

CURRENT AFFAIRS

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Jan to May, 2023

TRENDING

JANUARY

➤ **GOLDEN GLOBES 2023**

- **SS Rajamouli's "RRR"** has won the **best original song** for "**Na atu Naatu**" track.
- The movie was also nominated for the 'best picture-non English'.
- **Composed by: MM Keeravaani and sung by: Kala Bhairava and Rahul Sipligunj**
- **Best Film: Drama:** The Fabelmans, **Musical or Comedy:** The Banshees of Inisherin
- **Best Drama Series:** House of the Dragon

➤ **FIRST STATE TO IMPLEMENT BLINDNESS CONTROL POLICY**

- Implemented by: **Rajasthan**
- **Objective:** ensuring the “**right to sight**”.
- **Aim:** to reduce the rate of blindness, and help **over 3 lakh people suffering from visual impairment.**
- The **prevalence rate of blindness** i.e., 1.1% in 2020, will be brought down to **0.3%**.
- Rajasthan Capital: **Jaipur**, Governor: **Kalraj Mishra**

➤ **74th Republic Day Highlights:**

- **India** observed its **74th Republic Day** on 26th January 2023.
- Theme: **Jan Bhagidari**
- Chief Guest: **Abdel Fattah El-Sisi (Egyptian President)**
- For the first time, 21-gun salute was given with **105-mm Indian Field Guns**, replacing the vintage 25-pounder gun.

➤ **PADMA AWARDS FOR YEAR 2023**

- Announced on the eve of the **74th Republic Day** (26th January 2023).

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- Of the 106 Padma awards, **6 are Padma Vibhushan**, 9 are Padma Bhushan and 91 are Padma Shri.
 - **Nineteen of the Padma awardees are women.**
 - **ORS pioneer, Dilip Mahalanobis** will be awarded the **Padma Vibhushan** posthumously in the field of Medicine (Pediatrics).
 - **Mulayam Singh Yadav** will be awarded **Padma Vibhushan** posthumously in the field of public affairs.
- **WORLD'S FIRST INTRANASAL COVID-19 VACCINE**
- **World's first intranasal COVID-19 vaccine: "iNNCOVACC"**
 - **Unveiled by:** Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.
 - This vaccine can easily be altered according to change in variant of the virus.
 - Developed by: **Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL)** with **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance.**
 - **BBIL Founded in: 1996, Founders: Krishna Ella (Executive Chairman), Suchitra Ella**

FEBRURAY

➤ **ANDHRA PRADESH NEW CAPITAL**

- **Visakhapatnam** will be declared **the new capital of Andhra Pradesh.**
- Telangana was carved out of Andhra Pradesh in 2014, the new state got Hyderabad as its capital.
- The Andhra government in 2015 led by TDP's N Chandrababu Naidu, operating out of Hyderabad in the interim, had **declared that Amaravati**, would come up as the new capital.
- Then in 2020, the state planned to have three capital cities — Visakhapatnam for the executive, Amaravati for the legislature, and Kurnool for the judiciary.

➤ **ChatGPT Rival by GOOGLE**

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- Google launched its **conversational artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot named 'Bard'**.
 - It will be directly **competing with Microsoft-backed firm OpenAI's ChatGPT**.
 - It will combine the world's knowledge with the power, intelligence, and creativity of language models.
 - Bard is **based on LaMDA, the firm's Language Model** for the Dialogue Applications system.
 - It helps to **draw information from the web** to provide high-quality responses.
 - **Google CEO: Sundar Pichai**
- **WORLD'S FIRST LIVING HERITAGE UNIVERSITY**
- **Visva-Bharati University** will receive the 'heritage' tag from UNESCO to become **world's first living heritage university**.
 - This university was **founded by Rabindranath Tagore in 1921**.
 - It is one of India's major Central Government funded autonomous universities.
 - The institution was given the **status of a Central University in 1951 through a central Act**.
 - The **Vice-chancellor of the University is appointed by the President of India**.
- **WORLD GOVERNMENT SUMMIT 2023**
- The World Government Summit 2023 is set to begin on **13th February 2023** in **Dubai**.
 - The World Government Summit will be held under the theme of **"Shaping Future Governments"**.
 - Global thought leaders, experts, and decision-makers will gather.
 - The summit aims to develop tools, policies, and models for shaping future governments.
- **FIRST PHASE OF DELHI-MUMBAI EXPRESSWAY**
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the **first phase** of the **1,400 kilometres** long **Delhi-Mumbai expressway** in **Rajasthan's Dausa**.

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- The **246-kilometre Delhi-Dausa-Lalsot stretch** of the expressway will cut down the travel time from **Delhi to Jaipur** from five hours to around **three and a half hours**.
- It is also expected to boost economic opportunities in the entire region.
- Eight-lane-wide and nearly 1,400 kms long, it is being built at a staggering cost of over one lakh crore rupees. It is expandable to accommodate 12 lanes.

➤ LADAKH SETS GUINNESS WORLD RECORD

- Ladakh conducted **21 km long frozen lake marathon** at 13,862 feet high **Pangong Tso**.
- It was registered in the **Guinness world record** as the **world's highest frozen lake half marathon**.
- Run was flagged off by **Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC (Leh) Tashi Gyalsen**.

MARCH

➤ GSM ASSOCIATION (GSMA) GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP AWARD 2023:

- Won by: **India**; Held at: **Mobile World Congress, Barcelona**.
- Reason: **For implementing best practices in telecom policy and regulation**.
- The GSMA is a global organisation unifying the mobile ecosystem to discover, develop and deliver innovation foundational to positive business environments and societal change

➤ SILICON VALLEY BANK COLLAPSE:

- **Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)** shuttered **Silicon Valley Bank (SVB)** and seized its deposits in the **second-largest bank collapse in U.S. history since 2008 Recession**.
- **Silicon Valley Bank** was **founded** in 1983 by **Wells Fargo**.
- Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) was a state-chartered commercial bank **headquartered in Santa Clara, California**.
- The bank was part of SVB Financial Group, a publicly traded bank holding company that had offices in 13 other U.S. states and over a dozen international jurisdictions

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➤ TIME MAGAZINE'S 50 GREATEST PLACES IN THE WORLD FOR 2023.

- Among the chosen destinations are two locations from India: **Ladakh and Mayurbhanj.**
- **Ladakh** is famous for its breathtaking landscapes, crystal-clear lakes, and snow-capped mountains.
- On the other hand, **Mayurbhanj** is a **lesser-known destination located** in the eastern state of **Odisha.**
- The list highlights two current major trends in travel: **sustainability and authenticity.**
- **Top 2 Places:** Tampa, Florida: and Willamette Valley, Oregon.

➤ OSCARS 2023:

- The song 'Naatu Naatu' from the Indian film RRR has **won the Oscar** in the Best Original Song category at the 95th Oscar Awards.
- Composed by **MM Keeravani** with lyrics penned by **Chandrabose.**
- **Naatu Naatu" which means " raw and rustic" in Telugu.**
- RRR is the first Indian film to be nominated for Academy Awards in the last two decades, while 'Naatu Naatu' was the first Indian song to be nominated for an Oscar.
- **Best Picture:** Everything Everywhere All At Once; **Actor In A Leading Role:** Brendan Fraser (The Whale); **Actress In A Leading Role:** Michelle Yeoh (Everything Everywhere All At Once).
- **First awarded:** May 16, 1929

➤ WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT 2023

- Published by: **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network**
- India rank: **125**
- India's neighboring countries such as Nepal, China, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka have a higher ranking than India.

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- **Finland tops** the ranking for the **sixth consecutive year** with a score of 7.8 followed by Denmark and Iceland.
- **Afghanistan has ranked last.**
- **ASIA'S LARGEST 4-METER INTERNATIONAL LIQUID MIRROR TELESCOPE**
 - Inaugurated by: **Union Minister of Science & Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh.**
 - At: **Devasthal in Uttarakhand.**
 - It is situated at an altitude of **2450 meters** at the observatory, which lies at the campus of Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences.
 - The ILMT employs a 4-meter-diameter rotating mirror, which was made up of a thin layer of liquid mercury, to collect and focus light.

APRIL

- **FINLAND BECOMES 31ST MEMBER OF NATO**
 - The Secretary General of the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**, **Jens Stoltenberg** has informed that **Finland** has become the **31st member** of the alliance.
 - Turkey's approval has allowed the **extension of NATO.**
 - Finland shares a **long border (over 1,300 kilometers) with Russia**, and its decision to join **NATO** was prompted by security concerns following **Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.**
 - However, **Turkey and Hungary** have declined Sweden's application to join **NATO.**
 - **NATO** was established in **1949** with the signing of the **North Atlantic Treaty in Washington D.C.**
 - **Aim:** Collective defense against potential Soviet aggression.
 - This means attacks on all member countries, and all members are obliged to respond to such an attack.

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- This **principle** has played an important role in deterring **potential adversaries and maintaining stability in Europe and North America.**

➤ INDIA'S TIGER CENSUS:

- **Increased by:** 200 in four years to **3,167 from 2,967** in 2018.
- Report named: **'Status of Tigers, India 2022.**
- PM Modi said it is phenomenal success of the Project Tiger, which has completed 50 years.
- India is also the largest tiger range country in the entire world
- India hosts some **75% of the global tiger population** living in forests.
- India is the **only country to hold a population** of Asiatic Lions and single-horned rhinoceros population.
- Western Ghats showed a significant decline in numbers **from 981 in 2018 to 824 in 2022.**
- Project Tiger is a tiger conservation programme **launched on April 1, 1973** by the Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's tenure.

➤ NATIONAL PARTY STATUS:

- **Aam Aadmi Party or AAP** elevated to **national party status.**
- Party Ruling in: **Punjab and Delhi.**
- Based on votes secured in: Delhi, Goa, Punjab and Gujarat.
- **Status taken away from:** Trinamool Congress, Nationalist Congress Party and the Communist Party of India.
- **Election Commissioner of India:** Anup Chandra Pandey and Arun Goel
- **ECI founded:** **25 January 1950** celebrated as Voter's Day.
- 1st Chief of Election Commission: **Sukumar Sen.**
- **Article 324-329** of the Constitution deals provides for the Election Commission.

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➤ NORTHEAST'S FIRST AIIMS

- PM Modi has inaugurated the All Indian Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) in **Guwahati, Assam.**
- It would be Northeast's **first AIIMS hospital.**
- AIIMS was established in **1956**, under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.
- The **first AIIMS** was established in **New Delhi**, and currently, there are a total of 9 AIIMS institutes in India.

➤ FIRST GLOBAL BUDDHIST SUMMIT

- PM Modi will inaugurate the first Global Buddhist Summit in New Delhi on April 20, 2023.
- Theme 2023: **Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis**
- Hosted by: **Ministry of Culture and its grantee body International Buddhist Confederation.**
- Buddhism was founded by **Siddhartha Gautama**, also known as the Buddha, who lived in the 5th century BCE in what is now **Nepal and northern India.**
- The Buddhist scriptures, known as the **Tripitaka or Three Baskets**, are written in **Pali, Sanskrit**, and other languages and contain the teachings of the Buddha and his followers.

➤ OPERATION KAVERI:

- **Purpose:** to evacuate its stranded citizens from Sudan.
- Aircrafts used: Two C-130s aircraft and the navy ship INS Sumedha.
- Sudan rescue ops named **Operation Kaveri** like **Ukraine rescue ops** named Operation Ganga.
- **Planned by:** Indian Armed Forces and Ministry of External Affairs
- Kaveri is one of the major Indian rivers flowing through Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

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- It is also known as the **Cauvery River** and is around **765 km in length**.
- The Kaveri Water Dispute between the states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu is one of the longest-running inter-state river water disputes in India.

➤ **TRENDS IN WORLD MILITARY EXPENDITURE 2022:**

- **Published by:** Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
- Total global military expenditure **increased by 3.7%**.
- The three largest spenders in 2022 are the **USA, China, and Russia**, accounting for 56% of the total world.
- The US remains by far the world's biggest military spender
- India's spending of **\$81.4 billion** was the **fourth highest in the world**.
- First defence minister of India was Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

➤ **FIRST-EVER CENSUS OF WATER BODIES:**

- **Conducted by:** Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- **Aim:** Create a list of India's water resources, including both natural and man-made bodies.
- **Top 5 (number of water bodies):** WB, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Assam.

MAY

➤ **INDIA'S LONGEST SKYWALK BRIDGE:**

- Location: **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
- **Inaugurated by:** CM MK Stalin.
- The bridge connects the **Mambalam railway station and T Nagar Bus Terminus**.
- Size: **570 meter long and 4.2 meter wide**.
- **Constructed by:** Greater Chennai Corporation at a cost of 28.45 crore.

➤ **RS. 2000 NOTES WITHDRAWN FROM CIRCULATION:**

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- RBI announced to **withdraw Rs. 2000 denomination notes** from circulation on **19 May, 2023**.
- The Note will **continue to remain as legal tender**.
- The Note can be **exchanged or deposited** in bank accounts till **September 30, 2023**, after which it will **not be a legal tender**.
- The decision is taken under **RBI's Clean Note Policy**.
- **The policy aims to remove all counterfeit and mutilated notes from circulation**.
- The Note was introduced on **8th November 2016** under **Section 24 (1) of RBI Act, 1934**.
- RBI Founded: **1 April 1935**; RBI Nationalized: **1 January 1949**; HQ: **Mumbai**; RBI Governor: **Shaktikanta Das (25th)**.
- **Earlier Instances of Demonetisation:**
 - **1946:** Rs 500, Rs 1000, and Rs 10,000 notes demonetized
 - **1978:** Rs 1,000, Rs 5,000 and Rs 10,000 notes are demonetized
 - **2014:** Notes issued before 2005 withdrawn
 - **2016:** Rs 500, Rs 1000 notes demonetised

➤ INDIA'S NEW PARLIAMENT:

- Inaugurated by: **PM Narendra Modi**.
- Installed a **historic sceptre 'Sengol'** near the Lok Sabha Speaker's chair.
- The **'Sengol'** was **first given to the first PM of India, Jawaharlal Nehru**.
- The Sengol represents **a symbol of the transfer of power from the British Government to India**.
- The idea of Sengol was the brainchild of **C.Rajagopalachari**, who was inspired by the **Chola Dynasty**.
- The "sengol" was created by the Chennai-based jeweller **Vummidi Bangaru Chetty**.
- The "sengol" is **five feet long staff with its top adorned by Nandi**.

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- Foundation stone: **10th of December 2020** by PM Modi.
- Built-up area of **65 thousand square metres** in a **triangular shape** ensures optimum space utilization.
- The Lok Sabha Hall has **888 seats** and it is based **on the peacock theme**, the National Bird.
- The Rajya Sabha will have a **capacity of 384 seats** and it is based **on a lotus theme**, the National Flower.
- The Lok Sabha Hall will be able to accommodate **1,272 seats for joint sessions**.
- **Cost of the Project:** Rs. 970 crore.
- A notable addition to the new Parliament House is the **Constitutional Hall**.
- **Constructed by:** TATA Projects Ltd.
- It is a part of the **Central Vista Redevelopment Project**
- **Bimal Patel is the chief architect** of the building.
- The old parliament was inaugurated **on 18 January 1927** designed by **Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker**.
- The old Parliament House is now a museum.
- Old Parliament had **543 Lok Sabha seats and 300 Rajya Sabha seats**.

NATIONAL

1. **Prime Minister Modi** will inaugurate the **108th Indian Science Congress** on 3rd Jan, 2023.
 - Theme 2023: **Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment**
 - Inauguration Host: Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University (RTMNU).
 - **2023** has been also declared as the **International Year of Millets**.
2. The **Election Commission** has appointed **folk singer, Maithili Thakur** as the **state icon** for **Bihar**.

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- She will create awareness among the voters for their participation in the electoral process.
 - She was born in **Madhubani district of Bihar**.
 - She was recently selected for the **Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar** of the **Sangeet Natak Akademi** for her contribution to the **folk music of Bihar for 2021**.
 - First Election Commissioner of India: **Sukumar Sen**, Formed: **25 Jan, 1950**
3. **Captain Shiva Chauhan** became the **first woman officer** to be operationally deployed in Kumar Post (height: 15,632 feet).
- The Kumar Post is located at the **highest battlefield in the world-Siachen**.
 - She hails from **Rajasthan**.
4. **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has started '**Mission 929**' in **Tripura**.
- **Aim:** to increase the voter turnout to 92% in the next assembly elections in 929 booths.
 - These booths recorded a voter turnout of less than 89% in the 2018 assembly polls.
5. **President Droupadi Murmu** has inaugurated the **18th National Scout and Guide Jamboree**, at **Rohat** in the **Pali district of Rajasthan**.
- Rajasthan is hosting Jamboree after 66 years.
 - **Theme:** Progress with Peace.
 - The first National Scout and Guide Jamboree was held in **Andhra Pradesh in 1951**.
 - The 17th Jamboree was held in Mysuru, Karnataka in December 2016 -January 2017.
6. **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala** has opened the world's **first museum of palm leaf manuscripts**, enriching the state culturally and educationally.
- These documents are written on clean and clear palm leaves, which are furnished in the record rooms.
 - Capital: Thiruvananthapuram; CM: Pinarayi Vijayan.
7. **Gujarat Chief Minister, Bhupendra Patel** has **inaugurated the International Kite Festival 2023** in **Ahemdabad**, organised from the 8th to 14th January, 2023.

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- Theme: 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'.
8. **Noted academic and poet, Prof Rehman Rahi** has been passed away at the age of 98.
- He received the **Sahitya Akademi Award** for his collection of poems 'Nawroz-i-Saba' in 1961.
 - He was honoured with the country's highest literary award, the Jnanpith, for his work "**Siyah Rood-e-Jaerenn Manz**" in 2007.
 - He has also awarded **Padma Shri in 2000** by the govt of India.
9. **Kerala Chief Minister, Pinarayi Vijayan** has declared **Kerala** as the **first state** in the country to go **fully digital in its banking service**.
- He has also announced that the ambitious **Kerala Fibre Optic Network (KFON)** project of the state government will reduce the digital divide.
 - Kerala Capital: **Thiruvananthapuram**
10. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has virtually inaugurated the **two-day Global Investors Summit in Indore, Madhya Pradesh**.
- Attended by: Chandrika Prasad Santokhi (President of Suriname) and Dr Mohammed Irfan Ali (President of Guyana).
 - Theme: '**Madhya Pradesh - a future-ready state**'.
 - Madhya Pradesh Capital: **Bhopal**, Governor: **Shri Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel**
11. **ReNew Power** has installed **India's first 3x platform wind turbine generators (WTGs)** in **Gadag, Karnataka**.
- The WTGs have a nameplate capacity of 3.3-3.465 MW and are 128-140m in height.
 - Aim: To improve capacity over models installed in India, which have a capacity of 2-3 MW.
 - This project will produce enough energy to power over 1 million households in India annually.

