simplified manner. Velocity insights, Velocity's proprietary analytics platform, has been linked with the chatbot.
- Serum Institute of India will be setting up **Dr. Cyrus Poonawalla** Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Infectious Diseases and Pandemic Preparedness in the Indian Institute of Public Health, Hyderabad.

- India's **first hybrid sounding rocket** by private players was successfully launched from Pattipulam village in the Chengalpattu district of Tamil Nadu. Martin Foundation, in association with Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam International Foundation and Space Zone India, launched the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Satellite Launch Vehicle Mission- 2023.
- Minister for IT and Industries **KT Rama Rao** informed that the **World Health Organisation** will set up an mRNA (messenger ribonucleic acid) vaccine hub in **Telangana**.
- **Artifact**, a new **artificial intelligence (AI)**-powered personalized news feed application by **Instagram** co-founders Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger, is available to everyone, along with new features.
- A new type of wheat has been developed by the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** to address issues brought on by changing weather patterns and rising temperatures. This brand-new **HD-3385** wheat variety may be sown early, evades the effects of heat waves, and is ready for harvest by the end of March.

### Science & Technology of January

- ISRO, National Centre for Earth Sciences (NCES), and the Andhra University (AU) have researched and concluded that constant rip current zones at blue flag-certified **Rushikonda beach** and RK Beach have become a danger to the beach visitors. Between 2012 to 2022, over **200 people** drowned in the sea at various beaches in and around Visakhapatnam and 60 percent of deaths occurred in RK Beach.
- Union Minister **Dr Jitendra Singh** today inaugurated "**National Genome Editing & Training Centre**" at **National Agri-food Biotechnology Institute (NABI)** Mohali, Punjab. The Minister also, at the same time, inaugurated a **4-day International Conference on Food and Nutritional Security 2023: - iFANS**
- **National Council of Science Museums** hosted **Astro Tourism - A Sky Gazing** event at Delhi's India Gate in collaboration with the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library.
- **Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL)** has invented a "System and Method for Controlling Generation and Movement of Fugitive Dust" and obtained a patent for the same.
- A '**green**' comet from the outer solar system will pass through our area of space for the first time in 50,000 years this month.
- **IG Drones in Odisha's Sambalpur** has developed a **5G-enabled drone** that is capable of vertical take-off and landing.
- **Airtel**-backed **OneWeb** successfully launched and deployed 40 satellites onboard a **SpaceX** launcher.
- **Five-year National Urban Technology Mission** to be spearheaded by the **ministry of housing and urban affairs** to infuse **technological improvements** in **municipal providers and infrastructure** of 4,500 city native bodies within the nation.





- **Shukrayaan I**, the ISRO Venus mission.
- **NASA** announced that the **James Webb Space Telescope** has discovered its first new exoplanet. The planet has been labelled as **LHS 475 b**.
- **MSN Group** launched the '**world's first**' generic **Palbociclib** tablets indicated for advanced **breast cancer** therapy under the brand **Palborest**.
- **Astronomers** from **McGill University** and the **IISc** have used data from the **GMRT** in **Pune** to detect a radio signal originating from **atomic hydrogen** in an extremely distant galaxy.
- **NASA-JAXA Geotail spacecraft** have signed off it was launched on **July 24, 1992**.
- The first instance of **solo electromagnetic waves** has been discovered by Indian researchers using **Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) mission** of **NASA**.
- A team of scientists at Bengaluru's **Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR)**, who were working on nitride-based materials has used their background for developing hardware for **neuromorphic computing**. They have used **Scandium Nitride (ScN)** to develop a device mimicking a synapse that controls the signal transmission as well as remembers the signal.
- **iNOVACC** the first nasal vaccination produced in India against Covid-19.
- The European Space Agency's **Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer or JUICE** is the next venture of humanity into the outer Solar System. It will be conducting thorough examination of **Jupiter**, the largest planet in our solar system, and its three moons with oceans including **Ganymede, Callisto, and Europa**.
- **Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)** handed over to **ISRO**, the **Visible Line Emission Coronagraph (VELC)**, the primary payload on board **Aditya-L1**, which is India's first dedicated scientific mission to **study the Sun**.



