

# Weekly Current Affairs

17<sup>th</sup> March - 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2024

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## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **1.Union Minister Amit Shah Launches National Investigation Agency's Digital CCMS**

- In a major fillip to India's fight against terrorism and organised crime, Union Home Minister Amit Shah virtually inaugurated a unique digital Criminal Case Management System (CCMS), designed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in New Delhi, March 14. In the virtual event, Home Minister Shah also inaugurated NIA's 2 new branch offices in Jammu and Kochi and a residential complex in Raipur.
- Mr. Shah also launched a mobile app 'Sankalan' – A compendium of New Criminal Laws by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). The newly developed Criminal Case Management System will enable the NIA personnel to better coordinate in terrorism and organised crime cases, thereby improving justice delivery.

### **2.Rajasthan Government to Distribute Free Millet Seeds to Farmers**

- The Rajasthan government has decided to distribute free seeds of millets and coarse grains to the state's farmers. This move aims to boost millet production in the state.
- The state government started the Rajasthan Millet Promotion Mission in 2022-23. A provision of Rs 40 crore was made to set up 100 primary processing units by farmers, entrepreneurs, and voluntary organisations.

### **3.Tamil Nadu Tops Illegal Trade in Shark Body Parts**

- Tamil Nadu dominates the illegal trade in shark body parts, comprising nearly 65% of seizures between January 2010 and December 2022, as per a recent analysis by TRAFFIC and WWF-India. This alarming trend poses a significant threat to marine biodiversity, with Karnataka, Gujarat, Kerala, and Maharashtra also contributing to this illicit trade.
- TRAFFIC and WWF-India conducted a comprehensive study titled 'Netted in illegal wildlife trade: Sharks of India'. The confiscated shark products were intended for destinations such as Singapore, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, and mainland China.

### **4.Election Commission Launches 'Mission 414' Campaign In Himachal Pradesh To Boost Voter Turnout**

- The Election Commission has launched a special campaign in Himachal Pradesh to boost voter turnout in 414 polling stations with less than 60% voting during the last Lok Sabha polls. Appointing 'Mahila Preraks' (motivators) in gram panchayats to encourage women to vote.

- Conducting awareness campaigns and cultural events. Designating identified stations as model polling stations. Involving booth youth icons and distributing special invitation cards to prospective voters.

### **5.Election Commission Launches ‘Know Your Candidate’**

- Ahead of announcing the dates for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar introduced a new mobile application called ‘Know Your Candidate’ (KYC). This app will enable voters to find out if any electoral candidate in their constituency has any criminal records.
- Kumar said that voters have the right to know about the criminal records of candidates from their constituencies, as well as their assets and liabilities. “The voters can also now check for themselves the assets and liabilities that candidates with criminal antecedents hold. All relevant information in this regard will be made available on this application,” he added.

### **6.Air quality report,Bihar’s Begusarai is the world’s most polluted city**

- India ranked third worst polluted country out of 134 countries trailing behind Bangladesh and Pakistan, as highlighted in World Air Quality Report 2023. India ranked third worst out of 134 countries in terms of average annual PM2.5 concentration, trailing behind Bangladesh and Pakistan, as highlighted in this 6th Annual World Air Quality Report, which unveils concerning insights into the world's most polluted countries, territories, and regions.
- Bihar's Begusarai topped the list as the “most polluted metropolitan area in 2023”, while Delhi has been identified as the capital city with the “poorest air quality” among global nations, as per the findings of the World Air Quality Report 2023 by the Swiss organization IQAir.

### **6.U.S. recognizes Arunachal Pradesh as Indian territory**

- The United States recognises Arunachal Pradesh as Indian territory and strongly opposes any unilateral attempts by China to advance its territorial claims across the Line of Actual Control (LAC), a senior Biden administration official has said, days after the Chinese military reiterated its claim over the State following Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit there.
- Amid China’s protest over Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s recent visit to the frontier state of Arunachal Pradesh to inaugurate the strategic Sela Tunnel, and the subsequent reiteration of its claim to the region, the United States clarified that it recognises the state as part of the Indian territory.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **1.UK tests a laser weapon that can hit a coin from a kilometer**

- Britain has recently conducted successful test firings of its DragonFire Laser Directed Energy Weapon (LDEW), showcasing its capability to intercept enemy aircraft and missiles at a remarkably low cost. A January demonstration in Scotland displayed the laser's precision in targeting and destroying aerial threats, marking a potential game-changer in air defense technology.
- The DragonFire LDEW boasts precision equivalent to hitting a target as small as a £1 coin from a kilometer away. Its effectiveness lies in its ability to cut through targets, potentially causing structural failure or disrupting incoming warheads, making it a formidable defensive asset.