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- Chairman and CEO, ReNew Power: **Sumant Sinha**
- 12. Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the **26th National Youth Festival**, organized in **Hubballi, Karnataka** from 12th -16th January 2023.
- This festival is held every year to provide exposure to our talented youth at the national level.
 - Held on: **National Youth Day (12th January)**, celebrated on the **birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda**.
 - Theme of this event: **“Viksit Yuva - Viksit Bharat”**
 - Karnataka Capital: **Bengaluru**, Governor: **Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot**
- 13. Kerala CM, Pinarayi Vijayan** has declared **Kollam district** as the **first Constitution-literate district** in the country.
- It is achieved through **'The Citizen'**, a Constitution literacy campaign.
 - Launched by: **Kollam district** panchayat, the **District Planning Committee**, and the **Kerala Institute of Local Administration**.
 - To provide constitution literacy to 23 lakh citizens belonging to 7 lakh families in the district.
 - Kerala Capital: **Thiruvananthapuram**, Governor: **Shri Arif Mohammed Khan**
- 14. Ministry of Tourism** will organize the **first Global Tourism Investors Summit** from **10th to 12th April 2023** at **Pragati Maidan, New Delhi**.
- To bring together global policymakers and business leaders to understand and explore Tourism Business opportunities in India
 - Focus: Promoting India as an investment destination for travel, tourism, and hospitality
- 15. IIT Madras** incubated firm has developed an **Indigenous Mobile Operating System** named **'BharOS'**.
- It can be **installed** on commercial off-the-shelf handsets.

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- It provides access to trusted apps from organization-specific **Private App Store Services (PASS)**.
 - It comes with **No Default Apps (NDA)**, which means that users are **not forced** to use apps that they may not be familiar with or that they may not trust.
 - Developed by: **JandK Operations Private Limited**.
- 16.** The **first phase** of the **caste-based** census kicked off **in Bihar**, in which the number of all households in the state will be counted.
- The Bihar cabinet on June 2, 2022 decided to conduct the **caste-based census** in the state.
 - The census counts religious groups and **Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs)**.
- 17.** **Vidisha**, an **aspirational district of Madhya Pradesh** became the **first ever district in India** for on ground deployment of innovative 5G use cases offered by startups.
- Initiative by: **Vidisha District Administration and Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**.
 - DoT is pioneering the **'5G use case promotional pilot'** for deploying 5G/4G/IoT innovative solutions of Startups & SMEs at **Vidisha**.
- 18.** The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** has chosen **Hyderabad** in Jan 2023, to set up its **Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution** focused on healthcare and life sciences.
- Centre for the **4th Industrial Revolution (C4IR)** will focus on healthcare and life sciences.
 - C4IR is the **18th center** to join the **4th Industrial Revolution Network of the Forum**.
- 19.** Union govt announced, on 13 Jan 2023, to set up **India's first center of excellence** for online gaming in **Shillong, Meghalaya**.
- It is expected to catalyze startups from **India's Northeast** to build the next-generation online gaming ecosystem.

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20. Himachal Pradesh has announced that the state government is planning to make the state as the **first Green Energy State** by the end of **2025**.

- The **state government** would also invest in solar plants and will **install 500 MW solar projects during the year 2023-24**.
- Himachal Pradesh Governor: **Rajendra Vishwanath Arleka**, CM: **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu**

21. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has hosted the **2nd International Conference** in **New Delhi, India** from 23-24 January 2023.

- 2023 Theme: **Use of Technology and Elections Integrity**
- The two-day international conference was inaugurated by **Chief Election Commissioner, Rajiv Kumar**.
- **Around 43 Participants from 17 Countries** including Angola, Argentina, Australia, Croatia, Indonesia, Mauritius, Nepal, Philippines, and Suriname have joined the conference.

22. The government of India has launched the **U-WIN platform**.

- Aim: To digitize **India's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP)**.
- It has been launched in **pilot mode across two districts of each state and union territory**.
- This platform will help in **registering and vaccinating every pregnant woman**, recording her delivery outcome, and administering birth vaccinations.
- It will also act as a **single source of information for reminders of upcoming vaccine doses**.

23. 30th National Child Science Congress started at **Ahmedabad in Gujarat** on **27th January 2023**.

- It is being organized at Science City and will conclude on 31st January 2023.
- Focal theme: **Understanding Ecosystem for Mental and Wellbeing**

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- **Hosted by:** the Gujarat Council on Science and Technology, the Gujarat Council of Science City, and SAL Education.
 - More than **1400 delegates** including child scientists and government officials will attend.
- 24. Asia's second and country's first cable suspension bridge "Bajrang Setu" is being constructed at Rishikesh, Uttarakhand, and will be completed by July 2023.**
- This bridge is coming up next to the famous 90-year-old Laxman Jhula.
 - **Laxman Jhula** was **closed** in **2022** when it was found that it wasn't safe for pedestrians.
 - However, it will not be removed and will be preserved as a heritage.
 - The construction of the new bridge would cost **Rs 67 crores**.
- 25. The iconic Mughal Gardens in Rashtrapati Bhavan has been renamed as the Amrit Udyan.**
- It would be open to the public from 31st January to 26 March 2023.
 - This decision is said to be part of the government of India's 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
 - The cluster of about 15 gardens will collectively be known as **Amrit Udyan**.
 - **Individual gardens** within the sprawling Presidential Estate - Herbal Garden, Musical Garden, and Spiritual Garden - **will retain their names**.
- 26. India's largest car manufacturer company, Suzuki Motor Corporation announced that it will use cow dung to power its CNG cars.**
- Suzuki signed an MoU with **Asia's largest dairy manufacturer, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)**.
 - The **biogas could be used for Suzuki's CNG models** which account for approximately 70 percent of the CNG car market in India.
- 27. Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal has inaugurated a "super site" and a mobile van to collect real-time pollution data and tell its constituents.**
- **Delhi** would become the **first city in the country to get a real-time source segmentation of air pollution**.

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- It will identify factors that are responsible for the increase in air pollution in Delhi.

28. National AIDS Control Organisation form Largest Human Red Ribbon Chain.

- It was formed in **Kalinga Stadium of Bhubaneswar, Odisha** on 19 Jan'23.
- The purpose was to create awareness on AIDS.

FEBRUARY

29. The G20 Cyber Security Exercise and Drill for more than 400 domestic and international participants under India's G20 presidency.

- India holds the Presidency of the G20 from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023.
- **Theme:** India's G20 Presidency "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or "One Earth · One Family · One Future".
- The G20 is an intergovernmental forum comprising 19 countries.
- **India's first Model G-20 Summit** inaugurated by- **India's G-20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant.**

30. Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy has launched the Visit India Year-2023 initiative in New Delhi.

- Logo is inspired by the image of 'Namaste'.
- The campaign aims to encourage travel in the country that currently holds the G-20 presidency.

31. Prime Minister participated in the Krishnaguru Eknaam Akhanda Kirtan for World Peace at Barpeta in Assam.

- Paramguru Krishnaguru Ishwar established the **Krishnaguru Sevashram in 1974**, at Nasatra village in Barpeta, Assam.
- He is the ninth descendant of Mahavaishnab Manohardeva.
- **Krishnaguru Eknaam Akhanda Kirtan for World Peace** is a month-long kirtan.

32. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has inaugurated the 46th International Kolkata Book Fair at Salt Lake.

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- **Spain is the theme country** at the fair.
 - It is the **world's largest non-trade book fair**.
 - It is also the world's third-largest annual conglomeration of books after the Frankfurt Book Fair and the London Book Fair.
- 33. Dharmendra Pradhan** has launched the **Yuva Sangam registration portal** in New Delhi.
- **Aim:** To build close ties between the youth of the North East Region (NER) and the rest of India under the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.
- 34. SEBI** strengthened the framework for **green bonds by introducing the concept of 'blue' and 'yellow' bonds** as new modes of sustainable finance.
- **Blue bonds:** related to water management, and marine sector
 - **Yellow bonds:** pertaining to solar energy
 - **Green Debt Securities:** Debt securities are issued for raising funds that are to be utilized for projects falling under certain categories.
- 35. Reliance Retail** has become the **first Indian retailer to introduce Central Bank Digital Currency**, also known as the **digital rupee**.
- The company has **piloted the use of the Digital Rupee in one store in Mumbai**.
 - collaboration with **Innoviti Technologies, ICICI Bank, and Kotak Mahindra Bank**.
 - The Digital Rupees was first introduced by the RBI on December 1, 2022.
 - Initially, It is limited to Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru, and Bhubaneswar.
- 36. Indian Railways** has introduced **Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC Tourist Train** under the 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat' Scheme.
- This "Garvi Gujarat" tour will depart on 28th February from **Delhi Safdarjung Station**.
 - **Aim:** To showcase the heritage of **vibrant Gujarat**
- 37. The 36th edition of the Surajkund International Crafts Mela** commenced in **Faridabad, Haryana** on February 3, 2023, and will continue till February 19, 2023.

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- **Organized by:** Surajkund Mela Authority; inaugurated **Vice President, Jagdeep Dhankhar.**
 - **Theme state 2023:** North-East region; **Partner nation:** Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.
38. Union Railway minister, **Ashwini Vaishnaw** has informed that **India will receive its first hydrogen train by December 2023.**
- It will **run on heritage circuits like Kalka-Shimla** and later it will be expanded.
 - The **Vande Metro** (mini version of Vande Bharat Express) is also being developed.
 - **Vande Metro Aim:** To help people living around big cities to travel to and fro in comfort.
 - **Railway Budget (2023-24:)** Rs 2.4 lakh crore
39. The government has extended **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM)** scheme till **March 2026.**
- **Reason:** It could not bear the desired result till now due to the COVID uncertainty.
 - PM-KUSUM was **launched in 2019.**
 - **Aim:** To add a solar capacity of 30,800 MW by 2022 with a total central financial support of Rs 34,422 crore.
40. **Yaya Tso lake** has been proposed as **Ladakh's first biodiversity heritage site (BHS)** under the **Biological Diversity Act.**
- The resolution was signed by the village stakeholders and the SECURE Himalaya project.
 - About Yaya Tso Lake:
 - It is known as a bird's paradise.
 - Location: at an altitude of 4,820m in Ladakh.
 - It is also one of India's highest breeding sites of the black-necked crane.
41. **Former Union Law Minister and veteran lawyer, Shanti Bhushan** passed away at the age of 97 in New Delhi.

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- law minister of India **under the Morarji Desai government from 1977 to 1979.**
 - **known for successfully arguing for setting aside the election of Indira Gandhi in 1975.**
 - In his political career, he was a **member of Congress and later joined the Janata Party.**
- 42. According to the recent Global Quality Infrastructure Index (GQII) 2021, the national accreditation system of India under the Quality Council of India (QCI) has been ranked 5th in the world.**
- The GQII ranks 184 economies based on quality infrastructure (QI).
 - India maintains a position in the Top 10, ranked 10th overall in QI.
 - The standardization system (under BIS) ranks 9th, and the metrology system (under NPL-CSIR) ranks 21st in India's QI ranking.
- 43. Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority has organized first National Lok Adalat of 2023 throughout the Union Territory.**
- 142 Benches at various courts across the UT handled a total of 88,723 cases.
 - Out of these cases, 75,250 were resolved and disposed of.
 - The compensation or settlement amount awarded in Motor Accident Claims, civil, criminal, labour disputes, Electricity and Water Bills cases, etc., amounted to Rs. 45,05,14,697/-.
- 44. Strictest Anti-Copying Law of India has come into force in Uttarakhand.**
- It is termed as **Uttarakhand Competitive Examination** (Measures for Prevention and Prevention of Unfair Means in Recruitment) **Ordinance 2023.**
 - Under this, a provision to impose a fine of **10 crores rupees** along with **life imprisonment** or 10 years in jail for the copycat mafia is there.
 - Uttarakhand Capital: **Dehradun (Winter), Gairsain (Summer)**, Governor: **Gurmit Singh**
- 45. Telangana Finance Minister, Harish Rao has informed, that the state government is planning to enact the Clinical Establishment Act.**

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- **Reason:** To regulate the private hospitals in state
 - **Concern:** Related to the private hospitals over irregularities and imposing hefty charges for treatment
 - **Aim:** To improve facilities and provide corporate healthcare for the poor through government hospitals.
 - Telengana Capital: **Hyderabad**, Chief Minister: **Kalvakuntla Chandrashekar Rao**
- 46. According to the Financial Times (FT) Global MBA Ranking 2023, the Post Graduate Programme (PGP) of the Indian School of Business (ISB) ranked the best in India.**
- It is the only **Indian B-school in the top 50** worldwide and has been ranked **39th globally and sixth** in Asia.
 - ISB is also ranked best in India in the research category.
 - While **IIM Bangalore** has been ranked at **52nd position** in the rankings.
 - **Columbia Business School** in the **United States topped the global chart.**
 - ISB Founded: **2001**, Chairperson: **Harish Manwani**
- 47. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has launched a chatbot named Aadhaar Mitra to help people get an answer to their queries related to the Aadhaar card.**
- The **Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML)-based chatbot** can answer queries related to enrolment number, PVC Card order status, and complaint status.
 - It is available in both **English and Hindi languages.**
 - It also shows videos to help the users understand its features and how to use them.
- 48. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam International Foundation and Space Zone India in association with Martin Foundation launched the APJ Abdul Kalam Satellite launch vehicle mission 2023 in Chengalpattu, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.**
- It can be used for weather research and to assess atmospheric conditions and radiation.

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- It was designed and constructed by students from grades 6 to 12 from different parts of the nation including 200 students from the fishermen's community.

- Tamil Nadu Capital: **Chennai**, Governor: **R. N. Ravi**, Chief minister: **M. K. Stalin**

49. MobiKwik has become the first fintech apps to support RuPay Credit Cards on UPI.

- The integration is in line with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** and **Reserve Bank of India's vision** to boost credit card acceptance across merchants that are not part of the credit ecosystem.
- **RuPay Credit Card** are issued by all major banks (private and public sector) in the country.

50. 18th UIC (Union International Des Chemins or International Union of Railways) World Security Congress:

- Commenced in **Jaipur, India** on 21st February 2023.
- Theme 2023: **"Railway Security Strategy: Responses and Vision for Future"**
- Organized by: **International Union of Railways, Paris and Railway Protection Force.**

51. ELECRAMA 2023:

- Held at: **India Expo Mart, Greater Noida.**
- Theme 2023: **Re-imagining the Future: Metamorphosis of the Power Sector in India.**
- Inaugurated by: **RK Singh**, Union Minister for Power.

52. Aam Aadmi Party's Shelly Oberoi became the new Delhi Mayor

- She also becomes **Delhi's first woman mayor in 10 years.**
- Defeated: **BJP's Rekha Gupta**

53. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed a new wheat variety called HD-3385.

- It can overcome the challenges arising out due to changes in weather patterns and rising heat levels.

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- ICAR Founded: **1929**, Director: **Himashu Pathak**, HQ: **New Delhi**

54. Kerala High Court became the **first high court in the country** to **publish judgments** in the **regional language**.

- Kerala High Court made use of **SUVAS (Supreme Court Vidhik Anuwad Software)** tool to translate the judgments.
- CJ of Kerala HC: **S. Manikumar**.

55. New Delhi World Book Fair:

- Started at: **Pragati Maidan, New Delhi**
- Theme: **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**
- Guest of Honour Country: **France**
- National Book Trust Chairman: **Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma**

56. Foundational Literacy and Numeracy report.

- Released by: **Bibek Debroy**, Prepared by: **Institute for Competitiveness**
- **Punjab has emerged as the top-performing state on education and health-related indicators.**
- Meghalaya, D&N Haveli, Nagaland, Telangana, UP, Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, and Ladakh were among underperformed

57. Kerala government has become the **first state in the country** to **use robotic technology** to **clean all its commissioned manholes**.

- Name: **'Bandicoot'**.
- Developed by: **Genrobotics**

MARCH

58. Deakin University of Australia:

- Becomes **First Foreign University** to establish a campus in India.
- Campus will be built in **Gujarat International Financial Tec-City (GIFT) City**.

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- **GIFT city central business district in Gandhinagar and Ahmedabad.**
- It is **India's 1st operational greenfield smart city. Started in 2008.**

59. 8th Edition of the Raisina Dialogue:

- India's flagship conference on **geopolitics and geo-economics**
- Held at: **New Delhi**; Chief Guest: **PM of Italy, Giorgia Meloni**
- Inaugurated by: **PM Narendra Modi**
- Theme 2023: **Provocation, Uncertainty, Turbulence: Lighthouse in the Tempest**
- **Raisina Dialogue started in 2016.**
- **Organized by:** Observer Research Foundation and Ministry of External Affairs.

60. 7th International Dharma-Dhamma Conference:

- Held at: **Bhopal**; Theme: **Eastern Humanism for the New Era**
- Organized by: **India Foundation in collaboration with Sanchi University of Buddhist-Indic Studies.**
- Inaugurated by: **President Droupadi Murmu**
- Purpose: to bring together religious, political and thought leaders from the Buddhists.
- Sanchi University was **established in 2013** by the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

61. India's first air-cooled condenser:

- Commissioned by: **NTPC.**
- At: **North Karanpura plant in Jharkhand.**
- **Purpose:** water conservation through reduce, reuse and recycle.
- **NTPC: National Thermal Power Corporation** Founded: **1975**, HQ: **New Delhi**, Owner: **Ministry of Power, Govt. of India.**

62. Safe City project in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

- First Phase launched by: **Amit Shah**
- **Aim:** to ensure the safety and security of residents in Bengaluru, especially women.

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- The initiative will be financed by **Nirbhaya Funds**.
- The Government of India had set up a fund called 'Nirbhaya Fund' for implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security for women in the country.

63. 53rd district of Madhya Pradesh:

- Name: **Mauganj, Rewa**.
- Announced by: **Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan**.
- **Madhya Pradesh Formed:** 1 November 1956; No. of Legislative Assembly: 230 Seats.

64. 'World's first' bamboo crash barrier:

- Installed by: **Ministry of Road Transport and Highway**
- **200-meter-long** Bamboo Crash Barrier on the **Vani-Warora Highway** in **Maharashtra**.
- Bamboo species used in the making of this barrier is **Bambusa Balcoa**.
- Crash barrier will be an alternative to steel.

65. 3rd International Conference:

- To be hosted by: **Election Commission of India (ECI)**
- Theme: **Inclusive Elections and Elections Integrity**.
- **ECI established:** 25 January, 1950 (National Voters' Day).
- **Article 324** of the constitution established the Election Commission.

66. Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has released the book, 'India's Vaccine Growth Story- From Cowpox to Vaccine Maitri', at World Book Fair in New Delhi.

- **Authored by:** Additional Secretary of Finance Ministry Sajjan Singh Yadav.

67. Vote Fest 2023:

- **Inaugurated by:** Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioners Anup Chandra Pandey and Arun Goel
- **Organized at:** Bengaluru
- **Aim:** To create awareness on the election process in Bengaluru.

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- **Election Commission of India** is established under **Article 324** of **Indian Constitution**.
 - **First Election Commissioner of India** was **Sukumar Sen**.
- 68. Uttarakhand** became **India's first state** to launch the **Resham Keet Bima** scheme for **sericulturists**.
- Sericulturists: **a producer of raw silk**.
 - **India** is the **second largest producer** of **silk** in the world.
 - **China and India** together **contribute 97%** of the silk produced in the world
 - Uttarakhand CM: **Pushkar Singh Dhama**; Governor: **Gurmit Singh**
- 69. Surekha Yadav** will operate the **Vande Bharat Express**.
- **She is Asia's first female locomotive pilot**
 - She will operate the **Vande Bharat Express from Solapur to Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminal, Maharashtra**.
 - The Vande Bharat Express, formerly known as **Train 18**, is a high-performance, electric multiple-unit train operated by Indian Railways. It was designed by **RDSO**.
 - Union Minister of Railway: **Ashwini Vaishnaw**
- 70. In Maharashtra**, a new initiative called '**beggar-free city**' has been started in **Nagpur**.
- This is the joint venture of **Nagpur City police and Nagpur**.
 - **Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC)** has made special arrangements in its owned shelters to restrict homeless people.
 - The civic bodies have also arranged a bus and an ambulance to shift the beggars caught in the police operation to their shelter homes.
 - Capital: **Mumbai**, Chief Minister: **Eknath Sindhe**
- 71. PM Modi** inaugurated **longest railway platform in the world**.
- At: **Hubballi-Dharwad, Bangalore**.
 - The **1,507-metre-long** platform has been built at a cost of about **₹20 crore**.

