

# Monthly G.K Capsule

## March, 2023

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## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **1. LS Speaker Om Birla to inaugurate 19 CPA Conference in Sikkim**

- The 19th annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), India Zone-3 conference, will be inaugurated by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, on February 23 at Gangtok, Sikkim.
- Governor of Sikkim, Lakshman Prasad Acharya, Chief Minister of Sikkim, Prem Singh Tamang, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Harivansh, Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India, Members of Parliament, Members of Sikkim Legislature and other dignitaries are scheduled to participate in the event. The two-day Conference will deliberate on many issues ranging from making parliament and assembly more accessible to the public. Drug abuse and the way forward and Cyber Bullying are the core issues, which will be discussed in this conference.

### **2. Maharaja Sayajirao University of Vadodara to host Youth 20 India Summit for environment conservation**

- The Maharaja Sayajirao University will host a two-day Youth20 (Y20) India Summit with focus on the theme of climate change and environmental conservation. The conference, to be inaugurated by Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, will see over 600 delegates from 62 countries participate to discuss 'Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making sustainability a Way of Life'.
- India has got the presidency of G20 this year and the conference would provide voice to the youth to articulate their thoughts for sustainable development of the planet. The summit is organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Government of India in collaboration with the Gujarat Education Department.

### **3. Kerala signs pact with UN Women to empower women in tourism**

- The Kerala government and UN Women signed an agreement to promote women-friendly activities in the state's tourism industry. Kerala Tourism and UN Women India committed to promoting gender-inclusive tourist destinations throughout the State through the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU).
- The terms of the Memorandum of Understanding, signed by Susan Ferguson, a representative of UN Women India, and P B Nooh, director of Kerala tourism, will be carried out by the Responsible Tourism Mission.

### **4. Ellora -Ajanta International Festival 2023 begins in Maharashtra**

- In Maharashtra, a three-day Ellora Ajanta International Festival 2023 is set to take place from February 25 at 6 pm in Aurangabad. The festival is a celebration of the cultural heritage and diversity of the region and promises to be a feast for the senses.

- The Union State Minister for Finance Dr. Bhagwat Karad will inaugurate the festival. The Union State Minister for Railways Mr. Raosaheb Danve Patil, Government of Maharashtra's Minister for Cultural Mr. Sudhir Mungantivar, Minister for Employment Guarantee Scheme Mr. Sandipan Bhumare, Minister for Co-operative Mr. Atul Save, Minister for Agriculture Mr. Abdul Sattar and Minister for tourism Mangalprabhat Lodha will be present at this occasion.

### **5.Centre Approves Renaming Of Aurangabad And Osmanabad As Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar And Dharashiv**

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) approved the renaming of Aurangabad city as "Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar" and the Osmanabad city as "Dharashiv". Government of India [GoI] has no objection to change the name of Aurangabad as 'Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar' and the Osmanabad city as 'Dharashiv', Under Secretary to the GoI, Shyamal Kumar Bit, said in two separate order copies.
- After claiming that the decision by the Uddhav government was illegal, On July 16, 2022, a Government Resolution was passed by the two-member cabinet, comprising Eknath Shinde and his deputy Devendra Fadnavis, for changing the names, and a proposal was then forwarded to the Centre.

### **6.Assam to come up with Northeast India's first-ever compressed biogas plant**

- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma attended as Chief Guest the foundation stone laying ceremony of northeast India's first-ever compressed biogas plant project at Domora Pathar in Sonapur under Kamrup (Metropolitan) district.
- The plant, which is being built by businessmen Pankaj Gogoi and Rakesh Doley under the name Redlemon Technologies, is expected to begin operating in November 2023 and will have a 5 tonne-per-day production capacity for compressed biogas from raw materials like municipal solid wastes and cattle manure.

### **7.PM inaugurates 'Barisu Kannada Dim Dimava' at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi**

- PM Modi inaugurated the 'Barisu Kannada Dim Dimava' cultural festival at Talkatora Stadium in Delhi. 'Barisu Kannada Dim Dimava' cultural festival has been organized to celebrate Karnataka's culture, traditions and history. This festival has been organized under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. It gives an opportunity for artists to showcase the culture of Karnataka through dance, music, drama, and poetry.