### **2.Reliance signs partnership with Sri Lanka-based beverage maker Elephant House**

- Reliance Industries Ltd's Reliance Consumer Products has partnered with Sri Lanka's Elephant House to make and sell beverages under the Elephant House brand in India. This will add to the portfolio of beverage brands under Reliance Consumer including Campa Cola, Sosyo and Raskik.
- Elephant House is owned by Ceylon Cold Stores PLC, a subsidiary of John Keells Holdings, Sri Lanka's largest listed conglomerate. Under the Elephant House brand, it manufactures and sells a wide range of beverages including Necto, Cream Soda, EGB (Ginger Beer), Orange Barley and Lemonade.

### **3.Pokhara Set to be Designated as Nepal's Tourism Capital**

- The government of Nepal officially declared Pokhara, located in the Gandaki province, as the tourism capital of the country. Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' presided over the ceremony, which featured musical performances by renowned singers.
- The declaration, made during a ceremony at Barahat near the picturesque Phewa Lake, marks a significant step for the city and the country's tourism industry.

### **4.India commits to increase support to Bhutan in its 13th Five Year Plan**

- India is committed to increase support for Bhutan's 13th Five Year Plan and will also consider the request to assist in its 'economic stimulus programme, according to the joint statement by both nations on the visit of Bhutanese Prime Minister Dasho Tshering Tobgay to India.
- Modi congratulated Bhutan for the successful implementation of the 12th Five Year Plan (FYP), notwithstanding challenges posed by the Covid-19



pandemic, as well as for Bhutan's graduation from the Least Developed Countries in December 2023.

## **NEW APPOINTMENTS AND PERSON IN NEWS**

### **1. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas appointed Mohammad Mustafa to be the next New Prime Minister**

- Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas is slated in the coming days to announce his appointment of economist and former senior government official Mohammad Mustafa as the next prime minister of the PA, three officials familiar with the matter told The Times of Israel.
- The move is part of an effort by Abbas to reform the PA, creating a technocratic government in the West Bank, which will be better prepared to eventually return to governing Gaza as well after Israel's war against Hamas concludes.

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### **2. Former IAS Officer Navneet kumar Sehgal takes charge as new prasar Bharati chairman**

- Retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Navneet Kumar Sehgal has been appointed as Chairman of Prasar Bharati for three years or until he attains the age of 70, whichever is earlier. He takes over the charge from Surya Prakash.
- Former IAS officer Navneet Kumar Sehgal today took charge as new Prasar Bharati Chairman. Mr. Sehgal is a 1988-batch retired bureaucrat of UP cadre. He is the successor of A Surya Prakash who completed his term as Chairman in 2020. Earlier President Droupadi Murmu appointed him after the Selection Committee for Chairman of Prasar Bharati headed by Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar cleared his name.

### **3. Government Names Sheyphali B Sharan as New Spokesperson Effective April 2024**

- According to an order issued by the ministry of information and broadcasting, the government has appointed a 1990-batch Indian

Information Service (IIS) officer, Sheyphali B Sharan as its new spokesperson.

- Sharan, will take charge as principal director general (PDG) of the Press Information Bureau (PIB) after incumbent PDG Manish Desai's tenure ends on 31 March, 2024.

#### **4. Poonawalla Fincorp Appoints Arvind Kapil as MD & CEO**

- Poonawalla Fincorp, a notable NBFC, has chosen Arvind Kapil, a seasoned retail banking expert from HDFC Bank, as its new Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer. Kapil will commence his five-year term on June 24, 2024, succeeding Abhay Bhutada, who opted for early retirement.
- Kapil currently serves as HDFC Bank's Group Head, managing the mortgage banking division with a substantial book size of 7.5 lakh crore. With his extensive experience and expertise, Kapil is set to lead Poonawalla Fincorp into its next phase of growth and development.