**Science & Technology of December**

- **Three Indian-origin women** are among 60 people who have been selected as **Australia's Superstars of STEM**. This year among those recognised as Superstars of STEM include three Indian-origin women: **Neelima Kadiyala, Dr Ana Baburamani, and Dr Indrani Mukherjee**. Female scientists of Sri Lankan descent have also been chosen for distinction, in addition to Indians.
- **Ladakh** is all set to have **India's first Dark Night Sky Reserve** at **Hanle village in Changthang region**.
- **Google's Jigsaw subsidiary** is launching a new anti-misinformation project in India, aimed at preventing misleading information that has been blamed for inciting violence. The initiative will use "**prebunking**" videos
- **IIT Madras Researchers** have developed an '**Ocean Wave Energy Converter**' that can generate electricity from sea waves. The trials of this device were successfully completed during the second week of November 2022. The product has been named '**Sindhuja-I**,' which means 'generated from the ocean.'
- **ISRO** signed **MoU** with incubator and accelerator **Social Alpha**, to launch the **SpaceTech Innovation Network (SpIN)**, focused on innovation curation and venture development for the space domain.
- **Ladakh** has approached the **Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS)**, a unit of **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** for developing "**Spatial Data Infrastructure geoportal 'Geo-Ladakh'** for **UT-Ladakh**".
- A **SpaceX Falcon 9** rocket carried into space the first ever **Arab-built lunar spacecraft**. It was launched from the **Cape Canaveral Space Force Station** in Florida. The **Rashid Rover** was built by **Dubai's Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC)**, in the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, and is being delivered by the **HAKUTO-R lander**, engineered by **Japanese lunar exploration company ispace**.
- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully conducted a **joint hypersonic vehicle trial** along with the Headquarters, **Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS)**. According to the country's premier space research agency, the joint hypersonic vehicle trial **matched with the predetermined targets**.
- To promote the use of '**NAVigation with the Indian Constellation**' (**NavIC**), the Indian version of **GPS**, the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** will introduce the **L1 frequency** in all its future satellites.
- The **US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** and the **French space agency Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES)** have jointly launched the newest **Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) spacecraft** to track nearly all the water on the surface of the Earth.





- Country's maiden human space flight mission, **Gaganyaan**, is targeted to be launched in the fourth quarter of 2024. In view of the paramount importance of crew safety, two uncrewed flights are scheduled, before the final human space flight- 'H1 mission', to demonstrate the performance of the crew escape system and parachute-based deceleration system for different flight conditions.
- Vainu Bappu 40-inch telescope**, several stellar discoveries of the telescope were highlighted. The celebrations were held on the **15th and 16th of December 2022** in Kavalur, Tamil Nadu. The telescope set up by **Professor Vainu Bappu** has played a significant role in astronomy with major discoveries like the presence of rings around the **planet Uranus**, a new satellite of Uranus, the presence of an atmosphere around Ganymede which is a satellite of Jupiter.
- ISRO** forthcoming **Chandrayaan 3 mission** will carry scientific instruments of the **United States of America**.
- IIT Kanpur** is ready with an **artificial heart** that would be of great help to people with acute cardiac problems.
- Bharat Biotech's** "iNCOVACC" is the **world's first Intranasal vaccine** for COVID to receive approval for the primary 2-dose schedule, and as a heterologous booster dose..
- To create the SwasthGarbh app, IIT Roorkee and AIIMS New Delhi worked together.

## Schemes/ Apps

### Schemes/ Apps of March

Name	Ministry	Year	Purpose
Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	2016	provide deposit free LPG connections to women from poor households
National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP)		2023	to prevent and manage cases of Rabies.

### Schemes/ Apps of February

Name	Ministry	Year	Purpose
PM-KUSUM	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	2019	to promote the use of renewable energy in the agricultural sector and offer the benefits of solar farming to Indian farmers.
Namami Gange Mission-II	Ministry of Jal Shakti	Till 2026	twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.

### Schemes/ Apps of January

Name	Ministry	Year	Purpose
Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)	Ministry of Rural Development	2011	The <b>Prajwala Challenge</b> has been launched to invite ideas, solutions, and actions that can transform rural development. It will provide a platform where <b>ideas are invited from individuals</b> , social enterprises, start-ups, the private sector, civil society, community-based organizations, academic institutions, incubation centers, investors, etc having the potential to transform the rural economy
"VIRAASAT"	Ministry of Textile		<b>Celebrating 75 handwoven Saris of India</b>
National Green Hydrogen Mission	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	2021	<b>energy-independent before completing 100 years</b>
'Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND)'	I&B Ministry	2023	Under the scheme, eight lakh DD Free Dish DTH set top boxes (STBs) will also be distributed to people living in remote, tribal, LWE, border areas and 'aspirational' districts
Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY)	Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution	2023	free foodgrains will be provided under PMGKAY for the year 2023 to all PHH and AAY beneficiaries, as per entitlement under NFSA





Name	Ministry	Year	Purpose
MAARG (Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience, and Growth)	Commerce Ministry	2023	a portal to facilitate mentorship for <b>start-ups</b>
'Aarogya Maitri'		2023	India will provide <b>essential medical supplies</b> to any developing country affected by natural disasters or humanitarian crisis
Padho Pardesh	Ministry of Minority Affairs	2006	has discontinued the scheme of interest subsidy on education loans for overseas studies for students belonging to minority communities
Atal Pension Yojana	Ministry of Finance	2015	<b>Govt. backed pension scheme primarily targeting unorganised sector.</b>