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- Gorakhpur platform in Uttar Pradesh is the **second longest**.
- The **Hubballi station is an important junction** in Karnataka and a major hub of trade and commerce.
- It connects the railway lines towards Bengaluru, Hosapete, and Vasco-Da-Gama/Belagavi.

72. Fifth Poshan Pakhwada organized by Ministry of Women and Child Development.

- Theme 2023: "**Nutrition for All: Together Towards a Healthy India**"
- **Aim:** To raise awareness about the importance of nutrition and promote healthy eating habits through Jan Andolan and Jan Bhagidari.

73. YUva VIgyani KARYAKRAM (YUVIKA) organized by ISRO.

- **Aim:** To impart basic knowledge on space technology, space science, and space applications to students of Class IX.
- ISRO Headquarters: **Bengaluru**, Founded: **15 August 1969**, Founder: **Vikram Sarabhai**

74. Mission Lifestyle for Environment' (LiFE) launched in Assam.

- Launched by: **CM Himanta Biswa Sarma**
- **Aim:** To promote an environmentally conscious lifestyle, focusing on utilization instead of wasteful consumption.
- The state was the **first site for oil drilling in Asia**.
- World Heritage Sites Kaziranga and Manas National Parks, are situated in Assam.
- Assam Capital: **Dispur**, Largest City: **Guwahati**.

75. One World TB Summit 2023

- Held at: **Varanasi** on the occasion of **World Tuberculosis Day** (March 24)
- Organized by: **Health and Family Welfare Ministry** and **Stop TB Partnership**.
- Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by bacteria (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*) that most often affect the lungs.

76. Rajasthan becomes the first state in India to pass the 'Right to Health (RTH) Bill'.

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- Under this bill, **private hospitals will not be able to charge emergency patients** and will be **compensated by the state**.
- Free healthcare services including diagnostics, drugs, emergency transport, emergency care, and procedure will be provided at public institutions.
- In the case of medico-legal nature, no private or public hospital can delay treatment on grounds of police clearance.

APRIL

77. Skyroot Aerospace successfully test fired a **fully 3-d printed 'Dhawan II'** cryogenic engine.

- In 2022, **Skyroot Aerospace** became **first Indian private company** to send a rocket into space.
- The company developed the engine for its heavier vehicle, Vikram II.
- Skyroot Aerospace Founders: **Pawan Kumar Chandana, Naga Bharath Daka**, Founded: **12 June 2018**

78. India's first Cool Roof Policy 2023-2028 launched by **Telangana**.

- It is jointly launched by the state's municipal administration and urban development department.
- A cool roof is a design that involves coating the roof of a building with solar reflective paint covered in white tiles or with a white membrane.
- Telangana is the third-most urbanised state in India.

79. State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2021-22 report:

- **Front Runner category:** Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan and Telangana
- **Achiever category:** Assam, Haryana, Maharashtra, and Punjab
- **Objective of SEEI:** To help states identify areas for improvement, learn from best practices and adopt an economy-friendly approach to energy efficiency implementation.
- **Released by:** Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy (R K Singh).

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80. Rajasthan's 1st Vande Bharat Express Train:

- **Flagged off by:** PM Modi. Total 15 Vande Bharat Express running in India
- Operates Between **Jaipur and Delhi Cantt Railway Station**
- Target from Budget 2022-23: 400 new Vande Bharat trains in the next three years.
- **First Vande Bharat Train: Delhi to Varanasi**
- Vande Bharat Express were earlier called 'Train 18'.

81. First Image proof of Tigers in UP's Suhelwa Wildlife Sactuary:

- New area where photographic evidence of tigers has been **recorded for the first time**
- Based on the latest report on tiger census in the country, released by Prime Minister.
- **Suhelwa and Sohagi Barwa wildlife sanctuaries** were added to tiger-detected grids.
- Declared wildlife sanctuary in 1988.

82. Scientific convention on World Homoeopathic:

- Inaugurated by: Vice President **Jagdeep Dhankar**
- Organized by: Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy.
- WHO recognized Homeopathy as the second largest system of medicine in the world.
- **World Homeopathy Day:** 10 April.
- Theme: 'One Health, One Family'.

83. Vibrant Villages Programme in Kibithoo:

- **a border village in the Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh.**
- **Launched by:** Union Home Minister **Amit Shah**
- **Aim:** solve the problems of all the villages of the northern border where there is a danger of population migration to other places.

84. Best public transport system globally:

- **Topped by:** Germany's Berlin followed by Czech Republic's capital Prague.
- **Mumbai** secured the **19th** spot and was top ranked Indian city.

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- Published by: **London-based 'Time Out'**.

85. India released the first edition of the Dogri version of the Indian Constitution.

- **Dogri** is a language spoken in the northern Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- It is one of the **22 official languages** recognized by the Indian Constitution.
- Dogri is one of the **official languages** of the Indian union territory of **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- Dogri is descended from Sanskrit, the language of the Vedas (1500–1200 BCE).

86. Jal Jeevan Mission Achieves 60% Coverage Milestone:

- Of **India's total of 190.4 million** rural households, **116 million** now have a functioning water tap.
- **States with 100% coverage:** Gujarat, Telangana, Goa, Haryana, Punjab and the Union territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Daman Diu & Dadra Nagar Haveli and Puducherry.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** was **launched on 15 August 2019**, by Prime Minister.
- The Jal Jeevan Mission involves installing source-to-household water tap connections.

87. 'CM di Yogshala' program:

- Launched by: **Punjab government**.
- Four cities covered: **Patiala, Amritsar, Ludhiana and Phagwara**.
- Aim: To create a mass movement to carve out a healthy and prosperous Punjab.
- Trained Yoga instructors will provide free Yoga training to people.
- CM: Bhagwant Mann; Capital: Chandigarh.

88. 97-nation International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA):

- **Launched in Karnataka by PM**.
- **Aim:** To focus on the protection and conservation of seven big cat species in the wild.
- **Seven big cat species:** tiger, leopard, jaguar, lion, snow leopard, puma, and cheetah.

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- In July 2019, the Prime Minister called for the formation of an alliance, and now it has been launched.

89. India's first 3D-printed post office:

- Will be constructed in **Bengaluru, Karnataka.**
- implemented by **Larsen & Toubro,**
- Cost: Rs 23 lakh

90. PM MUDRA Yojana has completed 8 years:

- **Rs 23.2 lakh crore** has been sanctioned in 40.82 crore loan accounts under this scheme
- **Aim:** To facilitate easy collateral-free micro-credit of up to Rs 10 lakh.
- About **68% of accounts** under the scheme belong to **Women entrepreneurs.**
- 51% of accounts belong to entrepreneurs of SC/ST and OBC categories.
- MUDRA Yojana: Launched: 2015

91. The President made a historic flight in a Sukhoi 30 MKI fighter jet.

- **Location:** at the Tezpur Air Force Station in Assam.
- Flown by Group **Captain Naveen Kumar.**
- She is the **third President and second woman** President to do so.
- The **President is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces.**

92. India's tallest statue of Ambedkar

- **Unveiled by:** Telengana CM K Chandrasekhar Rao
- It is **125ft Tall bronze** statue of **BR Ambedkar** in **Hyderabad.**
- **Ambedkar** is known as the "**Father of the Indian Constitution**" for his role in drafting the **Indian Constitution** after **India's independence** from **British colonial rule in 1947.**
- He was awarded the **Bharat Ratna**, India's highest civilian award, in **1990, posthumously.**

93. Kerala becomes the first state to adopt a water budget.

- CM Pinarayi Vijayan released Public Water Budget.

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- The idea of a water budget was **first mooted** by the state in **2019**.
- Kerala Capital: **Thiruvananthapuram**, Governor: **Arif Mohd. Khan**

94. Odisha conducted **first-ever census** of **Mangrove Pitta Bird**.

- Conducted at: **Bhitarkanika wildlife sanctuary**.
- Mangrove pitta is a **colorful bird** that has a **black head with a brown crown**.

95. Country's first water metro:

- **PM Narendra Modi** launched India's first Water Metro
- It connects **ten small islands** near **Kochi, Kerala**.
- Water Metro is an urban mass transportation that offers the same experience as traditional metro systems.
- **Built by:** Cochin Shipyard Limited
- It consists of **38 terminals and 78 electric boats**.
- The project cost Rs 1,137 crore and was funded by the German agency KFW.

96. India's first Digital Science Park:

- **Foundation laid by:** PM Narendra Modi
- **Location:** Technocity Campus in Thiruvananthapuram
- **Aim:** This is a place where people from different fields work together to create new and exciting things using digital technology.

97. World Bank's Logistics Performance Index:

- **India's Rank:** 38th out of 139.
- **Topped by:** Singapore and Finland
- **Released by:** World Bank
- LPI is a tool that helps countries figure out what they're doing well and where they could improve when it comes to trading things with other countries.

98. Nagaland's first medical college:

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- **Approved by:** National Medical Commission.
- Nagaland Institute of Medical Sciences and Research which will become the first medical college in the state of Nagaland.
- First Medical College since Nagaland was formed in **1 December 1963**.
- Nagaland capital: Kohima.

99. One Panchayat, One Playground project:

- **Launched by:** Kerala Government.
- **Aim:** To revive the Sports culture in the State by opening quality playgrounds in every panchayat of Kerala.
- **Inaugurated by:** CM Pinarayi Vijayan at Kallikad.

100. IIT Madras's first international campus:

- **Location:** Zanzibar, Tanzania, Africa.
- **Announced on:** IIT Madras' 64th Institute Day on 20th April 2023.
- **Motto of IIT Madras:** siddhirbhavati karmajā
- Chairman: **Pawan Kumar Goenka**.

101. Biggest International school in Maharashtra:

- School: **Wellington College**, one of top UK's school.
- will set up school **K-12 in Pune**.
- A **Singapore education company** will help build the school.
- It will have different programs like **International Baccalaureate and Cambridge International**.

102. India's first cable stayed bridge in Jammu and Kashmir:

- It connects **Katra and Reasi** in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
- **Aim:** To connect J&K to the rest of the country with all-weather rail connectivity.
- Total length of the bridge: **725m**.

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103. Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) granted the status of Navratna.

- **Upgraded to:** Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise
- **From:** Category-I Miniratna.
- This will be the **13th Navratna amongst CPSEs.**
- **Criteria for Navratna Status:** the company must have Miniratna status, with 4 independent board directors.

MAY

104.2023 World Press Freedom Index

- India's Rank: **161 out of 180 countries.**
- **Norway is ranked first for the seventh consecutive year**, followed by Ireland, Denmark, Sweden, and Finland.
- Last three: North Korea (180th), China, and Vietnam
- Report Published by: **Reporters Without Borders**

105. CU-Chayan

- UGC Chairman **M Jagadesh Kumar** has launched the **Central University Faculty** recruitment portal **CU-Chayan**.
- **Aim:** To create an enabling environment for both, universities and the applicants with universities driving all the stages of the recruitment independently
- UGC Founded in: **1956**, HQ: **New Delhi**.

106. India's first Air Force Heritage Centre:

- **Inaugurated in:** Chandigarh.
- The first heritage centre of the IAF (Indian Air Force) shows how the IAF helped in the wars of **1965, 1971, Kargil and Balakot air strike.**
- The centre also has the **first patent aircraft** ever made by the IAF called the **Air Force 'Kanpur-1 Vintage Prototype Aircraft'.**

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- It was designed and built by Air Vice Marshal Harjinder Singh in 1958.
- IAF Chief: **Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari**; **Founded: 8 Oct 1932.**

107. **First film made in Tagin language of Arunachal Pradesh:**

- **Movie Name: 'Love in 90s'.**
- **Launched by: Law Minister Kiren Rijiju in New Delhi.**
- The film looks at **displaying the culture of the Tagin community** before the whole country and the world.
- Arunachal became a state on **20 February 1987.**

108. **2,000-year-old 'modern society' found in Bandhavgarh National Park, Madhya Pradesh.**

- Archaeologists found things like including 1,500-year-old rock painting, several man-made water bodies, **which are 1,800-2,000 years old.**
- It was **declared a national park in 1968 and Tiger Reserve in 1993.**
- It is **known for the Royal Bengal Tigers.**

109. **Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) system:**

- **Introduced by:** Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- For issuers that have listed **non-convertible securities, securitized debt instruments, and security receipts.**
- **USE:** The LEI is a code used to identify legal entities involved in financial transactions.
- It's a **unique code made up of 20 characters.**
- **Purpose:** to create a global system that can identify every legal entity involved in financial transactions.
- **SEBI Chairman:** Madhabi Puri Buch

110. **Uttar Pradesh becomes first state to make digital health cards for children.**

- Launched under: **"School Health Program"** by UP Urban Development Department.

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- Digital Health Cards Are a secure way to store your medical records.
- Can be used to access your **vaccination history, test results, and other important health information.**
- Can be **shared with healthcare providers and other authorized individuals.**
- Digital Health Cards contain a secure **QR code** and may be saved digitally or printed on paper.
- **Estonia was the first country to implement** a national digital health Card system in **2008.**

111. The Indian Metropolis: Deconstructing India's Urban Spaces" book by Varun Gandhi:

- The book looks at the problems in India's cities, like poverty, inequality, crime, and damage to the environment.
- Varun Gandhi is an Indian **Member of Parliament** of Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP).
- Varun Gandhi (son of Sanjay Gandhi) is **first cousin of Rahul Gandhi.**

112. First State to have Drone Surveillance in all police districts:

- Implemented by: Kerala.
- **anti-drone software** that can **detect and disable** unauthorized drones also launched.
- The drones are equipped with high-resolution cameras and can **fly up to 5,000 feet.**
- **Developed by:** the Kerala Police and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras.
- **Kerala CM:** Pinarayi Vijayan; Capital: Thiruvananthapuram.
- Kerala is the **southernmost state** in India.

113. Trusted Travellers Programme:

- **Launched by:** Indian Government.
- **Purpose:** for faster immigration clearance of pre-verified travellers.
- **Eligibility:** valid Indian passport, a clean criminal record, and a history of low-risk travel.

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- The programme will be started on a pilot basis at **Delhi and Mumbai airports** this year.
- It will be expanded to **15 more international airports by 2027** and **all airports by 2032**.

114. India's First free Reading Lounge:

- Set-up at: **The Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi.**
- Travellers going to and from the **Varanasi Airport will now be able to read books for free.**
- **Operated by:** The National Book Trust of India (NBT).
- **The National Book Trust of India (NBT)** is an autonomous body under the **Ministry of Education.**
- It was **established in 1957** by to promote books and reading in India.

115. Telangana Government has introduced a **Robotics Framework.**

- **Aim:** for providing a roadmap to promote a robotic ecosystem in the State.
- This is the **first-of-its-kind policy** in the country.
- Government will set up a **Telangana Robotics Innovation Centre (TRIC)** to implement the framework.

116. **Punjab** has become the **first state in India** to implement the '**right to walk**'.

- **Aim:** To provide footpaths and cycle tracks in all future expansions of roads and construction.
- **Reason:** Every month more than 10 pedestrians/ bicycle riders are killed in road accidents due to encroachment on pedestrian footpaths
- The "**right to walk**" concept can only be found as a small reference in the **Rules of Road Regulation 1989.**

117. **42 inches tall** Bust of **Mahatma Gandhi** in the **Hiroshima City, Japan:**

- **Unveiled by: Pm Narendra Modi.**
- The bust **gifted by Government of India** signifies a mark of solidarity and non-violence.

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- **Created by:** Padma Bhushan awardee **Shri Ram Vanji Sutar.**
- **World's 1st Nuclear attack** was conducted on **Hiroshima on 6th August, 1945**, by the United States.
- **President of US during Hiroshima bombing: Harry Truman.**
- Japan Capital: Tokyo; Currency: Yen, PM: Fumio Kishida.

118. QUAD's Leader Summit 2024:

- **Host:** India
- **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) members:** **Australia, India, Japan and the United States of America.**
- **Aim of Leader's Summit:** decrease the impact of Climate change and strengthen their climate resilience.
- **Aim of QUAD:** working for a free, open, prosperous, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.
- **QUAD 2023:** **scheduled in Australia** but **conducted in Japan** due to postponement by US.
- QUAD est. 2007; Suspended in 2008; **re-established in 2017.**

119. 'Mukhya Mantri Sikho Kamao Yojana':

- Launched by: **Madhya Pradesh government**
- **Aim:** providing opportunities for unemployed youth in the state.
- Training will be offered in around **700 different types of work** across sectors like engineering, hotel management, tourism, ITI, banking, and more.
- **Eligibility:** 12th pass, ITI, Diploma, Graduation, and Post-Graduation holders.
- Monthly stipends will be provided **based on educational qualifications:**
- **Madhya Pradesh** is the **second-largest state** in terms of area.
- Madhya Pradesh is renowned for its rich wildlife and is often referred to as the "**Tiger State**" of India.

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120. **First City in India** to measure **Sustainable Development Goals** progress:

- City: **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.**
- It will accept the **localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**
- Bhopal will have **voluntary local reviews (VLR)** to show **local govt's capacity and commitments towards SDGs.**
- **SDGs localization means** taking global goals for sustainable development and making local actions to make a positive impact.
- **New York City was the first city to share its VLR** in 2018.
- By 2021, 33 countries had shared 114 VLRs or similar reports.

121. **'Operation Karuna':**

- Launched by: **India.**
- **Aim:** To provide humanitarian assistance for people in Myanmar, which is affected by Cyclone Mocha.
- **EAM Dr. Jaishankar** informed that **India** continues to be the **first responder** in the region.

122. **Madhya Pradesh** becomes the **first state** in India to organize air travel for pilgrims.

- **Organised through:** Mukhya Mantri Teerth-Darshan Yojana, funded by the government.
- Inaugrated by: The **Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shivraj Singh Chouhan,**
- The flight carried a group of **32 senior citizens** on a pilgrimage.
- To ensure passenger convenience, a dedicated help center was established at the airport.

123. **'Green Hydrogen' policy:**

- Formulated by: **Himachal Pradesh government.**
- **Aim:** to promote the use of green hydrogen and establish the state as a leading hub for its production.

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- The government has already signed an MoU with **Oil India Limited** to enable the **production of green hydrogen and green ammonia** on a pilot basis.

124. India's first "total e-governed state":

- Achieved by: **Kerala**
- All-important services such as **healthcare, education, land revenue, property documentation, public distribution system, and social security payments** have been digitized.
- The aim is to make government services transparent and accessible to all.
- Developed a **single-window service called e-Sevanam**, which brings together over 800 government services online.
- **Kerala was the first state in India** to launch a **state-wide computerization** project in 1998.
- Kerala has been named the **top state in India** for e-governance by the **National e-Governance Services Delivery Assessment (NeGD)**.
- Kerala CM: Pinarayi Vijayan; Capital: Thiruvananthapuram.