#### **5. Vinay Kumar Appointed as next Ambassador of India to Russia**

- Vinay Kumar, an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 1992 batch, has been named as the next Ambassador of India to Russia. Kumar is currently serving as the Ambassador of India to Myanmar. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement that Kumar is expected to take up the new assignment in Moscow shortly.
- Russia has been a longstanding partner of India, with diplomatic ties between the two countries forming a cornerstone of India's foreign policy. Kumar will replace Pavan Kapoor, who has been appointed as the new Secretary (West) in the MEA, as India's envoy in Moscow.

#### **6. Jharkhand Governor CP Radhakrishnan has been given additional responsibilities of Telangana, Puducherry**

- Jharkhand Governor CP Radhakrishnan has been given the additional responsibility as the in-charge governor of Telangana. This comes after Tamilisai Soundararajan resigned from her constitutional post as the Telangana Governor.
- A communique from Rashtrapati Bhavan stated that Tamilisai's resignation was accepted with immediate effect, and Radhakrishnan was appointed to take additional charge of Telangana. Radhakrishnan is the third person from Tamil Nadu to occupy the post of governor in Telangana for a consecutive term. The first was ESL Narasimhan, followed by Tamilisai Soundararajan.

#### **7. Rahul Singh Appointed New CBSE Chief**

- Senior bureaucrat Rahul Singh has been appointed as the chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), as part of a senior-level

bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre. Rahul Singh will succeed Nidhi Chhibber, who has been named Advisor in the Niti Aayog.

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Singh, a 1996-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Bihar cadre, as chairperson, CBSE.

### **8.M V Rao Elected as new Chairman of India banks Association**

- The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has elected M V Rao, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Central Bank of India, as its new Chairman. The decision was taken during the IBA's managing committee meeting held.
- Madhav Nair, who previously held the position of Deputy Chairman, has been a management committee member since 2016. He has undertaken policy advocacy in areas such as Technology, Risk Management, and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors.

### **9.Soumendu Bagchi,Abhilasha Joshi Appointed India's Next Envoys To Iraq,chile Respectively**

- The Government of India has named two distinguished diplomats as its new Ambassadors to key countries, further strengthening India's diplomatic ties on the global stage. Soumendu Bagchi, Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of batch 1993, has been appointed as India's next ambassador to Iraq.
- Bagchi is currently the Deputy Director General, of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA). Meanwhile, Abhilasha Joshi, Indian Foreign Service officer of batch 1995, has been appointed as the next envoy of India to Chile. Presently, Joshi is an additional secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

## **BANKING AND FINANCE**

### **1. SEBI Grants Approval for Beta Version Launch of T+0 Settlement from March 28**

- The Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved the launch of the beta version of the T+0 settlement on an optional basis from March 28, 2024.
- On March 15, 2024 after a meeting with its Board, SEBI announced the new and optional settlement cycle. T+0 settlement means that the funds and securities for a transaction will be settled on the day the trade was entered into.

### **2.Reserve Bank of India Renews Committee of Advisors for Abhyudaya Cooperative Bank**

- Former Chief General Manager of the State Bank of India (SBI), Devendra Kumar has been appointed to the 'Committee of Advisors' of Abhyudaya Cooperative Bank by the RBI following the resignation of Mahendra Chhajed.
- Mahendra Chhajed tendered his resignation from the Committee effective from March 4, 2024, citing personal reasons. It was registered as a Multi-State Co-op Bank by the Central Registrar, New Delhi, on January 11, 2007.

### **3.Tata Sons Announces Sale of 0.6% Stake in TCS for Over ₹9,300 Crore**

- Tata Sons plans to offload 2.34 crore shares, constituting 0.65% equity of TCS, for ₹9,362.3 crore. The offer price for offloading is set at ₹4,001 per share, aiming to raise at least ₹9,200 crore.
- This action is part of a broader strategy to reduce the consolidated borrowings of Tata Sons, which stood at ₹1.58 lakh crore as of March 2023.