### Schemes/ Apps of December

Name	Ministry	Year	Purpose
	Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)	2022	The signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the top six <b>engineering institutes of India</b> for introducing <b>Indian standards</b> as an integral part of the curriculum.
Doctor Apke Dwar'	REC	2022	REC's CSR initiative for procurement, operation and maintenance of 10 Mobile Health Clinics (MHC) at Sadar Hospital, Aarah, Bhojpur District Bihar.
DigiYatra app	Civil Aviation	2022	<b>The Central government</b> on December 1 launched its facial recognition system at <b>Delhi, Bangalore and Varanasi airports</b> , which will allow domestic passengers to seamlessly travel without an identification card.
One District One Sport (ODOS)	UP Govt	2022	The <b>Uttar Pradesh government's</b> ambitious has received praise at the national level for helping in the revival of traditional crafts in the state.
Rooftop Solar Programme			<b>Central Government</b> announced that it has extended till 31 March, 2026. The <b>subsidy under the programme</b> will be available until the target under the Programme is achieved now. The government has advised all residential consumers to not pay any additional charges to any vendor on account of fee for application on the <b>National Portal</b> or any additional charges for net-metering/testing which are not prescribed by the respective distribution company.
SWAMIH Invest Fund-I		2019	The government has put in <b>an additional Rs 5,000 crore</b> to help the stressed realty investment platform achieve its <b>final close at Rs 15,530 crore</b> . The fund set up under the Special Window for <b>Affordable and Mid-Income Housing</b> is <b>India's largest social impact fund</b> , which said the government recently infused Rs 5,000 crore.
New India Literacy Programme	Ministry of Education (MoE)	11 <sup>th</sup> March, 2022	approved a new scheme for the next five years to cover all the aspects of adult education to align with new <b>National Education Policy (NEP)</b> .
AYURSWASTHYA Yojana	Ministry of Ayush	2022	The issued a notification regarding the status of the <b>centres of excellence</b> scheme. Financial assistance is provided to eligible individual organizations/institutes for establishing and upgrading their functions & facilities and/or for research & development activities in AYUSH under the scheme.
'Prahari' Mobile app	Home Ministry	2022	Union Home Minister <b>Amit Shah</b> launched the and Manual of <b>Border Security Force (BSF)</b> in New Delhi.





## Committees in News

### Committees in News of March

- The Supreme Court **ordered an experts committee to be set up**, headed by a retired Supreme Court judge, **AM Sapre**, after a batch of PILs was filed on the recent **Adani Group** shares crash triggered by the US-based short-seller **Hindenburg Research's allegations** of fraud.
- The **Indian government** has formed a committee led by **finance secretary TV Somanathan** to explore ways to address concerns raised by government employees over the **National Pension System (NPS)**.

### Committees in News of February

- **Babita Phogat**, a former wrestler, joined the oversight committee established to look into the claims made against the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI).

## Institutes/ Bodies/ Acts in news

### Institutes/ Bodies/ Acts in news of January

- **UNGA** adopted a resolution titled '**Education for Democracy**' that reaffirms the right of everyone to education.
- The **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** has listed **Pakistan-based terrorist Abdul Rehman Makki as a global terrorist**.

## Important Days

### Important Days of March

Date	Day & Theme
1 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Civil Defence Day &amp; "Uniting the world's leading specialists for the safety and security of future generations"</li> <li>• World Seagrass Day</li> <li>• Zero Discrimination Day &amp; "Save lives: Decriminalise"</li> <li>• The Civil Accounts Day</li> </ul>
3 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UN World Wildlife Day &amp; "Partnerships for wildlife conservation"</li> </ul>
4 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Safety Day &amp; 'Our Aim – Zero Harm'</li> <li>• National Security Day &amp; 'Nurture young minds - Develop safety culture'</li> <li>• World Obesity Day &amp; 'Changing Perspectives: Let's Talk About Obesity'</li> </ul>
5 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness</li> </ul>
8 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Women's Day &amp; "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality"</li> <li>• No Smoking Day &amp; "Stopping smoking improves your brain health"</li> </ul>
9 March(second Thursday in March)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Kidney Day &amp; "Kidney Health for Everyone - Preparing for the Unexpected, Supporting the Vulnerable"</li> </ul>
10 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The International Day of Women Judges &amp; "Women in Justice, Women for Justice"</li> </ul>
14 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Day of Action for Rivers &amp; "Rights of Rivers,"</li> <li>• International Day of Mathematics &amp; "Mathematics for Everyone,"</li> </ul>
15 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Consumer Rights Day &amp; "Empowering Consumers Through Clean Energy Transitions."</li> <li>• International Day To Fight Islamophobia</li> </ul>
16 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Vaccination Day</li> </ul>
17 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Sleep Day &amp; 'Sleep is Essential for Health'</li> </ul>
18 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Recycling Day &amp; "Creative Innovation"</li> <li>• Ordnance Factory Day</li> </ul>
20 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Oral Health Day &amp; 'Be Proud of Your Mouth'</li> <li>• The International Day of Happiness &amp; Be Mindful, Be Grateful, Be Kind</li> </ul>
21 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Poetry Day &amp; Always be a poet, even in prose</li> <li>• International Day of Forests or World Forestry Day</li> <li>• World Down Syndrome Day &amp; With Us, Not For Us</li> <li>• International Nowruz Day 2023</li> <li>• International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination</li> </ul>