125. Top 500 Global Supercomputing List:

- India's **AI Supercomputer 'AIRAWAT'** ranked **75th in the world**.
- 'AIRAWAT' is installed at **C-DAC, Pune**.
- Announced at: **61st edition of International Supercomputing Conference (ISC 2023)**.
- Supercomputers combine the power of many servers to handle big tasks.
- AIRAWAT is named after the legendary king of the **Ikshvaku dynasty**.
- The list is compiled by **TOP500**.
- Top Computer: **Frontier, installed at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, US**.
- The first supercomputer of India was the **Param 8000**.

126. 8th meeting of the NITI Aayog Governing Council, held at Delhi:

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- **Chaired by:** PM Narendra Modi.
 - **Participants:** CMs of all states and Union Territories and PM appointed members.
 - **Aim:** to discuss the progress of the Aayog's work and to provide guidance
 - **Theme:** 'Viksit Bharat @ 2047'.
 - **Discussed Issues:** Health, skill development, Women empowerment, and infrastructure.
 - **NITI Aayog Founded:** 1st January 2015; **Hq:** New Delhi; **Chairperson:** Narendra Modi; **CEO:** BVR Subrahmanyam.
 - NITI Aayog **comes under Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**
 - NITI Aayog **earlier functioned as Planning Commission** (15th March 1950).
127. **PhonePe** becomes the **first digital payments app** to enable the linkage of **two lakh RuPay credit cards** to the **Unified Payments Interface.**
- Unified Payment Interface (UPI) was developed by the **National Payments Corporation of India.**
 - NPCI was incorporated in December **2008**, CEO of NPCI: **Dilip Asbe**
 - PhonePe Founders: **Sameer Nigam, Burzin Engineer, Rahul Chari**, CEO: **Sameer Nigam**
 - PhonePe Founded: **2015**, Headquarters: **Maharashtra**

INTERNATIONAL

1. The **Wassenaar Arrangement (WA)**, has announced that **India will assume the chairmanship** of its plenary for the next year.
 - a **voluntary export control regime** that monitors the transfer of conventional weapons and dual-use goods

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- The 26th annual plenary of the WA, held in Vienna on Nov 30, saw Ireland's ambassador Eoin O'Leary handed the chairmanship to **India's ambassador Jaideep Mazumdar**.
 - India joined the WA in **December 2017 as its 42nd participating state**.
 - WA Estab: **1996**,
2. **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (77)** has been sworn in as the **39th president of Brazil**.
- **He is the first Brazilian president to have been elected to a third term in office.**
 - Brazil Capital: **Brasilia**, Currency: **the Real**
3. **Croatia** has adopted the **euro** as its **currency** with effect from 1 January 2023 and **become the 20th member** of the **eurozone**.
- **Croatia has entered the EU in 2013.**
 - It becomes the **27th country** to join the Schengen area.
 - **Schengen Area:** It is an area that comprises 27 European countries that have abolished all passports and border control at their respective mutual borders
 - The monetary authority of the Eurozone is the Eurosystem.
 - Croatia Capital: **Zagreb**, President: **Zoran Milanovic**, Currency: **Kuna**
4. **Henley Passport Index 2023**, released by **Henley & Partners**:
- Topped by: **Japan**
 - While, **Singapore and South Korea with 192 destinations ranked second**
 - **India ranked: 85**
 - **Bottom: Afghanistan**
 - The list was prepared on the basis of data provided by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
5. The **president** of the **UAE's national oil company Sultan al-Jaber** was named as **president** of this year's **COP28 climate talks**.
- The chief executive of the ADNOC will be the **first CEO** to take the role at the UN summit.

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- The Conference of Parties or COP is the **world's biggest climate conference.**
6. **Miss USA, R'Bonney Gabriel (28) won the Miss Universe 2022 at the 71st Miss Universe pageant organized in New Orleans, Louisiana.**
- She is also the **first Filipino American to win Miss USA.**
 - Amanda Dudamel from Venezuela was the first runner-up, and Andreína Martínez from the Dominican Republic was the second runner-up.
7. **The UK Prime Minister signed a landmark defence agreement with the Japanese Prime Minister at London.**
- This is regarded as **the most significant defence agreement between the two countries, which allows UK forces to be deployed to Japan.**
 - The **UK is the first European country to have a Reciprocal Access Agreement with Japan.**
8. **Acc. To World Health Organization (WHO), Uganda declared the end of the Ebola disease outbreak caused by the Sudan ebolavirus on Jan 11, 2023.**
- Ebola hemorrhagic fever is a rare, severe, and fatal disease in humans.
 - The Ebola virus was first discovered in 1976 near the **Ebola River in the Congo.**
 - Uganda Capital: **Kampala**, Currency: **Ugandan Shilling**
9. **PepsiCo Foundation and CARE launched a program 'She Feeds the World'.**
- It is a USD 18.2-million global **agriculture-focused women empowerment program in India.**
 - PepsiCo invested **USD 18.2 million** to scale 'She Feeds the World' initiative in six countries.
 - President, PepsiCo India: **Ahmed ElSheikh**
10. **15th BRICS summit** will be held in **Durban, South Africa** in August 2023.
- It was announced by the **Russian Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov.**

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- Before this, The **fifth annual BRICS summit** was held in **Durban, South Africa** in 2013.
- BRICS: **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.**
- BRIC was founded in **2006** and later, in 2010, South Africa was included and it became BRICS.

11. 3rd INTERPOL Young Global Police Leaders Programme (YGPLP) is being organized from 25 January to 2 February 2023 in **New Delhi, India.**

- It was virtually addressed by INTERPOL Secretary General, **Jurgen Stock.**
- The event was organized by the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).**
- As many as 59 participants from 44 countries participate in the programme.
- CBI Director: **Subodh Kumar Jaiswal**
- INTERPOL Headquarters: **Lyon, France**

12. Petr Pavel has become the **new president** of the **Czech Republic.**

- He has been a vocal supporter of the European Union and NATO.
- Czech Republic Capital: **Prague**

FEBRUARY

13. President of Equatorial Guinea has appointed **Manuela Roka Botey** as the **first female prime minister of the country.**

- Before this, she served as the education minister and joined the government in 2020.
- **President Teodoro Obiang** was re-elected for a sixth term in office in **November 2022.**
- Capital: Malabo.

14. The UPSC has recommended the name of **Dr. Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi** as the new **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).**

- He will **replace Dr. VG Somani** who was appointed in August 2019.

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- DCGI heads the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), which is responsible for ensuring the quality of drug supply in India.
- 15. Madhvendra Singh** as the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the **Gujarat Maritime Cluster**.
- The Gujarat Maritime Cluster (GMC) is the first of its kind Commercial Maritime Cluster in the country aimed at creating a hub for maritime services of international standards.
 - It is the **first and only maritime cluster** in India.
- 16. Air Marshal A P Singh** has been appointed as the new **Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force**.
- He has **succeeded Air Marshal Sandeep Singh**.
 - He was commissioned into the **fighter stream of the IAF on December 21, 1984**.
- 17. Mohammad Shahabuddin Chuppu** has been elected as the **22nd President of Bangladesh**.
- He was nominated for the post by the ruling **Awami League**.
 - He will replace President Mohammad Abdul Hamid, whose tenure will be ended on April 23, 2023.
 - Bangladesh Capital: **Dhaka**, Currency: **Taka**, Official Language: **Bengali**
- 18. Operation Dost** is a rescue operation initiated by the **Govt. of India** to aid **Syria and Turkey**, after an **earthquake** hit both countries on 6 February 2023.
- Under the operation, India has deployed a field hospital, supplies, and rescue personnel to the earthquake-stricken countries of Turkey and Syria.
 - The **C17 Globemaster aircraft** of the **Indian Air Force** has also been deployed in the operation.
- 19. In February 2023, the International Energy Agency (IEA) predicted that Asia will for the first time use half of the world's electricity by 2025.**
- Much of Asia's electricity use will be in China whose share of global consumption will rise from a quarter in 2015 to a third by 2025.

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- While Africa will account for just 3% of global electricity consumption in 2025.
- Executive Director IEA: **Fatih Birol**, Founded: **November, 1974**, HQ: **France**

20. India will host the Permanent Mission Roundtables at United Nations Head Quarter as Chair of G- 20.

- Name of Roundtable conference: '**Gandhian Trusteeship: A panel discussion on Sustainable Lifestyles and Enduring Pace**'
- Founded: **26 September 1999**
- Chairman (Incumbent): **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**

21. Asia Economic Dialogue:

- To be conducted in: **Pune, Maharashtra.**
- Theme: **Asia and the Emerging World Order**
- It is an annual flagship event of the External Affairs Ministry on Geo-economics.

22. International Intellectual Property Rights Index 2023

- India Rank: **40th**, Topped by: **USA**
- Published by: **US Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Centre**

23. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) suspended Russia's membership due to Moscow's involvement in the war in Ukraine.

- The FATF also added South Africa and Nigeria to its grey list.
- FATF HQ: **Paris, France**, Founded: **July, 1989**

24. Former President of Pakistan, Pervez Musharraf passed away at the age of 79 in Dubai.

- He ruled **Pakistan from 1999 to 2008.**
- He has been declared a **fugitive in the former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto murder.**
- In **March 2014**, he was **indicted for suspending the Constitution on November 3, 2007.**
- In **December 2019**, a special court handed **Musharraf a death sentence.**

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25. Sri Lanka celebrated its 75 years of Independence from British rule on 4th February 2023.

- **Theme:** Namo Namo Matha - A step towards a century.

26. The Reserve Bank of Australia has announced that it will remove the portrait of the British monarchy, Queen Elizabeth II from its A\$5 banknotes.

- The new currency notes of the \$5 would feature an Indigenous design rather.
- The other side of the note will continue to feature the Australian Parliament.
- King Charles III, who became British monarch, is the head of state in Australia, NZ, and 12 other Commonwealth realms outside the UK.

27. The Ambassador of Spain to India, Jose Maria Ridaio has announced that India will be invited as the focal country at the Madrid International Book Fair in 2025.

- Spain is the theme country at the 46th International Kolkata Book Fair, organized in Kolkata from 31st Jan 2023 to 12th Feb 2023.
- Aim: To have a direct relationship with Indian authors

MARCH

28. RAK Digital Assets Oasis:

- It would be world's first free zone dedicated to digital and virtual asset companies.
- Government of Ras Al Khaimah is one of the seven emirates of the United Arab Emirates
- UAE Capital: Abu Dhabi; UAE Currency: Dirham

29. Ales Bialiatski:

- a candidate for the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize from Belarus.
- Given a 10-year prison term in Minsk, the Capital of Belarus.
- Reason: He was found guilty of funding rallies against the government.
- Belarus Currency: Belarusian ruble

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30. Xi Jinping elected as President of China for historic third term.

- He has been re-elected as the **General Secretary of the Communist Party** for five-year.
- Assumed office-15 November 2012
- China Capital: **Beijing**, Currency: **Yuan**; China's Parliament Name: **National People's Congress**.

31. McMahon Line officially recognized by US as the international boundary between India's Arunachal Pradesh and China.

- McMahon Line is the effective boundary between **China and India**.
- The line is named after **Sir Henry McMahon**, foreign secretary of the **British-run Government of India**.
- The boundary extends for **550 miles (890 km)** covering parts from **Bhutan in the west to 160 miles (260 km)** east i.e the **Brahmaputra River**.
- McMahon Line got its significance when India and Tibet signed a convention at Shimla on 3rd July 1914.

32. India-Bangladesh friendship diesel pipeline (IBFP) inaugurated by PM Modi and Sheikh Hasina.

- Since 2015, **Numaligarh Refinery Limited** has been supplying petroleum products to **Bangladesh**.
- **IBFP** is the **first cross-border energy pipeline** between **India and Bangladesh** with a capacity to transport 1 MMTPA of **High-Speed Diesel to Bangladesh**.

33. Global Terrorism Index (GTI) report:

- **Afghanistan** remains the country most impacted by terrorism for the **fourth consecutive year**.
- While **India ranked 13th** on the index.

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- The GTI report is produced by the **Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)** using data from Terrorism Tracker.

34. Egypt joined the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) as an official member.

- Besides BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries, the **UAE, Bangladesh and Uruguay** are members of the NDB.
- NDB was set up by BRICS nations on the basis of the intergovernmental agreement signed at the sixth BRICS summit in Fortaleza in July 2014.
- NDB President: **Marcos Prado Troyjo**
- BRICS Founded: **16 June 2009**, Founders: **China, Russia, Brazil, India.**

35. Earth Hour was observed annually on the last Saturday of March from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm.

- In 2023, this day was observed on March 25 at 8.30 pm local time.
- It is a worldwide movement organized by the **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)** to encourage individuals, communities, and businesses to turn off non-essential electric lights for one hour.
- It was **first started in Sydney, Australia on March 31, 2007**, at 7:30 pm local time and has since gained popularity and momentum.
- WWF Founded: **29 April 1961**, Director: **Marco Lambertini**, Headquarters: **Gland, Switzerland.**

36. First Citizens Bank (FCB) acquires Silicon Valley Bank and assume control of all its deposits and loans.

- First Citizens Bank has agreed to purchase \$72 billion worth of SVB's assets at a \$16.5 billion discount from the FDIC.
- First Citizens Bank will take control of \$56 billion in deposits.

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- The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) will continue to retain receivership of around \$90 billion worth of SVB's assets.
- FCB Founded: **1898**, CEO: **Frank B. Holding Jr.**

37. Dalai Lama names US-born Mongolian boy third highest leader in Buddhism.

- The ceremony was organized in **Dharamsala**, where the **Dalai Lama** (87) lives in exile.
- The eight-year-old boy is the son of a university professor and has a twin brother.
- In 1995, the Dalai Lama named a new Panchen Lama, the second most important figure in the faith.

38. According to the Passport Index 2023:

- India passport ranking for 2023 has slipped to **144**
- Report is released by: **Arton Capital**
- Topped by: **The United Arab Emirates**
- India had ranked **85th out of 199 countries** in the **Henley Passport Index 2023**.

APRIL

39. NASA selected first woman astronaut, Christina Koch for its Artemis II mission.

- It will involve a fly-by of the moon and a 10-day journey back to Earth.
- It is part of NASA's Artemis program, which aims to land the first woman and the next man on the moon by 2024.
- NASA Founder: **Dwight D. Eisenhower**, Founded: **29 July 1958**, HQ: **Washington D.C., United States**.

40. France has invited PM Narendra Modi to visit Paris as a guest at the annual Bastille Day parade.

- **Bastille Day**, also known as **French National Day**, is celebrated on **July 14th** each year in France.

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- The day commemorates the storming of the **Bastille fortress in 1789**, which is considered a turning point in the **French Revolution**.
- Earlier, **Manmohan Singh** was invited as **Bastille Day** parade guest in **2009**.

41. “Ofek-13” spy satellite launched successfully by Israel.

- **Launched from:** Shavit launch vehicle, from **Palmachim Airbase spaceport**.
- This satellite was manufactured by state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).
- The **capital of Israel** is **Jerusalem**, although it is a disputed issue as some countries do not recognize it as the official capital due to ongoing political and territorial conflicts.
- The **largest city and economic center of Israel** is **Tel Aviv**.
- The currency of **Israel** is the **Israeli new shekel (ILS)**.

42. World’s first Asian King Vulture Conservation and breeding center:

- **Name of the Center:** Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Center (JCBC)
- located in the **Maharajganj district of Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Objective:** breed king vultures in captivity and release them in the wild to maintain a sustainable population.
- 15-year project which aims to raise **at least 40 vultures**.
- UP Capital: **Lucknow**; CM: **Yogi Adityanath**.

43. The first Integrated Check Post:

- along the **India-Bhutan border**, which would be near **Jaigaon**.
- Bhutan and India signed the **Treaty of Friendship in 1949**, allowing India to handle Bhutan’s foreign affairs.
- Bhutan Capital: **Thimphu**; Currency: **Bhutanese Ngultrum (BTN)**.

44. Apple Inc.’s First India Store:

- **Located in:** Jio World Drive Mall, Mumbai.
- **Headquarters:** Cupertino, California, United States; **Founded:** April 1, 1976.

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- **Co-founders:** Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak, and Ronald Wayne.

45. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank's first overseas office in Abu Dhabi:

- The AIIB is a bank that helps pay for projects like roads and buildings that are good for the environment and communities.
- **Headquarters:** Beijing, China
- **Formation:** 16 January 2016; 7 years ago
- **Membership:** 106 Member States
- UAE Capital: Abu Dhabi.

46. World's Wealthiest Cities in 2023:

- **Topped by:** New York, Tokyo and Silicon Valley respectively.
- **Mumbai ranked:** 21st in the world.
- Other cities mentioned: Delhi, Bengaluru, Kolkata and Hyderabad.
- **List released by:** London based Henley and Partners.
- The list covered **97 countries**.

47. Zimbabwe's Gold-Backed Digital Currency:

- **Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe** will launch a **gold-pegged digital currency** and legalize them in the country.
- Government took step to stabilize local currency after continuous devaluation against U.S. dollar.
- Zimbabwe allows **exchange of Zimbabwean dollars with digital gold tokens**.
- This initiative aims to secure Zimbabweans against currency volatility.
- **Zimbabwe's capital is Harare.**

48. India to host Shanghai Cooperation Organization's Defence Minister's Meeting in New Delhi.

- SCO 2023 theme under India's Chairmanship: **SECURE-SCO**

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- **Aim:** To discuss amongst other issues matters concerning regional peace and security, counter-terrorism efforts within SCO, and effective multilateralism.
- **SCO Members:** Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, India, and Uzbekistan

49. Golden Globe Race 2022:

- Abhilash Tomy has become the first Indian to complete the prestigious Golden Globe Race 2022.
- This race was started at Les Sables-d'Olonne in France on Sep 4, 2022.
- South African sailor, Kirsten Neuschafer also become the first woman to win the Golden Globe Race (GGR)

50. According to the Kpler report, India has become Europe's largest supplier of refined fuels, surpassing Saudi Arabia.

- **Europe's refined fuel imports** from **India** are set to surge **above 360,000** barrels a day.
- **Reason:** Ban on Russian oil.

MAY

51. 42nd Summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- **2023 Theme:** ASEAN Affairs: Epicenter of Growth.
- Started in: **Indonesia**
- ASEAN is an organization formed by the governments of **Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Singapore** in **1967**.
- India is **not a member** of ASEAN organization.
- India became a **Sectoral Dialogue Partner** of ASEAN in **1992**.

52. World's Oldest TREE Declared:

- A 5000 year old tree in Chile is officially recognized as **World's Oldest Tree**.
- **Located:** Alerce Costero National Park, Chile.

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- Nicknamed as: **‘Great Grandfather’**.
- Estimated to be 5000-6500 years old, it is the **oldest living organism on Earth**.
- Size: **28 meters tall and 4 meter wide**.
- **Scientific Name:** Patagonian Cypress.
- Chile capital: **Santiago**; Currency: **Peso**.

53. 76th CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

- Started in **France**.
- The **India Pavilion** was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, **Dr. L Murugan**.
- Anurag Kashyap directorial, **‘Kennedy’** has been selected at the Cannes Film Festival for a Midnight Screening.
- Actor **Harrison Ford** was honored with the **prestigious Palme D'Or award for lifetime achievement**.
- The 1st annual Cannes Film Festival was held from **20 September to 5 October 1946**.

54. NASA has chosen Blue Origin to build the spacecraft that will take astronauts to the moon's south pole in 2029.

- This contract will give NASA a second way to reach the moon.
- Blue Origin will collaborate with partners like Lockheed Martin, Draper, Boeing, Astrobotic, and Honeybee Robotics.
- They intend to use their new rocket, called New Glenn, to launch the spacecraft and a refueling shuttle.