### **8.Himachal Pradesh Becomes First State in India to Begin Organized Cultivation of Mulethi**

- Himachal Pradesh (HP) has become the first state in India to start the organised commercial cultivation of Licorice (Mulethi). The demand for Mulethi is high in India as it is not only used as a spice but also used in ayurvedic medicines.
- For the first time, planting material of Mulethi (*Glycyrrhiza glabra*) was distributed to the farmers to cultivate it commercially. The distribution of

planting materials among the farmers was done by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT).

### **9. Japan's HMI Group To Invest Rs 7200 Crore In Hospitality Industry In Uttar Pradesh**

- Japan's eminent hospitality group Hotel Management International Company Limited (HMI) will be opening 30 new properties across Uttar Pradesh. The company has signed an MoU with the UP government to invest Rs 7200 crore at the UP Global Investors Summit on Day 2.
- Addressing a session on Japan as a partner to UP's growth, Takamoto Yokoyama, Director, Public Relations, HMI Group, which operates more than 60 hotels in major cities of Japan, said that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's efforts to get Uttar Pradesh's tourism potential off the ground have created immense possibilities for the hotel industry.

### **10.4 Years of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana completed**

- The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM-KISAN) completed 4 years on 24 February 2023. The scheme was first conceived and implemented by government of Telangana as the Rythu Bandhu scheme, where a certain amount is given directly to eligible farmers. The scheme has received accolades[6] from various organisations for its successful implementation, including World Bank. Many economists suggest that this type of investment support is better than farm loan waivers.

### **11. PM Modi Plays Drums As He Inaugurates 'Barisu Kannada Dim Dimava' Festival In Delhi**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Barisu Kannada Dim Dimava' cultural festival at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi. PM Modi played the drums to initiate the festival.
- 'Barisu Kannada Dim Dimava' cultural festival is being organized to celebrate Karnataka's culture, traditions, and history. It is in line with the Prime Minister's vision of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'. The festival, being held under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, will provide an opportunity for hundreds of artists to showcase Karnataka's cultural heritage through dance, music, drama, and poetry.

### **12. Supreme Court launches 'neutral citations' of judgments**

- The Supreme Court has launched "neutral citations" of judgments to ensure a uniform pattern of citing its decisions.
- Earlier, the top court said steps had been taken for the introduction and implementation of a uniform, reliable and secure methodology for identifying and citing decisions in the apex court, namely the neutral citations system, to ensure a uniform pattern of citing all decisions of the top court. As soon as a Bench led by the CJI assembled to hear urgent mentioning of matters for listing, the CJI announced that all judgments of the top court would have neutral citations.

### **13. India 7th biggest nation ready to adopt crypto in 2023, US second**

- Amid the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman discussed global debt vulnerabilities and cryptocurrency assets on the sidelines of the G20 finance chiefs meeting, a new report on countries willing to adopt and legalise the currency to increase its accessibility has arrived.
- According to HedgewithCrypto research, Australia is the biggest country when it comes to the adoption of cryptocurrency in 2023 with a score of 7.37 out of 10. The sale of cryptocurrency and other digital assets is legal and regulated in Australia. India emerged as 7th biggest nation ready to adopt crypto in 2023.

### **14. India ranks 42nd in 55 countries on International IP Index**

- India ranks 42nd among 55 leading global economies on the International IP Index released by the US Chambers of Commerce, according to which India is ripe to become a leader for emerging markets seeking to transform their economy through IP-driven innovation.
- As India's size and economic influence grows on the world stage, India is ripe to become a leader for emerging markets seeking to transform their economy through IP-driven innovation.

### **15. Kerala becomes the first State to use robotic scavengers to clean manholes**

- Water Resources Minister, Roshi Augustine, launched a robotic scavenger Bandicoot under the Guruvayur Sewerage Project in Thrissur district by the Kerala Water Authority (KWA), as part of the 100-day action plan of the state government. With this Kerala became the first state in India to use robotics to clean all commissioned manholes and drainage.