### **4.Adani Group Plans To Invest ₹ 1.2 Lakh Crore In Portfolio Companies In FY25**

- Adani group plans to invest more than ₹ 1.2 lakh crore (\$14 billion) across its portfolio companies that range from ports to energy, airports, commodities, cement and media in fiscal year starting April 1, as it doubles down on its \$100 billion investment guidance over the next seven-ten years to grow businesses
- The projected capital expenditure or capex for 2024-25 (April 2024 to March 2025) fiscal is 40% higher than what the portfolio is estimated to have incurred in FY24. According to analysts, the portfolio is estimated to have incurred a capex of around \$10 billion in FY24 that ends on March 31.

### **5.India to join U.S.-led carbon market project**

- India has decided to join at least one of the four cooperative work programmes launched last week under the 'clean energy pillar' of the US-led Indo Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) – the one on facilitating and promoting carbon market activities.
- In India, the Ministry of Power, which is working on deepening the country's carbon markets, brought in amendments to the carbon credits trading scheme (CCTS) recently which puts it on track towards establishing independent standards for carbon trading and also allows non-obligated entities to generate carbon credits.

### **6. FinMin notifies 90 coin to commemorate 90 years of RBI**

- The Government of India will be issuing a set of five commemorative coins in the denominations of Re. 1, Rs. 2, Rs. 5, Rs. 10 and Rs. 75 to mark the



occasion of Platinum Jubilee of Reserve Bank of India. While a gazette notification in respect of these coins has already been issued on 23 February, 2010 in Official Gazette of India, Prime Minister Shri Man Mohan Singh will release the coin in an official function at NCPA, Nariman Point, Mumbai in a Grand Finale event to mark end of Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherji would also be present on the occasion besides other dignitaries.

- The coins in the denomination of Re.1, Rs.2, Rs.5, Rs.10 will also be issued as circulation coins. In a set of five coins where the Re.1 and Rs.2 will be of FSS (Ferritic Stainless Steel), the Rs.5 coin will be Nickel Brass, the Rs.10 will be bimetallic and the Rs.75 coin will be a Silver Alloy.

### 7. Central Bank in tie-up with PPFAS Mutual Fund

- The Central Bank of India on informed that the Bank has entered into a distributorship Agreement with PPFAS Asset Management Company Limited for the distribution of its Mutual Fund Products to its customers on Do it yourself (DIY) model.
- The participation by both entities in this arrangement will result in offering the customers of the Central Bank of India, an opportunity to unlock the value of their savings through various mutual fund products offered by PPFAS Asset Management Company Ltd.

### 8. RBI fines TMB, DCB nearly 2 crore for violating norms on lending rates

- Reserve Bank of India, on March 13, imposed a penalty of ₹1.3 crore on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for non-compliance with directions on 'Interest Rate on Advances' and 'Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC) - Revision in Reporting'.
- The inspection for FY22 revealed that the bank failed to reset the interest rates at the prescribed periodicity in certain MCLR linked floating rate advances. It also failed to benchmark the interest rate of certain floating rate retail and MSME loans to an external benchmark lending rate.

### 9. Yes Bank Partners with Indian Olympic Association for Paris Olympics

- YES Bank has forged a strategic partnership with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to become the Official Banking Partner for Team India at the Paris Olympics 2024. This collaboration aims to provide comprehensive support to India's Olympic athletes and their families.
- YES Bank introduces the 'Milkar Jitayengey' campaign to signify unity and determination in achieving victory. The campaign embodies the spirit of collaboration between YES Bank and the Indian Olympic Association to support Team India in their quest for success at the Paris Olympics.

## **10.The share of women investors in mutual funds grows to 21% in December 2023**

- The shares of assets owned by women investors in mutual funds have increased 21 per cent as of last December-end against 15 per cent in March 2017. The report 'Mutual Growth' has underscored the significant strides women have made in mutual funds participation.
- According to the Association of Mutual Funds in India data, curated by CRISIL share of MF assets owned by women from beyond top-30 cities increased to 28 per cent from 17 per cent and that of their folios was up to 18 per cent from 15 per cent during the same period.

## **SCIENCE & TECH**

### **1.Adani Green Energy operationalises 126 MW wind power plant in Gujarat**

- Adani Green Energy announced the operationalisation of an additional 126 MW capacity in its 300 MW wind power project in Gujarat. This comes after the earlier operationalisation of 174 MW, marking a significant milestone for the company.
- Adani Wind Energy Kutchh Four Limited (AWEK4L), a subsidiary of Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL), has successfully operationalised 126 MW of wind power in Gujarat. Together with the previously operationalised 174 MW, the project now boasts a total capacity of 300 MW.