55. ‘Little India’:

- Sydney’s **Harris Park** renamed as **‘Little India’**.
- **Named by:** PM Modi and Australian President Anthony Albanese.

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- **Reason:** This area is home to a **large Indian community**, and known for its Indian restaurants, shops, and cultural events.
- Australia Capital: Canberra; Currency: Australian Dollar.

56. Hanke's Annual Misery Index (HAMI) 2022:

- India Ranked: **103**
- **Most Miserable Country:** Zimbabwe.
- **Major contributing factor in India's misery:** Unemployment.
- **Least Miserable Country:** Switzerland.
- Index by: **Steve Hanke**, a professor of applied economics at Johns Hopkins University.

57. First Arab woman astronaut to go to space:

- Astronaut: **Rayyanah Barnawi** from **Jeddah, Saudi Arabia**.
- **Mission:** Axiom Space's private mission.
- A privately funded US company, is launching its second mission called Axiom Mission 2 (Ax-2).
- Company was **founded by Michael Suffredini**, NASA International Space Station Program Manager.

APPOINTMENTS

1. **Ajay Kumar Srivastava** has been appointed as **MD and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** with effect from January 1, 2023.
 - IOB Hq: **Chennai**, IOB Estab: **10 Feb, 1937**
2. **Dinesh Kumar Shukla**, assumed the **charge as Chairman, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)** in December 2022.
 - **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board** was constituted on **November 15, 1983**, by the President of India by exercising the powers conferred by the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 to carry out certain regulatory and safety functions under the Act.

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- The Mission of the AERB is to ensure the use of ionizing radiation and nuclear energy in India does not cause undue risk to the health of people and the environment.
3. **Captain Surabhi Jakhmola**, an officer of the 117 Engineer Regiment of the Indian Army, has **become the first woman officer of the Border Roads Organization (BRO)** to be posted on a foreign project in January 2023.
 - She has been deployed by BRO under Project Dantak in Bhutan.
 - In order to improve border connectivity, BRO was transferred entirely to the Ministry of Defence in 2015.
 4. US space agency **NASA** has appointed **Indian-American aerospace expert AC Charania** as its new **Chief Technologist**.
 - He will serve as **principal advisor to Administrator Bill Nelson on technology policy and programmes**.
 5. **Pankaj Kumar Singh** was appointed as the **Deputy National Security Adviser (NSA)** in **National Security Council Secretariat** for **two years**.
 6. Former SC Judge **Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri** appointed as the **administrator of Shooting World Cup 2023** by **Delhi High Court**
 - To oversee the utilization of funds for the upcoming World Cup, which is scheduled to be held in India in March.
 - ISSF is the governing body of Olympic shooting events in rifle, pistol, and shotgun etc.
 - ISSF Founded: **1907**, HQ: **Munich, Germany**, President: **Vladimir Lisin**
 7. **Vikram Dev Dutt** appointed as the next **director general** in the **Directorate of General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** with effect from February 28, 2023.
 - He will be succeeding the incumbent DGCA chief, **Arun Kumar**.
 8. **Professor Bharat Bhasker** has been appointed as the **new director of the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA)** for five years, effective from March 1, 2023.

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- Presently, he is working as a professor of Information Technology and Systems at IIM Lucknow.
9. **US President Joe Biden** has nominated **Indian-American Astronaut Raja J. Chari** for the appointment to the grade of **Air Force brigadier general**.
10. **National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)** signed **World Boxing Champion, Nikhat Zareen** to represent NMDC as its **brand ambassador**.
- She won a **gold medal at Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games** and the **2022 IBA Women's World Boxing Championships (52 kg category)**.
 - She became the **fifth Indian woman** to win a **gold medal** at the **IBA World Boxing Championships**.
 - CMD, NMDC: **Sumit Deb**, Headquarters: **Hyderabad**

FEBRUARY

11. **Government** has cleared the **appointment of two new judges of the Supreme Court - Justices Rajesh Bindal and Aravind Kumar**.
- With this, the Supreme Court has regained its full strength of 34 judges.
 - **Rajesh Bindal**: He was the Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court.
 - **Aravind Kumar**: He was Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court.
12. **Aniket Sunil Talati** has been elected as the **new President** of the **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** for the **2023-24 tenure**, with effect from February 12, 2023.
- ICAI Estab: **1 July 1949** under the **Chartered Accountants Act, 1949**
13. Indian-American, **Neal Mohan** has been appointed as the **new Chief Executive Officer of YouTube**.
- He will replace the current head, **Susan Wojcicki**, who will step down **after 25 years**.
 - He is an MBA from **Stanford University's Graduate School of Business**.
14. **Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar** has been appointed as the new **Vice Chief of Army Staff**.

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- While **Lt Gen NSR Subramani** has been appointed as the next **Central Army Commander in Lucknow**.
 - All the new appointments will come into effect on March 1.
15. **BVR Subrahmanyam** became CEO of **NITI Aayog**.
- He would succeed **Parameswaran Iyer**
 - **NITI Aayog Estab: 1 January 2015, HQ: New Delhi**
16. **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Girish Chandra Murmu** selected as **External Auditor** of the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** in **Geneva**.
- **ILO HQ: Geneva, Switzerland, Founded: 1919, Parent Org: United Nations**
17. **Shailesh Pathak** became the Secretary General of **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry**.
- **FICCI President: Shubhrakant panda, Founded: 1927 Headquarters: New Delhi, Founder: Ghanshyam Das Birla**

MARCH

18. **Rajesh Malhotra**, appointed as **Principal Director General** of the **Press Information Bureau (PIB)**.
- While **Priya Kumar** was named the **Director General** of **Doordarshan News (DD News)**.
 - **PIB Hq: National Media Centre, New Delhi, Formed: 1919**
19. **Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora** appointed as **Ambassador-at-Large** for **Kartarpur Corridor**.
- Appointed by: **Pakistan Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif**
 - This corridor links **Gurdwara Darbar Sahib** in **Pakistan** with the **Dera Baba Nanak** shrine in **Gurdaspur district, Punjab, India**.
20. **Rashmi Shukla** appointed as **Director general** of **Sashastra Seema Bal**.
- **SSB Founded: 1963; Headquarters: New Delhi**
 - **SSB: A border protection force of India deployed along the borders with Nepal and Bhutan.**

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21. Supreme Court judge, **AM Sapre**, appointed as head for committee to look into **Hindenburg report on Adani Group**.
22. **S.S. Dubey** appointed as **28th Controller General of Accounts (CGA)**.
 - CGA is ‘the Principal Advisor’ on Accounting matters to the Union Government.
 - It is also in charge of the **exchequer control and internal audits**.
23. **Siddhartha Mohanty** appointed as Interim Chairman of **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)**.
 - The **Life Insurance Corporation of India** was established on **1 September 1956**, when the **Parliament of India** passed the **Life Insurance of India Act**, nationalizing the insurance industry in India.
 - 1818 saw the advent of life insurance business in India with the establishment of the **Oriental Life Insurance Company** in Calcutta.
 - LIC Hq: **Mumbai**, Established: **1956**
24. **Legendary boxer MC Mary Kom and actor Farhan Akhtar** appointed as: brand ambassadors of the **IBA Women’s World Championships 2023**.
 - Appointed by: **Boxing Federation of India**
 - India is hosting the **World Championships** for the **third time**; previously in **2006 and 2018**
 - Boxing Federation of India President: **Ajay Singh**.
25. **Deepak Mohanty** appointed as the **chairman** of the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**.
 - PFRDA Headquarters: **New Delhi**, Founded: **23 August 2003**
26. **G Krishnakumar** has taken over as the **new chairman and managing director (MD)** of **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)**.
 - Founded: **1976** , Headquarters: **Mumbai, Maharashtra, India**

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- BPCCL is **India's second-largest government-owned** downstream oil producer, whose operations are overseen by the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**.
27. Govt. appoints **Lalit Kumar Gupta** as CMD of the **Cotton Corporation of India (CCI)**
- CCI Headquarters: **Mumbai**, Founded: **1970**
 - CCI is a public sector agency responsible for equitable distribution of cotton among the different constituents of the industry and aid imports of cotton.
28. **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** announces a committee to review **New Pension System (NPS)**.
- The panel is headed by **finance secretary TV Somanathan**.
 - Recently, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, HP, and Punjab have decided to opt out of NPS.
29. **India hosted** a meeting of **National Security Advisors (NSA)** and top officials in **New Delhi**.
- **SCO** is an intergovernmental organization established in **2001**.
 - **Members:** India, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan..
 - **India and Pakistan** joined **SCO on 9 June 2017 at Astana Summit**.
 - The Secretariat of the **SCO, headquartered in Beijing, China**, is the primary executive body of the organization.
30. **Hero Motocorp** has appointed **Niranjan Gupta** as the new **CEO**.
- **Pawan Munjal** will continue as **Executive Chairman and Whole-Time Director** on the company's Board.
 - Hero MotoCorp is the **world's largest two-wheeler manufacturer**, based in India.
 - The company was founded in 1984 and was initially a joint venture between Hero Cycles of India and Honda of Japan.

APRIL

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Jan to May, 2023

31. **Amit Kshatriya**, an Indian American, appointed as the **first head of NASA's Moon to Mars Programme**.
 - **Aim of Moon to Mars Programme:** To use the agency's Artemis mission in order to open a new era of scientific discovery and prepare for human missions to Mars
 - NASA Founder: **Dwight D. Eisenhower**, Founded: **29 July 1958**, HQ: **Washington D.C., United States**.
32. **Subby Subramaniam** appointed as **Warrant Officer** in the **Royal Air Force of the United Kingdom**.
 - Royal Air Force (RAF) is the oldest independent air force in the world, established on April 1, 1918.
33. **Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo** appointed as the President of the **National Rifle Association of India (NRAI)**.
 - NRAI was **established in 1951** with the objective of promoting and popularizing shooting sports in India.
 - First speaker of Lok Sabha, **GV Mavalankar** was the founder president of **NRAI**.
34. **Ajit Kumar Mohanty** has been appointed as the **chairman** of the **Atomic Energy Commission**.
 - AEC Estab: 1948
 - It is a Statutory body under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).
35. Legendary wrestler and coach, **Mahavir Singh Phogat** has been appointed as the Chairman of the **MMA-1 Federation**.
36. **Anant Maheshwari**, Microsoft India president appointed as **Chairperson of NASSCOM** for 2023-24.
 - NASSCOM refers to National Association of Software and Service Companies.
37. **Shreekant M Bhandiwad** has taken charge as the new chairman of **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB)**.

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- Headquarter: **Dharwad, Karnataka.**
- It is jointly owned by the Government of India, Government of Karnataka, and Syndicate Bank.

38. **Vice Admiral, Sanjay Jasjit Singh** assumed the charge of the **Vice Chief of Naval Staff.**

- First Vice chief of Naval Staff: **Sourendra Nath Kohli.**
- The Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS) is a **statutory position** in the **Indian Armed Forces**, that is usually held by a **three-star vice admiral.**

MAY

39. **Qantas** has named **Vanessa Hudson** as its new **chief executive officer.**

- This makes her the first woman to lead the airline.
- Qanatas Airways Founded in: **1920.**
- The airline is headquartered in **Sydney, Australia.**

40. **Polavarapu Mallikharjuna Prasad** has been appointed as the **chairman and managing director of Coal India Limited.**

- Coal India Ltd. Founded: **November 1975**, Headquarters: **Kolkata.**

41. **Neera Tandon** becomes domestic policy advisor in **Biden administration**

- She became the **first Asian-American** to lead the White House Advisory Council.

42. **Parminder Chopra** appointed as **Managing Director of Power Finance Corporation (PFC).**

- She will be the **first woman** to be appointed as the **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of the **Maharatna company.**
- The government has accorded the '**Maharatna**' status to **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** making it the 11th 'Maharatna' company.
- PFC Estab: **1986**, HQ: **New Delhi**

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Jan to May, 2023

43. **Ayushman Khurana** selected as **Ambassador for Special Olympics Journey to Berlin**.
- The Special Olympics is an international sports organization that provides year-round sports training and competition opportunities **for children and adults with intellectual disabilities**.
 - The Special Olympics **was founded in 1968** by Eunice Kennedy Shriver.
 - **17th Special Olympics** will be held in Berlin from **16th-25th June, 2023**.
44. **Praveen Sood** appointed as New **Director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**.
- Sood is a 1986-batch IPS officer from the Karnataka cadre.
 - He was appointed **Karnataka DGP in January 2020**.
 - His name was finalized by **Prime Minister, Chief Justice of India and Leader of Opposition**.
 - CBI was **established in 1963** by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
 - **CBI Hq:** New Delhi; **First CBI director:** D.P. Kohli.
45. **Linda Yaccarino** appointed as the **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Twitter**.
- In October 2022, Elon Musk completed \$44 billion acquisition of Twitter.
46. **Manoj Soni** appointed as **Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**.
- **'Sir Ross Barker'** was the **first Chairman of UPSC**. He first assumed office in 1926.
 - Founded: 1 October 1926, Founder: Government of the United Kingdom.
47. **Ravneet Kaur** has been **appointed** as the **Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI)**.
- CCI acts as an antitrust watchdog and ensures that there is no abuse of the dominant position by a company in the market.
 - CCI Founded: **14 October 2003**, First executive: **Dhanendra Kumar**, Headquarters: **New Delhi**.
48. **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit** took over as the **Deputy Chief of the Air Staff**.

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Jan to May, 2023

49. **Sourav Ganguly** appointed as **Brand Ambassador** of **Tripura Tourism**.
- Capital of Tripura: **Agartala**
50. **K. Govindaraj** elected as the President of **International Basketball Federation (FIBA) Asia**.
- He is the **first Indian to be unanimously nominated** as the President of FIBA Asia.
 - FIBA est. 18 June 1932; Hq: Mies, Switzerland.
 - It consists of **212 national federations** organized into five regions: Africa, America, Asia, Europe and Oceania.
51. **Dream11 CEO Harsh Jain** appointed as Chairman of '**Internet and Mobile Association of India**' (IAMAI).
- A **new 24-member council will take charge of IMAI**, the members will be from top tech companies.
 - **IAMAI Founded: 2004**
 - **Purpose:** Promote the growth of the digital services industry in India.
52. The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** has elected **R Dinesh** as President.
- **CII Founded: 1895: Hq: Delhi.**
 - **Purpose:** To promote and strengthen the business and industry sector in India.
53. **Praveen Kumar Srivastava** appointed as the next **Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC)**.
- Appointed by: **President Droupadi Murmu**
 - CVC Headquarters: **New Delhi**, First executive: **Nittoor Srinivasa Rau**, Current executive: **Suresh N Patel**.
54. **Sachin Tendulkar** appointed as '**Smile Ambassador**' by Maharashtra govt. under '**Swachh Mukh Abhiyan**'.
- **Aim:** To spread awareness about oral health and hygiene
 - Sachin Tendulkar was born on **April 24, 1973, in Mumbai, India.**

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DEFENCE

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully **launched Short-Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM), Prithvi-II** from the **Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha coast**.
 - Prithvi-II missile is a **well-established system**.
 - It has been an **integral part of nuclear deterrence** in India.
 - Range: 350 km**
- Garuda Aerospace** and Former cricketer, **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** have launched a surveillance drone named **'Droni.'**
 - MS Dhoni is an investor-cum-ambassador of Garuda Aerospace.**
 - Droni is a battery-operated quadcopter surveillance drone.**
 - Garuda Aerospace recently became the first-ever drone company in India to get dual DGCA approvals for both drone manufacturing type certificate and RTPO.
 - In 2022, he unveiled the camera drone called Droni at the Global Drone Expo in Chennai.
- India** has observed the **75th India Army Day on January 15**.
 - This day was observed to mark **Field Marshall, K M Cariappa, who took over as the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, replacing his British predecessor in 1949.**
 - The **75th Army Day Parade** was held at the **MEG and Centre in Bengaluru.**
 - The event featured a fly-past by the **Army Aviation Dhruv and Rudra helicopters and Indian Air Force's Sukhoi-30Mki**
 - 29th Chief of the Army Staff: **General Manoj Pande**
- The **21st edition** of the **bilateral naval exercise between India and France 'VARUNA'** was organized on the **Western Seaboard** from 16 -20 January 2023.
 - It was initiated in 1993 and was christened **'VARUNA' in 2001.**

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5. **14th edition of Aero India 2023** will be held at **Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru** from **13-17 February 2023**.
 - This event will be a combination of the major trade exhibition of the aerospace and defence industries as well as an aerial display by IAF.
 - It will also be participated by global leaders and big investors in the aerospace industry.
6. **Squadrone** has become the **first Indian firm to fly autonomous drones** in underground mines in India in January 2023.
 - Squadrone successfully completed a Proof of Concept at Hindustan Zinc Ltd. underground mines in **Udaipur, Rajasthan**.
7. Tech startup firm **IG Drones** has developed **India's first 5G-enabled drone** capable of vertical take-off and landing on 11 Jan 2023.
 - This drone has been **named Skyhawk** and can be used in other areas apart from **defense and medicine**.
 - It can fly for about five hours with a payload of **10 kg**, which is also equipped with capabilities like **artificial intelligence and thermal imaging**.
8. **First female fighter** pilot, squadron commander **Avani Chaturvedi**, will participate in the inaugural air exercise **Veer Guardian 2023**.
 - The exercise aims to improve air defence cooperation between **Japan and India**.
 - For the **first time** an **Indian Air Force (IAF)** female fighter pilot will participate in aerial war games.
 - The exercise will be hosted by the Japan at the **Hyakuri Air Base in Jan 2023**.
9. **Prime Minister** renamed the **21 largest unnamed islands of Andaman & Nicobar** after **Param Vir Chakra** awardees on January 23, 2023.
 - He has also unveiled the model of the **National Memorial** dedicated to **Netaji**, to be constructed on **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep** (earlier known as Ross Islands).

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10. The **Indian Navy** has organized a six-day-long mega biennial tri-services amphibious exercise '**AMPHEX 2023**' near **Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh** from January 17 to 22, 2023.

- The military exercise was organized between the **Indian Navy, Army, and IAF**.
- It included complex activities in all domains that demonstrated and validated the high level of preparedness and excellent coordination

FEBRUARY

11. NISAR, a joint satellite of NASA and ISRO, is **planned to be launched in 2024**.

- NISAR refers to NASA-ISRO SAR, is a **Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory**.
- It will also provide consistent data for understanding changes in Earth's ecosystems.
- **Radar systems in NISAR:** L – Band SAR and S-Band SAR
- **L-Band SAR:** Designed and Created by JPL of NASA
- **S-Band SAR:** Designed and created by ISRO

12. Astronomer of **Washington's Carnegie Institution for Science** has discovered **12 new moons** around **Jupiter planet**.

- Now, **Jupiter** has **92 moons**.
- Jupiter planet has **overtaken Saturn** planet, which has 83 moons at present.

13. The **Indian military** has concluded the **joint training exercise Trishakti Prahar**, which was **started in North Bengal on January 21, 2023**.

- **Aim:** To practice battle preparedness of the security forces, using the latest weapons and equipment in a networked, integrated environment.
- This exercise was **participated by the Army, the Indian Air Force, and CAPFs**.

14. The **4th edition** of a **joint military exercise, "EX DHARMA GUARDIAN"** between **India and Japan** is being started at **Camp Imazu in Shiga** province of **Japan** from 17th February - 2nd March 2023.