Date	Day & Theme
22 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Water Day &amp; Accelerating the change to solve the water and sanitation crisis</li> </ul>
23 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shaheed Diwas or Martyrs' Day</li> <li>World Meteorological Day &amp; The Future of Weather, Climate, and Water Across Generations</li> </ul>
24 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Tuberculosis Day</li> <li>International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims</li> </ul>
25 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members</li> <li>Earth Hour ( last Saturday of March )</li> </ul>
26 March	Purple Day of Epilepsy
27 March	World Theatre Day
21 to 27 March	Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling Against Racism and Racial Discrimination
30 March	International Day of Zero Waste
31 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The International Day of Drug Checking</li> <li>World Backup Day</li> <li>Transgender Day of Visibility</li> </ul>

### Important Days of February

Date	Day & Theme
1-7 February	World Interfaith Harmony Week
2nd February	World Wetlands Day & It's Time for Wetlands Restoration
4th February	International Day of Human Fraternity
4th February	World Cancer Day
6th February	International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) & "Partnership with Men and Boys to transform Social and gender Norms to End FGM"
7 February	Safer Internet Day & 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online.'
10 February	World Pulses Day & 'Pulses for a Sustainable Future'
10 February	The National Deworming Day
11 February	International Day of Women and Girls in Science & "Innovate. Demonstrate. Elevate. Advance (IDEA): Bringing communities Forward for sustainable and equitable development."
11 February	World Unani Day & "Unani Medicine for Public Health"
12 February	National Productivity Day & "Productivity, Green Growth, and Sustainability: Celebrating India's G20 Presidency."
13 February	World Radio Day & "Radio and Peace"
13 February	Sarojini Naidu's birth anniversary
15 February	International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) & 'Better Survival'
17 February	Global Tourism Resilience Day
18 February	World Pangolin Day
19 February	Soil Health Card
20 February	World Day of Social Justice & "Overcoming Barriers and Unleashing Opportunities for Social Justice"
21 February	International Mother Language Day & "Multilingual education – a necessity to transform education"
22 February	World Thinking Day & 'Our World, Our Peaceful Future'
22 February	World Scout Day
24 February	Central Excise Day
27 February	World NGO Day
28 February	National Science Day






**Important Days of January**

Date	Day & Theme
January 1	Global Family Day
January 4	World Braille Day
January 6	World Day of War Orphans
January 9	Pravasi Bharatiya Divas or NRI Day
January 10	World Hindi Day or Vishwa Hindi Diwas
January 12	National Youth Day
10th January 2023 to 16th January 2023	Startup India Innovation Week
11th to 17th January 2023	Road Safety Week
14th January since 1953	The Armed Forces Veterans Day
15th January	Indian army day
16th January	National Startup Day
19 January	18th National Disaster Response Force day
24 January	International Day of Education & "to invest in people, prioritize education" National Girl Child Day & "Self Defence Training for Girls."
25th January	National Voters' Day & 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure'
26th January	International Customs Day & 'Nurturing the next generation: Promoting a culture of knowledge-sharing and professional pride in Customs.'
January 27	International Holocaust Remembrance Day
January 28	Data Protection Day, or Data Privacy Day & 'Think Privacy First'
January 29	World Leprosy Day & "Act Now. End Leprosy."
January 30	Martyrs' Day or Shaheed Diwas
January 30	World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day (World NTD Day) & "Act Now. Act Together. Invest in Neglected Tropical Diseases".

**Important Days (December) of December**

Date	Day & Theme
1 December	World AIDS Day.
1st December	58th BSF Raising Day
December 2	The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
December 2	International Computer Literacy Day.
2 December	National Pollution Control Day
December 3	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
December 4	Navy Day in India
4th December	International Cheetah Day and Wildlife Conservation Day in New Delhi.
December 4	International Day of Banks
December 5	International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
December 5	World Soil Day   theme for 2022 World Soil Day is 'Soils: Where Food Begins'.
December 6	India observed as Mahaparinirvan Divas to mark the death anniversary of Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar.
December 7	International Civil Aviation Day   theme "Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development".
December 7	Armed Forces Flag Day
8th December	The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Charter Day   This year marks the 38th Anniversary of the regional group.