### **16. West Bengal on top, Uttar Pradesh at bottom of index for literacy among children below 10 years**

- West Bengal maintained its lead while Uttar Pradesh stood at the bottom among large state categories on the second edition of the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Index 2022, an indicator of literacy among children below 10 years of age.
- Among smaller states, Punjab was at the top of the index while Telangana was at the bottom while Puducherry topped the index among union territories while Ladakh was the worst performer. Among north-eastern states, Sikkim was at the top while Meghalaya was at the bottom of the index.

### **17. Narendra Singh Tomar Inaugurates Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela in New Delhi**

- The Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela, which is annually hosted in New Delhi and is organized by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), has been inaugurated by the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar today. "Nutrition, Food, and Environmental Protection with Shree Anna" is this year's theme for the event



### **18. Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurates 18 National Highway projects with a total length of 550 km in Orchha, Madhya Pradesh**

- Union minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated 18 National Highway projects with a total length of 550 km in Orchha, Madhya Pradesh worth Rs. 6800 crore in presence of Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister Dr. Shri Virendra Kumar, Union Minister of State Shri Prahlad Singh Patel and other ministers of Madhya Pradesh and MP-MLAs, officers and other dignitaries.

### **19. 'World's first' bamboo crash barrier installed on Maharashtra highway**

- Union minister Nitin Gadkari on 4 March said a 200-meter-long bamboo crash barrier has been installed on a highway connecting Chandrapur and Yavatmal districts in Maharashtra, which he termed as the "world's first" such exercise.
- Calling it a "remarkable achievement" for the country and its bamboo sector, he said this crash barrier offers a perfect alternative to steel and addresses environmental concerns.

### **20. Mumbai jumps to 37th place globally in price growth in luxury housing**

- Mumbai's rank has improved to 37th from 92nd in a global list of movement in prices of luxury homes as the city saw an appreciation of 6.4 per cent during 2022 calendar year, according to Knight Frank India.
- In Bengaluru, the prices of prime property rose 3 per cent, helping the city improve its rank to 63rd in 2022 from 91st in 2021. Delhi's prime property market saw value appreciating by 1.2 per cent which moved up the ranking to 77th from 93rd in 2021.

### **21. Foxconn to invest up to \$1 billion in new Bengaluru plant**

- The Hon Hai Technology Group (Foxconn), the biggest contract manufacturer in the world, will set up an electronics manufacturing and assembly unit on the outskirts of Bengaluru, where it is expected to invest up to \$1 billion and make iPhones for Apple.
- The plant, to come up on a 300-acre plot near the Bengaluru international airport, will generate 100,000 jobs over the next 10 years.

### **22. Mauganj became the 53rd district of Madhya Pradesh**

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced on March 4 to make Tehsil Mauganj of Rewa district the 53rd district of the state.
- The purpose of this move of the government is to end the discontent against the government regarding the lack of adequate representation for the politically important Vindhya region in the state cabinet. Mauganj district, bordering Uttar Pradesh, will have four tehsils - Mauganj, Hanumana, Naigarhi and Devtalab with a population of more than six lakhs.

### **23. Meity Sets Up Advanced Electronic Materials Lab In Thrissur, Kerala**

- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Secretary, Alkesh Kumar Sharma inaugurated the Advanced Electronics Materials Laboratory.
- Advanced Electronics Materials Laboratory was inaugurated at the Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET) in Thrissur. The new facility will help to enhance C-MET's capabilities in translational research on electronic materials, components and devices for developing commercial ready products in line with the government's Atmanirbharata mission.