### **2.Indigenous drug for sickle cell disease developed**

- Pharmaceutical manufacturer Akums on Saturday announced that it had launched the country's first indigenous hydroxyurea oral solution, which is used for the treatment of sickle cell disease in children. The company said that the drug will be provided to the government at the cost of R600, which is nearly 1% of the R77,000 that the medicine currently available globally costs.

- Another major benefit of the suspension manufactured by Akums is that it is stable at room temperature, unlike its global counterpart that requires storage in 2-8 °C.

### **3.After Google,Meta announces to work with ECI to flag unlawful content from its platforms**

- Meta, the owner of popular social media companies like Instagram, Threads and Facebook, has unveiled a 'comprehensive approach' to limit misinformation, eliminate voter interference and increase transparency and accountability on its platform during the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Recently, the Election Commission had announced that the 18th general elections will be held in seven phases from April 19 to June 1.
- Additionally, the social media giant noted that it is working closely with the Election Commission of India through a voluntary code of ethics signed in 2019, which provides the ECI with a "high priority" channel for flagging unlawful content.

### **4.Indian Navy & IIT Kharagpur join forces to drive innovation through research partnerships**

- Indian Navy and Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at Naval Headquarters, New Delhi, symbolising their commitment to promote technology development, innovative solutions and joint R&D. Rear Admiral K Srinivas, Asst. Chief of Materiel (Dockyard & Refit) at Naval Headquarters and Prof. (Ms) Rintu Banerjee, Dean (R&D) of IIT Kharagpur signed in presence of Prof. Virendra Kumar Tiwari, Director of IIT Kharagpur.
- The strategic collaboration focuses on joint research and development initiatives involving teams from Indian Navy and IIT Kharagpur. The MoU will be co-ordinated by INS Shivaji, Lonavala. This alignment signifies a move towards a symbolic relationship between the Academia and the Military, fostering an environment conducive to innovation and knowledge exchange.

### **5.Dr.Sultan Al Jaber Honored for Sustainable Energy Leadership**

- Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, President of COP28, was awarded the prestigious 'CERAWeek Leadership Award for Building Global Consensus towards a Sustainable Energy Future' at the CERAWeek by S&P Global conference at Houston.
- Dr. Al Jaber's pivotal role in shaping the UAE Consensus, a significant framework for global climate action, was highlighted. This consensus provides clear directives for nations to limit global warming to 1.5°C and emphasizes collaboration between governments and industries.

## **6.MeitY/ NIXI successfully unveils BhashaNet portal at universal Acceptance day event in New Delhi**

- The National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) is gearing up to introduce the BhashaNet portal during the upcoming Universal Acceptance (UA) Day. This initiative aims to advance digital inclusion and linguistic diversity in India, showcasing collaborative efforts between NIXI and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- NIXI and MeitY's successful partnership underscores their commitment to fostering digital inclusivity nationwide. The support from the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and MeitY's Internet Governance division further strengthens UA Day's significance.

## **7.Indian Army Inducts First Apache 451 Aviation Squadron**

- The Indian Army has raised its first squadron, the 451 Aviation Squadron, to operate the newly acquired AH-64E Apache attack helicopters. The squadron was formally established on March 15 at Jodhpur.
- In February 2020, India signed a deal worth around \$800 million with Boeing for six Apache helicopters for the Indian Army. As part of the deal, six pilots and 24 technicians from the Indian Army were trained by Boeing in the U.S.

## **DEFENCE**

### **1.Indian Navy Gets Its Own Headquarters Named 'Nausena Bhawan'**

- The Indian Navy has finally got its own dedicated headquarters building. The newly constructed Nausena Bhawan located at Delhi Cantonment was formally inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on March 15th, 2024.
- This marks a significant milestone for the Indian Navy. It establishes the Navy's first independent headquarters in Delhi. Previously, the Navy operated from 13 different locations, making it difficult to coordinate.

### **2.10<sup>th</sup> Edition of Joint Military Exercise "LAMITIYE-2024"**

- An Indian Army contingent has departed for Seychelles today to participate in the Tenth edition of the Joint Military Exercise "LAMITIYE-2024" between the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF). The exercise will be conducted in Seychelles from 18-27 March 2024.
- Enhance cooperation and interoperability between the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces during Peace Keeping Operations. Build and promote bilateral military relations between the two armies. Exchange skills, experiences, and good practices between the two armies.