Date	Day & Theme
December 9	International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime  2022 marks its 74th anniversary.
December 9	International Anti-Corruption Day .
December 10	Human Rights Day
December 11	International Mountain Day   theme : 'Women Move Mountains.'
December 11	Every year UNICEF Day is celebrated every year.
December 12	International Day of Neutrality is commemorated.
12 December	International Universal Health Coverage Day is celebrated annually.
14 December	The National Energy Conservation Day is celebrated every year.
December 18	International Migrants Day
December 18	National Minorities Rights Day is commemorated on every year in India.
December 20	International Human Solidarity Day (IHSD)
19-25 December 2022	Union Minister for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions <b>Dr. Jitendra Singh</b> has inaugurated <b>Good Governance Week</b> celebrations from at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. The Minister also launched a five-day "Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore".
December 22	National Mathematics Day  marked to recognise and celebrate the works of <b>Srinivasa Ramanujan</b> . This year nation celebrates his <b>135th birth anniversary of Ramanujan</b> .
December 23	<b>Farmers' Day or Kisan</b> : also marks the birth anniversary of the 'Champion of Indian Peasants' and the fifth Prime Minister of India, <b>Chaudhary Charan Singh</b> .
December 24	National Consumer Day or Bharatiya Grahak Diwas.
December 25	In honour of former Indian Prime Minister <b>Atal Vihari Vajpayee's</b> birthday, "Good Governance Day".
25th December	<b>Gwalior Gaurav Diwas</b> is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna <b>Atal Bihari Vajpayee</b> .
26th December	<b>Veer Bal Diwas 2022</b> on the occasion of the Prakash Purab of <b>Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji</b> .
December 27	International Day of Epidemic Preparedness on serves the purpose of creating awareness about epidemics.

## Obituaries (National/International)

### Obituaries (National/International) of March

S.NO.	Person Died	Profession/Famous In?
<b>Actor/Director/Producer (National-International)</b>		
1	Satish Kaushik	Actor-writer-director
2	Sameer Khakhar	Actor
3	Pradeep Sarkar	Filmmaker
4	Vareed Thekkethala	Actor
<b>Author/Journalist/Activist/Painter (National-International)</b>		
1	Sasthipada Chattopadhyay	Bengali novelist and short story writer
<b>Others (National-International)</b>		
1	Chandrashekhar Dasgupta	Diplomat
2	A.M. Ahmadi	CJI
3	Gordon Moore	American businessman

### Obituaries (National/International) of February

S.No.	Person Died	Profession/Famous In?
<b>Politician (National-International)</b>		
1	Shanti Bhushan	Former Union law minister and eminent jurist
2	Pervez Musharraf	Pakistan's former president





3	Om Prakash Kohli	Governor
<b>'Singer/Musician/Dancer' (National-International)</b>		
1	Vani Jayaram	Playback Singer
2	Burt Bacharach	Songwriter
3	Balipa Narayan Bhagwat	Yakshgana Singer
4	Kanak Rele	Mohiniattam Exponent
<b>Actor/Director/Producer (National-International)</b>		
1	K. Vishwanath	Director
2	Javed Khan Amrohi	Actor
3	Lalitha Lajmi	Filmmaker
4	Shahnawaz Pradhan	Actor
5	Nandamuri Taraka Ratna	Actor
6	Subi Suresh	Actor
<b>Author/Journalist/Activist/Painter (National-International)</b>		
1	K.V. Tirumalesh	Kannada writer
2	B.K.S. Verma	Painter
<b>Sportsmen/Sportswomen (National-International)</b>		
1	Elena Fanchini	Skier
2	Tulsidas Balaram	Footballer
<b>Others (National-International)</b>		
1	TCA Ramanujam	retired chief commissioner of income taxes

### Obituaries (National/International) of January

	Person Died	Profession/Famous In?
<b>Politician (National-International)</b>		
1.	Sharad Yadav	Politician
2.	Keshari Nath Tripathi	Governor
3.	Mukarram Jah Bahadur	The last Nizam of Hyderabad
4.	J Jamuna	Parliamentarian and actor

<b>'Singer/Musician (National-International)</b>		
5.	Sumitra Sen	Rabindra Sangeet exponent
6.	Ray Cordeiro	Disc jockey
7.	David Crosby	Father of American folk-rock
<b>Actor/Director/Producer (National-International)</b>		
8.	Gina Lollobrigida	Actress
<b>Sportsmen/Sportswomen (National-International)</b>		
9.	Gianluca Vialli	Footballer
10.	Sabir Ali	Athlete
<b>Others (National-International)</b>		
11.	<a href="#">Pope</a> Benedict XVI	Religion
12.	R Krishnakumar	Businessman
13.	Walter Cunningham	Astronaut
14.	Ronald E. Asher	linguist and educator specialised in Dravidian languages
15.	Dr Tehemton Erach Udwadia	'father of laparoscopic surgery in India'
16.	AD Damodaran	Scientist
17.	Lucile Randon	French nun
18.	Prabhaben Sobhagchand Shah	Social worker
19.	Nilamani Phookan	Assamese poet
20.	Harjeet Singh Arora	Former Vice Chief of Air Staff
21.	Dr Balkrishna Vitaldas Doshi	Architect