### **24. Tata Motors launches first registered vehicle scrapping facility in Jaipur, Rajasthan**

- Indian automaker Tata Motors launched its first vehicle scrapping facility in Jaipur, Rajasthan. The registered facility Re.Wi.Re (Recycle with Respect) has a capacity of 15,000 vehicles per annum and offers eco-friendly prices for dismantling end-of-life vehicles.
- The facility will be available for passenger and commercial vehicles and is developed and operated by Tata Motors' partner Ganganagar Vaahan Udyog Pvt Ltd. Further, the facility is digitalized for hassle-free, paperless operations and has dedicated stations for the safe dismantling of components such as tyres, batteries, fuel, oils, liquids, and gases.

### **25. Karnataka, Gujarat ranked best performing Indian states in clean energy transition efforts**

- Karnataka and Gujarat are the Indian states making the most progress in overall preparedness and commitment in the transition to clean electricity, a new joint report from the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and Ember showed.
- The report analyses 16 Indian states, which together account for 90 per cent of the country's annual power requirement, across four dimensions. The dimensions track a state's preparedness to shift away from fossil fuel-based power, its ability to incentivise greener market participation, its power system's reliability and policies pushing for power sector decarbonisation.

### **26. Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023 organized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti**

- The "Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023", organized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti to honour the women champions of rural water and sanitation sector, was graced by the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu. This event organized in the run up to the International Women's Day, was to felicitate the exceptional and exemplary work being done at the grassroots level by women in the implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission – Grameen (SBM-G), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA-CTR).

## **27. Ashwini Vaishnaw releases special 'Go Green, Go Organic' cover for world's first organic state Sikkim**

- Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and four Sikkim ministers released a unique cover of the Department of Posts, 'Go Green, Go Organic' for Sikkim. The special cover is a testament to the state's achievements in organic farming and progress and a reminder of the importance of sustainable development for the entire country, the Vaishnaw stated.
- The union minister thanked Department of Posts for this release and congratulated Sikkim State for its achievements of becoming the first state of the world to get recognized as an Organic state by the World Book of Records (London).

## **28. Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport cleanest in Asia Pacific**

- Delhi airport has been adjudged as one of the best airports as well as the cleanest airport in the Asia Pacific region by international grouping ACI. The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), operated by DIAL, has bagged the award for Airport Service Quality (ASQ) best airport for 2022 in the category of over 40 Million Passengers
- It has also been named as the cleanest airport in the Asia Pacific region by the Airports Council International (ACI). ACI is a non-profit organisation of airport operators. Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) is a GMR Airports Infrastructure Ltd-consortium.

## **29. Karnataka Bank appoints Mr Abhishek Sankar Bagchi as new Chief Financial Officer**

- Karnataka Bank Ltd has appointed Mr Abhishek Sankar Bagchi as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the bank on a contract basis. He replaced Mr Muralidhar Krishna Rao, whose tenure was completed on 1 March 2023.
- Mr Bagchi is a Chartered Accountant and has a Global Diploma in International Financial Reporting (IFRS). He has over 18 years of work experience in RBI reporting, strategic planning, fund management, financial reporting, financial planning & control, taxation, and budgeting. He was CFO and Head of Finance at NSDL Payments Bank from September 2017.

## **30. All India Women's Folk Art Conference to be organised on International Women's Day in Mumbai**

- On the occasion of International Women's Day, an All India Women's Folk Art Conference will be organised at Ravindra Natya Mandir in Prabhadevi in Mumbai on the 8th of March 2023 in association with Sangeet Natak Akademi, Government of India and P. L. Deshpande Maharashtra Kala Academy, Government of Maharashtra.
- Like the G20, India is leading the W20 group and Dr. Sandhya Purecha, Chairman of Sangeet Natak Akademi is the president of the W20 Women's Group. Women from several States of India will present popular folk art in this convention. Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde will be inaugurating the All India Women's Folk Art Conference.



### **31. Uttarakhand to launch self-employment scheme for single women**

- Uttarakhand will soon roll out a self-employment scheme for single women. Women have proven themselves in every field and are working shoulder to shoulder with men, he said at the conclusion of Women Empowerment and Security Week here.
- "Working through self-help groups, women in remote hill areas of the state are steering the rural economy. With their skills, they are also strengthening the economy of their homes," the chief minister added. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, steps such as linking 23 crore women to banks through Jan Dhan accounts have been taken across India.