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## AWARDS

### 1.Chameli Devi Jain Award 2024 for Outstanding Woman Media Person

- The Chameli Devi Jain Award for Outstanding Woman Media Person of the Year was set up by The Media Foundation in 1980. It is named after Chameli Devi Jain, a freedom fighter and community reformer who was imprisoned during India's independence movement.
- The first award was given in 1982, and since then, it has been presented annually. The award recognizes impactful journalism in fields such as social development, politics, gender justice, human rights, health, conflict, and consumer values.

### 2.Ratan Tata Awarded PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for Philanthropy Work

- Ratan Tata, former chairman of Tata Sons, has been bestowed with the prestigious PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award. He received the award for his outstanding philanthropic contributions. The award ceremony took place in Mumbai on March 15, 2024.
- The PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award is named after the former Prime Minister of India. It is an award of recognition for individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to social welfare and humanitarian causes.

### 3.Vladimir Putin wins Russian Presidential Elections for record fifth term

- Russian President Vladimir Putin has clinched a historic fifth term, securing a landslide victory in the presidential polls. Mr. Putin hailed his preordained electoral victory as a sign of the country's trust and hope in him.
- Communist candidate Nikolai Kharitonov finished second and newcomer Vladislav Davankov third. This victory has solidified Mr. Putin's position as Russia's longest-serving leader, surpassing Josef Stalin.

#### **4.Prabha varma selected for Saraswati Samman for The Year 2023**

- Noted Malayalam poet and author Prabha Varma has been selected for the prestigious 33rd Saraswati Samman for the year 2023. He won the award for his novel in verse 'Roudra Sathwikam' published in 2022.
- The Saraswati Samman, instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation in 1991, is one of the highest literary honors in India. It recognizes outstanding literary works in any of the Indian languages published in the last 10 years.

#### **5.Chameli Devi Jain Award 2024 for Outstanding Woman Media Person of the year**

- The Chameli Devi Jain Award for Outstanding Woman Mediaperson is an Indian journalism award named after Chameli Devi Jain, an Indian independence activist who became the first Jain woman to go to prison during India's independence struggle.[1] The award was instituted in 1980 by The Media Foundation and is given to women in the field of journalism.
- The Media Foundation was founded in 1979 by B. G. Verghese, Lakshmi Chand Jain, Prabhash Joshi, Ajit Bhattacharjea and N. S. Jagannathan. The award was instituted in 1980 by Verghese and the family of Chameli Devi.

#### **6.Sangita Kalanidhi award for T.M. Krishna,Nritya Kalanidhi for Neena Prasad**

- Renowned carnatic singer T M Krishna has been conferred the Sangita Kalanidhi for 2024 by the Music Academy. The Executive Committee of the Sangeet Academy decided to give him this award in its meeting on March 17, 2024.
- He will be honored with the prestigious Sangita Kalanidhi Award by The Music Academy, Madras. The news about the award was given to TM Krishna by Music Academy President N Murali. Krishna was given this honor for doing many remarkable works in the field of music.

### **SPORTS**

#### **1.Para Archer and Arjuna Awardee,Ms.Sheetal Devi,will be ECI National PwD Icon**

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has announced Para Archer and Arjuna Awardee, Sheetal Devi, as its National PwD Icon. Her name was announced at an exhibition cricket match between the teams of the Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA) and the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) held on Saturday in Delhi.
- The ECI in association with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) organised the exhibition match to foster voter education and inclusivity. The event was graced by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu.

## **2.Indian Athlete Gulveer Singh Shatters National Record By Over 20 Seconds**

- Asian Games bronze medallist athlete Gulveer Singh shattered a 16-year-old national record in the men's 10000m to finish second in his heat at The Ten in San Juan Capistrano in California.
- Avinash Sable, who was competing in the same event, did not finish (DNF) his heat, pulling out of the race in the 15th lap at the 6000m mark. The 25-year-old clocked 27.41.81 on Saturday to better the earlier national mark of 28:02.89 by over 20 seconds that stood in Surendra Singh's name since 2008.