**Obituaries (National/International) of December**

	Person Died	Profession/Famous In?
<b>Politician (National-International)</b>		
1.	Jiang Zemin	former President of China
2.	Dominique Lapierre	Freedom at Midnight Authors
3.	Prof Yoginder K Alagh	renowned economist, academic and a former Union minister
4.	Gen Miroslaw Hermaszewski	Poland's only cosmonaut
<b>'Singer/Musician (National-International)</b>		
5.	Sulochana Chavan	Renowned Marathi Lavani singer
<b>Actor/Director/Producer (National-International)</b>		
6.	Vikram Gokhale	Veteran Bollywood actor
<b>Sportsmen/Sportswomen (National-International)</b>		
7.	Grant Wahl	Highly-regarded American soccer journalist
8.	, George Cohen	England's 1966 World Cup-winning Footballer
9.	Edson Arantes do Nascimento (Pelé)	Brazilian football legend
<b>Others (National-International)</b>		
10.	Vikram S Kirloskar	India's automotive industry stalwart and Toyota Kirloskar Motor vice chairperson,
11.	Lance Naik, Bhairon Singh Rathore	BSF veteran and hero of the 1971 India-Pakistan War
12.	H.R. Keshava Murthy	Senior gamaka exponent
13.	Heeraben Modi (Hiraben Modi)	Mother of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, passed away
14.	Arata Isozaki	Pritzker-winning Japanese architect

**Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners**

**Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of March**

- "Chip 4" alliance - Japan, the United States, South Korea, and Taiwan.
- The Ajanta Ellora International Festival 2023 was held from 25<sup>th</sup> February to 27<sup>th</sup> February in Aurangabad, Maharashtra.
- The World Book Fair began in New Delhi where books from all genres from children to students to adults are showcased for everyone.
- India has joined a global initiative started by the US and the UAE to boost funding and assistance for the development of climate-smart agriculture and food systems.
- The government e-Marketplace (GeM) held a celebration to celebrate "SWAYATT," a programme to support startups, women, and youth advantage through e-Transactions on GeM, which has been a major success. SWAYATT is a programme that seeks to increase the benefits of e-Transactions on government e-Marketplaces (GeM) for startups, women, and young people.
- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced that two Australian universities Wollongong and Deakin are set to establish campuses in Gujarat's 'GIFT City'.

- 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.
- Arun Subramanian, an attorney, has been appointed as the first Indian American judge of the Manhattan Federal District Court in New York.
- The world's first 200-metre-long bamboo crash barrier has been installed on a highway connecting Chandrapur and Yavatmal districts in Maharashtra. Named 'Bahu Balli', the bamboo crash barrier underwent "rigorous testing" at various government-run institutions like the National Automotive Test Tracks (NATRAX) in Pithampur, Indore.
- FinEMPOWER, a new initiative from BSE and UN Women India, was introduced at the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).
- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has launched the "Learning Science via Standards" initiative to promote science learning among school students.
- The Vande Bharat Express is now being driven by Surekha Yadav, the first female locomotive pilot in Asia. From Solapur to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminal (CSMT) in Maharashtra, Yadav ran the Vande Bharat Express.





- Connaught Plaza in Delhi will host a **Flower Festival** beginning from, March 11. It aims to emphasise the diversity of **G20** participants and invited nations. **Japan, Singapore, and the Netherlands are among the G20 nations taking part.**
- Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has unveiled **Rs 1,18,500 crore** budget for Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory for the next financial year.
- 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.
- India's External Affairs Minister, **S Jaishankar**, inaugurated the "**Geoffrey Bawa: It is Essential To Be There**" exhibition at the National Gallery of **Modern Art** in New Delhi.
- **Sampanna Ramesh Shelar**, a Bachelor of Physical Education student, has set a new record by becoming the fastest Indian in the under-21 category to swim across the **Palk Strait, from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka to Dhanuskodi in Tamil Nadu.**
- Google Doodle: **Kitty O'Neil**, a famous American stuntwoman and actress who was deaf from a young age, was commemorated by Google on her **77th birthday anniversary** with a doodle featuring her in a yellow jumpsuit.
- The **National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)** has partnered with the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, the French Development Agency (**AFD**), and the European Union to organize the first-ever Urban Climate Film Festival as part of the CITIIS program under **U20** engagement events.
- As part of the '**Drowning Prevention Awareness**' campaign, Indian Police Service (IPS) officer **Krishna Prakash** swam from Gateway of India to Elephanta Caves, Mumbai.
- **Lt. Manmeet Colon**, who is of Indian origin and a Sikh woman officer, has recently taken up the position of assistant police chief in the state of Connecticut, becoming the first-ever person of Asian descent to hold the position.
- To commemorate the **69th anniversary** of its official inauguration by **Vice President Dr. S Radhakrishnan** on March 29, 1954, the National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi will host its first-ever "**Spring Fiesta**" in 2023.

**Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of February**

- An international sand artist named **Sudarsan Pattnaik** made a sand sculpture of the late singer **Lata Mangeshkar** at **Puri Beach** in the state of Odisha to commemorate her first death anniversary.
- **Visva-Bharati University** was founded by **Rabindranath in 1921**. It will soon receive the UNESCO 'heritage' tag.
- Google honored **PK Rosy** who became the first female lead in **Malayalam cinema** with a doodle.