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- This exercise covers platoon-level joint training on operations in jungle and semi-urban or urban terrain.
 - **Indian Army's Garhwal Rifles Regiment troops and Japan's Infantry Regiment troops** participated in the exercise.
 - **Aim:** To enhance inter-operability in planning and execution.
15. The **Indian Air Force** has developed an **innovative solution** named 'Vayulink' to send radio communication to the base station when the signals are low.
- It would help pilots to deal with bad weather and also provide them with **jammer-proof uninterrupted communication** with the base station.
 - It is an ad-hoc data link communication system.
 - It will be installed in an aircraft and provide information about other aircraft close by, encrypted traffic data over a secured channel.
16. **INS Sindhukesari** became the **First Indian Submarine Dock** in **Indonesia**:
- It was designed as part of **Project 877**
 - Built under a contract between **Rosvooruzhenie, Russia, and Ministry of Defence, India.**
17. **Exercise Cobra Warrior**
- It is a multilateral Air exercise in which Air Forces from Finland, Sweden, South Africa, the USA, and Singapore would also participate.
 - At: **Waddington Air Force Base in the UK.**
18. **Indian Air Force (IAF)** will participate in **Ex-Desert Flag VIII.**
- Organized At: **Al Dahfra airbase of the United Arab Emirates.**
 - IAF has participated with five Light Combat Aircraft, LCA Tejas, and two C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.

MARCH

19. 'Frinjex-23' military exercise:

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Jan to May, 2023

- Maiden Joint Military Exercise between **India and France**
 - Held at: **Pangode Military Station in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**
 - Theme of the exercise: “**Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Operations in a Contested Environment**”
 - France Capital: **Parsi**, Currency: **Francs**.
20. **INS Trikand** participated in the **International Maritime Exercise/ Cutlass Express 2023**
- held in: **Gulf region**
 - IMX/CE-23 is **one of the largest multinational maritime exercises** in the world.
 - **Aim:** To enhance maritime security and keep sea lanes in the region safe for maritime commerce.
21. **Indian Air Force (IAF)** participated in **Exercise Shinyuu Maitri** with the **Japan Air Self-Defence Force (JASDF)**.
- Exercise Shinyuu Maitri is being organized on the **sidelines** of the **Indo-Japan Joint Army Exercise, Dharma Guardian**.
22. **Group Captain Shaliza Dhani:**
- She becomes the **first woman officer** in the **history of the IAF** to be given the **frontline combat unit command**.
23. **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report:**
- **India** remained the **world’s largest arms importer** from 2018 to 2022 **followed by Saudi Arabia**.
 - Russia was **India’s largest arms supplier** in the periods between 2013-17 and 2018-22.
 - While France emerged as the second-largest arms supplier to India followed by the US.
24. **Inter-Services Organization (Command, Control and Discipline) Bill, 2023**
- Introduced in **Lok Sabha**

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- Objective: To empower designated military commanders to take charge of soldiers and enforce discipline, regardless of the service they belong to.
 - The central government may constitute an **Inter-services Organisation**, which may include a **Joint Services Command**.
25. **Africa-India Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX 2023)** will be organized in **Pune, India**.
- The exercise will promote the idea of **Africa-India Militaries for Regional Unity (AMRUT)**.
 - A comprehensive validation exercise on the theme **“Humanitarian Mine Actions and Peace Keeping Operations”**.
 - A total of 25 nations of the African continent with 124 participants and Indian troops from the SIKH, MARATHA and MAHAR Regiments participated in the multinational exercise.
26. **Konkan 2023**.
- Joint Maritime Exercise between **Indian Navy and Royal Navy of Britain**.
 - Concluded in: **Arabian Sea**
 - **INS Trishul, a guided missile frigate, and HMS Lancaster participated.**
27. **‘Vayu Prahar’**, multi domain air and land exercise held in the eastern sector.
- Held between **Indian Army and Indian Air force**
 - Chief of Army Staff: **General Manoj Pande** Chief of the Air Staff: **Vivek Ram Chaudhari**
 - **Aim:** To enhance the ability of the **Army and Air Force to work together seamlessly**.
 - It has been also conducted to enhance its readiness and preparedness to respond to any potential threats and challenges in the region, including those posed by China.

APRIL

28. **SLINEX-2023, 10th Edition** of the annual **Indian - Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime exercise**.
- Held in: **Colombo**

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- Indian Navy represented by: **INS Kiltan and INS Savitri**
 - SLINEX first conducted in: **2005**
 - Aim of the exercise is to enhance inter-operability, improve mutual understanding, and exchange best practices and procedures.
29. Joint military exercise '**Ex Kavach**':
- **Conducted by:** Andaman and Nicobar Command.
 - **Involved Assets of :** Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.
 - Exercise KAVACH was structured to enhance the joint warfare capabilities
30. **Cope India 23:**
- **air exercise between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the United States Air Force (USAF)**
 - **Held at:** Air Force Stations Arjan Singh (Panagarh), Kalaikunda, and Agra.
 - **started in 2004** as a fighter training exercise.
31. "**Locked Shields**" 2023 Exercise:
- Hosted by: **NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Center of Excellence in Tallinn (Estonia).**
 - "**Locked Shields**" is the **world's largest cyber defence** exercise.
 - Participants: **3000 participants from 38 countries** including NATO allies.
 - NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Founded in 1949
 - Created to help protect its member countries from outside threats by working together.
 - NATO's headquarters is located in **Brussels, Belgium.**
32. **Exercise INIOCHOS-23:**
- Indian Air Force will participate with **four Su-30 MKI and two C-17 aircraft.**
 - **Location:** Hellenic Air Force, Greece.
33. '**Ajeya Warrior 2023**' defence exercise.

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- Joint Military exercise between **India and the UK**.
- Held at: **Salisbury Plains, UK**.

MAY

34. Inaugural edition of the ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise:

- **INS Satpura and INS Delhi** participated in the exercise.
- **INS Delhi is India's first indigenously-built guided missile destroyer**, while **INS Satpura is an indigenously-built guided missile stealth frigate**.
- Harbor phase will be held at: **Changi Naval Base, Singapore**. Sea phase will be conducted in **South China Sea**.
- ASEAN Member States: **10**, Established on: **1967** by signing **ASEAN Declaration in Bangkok, Thailand**.

35. INS Magar decommissioned after 36 years service:

- **Magar is the oldest landing ship of Indian Navy**.
- INS Magar was launched on **November 16, 1984** and **commissioned on July 18, 1987**
- The ship helped rescue more than **1,300** people after the **2004 Tsunami**.
- It also took part in many military exercises with the **Indian Army**.

36. 35th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT):

- Held between **Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy**.
- Concluded in: **Andaman Sea**.
- **INS Kesari**, an indigenously built **LST (L)**, and **HTMS Saiburi**, a **Chao Phraya Class Frigate** participated in the exercise.

37. 4th Edition of "Samudra Shakti-23":

- Concluded in: **South China Sea**.
- Held between **India and Indonesia**.

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- Samudra Shakti exercise was first held in **2018**.

38. Second edition of bilateral exercise 'Al Mohed Al Hindi 23':

- Held between: **Indian Navy and Royal Saudi Naval Force**.
- Held in: **Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia from 23 - 25 May 2023**.
- The **President of India** is the **Supreme Commander** of the **Indian Navy**.
- Chief of Naval Staff: **Admiral R. Hari Kumar**

SPORTS

1. Amit Shah has unveiled a **120-foot-tall statue of a polo player** riding a pony at Marjing Polo Complex in **Manipur's Imphal East district**.

- Northeastern state Manipur is considered as the birthplace of polo sports.
- According to Guinness World Records, polo's origins in Manipur with having history of around 3100 BC, when it was played as **Sagol Kangjei**.
- This is the **highest monument** in the northeast.

2. Indian Tennis Player **Sania Mirza** has announced **her retirement from professional Tennis**.

- **Mirza became the first Indian to win a WTA singles title**, when she won her hometown Hyderabad event in 2005.
- She broke into the top 30 by 2007 and reached her career-high ranking of world number 27.

3. **Indian team of Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni** won the **men's double Bangkok Open title 2023** organized at **Nonthaburi, Thailand**.

- They defeated **Christopher Rungkat and Akira Santillan** (Indonesian-Australian team).

4. The **India Open**, officially known as **Yonex- Sunrise India Open 2023** started in **New Delhi** on 17th January and continues till 22nd January 2023.

- The tournament organized at the **KD Jadhav Indoor Hall**.

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Jan to May, 2023

- Since 2008, it will be the **first time when India Open** is organized in the super 750 status category.
 - The tournament will see some **top players** from **29 countries**, and a total of **97 players** will compete in various categories.
5. **Denmark badminton player, Viktor Axelsen** won the **men's singles Malaysia Open** title 2023, after defeating **Kodai Naraoka from Japan**.
- While Akane Yamaguchi (Japanese player) lifted the title in the women's final, after beating South Korea's An Se-young.
 - **Other winners:** Men's doubles: **Fajar Alfian** and **Muhammad Rian Ardianto** (Indonesia)
 - Women's doubles: Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan (China)
 - Mixed doubles: Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong (China)
6. **Hockey India** has launched a new metaverse product '**Hockeyverse**' for live broadcasting of the Men's World Cup in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from January 13-29, 2023.
- '**Hockeyverse**' is designed to enhance the tournament experience for fans around the world.
 - It features replica of the newly built **Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium and The Time Machine**, based on time travel elements.
7. **Thailand badminton player, Kunlavut Vitidsarn** won the **India Open** title 2023 after defeating Viktor Axelsen (Denmark) in the **men's singles** of the **India Open Badminton Championship, held at K. D. Jadhav Indoor Stadium in New Delhi**.
- While **An Seyoung (Korean)** won the **Women's singles** final after defeating Japanese Akane Yamaguchi.
 - Other winners (**doubles**): Men's: **Liang Weikeng** and **Wang Chang** (China)
 - **Women's:** Nami Matsuyama and Chiharu Shida (Japan)

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Jan to May, 2023

8. **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has selected **Ben Stokes** (England Test captain) as the **Men's Test Cricketer of the Year 2022**.
 - While **England all-rounder, Nat Sciver** won the **ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2022**.
 - Other winners (Cricketer of the Year 2022):
 - Women's ODI: **Nat Sciver**, Men's ODI: **Babar Azam (Pakistan)**, Women's T20: **Tahlia McGrath (Australia)**, Men's T20: **Suryakumar Yadav (India)**, Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy: **Babar Azam**
9. **India women's cricket team** defeated **England** by **7 wickets** in the final to win the **first-ever ICC Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup 2023**, held in **Potchefstroom, South Africa**.
 - Player of the Match: **Titas Sadhu (India)**
 - India's Captain for U-19 Women's T20: **Shafali Verma**
10. **World Boxing Council**, announced to introduce transgender category from 2023.

FEBRUARY

11. **Australia's opening batsman Usman Khawaja** has bagged the **inaugural Shane Warne Award as the men's Test player of the year**.
 - It is named in honour of the legendary leg-spinner Shane Warne, who passed away in March 2022.
12. The **inaugural season of the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2023** will be held in **Mumbai (Maharashtra) from 4 - 26 March**.
 - Matches will be held in the **Brabourne Stadium and the DY Patil Stadium**.
 - **Team owners:** Mumbai Indians, RCB, Delhi Capitals, Capri Global Holdings, and Adani.
 - **Smriti Mandhana** became the **most expensive women's pick** in the **Women's Premier League (WPL) auction**.
 - She has been bought by the **Royal Challengers Bangalore** for **3.40 Cr.**

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- **TATA Group** has bagged the title rights for the **Women's Premier League**
 - **IPL chairman:** Arun Dhumal; **BCCI Secretary:** Jay Shah
13. Anurag Singh Thakur, and LG of J&K, Manoj Sinha **launched the Mascot, Theme Song, and Jersey for the 3rd edition of Khelo India Winter Games in Jammu & Kashmir.**
- The Winter Games are **scheduled** to be held from 10-14 February 2023 at **Gulmarg, J&K.**
 - Organized: J&K Sports Council and Winter Games Association.
 - **Mascot:** Snow Leopard (depicts the vibrant heritage of the Himalayas).
14. The **Asian Football Confederation (AFC)** has announced that the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** won the hosting rights of the **2027 Asian Nations Cup.**
- **2023 AFC Asian Cup: Qatar** (from June 26 to July 16, 2023).
 - Saudi Arabia Capital: Riyadh; Currency: Riyal.
15. **Jean Eric Vergne** of **DS Penske** has won an **action-packed Formula E in Hyderabad**, that marked a successful return of a high-profile motorsport event in India, **defeating Nick Cassidy.**
- This is **Eric Vergne's first win of the season.**
 - Hyderabad ePrix is the single-seater, electrically powered Formula E race, and will be the first Formula E race to be held in the country.
 - Hyderabad is the 27th city in the world to host the race which is the **first non-carbon emission event.**
16. **Fifth Khelo India Youth Games** was concluded at the **Upper Lake in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.**
- **Maharashtra has topped the medals tally by winning 154 medals** (53 gold, 54 silver, and 47 bronze).
 - While **Haryana** placed second with a **total of 116 medals**, followed by **Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.**

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- The 5th KIYG -2023 was hosted in the **eight towns** of MP - Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Maheshwar, Balaghat, Mandla, Jabalpur, and Gwalior.
- Union Sports Minister: **Anurag Singh Thakur**

17. India's first "frozen-lake marathon" will be organized at the **Pangong Tso, Ladakh** on February 20, 2023.

- The **Indian army** and the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police** have been roped in to implement a "**proper action plan**" for the event.
- The **21-kilometer marathon** will be started from **Lukung** and ended at **Maan village**.
- The marathon is being called the "**Last Run**" to highlight the issue of climate change.

18. Saurashtra has defeated Bengal by nine wickets to lift their second Ranji Trophy title 2023, organized at **Eden Gardens, Kolkata**.

- Saurashtra captain **Jaydev Unadkat** was declared **Man of the Match** for his impressive performance.
- Most runs: **Mayank Agarwal** (Karnataka) (990)
- Most wickets: **Jalaj Saxena** (Kerala) (50)
- Saurashtra won their first title in 2019-20 after beating Bengal.

19. Australia beat South Africa to lift ICC Women's T20 World Cup Trophy 2023.

- Venue: at **Newlands, Cricket Ground in Cape Town, South Africa**.
- Player of the series: **Australia Ashleigh Gardner**, Most runs: **South Africa Laura Wolvaardt** (230)

20. 13th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2023

- held in: **Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh**.
- Won by: **Madhya Pradesh women's hockey team**

21. FIFA's best men's player of the year for 2022

- Won by: **Lionel Messi**

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Jan to May, 2023

- Reason: Winning his maiden World Cup title with Argentina in December 2022 in Qatar.
- **Alexia Putellas** (Spain) was awarded the **best women's player** for a second straight year.

MARCH

22. 60th Indian Grandmaster **D Gukesh** honoured with **Player-of-the-Year award** by the Asian Chess Federation (ACF).

- **Reason:** For clinching the gold medal with a record-breaking score of 9/11 in the 44th Chess Olympiad at Mahabalipuram..
- **All India Chess Federation** (AICF) bagged the '**Most Active Federation**' award conferred during the **ACF annual summit**.

23. Indian team's star **hockey player Rani Rampal** has become the **first woman** in the sport to have a stadium named after her, in **Rae Bareli, Uttar Pradesh**.

- The MCF Rae Bareli has renamed the hockey stadium as '**Rani's Girls Hockey Turf**'.

24. India won both **men's and women's titles** of the **Asian Kho Kho Championship 2023** held at **Tamulpur in Assam**.

- In the **women's** category, **Indian Eves** defeated **Nepal** by an inning and 33 points.
- On the other hand, the **men's team** also defeated **Nepal** by an inning and six points.
- The modern form of **Kho-Kho** was **invented** in **1914**, with its rules and formalised structure being given by **Pune's Deccan Gymkhana club**.
- Kho-kho was demonstrated at the **1936 Berlin Olympics** alongside other traditional Indian games.

25. Indian Woman boxer, **Nitu Ghanghas** (48 kg) won Gold at **IBA Women's World Boxing Championship 2023**.

- Held at: **New Delhi**
- She became the **only sixth Indian boxer** (male or female) to win a **World championship**.
- IBA President: **Umar Kremlev**, Founded: **1946**, Headquarters: **Lausanne, Switzerland**.

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Jan to May, 2023

26. Mumbai Indians have won the inaugural **Women's Premier League final**, held at the **Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai**.

- Defeated: **Delhi Capitals** by **7 wickets**.
- Mumbai Indians captain: **Harmanpreet Kaur**
- **Orange cap**: Meg Lanning, **Purple Cap**: Hayley Matthews

27. Nikhat Zareen and Lovlina Borgohain won gold medal at **Women's Boxing World Championships in New Delhi**.

- Lovlina Borgohain is in 75kg middle-weight category.
- Nikhat Zareen won gold in 50 kg light flyweight division
- The **first World Women's Boxing Championships** was held in 2001 in **Scranton, Pennsylvania, USA**.

APRIL

28. Australian Grand Prix 2023 won by **Red Bull's driver Max Verstappen**.

- Held at: **Melbourne Grand Prix Circuit, Australia**.
- The Australian Grand Prix is a motor race held annually in Australia since 1928.
- Formula One Group is owned by a massive American mass media company called Liberty Media.

29. 1st woman on-field umpire in a full-member men's T20I:

- Umpire: **New Zealand's Kim Cotton**.
- Match: **New Zealand's second match** against Sri Lanka in Dunedin, New Zealand.

30. Indian wrestler, Aman Sehrawat won **India's first gold medal** in **Asian Wrestling Championship 2023**.

- Held in: **Astana, Kazakhstan**.
- Category: **57 kg freestyle**

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- The first Asian Wrestling Championships was held in 1979 in Tehran, Iran.
- India finish with 14 medals at Asian Wrestling Championship 2023.

31. 2023 Intercontinental Cup of Football:

- **Venue:** It be held in **Bhubaneswar** from **June 9 to 18**.
- 3rd edition of the tournament, after Mumbai (2018) and Ahmedabad (2019).
- Host India will be joined by **Lebanon, Mongolia and Vanuatu**.

32. London Marathon in 2nd fastest time:

- Winner: Kelvin Kiptum of Kenya
- record with a time of **2 hours, 1 minute, and 25 seconds**.
- missed out on Eliud Kipchoge's world record by **16 seconds**.

MAY

33. Badminton Asia Championship 2023, Dubai, UAE:

- Indian pair of **Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy** clinched the men's doubles title
- They become the **first Indian men's doubles pair** to win the Badminton Asia Championships title.

34. Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2023 World Championship, in Baku, Azerbaijan.

- Won by: **Red Bull's Driver Sergio Perez**

35. World Snooker Championship

- **Winner:** Belgium's Luca Brecel (first player from continental Europe to win).
- He has never win a match at World Championship before this year.
- **Started in 1927**, The World Snooker Championship is the longest-running and most prestigious tournament in professional snooker.

36. Miami F1 Grand Prix:

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Jan to May, 2023

- Won by: Max Verstappen (He drives Red Bull car).
- **Red Bull have now won all five races** of the 2023 season.