## **3.Matthew Wade retires from red-ball cricket to focus on shorter formats**

- Australian wicketkeeper-batter Matthew Wade, will retire from first-class cricket after the upcoming Sheffield Shield final but will remain available for selection in white-ball formats.
- Former Australian Test wicketkeeper Matthew Wade has called time on the red-ball game, but will continue playing cricket's shorter formats. The Sheffield Shield final between Tasmania and Western Australia, beginning here on March 21, will be Wade's final red-ball match of a career that started in 2012.

## **4.Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik Inaugurates India's First Indoors Athletics and Aquatic Centres**

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated India's first indoor athletics stadium and indoor aquatic centre at the Kalinga stadium in Bhubaneswar. The Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for a new indoor diving centre in the stadium complex.
- According to Patnaik, the new indoor facilities will help athletes train throughout the year without fear of weather-related disturbances. The newly developed indoor athletics stadium is the first of its kind in India. It has facilities to host national and international athletic events.

## **5.Royal Challengers Bangalore Lift Women's Premier League Title**

- Spinners Shreyanka Patil, Sophie Molineux, and Asha Sobhana took nine wickets between them while Ellyse Perry showed calmness with an unbeaten 35 to help Royal Challengers Bangalore win the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2024 title with an eight-wicket win over Delhi Capitals at the Arun Jaitley Stadium .
- The long-used phrase of 'Ee Sala Cup Namde', which translates to 'this year the cup is ours', and the ridicule around it came to an end as a far-fetched dream finally became a reality for RCB in winning their first-ever WPL title and become just the second winners in the history of the competition.

### **6.3<sup>rd</sup> Edition Of North East Games 2024 Begin in Nagaland**

- Nagaland Wushu team ended the Wushu competition of the 3rd North East Games 2024 with eight medals (one gold, three silver and four bronze) with Yoto Chizo winning the only gold in the 75 kg event for Nagaland. The Wushu team have bettered the medal tally of the second edition where the team had won six bronze medals.
- The two-day wushu competition was held as part of the NE Games 2024 at Sovima Futsal ground with a total of 58 players from different state of Northeast. Vipu Zhimomi, Nupa Kiho and Kekhrieneitso Angami had to settle for a silver medal losing the final round, but Yoto Chizo defeated Sanjenbam Rohit Meitei from Manipur state in the final match giving much cheer and celebration as both Nupa Kiho and Kekhrieneitso Angami lost against counterpart Manipur team in their finals.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **1.Global Recycling day observed on 18<sup>th</sup> March**

- Every year on March 18th, Global Recycling Day is celebrated to increase people's comprehension about the harmful effects of plastic on the environment. This day also promotes recycling as a crucial concept and encourages people to organize events throughout the year to spread awareness about this cause.
- The theme of Global Recycling Day 2023 is "Creative Innovation". When it comes to recycling, we all have to be creative. In order to do it effectively, we need to think outside the box. Putting our recyclables in the bin is not sufficient – we need to be proactive and find new ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

### **2.Ordnance Factories day (India) observed on 18<sup>th</sup> March**

- The East India Company of England, to increase their economic interest and political hold, considered manufacturing military hardware as a vital element. The British authorities in 1775 established a Board of Ordnance in



Fort William, Kolkata, which marks the official beginning of the Army Ordnance in India.

- They further set up a gunpowder factory in 1787 at Ishapore, which started production in 1791. In 1801, the British established a Gun Carriage Agency at Cossipore, Kolkata and production started on March 18, 1802.

### **3. International day of Happiness is observed on 20 March**

- Back in 2011, the idea was introduced to the United Nations by the advisor Jayme Illien. Illien also founded the United Nations New Economic Paradigm project and 'happytalism', which aim to change the way nations approach economic growth by focusing on 'happytalism' over capitalism.
- The General Assembly of the United Nations agreed with the proposal and officially founded the International Day of Happiness in July 2012, with the occasion first being observed in 2013.

### **4. World Down Syndrome day observed on 21<sup>st</sup> March**

- World Down Syndrome Day 2024 is celebrated all over the world on the 21st of March 2024. In 2005, the UN's general assembly decided that in fulfilling the UN's Sustainable Development Goal no one should be left behind and persons with disabilities must also come forward to help the UN in its targets of Agenda 2030.
- WHO, which is the United Nations' leading organization/department in terms of mental and physical health has been active and has further diversified its activities for better and unique health facilities for the tenants of planet Earth.