- The **Government of India** has launched a mobile app "**KhananPrahari**" and a web app Coal Mine Surveillance and Management System (CMSMS) for reporting unauthorized coal mining activities
- A new **beetle** species have been discovered in India, according to a paper published in the **New Zealand-based journal Zootaxa**. The beetle is important for forensic science as it helps detect the time of death of an animal or human. **Omorgus Khandesh** is necrophagous and is also called a keratin beetle.
- Centre has banned **Jammu and Kashmir Ghaznavi Force (JKGF)**, and the **Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF)**. **Harwinder Singh Sandhu alias Rinda**, who was one of the masterminds behind an attack on the intelligence headquarters of the Punjab Police in 2021, was declared a terrorist.
- At **ELECRAMA 2023**, the largest solo electrical exhibition in the world held at the **India Expo Mart** in Greater Noida, the Ministry of Power, Government of India displayed a number of advances in the energy sector.
- **Divya Kala Mela 2023** is a unique event showcasing the products and craftsmanship of **Divyang entrepreneurs/artisans** from across the country and has been started in Mumbai.

**Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of January**

- A team of astronomers led by scientists at the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics** and their international collaborators decided to study the most massive globular cluster system in our galaxy, **Omega Centauri**. They have detected strange hot stars in the cluster using the Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (UVIT) image on AstroSat. They have found that these hot stars emitted much less ultraviolet radiation than expected from theoretical models and in comparison, with stars of another **globular cluster, M13** has similar overall properties.





- India's first underwater metro service, **The Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation (KMRC)** said that the East-West Metro Corridor project, is expected to be completed by **December 2023**. With this, another feather is being added to the crown of Kolkata Metro, the first metro railway in the country. Kolkata Metro, which started its journey in 1984, is being expanded to cover the whole city and its outskirts. The underwater metro, which will be running through the Hoogly river will connect the twin cities of Howrah and Kolkata.
- Union Home and Cooperation Minister **Amit Shah** inaugurated **Mega Dairy** at Mandya in Karnataka. The mega dairy inaugurated at a cost of Rs 260 crore would process 10 lakh liters of milk per day and the will have the capacity to increase it upto 14 lakh liters per day. 10 lakh liters of milk is processed, prosperity reaches the homes of lakhs of farmers. There are 15,210 village level cooperative dairies in Karnataka, in which about 26.22 lakh farmers deliver their milk daily and through 16 district level dairies, Rs 28 crore is deposited into the accounts of 26 lakh farmers every day.
- 50 electric buses were launched in Delhi with support under the **FAME India Phase II scheme** of the Ministry of Heavy Industries. In 2019, the government approved Rs 10,000 crore for a period of three years. Out of total budgetary support, about 86 percent of the fund has been allocated for incentives so as to create demand for electric vehicles.
- **Ghaziabad-Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay section (762 KM)** becomes the longest fully **automatic block signalling section** of Indian Railways. In order to increase line capacity to run more trains on existing High Density Routes of Indian Railways, Automatic Block Signalling (ABS) is a cost effective solution. Indian Railways has been rolling out Automatic Block signalling on a mission mode.
- The TRF came into existence in **2019** as a proxy outfit of the **Lashkar-e-Taiba**, a proscribed terrorist organisation. Home Ministry said that **TRF** is recruiting youth through online mediums for the furtherance of terrorist activities. Centre has declared The Resistance Front (TRF) as a terrorist organisation under the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, UAPA**.
- The **Ministry of Culture** has informed the parliament that fifty of India's 3,693 centrally protected monuments have been missing. The submission of the missing report was done by the Ministry of Culture on **8th December 2022** to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism, and Culture as part of a report titled '**Issues relating to Untraceable Monuments and Protection of Monuments in India.**' Many monuments and sites were lost to activities like **urbanization**, the construction of dams and reservoirs, and even encroachment. **14 Monuments** have been lost due to rapid urbanization; 12 monuments are submerged by reservoirs while 24 are untraceable. There are total of 50 monuments missing.
- Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying Parshottam Rupala inaugurated 29 **Mobile Veterinary Units (MVU)** and a Centralized call center in **Thiruvananthapuram**. It is a major step for benefit of the livestock farmers in Kerala.
- **The International Kite Festival 2023** has began on 8 January in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**. The festival is being organised by Gujarat Tourism on the G20 theme of '**One Earth, One Family, One Future**'.
- **MS Dhoni** and drone market **Garuda Aerospace** have launched a a surveillance drone named '**Droni**.' Droni is a battery-operated quadcopter surveillance drone.
- **Vidisha**, became the first district ever in India for on-ground implementation of groundbreaking **5G** use cases proposed by startups
- "**Soul of Steel**" a new challenge to test **high-altitude endurance** will be launched in India. Spearheaded by venture **CLAW Global**, it will take place in **Uttarakhand**.
- India's **deepest underground** station, will be on the **Pune Metro**.
- **María Branyas Morera** has likely become the world's oldest living person at 115, a Guinness World Records.
- **Jammu & Kashmir** becomes the first **union territory in India** to completely switch to a digital method of administration.
- **Jammu and Kashmir's governments** have declared the union territory as a "Free Area" for purposes of the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act 2009.
- The **Archeological Survey of India (ASI)** of the Patna circle has unearthed 1200 years old two miniature votive stupas near the Sarai Tila mound on the "**Nalanda Mahavihara**" grounds in the Nalanda district.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF) has listed **Neelakurinji** under Schedule III of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, including it on the list of protected plants.
- **Michele Santelia** has achieved a world record by typing copies of 81 books backwards, a technique that he calls 'mirror writing', as per a report by the **Guinness World Records (GWR)**.
- Regional carrier **Flybig** commenced its services from **Itanagar to Guwahati**.
- Union Minister of State for Culture **Arjun Ram Meghwal** handed over the 9th to 10th century Nataraja Idol to the Archeological Department official in Chittorgarh Fort in **Rajasthan**.
- India's first STEM Innovation and Learning Center (SILC) is inaugurated under the scheme of Vanavil Mandram at the Government Higher Secondary School, MMDA Colony, Chennai by the **American India Foundation (AIF)**.