37. Madrid Open 2023: Winner: Spanish Tennis player, Carlos Alcaraz.

38. 2023 Laureus World Sports Awards:

- Winner: **Lionel Messi**
- Sportswoman of the Year: **Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce** (Jamaica) Athletics
- Team of the Year: **Argentina Men's Football Team**
- Breakthrough: **Carlos Alcaraz (Spain) Tennis**
- Comeback: **Christian Eriksen (Denmark) Football**

39. Asian Kabaddi Championship:

- To be held in: **Busan, South Korea** from **27-30 June**.
- This will be the **11th edition** of the Asian Kabaddi Championship.
- India is the defending champion in both the men's and women's categories.
- The **Indian men's team** has won the Asian Kabaddi Championship **a record 8 times**.
- The **Indian women's team** has won the Asian Kabaddi Championship **5 times**.
- South Korea is the **only other country to have won** the Asian Kabaddi Championship, in the **women's category** in 2017.

40. South Asian Youth Table Tennis Championship 2023:

- Held in: Dorjee Khandu Stadium, **Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, India**, from **May 14 to 17, 2023**.
- **India** tally: **16 gold, 10 silver, and 4 bronze medals**, finishing **first** in the medal tally.
- **Indian Captain:** Payas Jain.
- Organized by: **The Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI)**.

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- TTFI Est. 1926; Hq: Delhi; Members: 32 States and 37 institutions; President: Meghna Ahlawat.

41. Prraneeth Vuppala (16) from Telangana has become the 82nd Grandmaster of India.

- He achieved the required 2,500 FIDE rating points during the Baku Open tournament.
- Viswanathan Anand won the World Junior Chess Championship when he was 14.
- He became India's first chess grandmaster in 1988.

42. Neeraj Chopra has become the new world number one in the men's javelin throw with 1455 points followed by Jakub Vadlejch, and Julian Weber.

- Neeraj Chopra also became the first Indian to win a gold medal in a track and field event at the Tokyo Olympics.
- In 2023, he won the Diamond League in Doha with a world-leading effort of 88.67m.

43. International Jumping Meeting 2023:

- Winner: Indian Long jumper Murali Sreeshankar (Gold Medal).
- Organized at: Kallithea in Greece.
- He won with a jump of 8.31 meters.
- He holds the National record of 8.36 meters in Long Jump.

44. 40th Malaysia Masters Badminton title:

- Winner: HS Prannoy (Gold medal).
- Organized: 28th-31st May, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Third Indian after Saina Nehwal and PV Sindhu to win this title.

AWARDS

1. The government of India has selected 27 people for the highest honour for overseas Indians, Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA) 2023.

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- The awards will be conferred by the President Droupadi Murmu at **17th edition** of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention held at **Indore in Madhya Pradesh from January 8-10, 2023.**
 - **President of Guyana Mohamed Irfaan Ali** will be the **chief guest** this year.
 - **PBD 2023 theme:** Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's Progress in Amrit Kaal
2. The **Varanasi Cantt railway station** awarded a **5-star 'Eat Right Station'** certification by the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** for providing quality and nutritious food to passengers.
 - FSSAI is an autonomous body established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
 - FSSAI Chairperson: Rita Teatota; Hq: New Delhi.
 3. **Mumbai-based physician Dr. Tapan Saikia** honored with the **highest state civilian award, 'Assam Baibhav'**, for his contribution to cancer treatment.
 - Assam CM: **Himanta Biswa Sarma**; Capital: Dispur
 4. **Chief Justice of India (CJI), D.Y. Chandrachud** selected for the "**Award for Global Leadership**" by the **Harvard Law School Center.**
 - He took over as the **50th CJI** on November 9, 2022.
 5. The President of India, Droupadi Murmu has conferred **the Digital India Awards 2022** to the winners on 7th January 2023.
 - The **e-NAM (Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare)** was awarded the platinum award in **Digital Empowerment of Citizens category.**
 - The **e-Vivechna App (Madhya Pradesh)** was awarded the **platinum** award in **Digital Initiatives at Grassroots Level.**
 - The **Mine Mitra (Uttar Pradesh)** was awarded in **Digital Initiatives for Ease of Doing Business category.**
 6. **Odisha** has won the **UN-Habitat's World Habitat Awards 2023** for **Jaga Mission** initiative of the state.

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- **Jaga mission** is the world's largest land titling and slum upgrading program which aims at empowering the lives of slum dwellers.
 - **Odisha** is undertaking **Jaga Mission** to upgrade all of the state's 2,919 slums.
 - In the last five years of the initiative, 1,75,000 families have been granted land tenure security.
 - Odisha Governor: **Prof. Ganeshi Lal**, Odisha Capital: **Bhubaneshwar**
7. Noted writer **K Venu** has bagged the **first-ever Federal Bank Literary Award 2022** for his autobiography '**Oranweshananthinte Katha**'.
- It was presented at an event held as part of the ongoing sixth edition Kerala Literature Festival, Kozhikode beach.
8. **Thiru Kumar Nadesan** has been awarded the **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award** for his contribution towards community welfare in Jan 2023.
- He had initiated a fundraiser to assist stranded Indians in **Sri Lanka during the Covid outbreak**.
 - He actively promotes business & cultural exchanges between **India and Sri Lanka**.
 - He is the **2nd member** of the **Indian diaspora** from **Sri Lanka** to receive the honor.
9. Leading steelmaker **Jindal Steel & Power** awarded the prestigious **Golden Peacock Award 2022** for its excellence in **Corporate Social Responsibility** activities in the **Steel Sector**, on 13 Jan 2023.
- The steelmaker was selected by the **Award Jury** headed by **Former Chief Justice of India M.N. Venkatachaliah**.
 - The company is now aligned with **16 out of 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)**.
10. **Padma Vibhushan** awardee, **Dr. Prabha Atre** was awarded the **Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia Lifetime Achievement Award**.

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Jan to May, 2023

- Conferred by Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde, at Ram Ganesh Gadkari Rangayatan in Mumbai.
 - She is an Indian classical vocalist from the Kirana Gharana.
 - She has been awarded Padma Shri (1990), Padma Bhushan (2002), and Padma Vibhushan (2022) by the Government of India.
11. Two Indian films were awarded for the best script writer and best actress in the Asian Film Competition section at the 21st Dhaka International Film Festival organized from 14-22 Jan 2023.
- Aparajito (directed by: Anik Dutta) won the best scriptwriting award.
 - Ketaki Narayan won the best actress award for Prappeda (directed by: Krishnendu Kalesh).
 - Best Actor: Japanese Ikkei Watanabe (for Nakodo- Matchmakers)
 - Best Director: Iranian Ali Ghavitan (for Zendegi va Zendegi)
12. Renowned scientist, R Vishnu Prasad was honoured with "the most distinguished scientist of the year 2022" award at Indian Achievers Award ceremony held in Vigyan Bhawan, Delhi.
- The award recognized individuals for their outstanding contributions in various fields, including culture, science, sports, and innovation.
 - He contributed to smart cities, solid waste management, large-scale water treatment, and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.
13. Visakhapatnam railway station of East Coast Railway has been awarded the 'Green Railway Station Certification with the highest rating of Platinum'.
- The award was presented by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).
 - Reason: For adopting green concepts and reducing the adverse environmental impact.
 - Visakhapatnam is one of the few railway stations to get this prestigious certificate.

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- It has secured 82 out of 100 points in six environmental categories.

FEBRUARY

14. **Former India PM Dr. Manmohan Singh** was conferred a **Lifetime Achievement Honour** by the **India-UK Achievers Honours in London**.

- It was handed over to him in New Delhi by the **National Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU) UK**.

15. **Indian music composer, Ricky Kej** won his **third Grammy Award** in the **best new age album category** for **'Divine Tides'** at the **65th Annual Grammy Awards ceremony** in Los Angeles.

- He has **shared this award with Stewart Copeland**, who collaborated with Kej on the album.
- **Record of the Year:** About Damn Time by Lizzo; **Album of the Year:** Harry's House by Harry Styles; **Song of the Year:** Just Like That.

16. The **'Blockbill' app team, Niyati Totala and Neel Kalpeshkumar Parikh** (IIT Indore's Students) were awarded the prestigious **Global Best M-GOV Award 2023** at the **World Government Summit in Dubai, UAE**.

- Egyptian President **Abel Fattah Al-Sisi** has presented the award.
- **Blockbill:** It is a blockchain-based receipt generation app. It generates digital receipts for all of its users' transactions.

17. An eminent linguist, **Dr. Mahendra Kumar Mishra** will be **honored** with **UNESCO's International Mother Language Award 2023**.

- Reason: For the promotion of the mother language in India
- Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina will present this award to **Dr. Mahendra Kumar Mishra** at the **International Mother Language Institute, Dhaka**.
- He is the **first Indian to receive this prestigious award** for the promotion of a language.

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Jan to May, 2023

- He is also the recipient of **Odisha Sahitya Akademi**.
18. **Kantara movie actor & director, Rishab Shetty** will be honored with the **Most Promising Actor Award** at the **Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF) Award 2023** on February 20 in **Mumbai**.
- He was awarded for his stellar performance in the **Kannada film, Kantara**.
 - Rishab Shetty is an Indian actor and filmmaker primarily working in Kannada cinema.
 - DPIFF was founded in 2012 and established in 2016.
 - DPIFF CEO: **Abhishek Mishra**
19. Former **India Davis Cup tennis player, Ramesh Krishnan** was presented with the **Lifetime Achievement Award** at the annual awards, organized by the **Rotary Club of Madras, T. Nagar (RCMT), Chennai**.
- Tamil Nadu Tennis Association president and ace tennis player **Vijay Amritraj** presented the award.
 - **Vijay Amritraj** was the **recipient of the first award in 2010**.
 - Golf player, Uttam Singh Mundy was awarded for vocational excellence.
20. **Veteran Journalist A.B.K. Prasad** has been selected for the prestigious “**Raja Ram Mohan Roy National Award**” for excellence in **Journalism**.
- He has worked as an editor in major journals in **Andhra Pradesh**.
 - The award will be given by the Press Council of India on 28 Feb 23.
21. **Ranbir Kapoor** won the **Best Actor award** at the **Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF) Awards 2023** in **Mumbai**.
- For his role in **Brahmastra Part One-Shiva**.
 - **Film of The Year: RRR**
 - **Most Promising Actor: Rishab Shetty (Kantara)**
 - **Best Director: R Balki (Chup)**

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Jan to May, 2023

22. National Geographic ‘Pictures of The Year’ award:

- Won by: **Karthik Subramaniam**.
- Photograph Title: “**Dance of the Eagles**”.

23. CPI-M leader, T K Rangarajan has been honored with the Sansad Ratna Lifetime Achievement Award 2023.

- **Thirteen MPs** were nominated for the Sansad Ratna Awards 2023.
- Sansad Ratna Award Instituted: **2010**, Inspired by: **APJ Abdul Kalam**

24. EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2022:

- Won by: **Chairman of JSW Group Sajjan Jindal**
- He will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) at Monte Carlo in June 2023.

25. 2023 Marconi Prize.

- Won By: **Computer scientist, Hari Balakrishnan**
- The Marconi Prize is a top honor for computer scientists and is awarded by the U.S.-based Marconi Foundation.

MARCH

26. 2022 BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award:

- Won by: **Weiglyfter Mirabai Chanu**
- She becomes the first athlete to win the award twice in a row after winning for the year 2021.
- She became the **first Indian to win a silver medal** in weightlifting at **Tokyo Olympics**
- Lifetime Achievement Award: **Pritam Siwach (Women Hockey Player)**

27. 2023 PEN America award:

- Won by: Hindi writer **Vinod Kumar Shukla** for lifetime achievement in **literature**.

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Jan to May, 2023

- The award was founded in 2016 by Pen America in collaboration with the Vladimir Nabokov Literary Foundation to honour a living author

28. Porter Prize 2023:

- Won by: **Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry**
- **Porter Prize:** This award was named after award-winning economist **Michael E. Porter**.
- Minister for Health: **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**

29. Tamil writer Perumal Murugan's novel 'Pyre':

- has been selected for the **International Booker prize longlist for 2023**.
- This book is a translation of his original Tamil book 'Pukkuli' which tells the story of an inter-caste couple
- It features work from **Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America**, the oldest writer ever to be nominated, three writers who appear in English for the first time, and books **translated from 11 languages**.

30. Saraswati Samman for the year 2022

- Awarded to: **Tamil writer Sivasankari**
- For: **Survyam Vamsam**.

31. Bombay Jayashri has been selected for the Sangita Kalanidhi award 2023 of the prestigious Music Academy, Chennai.

- She was awarded the Padma Shri in 2021.

32. British architect Sir David Chipperfield has won the Pritzker Architecture Prize 2023

- It is the highest international honour in the discipline.
- The 45th Pritzker Prize ceremony honoring David Chipperfield will be held in Athens, Greece in May 2023.

33. 2021 National Humanities Medal presented by US President Joe Biden.

- **Won by:** Indian American Actress and Producer **Mindy Kaling**

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- **Reason:** For empowering the new generation to tell their stories with irreverence and sincerity
 - The National Medal of Arts is the highest award, given to artists by the US government.
34. **Alia Mir**, a woman from **J&K** honoured with **Wildlife Conservation Award**.
- **J-K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha** facilitated her with the wildlife **honor award**.
 - She is also the **first woman from Kashmir** who works for the charity Wildlife SOS organization which is part of the Wildlife Rescue Team.
 - She was awarded for her achievements in bear rescue in Kashmir, rescue, and release of wild animals.
35. **Naveen Jindal** was honored with a **lifetime achievement** award from the **University of Texas at Dallas**.
- **Reason:** In recognition of his accomplishments in industry, politics, and education.
 - Currently, he is serving as the **Chairman of Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.**
 - He is the second person to receive this award from the University of Texas, after Nobel Laureate Aziz Sancar.

APRIL

36. “**Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur**” (Knight of the Legion of Honour) conferred to **Kiran Nadar** by French Ambassador to India Emmanuel Lenain.
- She is a chairperson of the **Kiran Nadar Museum of Art**.
 - In 2022, KNMA joined hands with **Alkazi Foundation, and the French Institute** in India to create “**Converges**”, the largest exhibition of original pictures from French photographers ever shown in India.
 - Legion of Honour was established in 1802 by **Napoleon Bonaparte**.
 - France Capital: **Paris**, Currency: **Franc**, President: **Emmanuel Macron**

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Jan to May, 2023

37. **International Prize 2023 in Statistics:** referred to as Noble Prize of Statistics.

- **Winner:** Indian-American statistician **Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao**
- Award was established in 2016 and is awarded once in every 2 years.

38. **World Vaccine Congress 2023:**

- **Best Production /Process Development'** award won by: Bharat Biotech.
- Award is a part of Vaccine Industry Excellence (ViE) awards.
- Conference held in: Washington, USA.
- Bharat Biotech was **the only Indian company** in the list of VIE awards
- Bharat Biotech is the world's first producer of intranasal Covid-19 vaccine, iNcovacc.

39. **Order of the White Eagle Award:** Poland's Highest Distinction.

- **Winner:** Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky.
- It is awarded to the most eminent Poles and the highest-ranking representatives of foreign countries.

40. **Karnataka** has bagged the **national award** for the **best implementation** of the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana** (PMFBY) in the country.

- The state has recorded a 47.74% increase in the enrolment of farmers under the scheme, between the Kharif season 2021 and 2022.
- **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana** (PMFBY) is a crop insurance scheme launched by the **Government of India** in 2016.

41. **Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2022:**

- **Won by:** Union Health Ministry's National Covid-19 Vaccination Programme under Innovation category.
- Over **220 crore doses** of **Covid vaccine** have been administered in the country so far.
- Nationwide vaccination drive was rolled out on **January 16, 2021**.

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Jan to May, 2023

- **PM Gati Shakti national master plan initiative** won the same award under ‘**Innovation (Central)**’ category.
42. **1st woman IAF officer to get Gallantry Award:**
- Winner: **Wing Commander Deepika Misra** from Indian Air Force.
 - She won the **Vayu Sena Medal**.
 - She is a Rajasthan based Helicopter pilot.
 - **Presented by:** IAF chief Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari
43. **Germany’s highest Order of Merit:**
- Winner: **Former Chancellor Angela Merkel**
 - The Order of Merit was **established in 1951**, and one of the most prestigious awards in Germany.
 - It is awarded by the President of Germany to individuals who have made significant contributions to the nation’s cultural, economic, or political life.
44. **Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar award:**
- Winner: **Singer Asha Bhosle**.
 - Award in memory of Lata Mangeshkar, who **died on February 6, 2022**.
 - Aimed to **honor people from various fields** such as music, drama, art, medicine etc.
 - Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was its **first recipient**.
45. **HUDCO Award for 2022-2023.**
- Awarded to: **Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) Uttar Pradesh**.
 - **Reason:** Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment 2022-23 category for cleanliness.
46. **1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award:**
- Received by: **Tibetan spiritual leader, Dalai Lama**

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- It was the **first international award** given for his Community Leadership in recognition of his leadership.
- The award is named after **Ramon Magsaysay**, who was the **seventh President** of the **Philippines**.
- The **Ramon Magsaysay Award** was established in **1957**

MAY

47. Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 2023:

- Won by: **Barbara Kingsolver** (American) for her novel 'Demon Copperhead' and Hernan Diaz (Argentina) for his novel 'Trust'.
- The Pulitzer Prize was established by **Joseph Pulitzer**, a **Hungarian-American newspaper publisher**, in his will.
- The first prizes were awarded in **1917**.
- Indian Winners of Pulitzer Prize: **Gobind Behari Lal** in 1937, **Jhumpa Lahiri** in 2000, **Geeta Anand** in 2003, **Siddhartha Mukherjee** in 2011, **Vijay Seshadri** in 2014.

48. First Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award:

- Winner: **Veteran Astronomer Jayant Naralika**.
- Instituted by: **Astronomical society of India (ASI)**.
- **Naralika was the founding director of IUCAA** and the first to initiate cosmology research in India, He was also the past president of ASI.
- Award is named after **Prof. Govind Swarup**, known as founder of radio astronomy in India.
- ASI was **founded in 1972**, by **Vainu Bappu**.

49. Sagar Shreshtha Sammaan 2023:

- Winner: **Cochin Port**.
- Awarded by: **Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways**

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- Awarded to: M. Beena, Chairperson, Cochin Port Authority
- Awarded for: **Best turnaround time in non-container port category** during the year 2022-23
- Turnaround time is the time it takes a port to handle a vessel. A shorter turnaround time is better because it means the port is more efficient and can handle more vessels

50. France's Highest Civilian Award: (Knight of the Legion of Honour):

- **Won by:** TATA Sons Chairman **Natarajan Chandrasekaran.**
- **Awarded for:** his role in developing commercial links between India and France.
- He was appointed as **Chairperson in 2017.**
- Born in **1963 in Madurai, India** and studied engineering at the **IIT Madras.**
- The award was established by **Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802.**
- Other Indians who have won the Legion d'Honneur include: **Mother Teresa, APJ Abdul Kalam, Sachin Tendulkar, Amitabh Bachchan, Kiran Majumdar Shaw.**

51. International Booker Prize:

- Winner: **Bulgarian writer Georgi Gospodinov.**
- Novel: **'Time Shelter'.**
- **This is the first time a Bulgarian book won the award.**
- It is an international literary award **hosted in the United Kingdom.**
- **established in 2005** and is awarded annually to a book that has been **translated into English.**
- Indian Winner: In **2022, Geetanjali Shree** won the prize for her novel **Tomb of San.**

52. IIFA Awards 2023: International Indian Film Academy Awards

- **Best Film:** Drishyam 2
- **Best Actor:** Hrithik Roshan for Vikram Vedha
- **Best Actress:** Alia Bhatt for Gangubai Kathiawadi

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- **Best Director:** R Madhavan for Rocketry.
- **Outstanding Achievement** in Indian Cinema: Kamal Hassan.
- **First IIFA Awards** ceremony was held in 2000 in London.
- **IIFA Chairman:** Ronnie Screwvala
- **Most awarded film:** Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (1995) (10 awards).