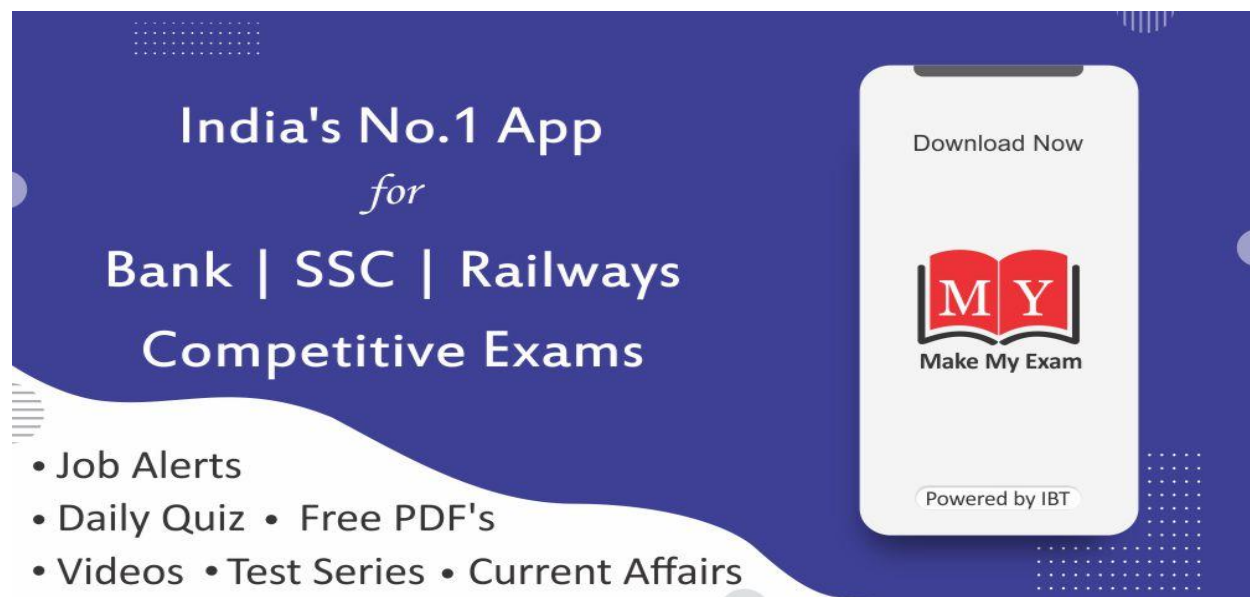
### **5. Bihar Foundation day observed on 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

- The Indian state of Bihar comes alive with the festivities of Bihar Diwas (Bihar Day). This public holiday marks the formation of the state in 1912, when the Bihar and Orissa divisions of the Bengal Presidency were separated.
- Bihar Diwas serves as a time for reflection. It's an opportunity to acknowledge the state's progress and identify areas for further development. The day encourages everyone to work together towards a brighter future for their beloved state.

### **6. World Water day observed on 22nd March**

- World Water Day 2024 is celebrated all over the world on March 22nd. The day is used to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. World Water Day celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water.

- It is about taking action to tackle the global water crisis. The idea for this international day goes back to 1992, the year in which the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro took place.



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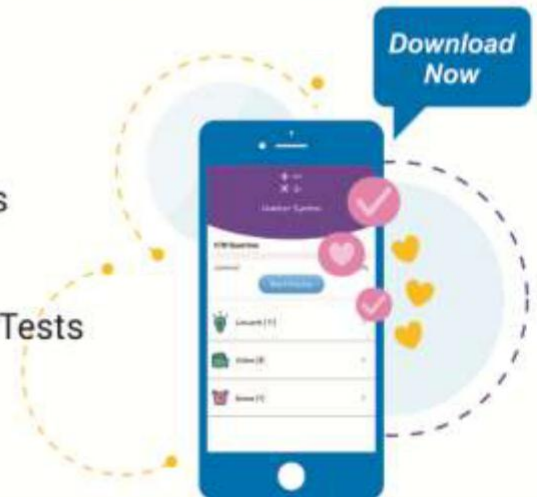
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