- The **Jammu and Kashmir** Government is set to host their first SARAS Fair 2023 from 4th February to 14th February 2023.
- **East Coast Railways' Visakhapatnam railway station** has received the prestigious '**Green Railway Station Certification**' with the highest Platinum rating. The certificate has been awarded by the **Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)**.
- '**Cyber Sangini**' Programme - **Oppo India** and the Government's Common Service Centre (CSC) Academy have announced training 10,000 women in cybersecurity and cyber wellness in the country. The initiative of the partnership between Oppo India and CSC is to empower rural and semi-urban women.
- The Indian Railways has also introduced the **Ideal Train Profile** to maximize the capacity utilization and revenue generation in reserved mail express trains by regularly analyzing the demand pattern of every single train.
- PepsiCo Foundation, the philanthropic arm of **PepsiCo** and **CARE**, have launched '**She Feeds the World**' program in **India** to strengthen the role of small-scale women producers through sustainable training and economic support.

**Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of December**

- **The Tamil Nadu Government**, issued a notification declaring **Arittappatti and Meenakshipuram villages in Madurai district** the first biodiversity heritage site in the State.
- The **world's largest active volcano** erupted in **Hawaii** for the first time in four decades. **Mauna Loa** erupted at 11.30 pm according to the U.S. Geological Survey
- '**Yaanam**,' a non-feature film, was screened under the Indian Panorama section at the 53rd edition of the International Film Festival at Goa. It is based on the autobiographical book "**My Odyssey: Memoirs of the Man Behind the Mangalyaan Mission**" by former space chairman Padma Bhushan Dr K. Radhakrishnan
- The US dictionary publisher **Merriam-Webster** announced that their 2022 word of the year is "**gaslighting**" or as Merriam-Webster defines it, "**the act or practice of grossly misleading someone especially for one's own advantage.**"
- **The Himalayan Yak** has been approved as a '**food animal**' by the **FSSAI**.
- **Airline EasyJet** and Aircraft Engine maker **Rolls-Royce** announced that they have successfully tested a **hydrogen-powered aircraft engine**, which is described as the **World's First** for aviation.
- **Nagpur Metro** has successfully created a Guinness World Record by constructing the **longest double-decker viaduct (metro)** is **3,140 meters** and was achieved by the **Wardha Road** in Nagpur.
- The Mandous: **second cyclone** of the post monsoon season formed over **southwest Bay of Bengal** and hit the east coast in **Tamil Nadu, Puducherry** and **Andhra Pradesh**

- **Oxford Dictionaries** word of the year 2022: "**goblin mode**" meaning the term as "a type of behavior which is unapologetically self-indulgent, lazy, slovenly, or greedy, typically in a way that rejects social norms or expectations.
- The national capital has got its first transgender councillor after **Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP)**, **Bobby Kinnar** has won the civic polls from Sultanpuri-A ward. Bobby Kinnar (38) was given a ticket from Sultanpuri A (ward 43) seat.
- The '**dream crew**' for the first civilian mission to the moon has been announced and it includes Indian actor **Dev Joshi**. Japanese billionaire **Yusaku Maezawa** has informed that Indian actor Dev Joshi, K-Pop star T.O.P. will be among the eight people who will join him on a flyby around the moon on a SpaceX spaceship.
- Three medicinal plant species found in the **Himalayas** have made it to **IUCN** Red List of Threatened Species : **Meizotropis pellita** assessed as 'critically endangered', **Fritilloria cirrhosa** as 'vulnerable', and **Dactylorhiza hatagirea** as 'endangered'.
- A first-of-its-kind **Tribal Winter Festival** was held in the **Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir**
- The **Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar** has got A grade by scoring 3.85 points in **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)** grading, thereby becoming the only University in India to get this score. GNDU is the only State/Central/Private University in India to get this score. **Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)** is the only other educational institution with a higher grade of 3.89 in the country.
- **India's longest escape tunnel**, which is 12.89 km long constructed on the 111 km under-construction **Banihal-Katra railway line in Jammu and Kashmir** was completed by the Indian Railways. The longest tunnel is part of the **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line (USBRL) project**.
- With the onset of **winter solstice**, one of the harshest winter periods of 40 days, called **Chillai Kalan**, has begun in **Kashmir**.