53. 57th Jnanpith Award:

- **Won by:** Goan writer Damodar Mauzo.
- It is **country's highest literary honor.**

BANKING

1. PNB becomes the **first public sector bank** to launch credit cards against fixed deposits digitally.
 - **Aim:** To offer for those account holders, who don't meet the eligibility criteria for regular credit cards.
 - The bank **offers RuPay or VISA credit cards** digitally against **single or multiple FDs** with 80% credit limit.
2. Infibeam Avenues Ltd's brand 'CCAvenue' has become **India's FIRST** payment gateway **player** to process **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)** or **Digital Rupee** transactions for online retail merchants.
 - The RBI launched the **first pilot** of the **digital rupee for the retail segment on December 1, 2022.**
 - The retail CBDC pilot has identified 8 banks:
 - 1st Phase: SBI, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank, and IDFC First Bank.
 - 2nd Phase: BoB, Union Bank of India, HDFC Bank, and Kotak Mahindra Bank.

FEBRUARY

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Jan to May, 2023

3. **EbixCash Limited** has become the **first company in India to launch and enable Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions** for foreign nationals visiting India.
 - It will offer UPI services to international delegates attending the G-20 summit, being held in India.
4. The '**Financial Literacy Week**' of the **Reserve Bank of India** started on **13 February and continues till February 17, 2023**.
 - The theme for the Financial Literacy Week 2023 is "**Good Financial Behaviour – Your Saviour**".
 - The theme aligned with the strategic objectives of the **National Strategy for Financial Education 2020-2025**.
 - RBI Governor: **Shaktikanta Das**, Founded: **1 April 1935, Kolkata**
5. **Reserve Bank** announced its **second global hackathon -- 'HARBINGER 2023 - Innovation for Transformation'**.
 - Theme: **Inclusive Digital Services**
 - **Aim:** To develop solutions that have the potential to make digital financial services accessible.
6. **Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL)** has launched the **UPI LITE** feature, which is enabled by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** for **multiple small-value UPI transactions**.
 - The feature enables faster real-time transactions with a **single click through Paytm**.
 - Aim: To drive the adoption of digital payments across the country
 - UPI LITE was launched by the RBI in September 2022.
 - A UPI LITE wallet allows a user to do **instant transactions of up to ₹200**.

MARCH

7. **Commercial Bank,**

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- a digital Bank in **Qatar** becomes the **first bank in Qatar to launch Unified Payment Interface (UPI) remittance service** to India.
- **Bhutan has become the first country** to adopt India's UPI standards for its **quick response (QR) code**.
- **Countries using UPI:** Singapore, UAE, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, France, BENELUX markets – Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg – and Switzerland.
- Commercial Bank CEO: **Joseph Abraham**, Founded: **1975**.

PARTNERSHIP

1. **India Health Link** has signed an **MoU with the Uttar Pradesh government** under their **InvestUP program** to set up a **health ATM**.
 - It provides screening of various health parameters at more than 4,600 community and primary health care centers.
 - It is a self-service, walk-in Health ATM.
 - Individuals can get their screening done for 20+ vital health parameters including BP, weight, pulse, temperature, and ECG within 10 minutes followed by an instant report.
2. **Pine Labs and Thomas Cook (India)** partnered with **National Payments Corporation of India**.
 - **Aim:** To enable payments via UPI for foreign nationals from G20 countries.
 - NPCI HQ: **Mumbai**, Founded: **2008**
 - Pine Labs CEO: **B Amrish Rau**, HQ: **Noida**, Founded: **1998**
3. **Bangladesh's government** signed an agreement with the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** to **increase the use of solar energy in the country**.
 - Founded: **30 November 2015**, Founders: **Narendra Modi, François Hollande**,
 - President: **R. K. Singh**
4. **Kerala government** signed an agreement with the **UN Women**.

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Jan to May, 2023

- To boost women-friendly activities in the State's tourism sector.
 - Signed by: **Kerala Tourism Director P B Nooh and UN Women India representative Susan Ferguson.**
5. **NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd** has signed an MoU with **Indian Army** for setting up **Green Hydrogen Projects.**
- **Aim:** To reduce complex logistics and dependence on fossil fuels and to accelerate decarbonisation.
 - NTPC REL CEO: **Mohit Bhargava**, Chief of Army Staff: **General Manoj Pande.**
6. **BharatPe**, has joined hands with **NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP).**
- **Aim:** To extend its **support to women entrepreneurs** in the country.
 - **BharatPe** had acquired **PAYBACK** – a multi-brand loyalty programme in 2021 from American Express and ICICI Investments Strategic Fund.
 - Mission Director, WEP: **Anna Roy.**
7. **Indian Oil, LanzaJet** to set up **India's first green aviation fuel firm.**
- Reason: For the production of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF)
 - IOC Hq: **New Delhi**, Founded: **1964.**
8. **India and the United Kingdom** have agreed to create **India-UK NET zero innovation virtual centre.**
- **Aim:** To provide a platform for stakeholders of both countries to work together in areas like the decarbonization of manufacturing processes, transport systems, and green hydrogen as a renewable source
 - They will also join to launch the **first-ever UK-India scientific 'deep sea voyage' and 'space parks' partnership.**

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SIGNIFICANT DAYS

1. The **17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention** is being organized in **Indore** from 8th Jan to the 10th of January in partnership with the Government of **Madhya Pradesh**.
 - Theme: “**Diaspora: Reliable partners for India’s progress in Amrit Kaal**”.
 - significant because it is being organized as a **physical event for the first time after a gap of four years**.
 - Ministry of External Affairs launched the “**Surakshit Jayen Prashikshit Jayen**” – **Go Safe, Go Trained**.
 - Capital: **Bhopal**; CM: **Shivraj Singh Chauhan**.
2. **World Hindi Day** is observed on **January 10** every year to promote awareness about the language across the world.
 - Theme 2023: “**Hindi – Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence**”
 - On this day, Hindi (India's national language) was spoken for the **first time** in the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**.
 - The **12th World Hindi Conference will be organised in Fiji** by the Foreign Ministry in collaboration with the Fiji government **from February 15 to 17, 2023**.
3. 12 January: **National Youth Day**
 - It was in the year **1984** when the **Government of India** declared this day as **National Youth Day**.
 - The theme for the year 2023 is “**Viksit Yuva – Viksit Bharat (Developed Youth – Developed India)**”.
4. **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** has observed the **Road Safety Week from 11 - 17 January, 2023** across the country.
 - Aim: To propagate the cause of safer roads for all under the **Swachhata Pakhwada**.
 - Various activities such as awareness campaigns related to causes of road accidents will be organised throughout the Country.

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5. **Jan 16** was adopted as **National Startup Day in 2022**.
 - To celebrate this day, **Ministry of Commerce** has organized **Startup India Innovation Week from 10 to 16 January, 2023**.
6. UNESCO has decided to dedicate the **International Day of Education**, on 24th Jan, 2023 to **Afghan girls and women**.
 - UNESCO will also publish a global report, 2023 SDG4 Scorecard.
 - UNESCO Director-General: **Audrey Azoulay, HQ: Paris, France, Established: 1945**
7. **India** observed **Parakram Diwas** on **January 23** to mark the birth of **Indian freedom fighter, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**.
 - In 2022, the nation celebrates the **126th birth anniversary** of **Netaji SC Bose**.
8. **India** celebrates **National Girl Child Day** on **24 January** every year to highlight the prejudice and injustice that girl children face.
 - This day was established in **2008** by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
9. The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** celebrated the **13th National Voters' Day** on **25th January 2023**.
 - Theme 2023: **Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure**
 - It was **first observed in 2011** to mark the **foundation day of the Election Commission of India (25th January 1950)**.
 - Aim is to create electoral awareness amongst citizens.
 - ECI song "**Main Bharat Hoon- Hum Bharat Ke Matdata Hain**" was screened.
10. **International Customs Day (ICD)** is observed every year on **January 26** globally to commemorate the maiden session of the **World Customs Organization (WCO)** held in **1953**.
 - Theme 2023: **Nurturing the next generation: Promoting a culture of knowledge-sharing and professional pride in Customs**
 - The WCO was previously known as the **Customs Co-operation Council (CCC)**.

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FRBRUARY

11. **World Wetlands Day** is celebrated globally **every year on 2 February**.
 - World Wetlands Day was established in 1971 by the Ramsar Convention.
 - Theme 2023- **It's Time for Wetlands Restoration**
12. **President Droupadi Murmu** addressed the **31st Foundation Day** of the **National Commission for Women (NCW)** in New Delhi on 31 January 2023.
 - Theme: **'Sashakt Nari Sashakt Bharat.'**
 - NCW was founded in January 1992 as a statutory body under the National Commission for Women Act of 1990.
 - It was established to review the constitutional and legal safeguards for women.
13. **The Indian Coast Guard Day** is celebrated on **February 1** every year to honour organizations that look after maritime security.
 - This year, India will be celebrating the **47th Coast Guard Day**.
 - The interim Indian Coast Guard was originally established on February 1, **1977**.
 - On August 18, 1978, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Day was officially established.
 - Currently, the Indian Coast Guard is ranked as the **fourth largest Coast Guard** in the world.
14. **World Cancer Day** is observed on **February 4** each year to **create awareness about cancer** and to encourage its identification, prevention, and treatment.
 - Slogan: **"close the care gap" -- a call for equitable access to cancer care.**
 - **Blue and Orange** are the official colors for **world cancer day 2023**.
 - This day originated on 4th February 2000.
15. **World Pulses Day** is observed every year on **February 10** to spread awareness about the **nutritional and environmental benefits of pulses** as part of sustainable food production.
 - Theme 2023: **Pulses for a Sustainable Future.**

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- The UN has also adopted the year 2016 as the International Year of Pulses (IYP).
 - The UNGA dedicated February 10 as World Pulses Day in 2019.
16. **India** observed the **8th edition** of the **Soil Health Card Day** on **19 February 2023** to commemorate the launch of the **Soil Health Card Scheme**.
- In 2015, **PM Modi** has launched this scheme in **Rajasthan**.
17. **World Radio Day** is celebrated every year on **13 February**.
- Theme 2023 – **Radio and Peace**
18. **National Productivity Day** is celebrated every year on **February 12** to mark the foundation day of the **National Productivity Council (NPC)**.
- Theme 2022 – **A chance to set goals**
19. February 21: **International Mother Language Day**
- Theme 2023: **Multilingual education - a necessity to transform education**
 - This day was first initiated by Bangladesh and it was accepted at the UNESCO General Conference held in 1999.
20. 22nd February: **World Thinking Day**
- Theme 2023: **Our Planet, Our Peaceful Future**
 - Aim: To create awareness about issues that affect girls and young women.
21. February 28: **National Science Day**
- Theme 2023: **Global Science for Global Wellness**
 - **Sir C V Raman** received the **Nobel Prize in 1930** for his discovery.

MARCH

22. 1st March: **Zero Discrimination Day**
- to promote equality before the law and in practice throughout all of the member countries of the UN.
 - **Theme 2023**: “Save lives: Decriminalise”.

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23. 3rd March: **UN World Wildlife Day**

- **Theme:** “Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation”
- It is the birthday of CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, signed in 1973.

24. March 4: **World Obesity Day**

- **Theme:** ‘Changing Perspectives: Let’s Talk About Obesity’.

25. March 8: **International Women's Day.**

- **Theme:** DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality.
- During **International Women’s Year in 1975**, the UN celebrated its first official International Women’s Day.

26. **March 8: No Smoking Day**

- **Theme:** “Stopping smoking improves your brain health”.

27. March 15: **World Consumer Rights Day 2023**

- **Theme: Empowering Consumers Through Clean Energy Transitions**

28. 16 March: **National Vaccination Day 2023**

- The **first dose of oral polio vaccination** was provided in India on March 16, 1995, as part of the **World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Polio Eradication Program**, which occurred in 1988.

29. March 20: **International Day of Happiness**

- **Theme 2023: Be Mindful. Be Grateful. Be Kind.**

30. March 20: **World Oral Health Day.**

- **theme for 2023: 'Be Proud of Your Mouth'.**

31. March 21: **International Day of Forests.**

- **2023 theme: ‘Forests and health’.**

32. March 22: **World Water day.**

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- theme for 2023: "Accelerating the change to solve the water and sanitation crisis."
- In 2015, the world was committed to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 as part of the 2030 agenda.
- A promise to provide safely managed water and sanitation by 2030.

33. March 24: **World Tuberculosis Day**

- Theme: "Yes! We can end TB!"

APRIL

34. April 5: **National Maritime Day**

- Aim: To commemorate the sailing of the **first Indian commercial vessel, SS Loyalty**.
- Theme of National Maritime Week '**Amrit Kaal in Shipping**'.

35. 7 April: **World Health Day:**

- Theme 2023: **Health for All**
- Also, 7 April is founding day of World Health Organisation.
- This year is 75th year of WHO.

36. 10 April: **World Homeopathy Day.**

- Birth anniversary of **Dr Samuel Hahnemann**, the founder of homoeopathy.
- This year will be the 268th birth anniversary of Samuel Hahnemann.

37. 11 April: **World Parkinson's Day:**

- Birth anniversary of Dr. James Parikinson.
- He is the **first physician to recognize Parikinson's** as a medical condition.
- Parkinson's disease is a neurological disorder that affects body moments.

38. 18th April: **World Heritage Day**

- Theme 2023: **Heritage Changes**

39. 19 April: **World Liver Day 2023**

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- Theme 2023: **Be vigilant, do a regular liver check-up, fatty liver can affect anyone.**
40. 24 to 30 April (Last week of April): **World Immunization Week**
- Theme: **The Big Catch-Up**
 - **Aim:** to increase awareness around the benefits of immunization.
41. 25 April: **World Malaria Day:**
- **Aim:** To highlight the significant impact of malaria on global health .
 - **Theme 2023:** Time to deliver zero malaria: invest, innovate, implement
 - first World Malaria Day in 2008 declared by the UN.
42. 21 April: **National Civil Services Day**
- Aim: To honor civil servants for their contribution to the nation's progress.
 - The first National Civil Services Day: held in New Delhi, on **April 21, 2006.**
43. 22 April: **Earth Day**
- **Aim:** To raise awareness of the rapidly-rising levels of pollution, climate change etc.
 - **Theme 2023:** Invest in our Planet
 - **Senator Gaylord Nelson** established Earth Day in the 1970s
44. 23 April: **World Book and Copyright Day**
- **Organized by:** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
 - The first World Book Day was celebrated on 23 April in 1995.
 - **Theme 2023:** Indigenous Languages.
 - It is the date on which several prominent authors, William Shakespeare, Miguel de Cervantes and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega all died.
45. 24 April: **National Panchayati Raj Diwas**
- The Panchayati Raj Day celebrates the **73rd Amendment Act, 1992.**
 - 73rd Amendment 1992 **added Part IX to the constitution.**

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- Panchayat system is covered under **Article 243 to 243(O)** and **11th** schedule of constitution.
- **1st National Panchayati Raj day** Celebrated in **2010**
- **Father of Panchayati Raj system:** Balwant Rai Mehta

46. April 30: **Ayushman Bharat Diwas**

- This initiative was established along the lines of universal health care to satisfy one of the United Nations' SDGs - "**leave no one behind.**"

MAY

47. **Gujarat and Maharashtra** commemorated their **63rd Foundation Day** on **1st May 2023.**

- **Gujarat** was carved out of the Bombay State on May 1, 1960, after the **Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960.**

48. May 3: **World Press Freedom Day.**

- Theme 2023: **Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of Expression as a Driver for all other human rights.**

49. 5 May 2023: **Buddha Purnima**

- **Birth anniversary of Lord Gautam Buddha**, father of Buddhism.
- This year marks the **2585th birth anniversary** of Gautam Buddha.
- Buddha was born in **Lumbini, Nepal.** He attained Nirvana at the age of 35.

50. 8 May: **World Red Cross Day**

- Also called **Red Crescent Day** to remember the **birth anniversary of Henry Dunant.**
- Founder of the **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** and a Nobel Peace Prize winner.
- Theme 2023: **Everything we do comes from the heart**
- The first-ever Red Cross Day: **8 May 1948.**

51. 7 May 2023: **64th Raising Day of Border Roads Organization**

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- **BRO-centric software**, a 'Digital India' initiative, was also launched.
 - BRO established under **Project DASTAK**
 - Established: **24th April 1961**.
 - With aim to construct best motorable roads.
52. May 11: **National Technology Day**
- 2023 theme: **School to Startups-Igniting Young Minds to Innovate**
 - **Reason:** To commemorate India's nuclear test success that was conducted on **May 11th, 1998**, at **Pokhran, Rajasthan**.
53. 12th May: **International Nurses Day**.
- Celebrated to highlight the **importance of nurses** in healthcare.
 - **Theme 2023:** Our Nurses, Our Future.
 - It is the birth anniversary of **Florence Nightingale** (founder of modern nursing).
54. 18 May: **World AIDS Vaccine Day:**
- **Aim:** to create awareness about the importance of HIV vaccination in preventing AIDS.
 - Observed for the **first time on May 18th, 1998** to celebrate anniversary of **1st International AIDS vaccine trial 1997**.
 - The Trial was **named RV144**.
55. 19 May 2023: **National Endangered Species Day:**
- Observed on **3rd Friday of May**.
 - **Aim:** To spread awareness on the importance of protecting endangered species.
 - **Theme 2023:** Celebrating the 50th anniversary of endangered species act.
 - This day was established by the **US Senate, in 2006**.
56. 21 May: **National Anti-Terrorism Day:**

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- **Objective:** make everyone understand why it's crucial to fight against terrorism and make peace and harmony a priority in society.
- Observed in **remembrance of Rajiv Gandhi** who was **assassinated on 21 May, 1991.**

57. 24th May: **Commonwealth Day 2023**

- 2023 theme: **Forging a Sustainable and Peaceful Common Future.**
- The Commonwealth of Nations is an association of former colonies of the United Kingdom.

58. 25 May: **World Thyroid Day:**

- **Aim:** To educate people on thyroid diseases.
- World Thyroid Day was **first observed in 2007.**

59. 28 May: **Menstrual Hygiene Day:**

- **Aim:** To highlight the importance of menstrual hygiene and break stigma around menstruation.
- Theme 2023: **Making Menstruation a normal fact of life by 2030.**
- Menstrual Hygiene Day was started by **Germany-based NGO WASH United** in 2013.
- Menstrual Hygiene Day was observed for the **first time on May 28, 2014.**

60. 28 May: **World Hunger Day:**

- **Aim:** to create awareness regarding hunger and provide to sustainable initiatives.
- Theme 2023: **Celebrating sustainable solutions to hunger and poverty.**
- According to the world hunger index, **India ranks 94 out of 107** countries.
- India is also ranked **first in the world in terms of malnutrition.**

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JUST READ

1. **Kerala CM, Pinarayi Vijayan** has launched the **monthly stipend scheme** for **junior lawyers in Kerala**.
 - Under this scheme, a **monthly stipend of Rs. 3,000** will be provided to junior lawyers in the State.
2. **CJI D Y Chandrachud** has launched the '**neutral citations**' to ensure a uniform pattern of citing the decisions of the Supreme Court.

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