### **32. India Ranks 108th on Electoral Democracy Index 2023**

- India ranks 108th in the Electoral Democracy Index of the V-dem Democracy report 2023. India ranks below countries such as Tanzania, Bolivia, Mexico, Singapore and even Nigeria. In 2022, India's ranking was 100th position in Electoral Democracy Index (EDI). This report has named India as one of the top 10 autocratising countries in the last 10 years. India has been ranked 97th in the Liberal Democracy Index.
- India has been placed in the bottom 50 percent of the LDI index. Denmark is in the first position with a score of 0.89 in the Liberal Democracy Index. Sweden is in the second spot with a score of 0.87 while Norway is in the third spot with a score of 0.86. Pakistan slipped to 106th in the LDI and 110th in the EEDI Odisha

### **33. CM unveils Biju Patnaik's Dakota aircraft for public viewing in Bhubaneswar**

- Odisha Chief Minister (CM) Shri Naveen Patnaik unveiled former CM Biju Patnaik's iconic "Dakota" DC3 (AT-AUI) aircraft for public display at Biju Patnaik International Airport Bhubaneswar.
- This aircraft was used by Biju Patnaik to rescue former Indonesian Vice-President Md. Hatta and former Prime Minister Sutan Sjahrir. The iconic Dakota Aircraft belongs to the erstwhile Kalinga Airlines. With the efforts of the Odisha government, the Dakota Aircraft was shifted from Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport (NSCBI) in Kolkata to Bhubaneswar on January 18, 2023 by road.

### **34. President Murmu to launch 'Catch the Rain-2023' campaign on March 4**

- President Droupadi Murmu will launch the 'Catch the Rain-2023' on March 4, 2023 as part of efforts to turn conservation of water into a mass campaign in the run-up to the monsoon season.
- The theme of this year's campaign will be 'Source Sustainability for Drinking Water'. The President will also confer 18 Awards under Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen, Jal Jeevan Mission and National Water Mission under various categories and release a compendium of case stories titled 'Swachh Sujal Shakti Ki Abhividyakti'.

### **35. Attukal Pongala, largest festival for women commences in Kerala**

- Attukal Pongala, arguably the largest festival of women in the world, began at the Attukal Bhagavathy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- It is one of the largest gatherings of women in the world, falls on the ninth day of the annual ten-day festival at the Attukal Bhagavathy Temple. Only women are allowed to participate in it. It is also known as the 'Women's Sabarimala', and making 'Pongala' is considered a sacred ritual in the annual festival of this temple.

### **36. UP to host the 8th edition of Indian Pharma Fair (IFF)**

- The eighth edition of Vedshiv Business Media's Indian Pharma Fair (IFF) 2023 will be organized in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh from March 17 to 18 March 2023.
- The fair will present the most up-to-date trends and technology in the pharmaceutical, drug, and formulation industries. It will address industry problems, such as rising packaging and freight costs, and strive to find answers to those issues. This exhibition will focus on expanding the pharmaceutical industry in India, mostly through Third Party Manufacturing, PCD/ Franchise.

### **37. PM Modi dedicates to nation Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway in Karnataka**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway in Karnataka on 12 March. Built at a cost of over Rs 8400 crore, the 10-lane Bengaluru Mysuru Expressway will boost connectivity and socio-economic development in Karnataka. The 118 km long Bengaluru-Mysore Expressway will reduce the travel time between Bengaluru and Mysuru from three hours to about 75 minutes.

### **38. India-Australia bilateral trade in goods and services is pegged at US\$ 27.5 billion in 2021**

- India's merchandise exports to Australia grew by 135% between 2019 and 2021. India's exports to Australia- Manufactured goods such as petroleum, medicaments, diamonds, jewellery, railway coaches and vehicles, milled rice and herbicides.
- India's imports from Australia - 82% of its imports from Australia are coal, gold, copper ore, aluminum oxide, liquified natural gas, manganese ore, aluminum waste, pigments, lentils, etc.

### **39. Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurates Youth-20 Consultation series in Pune**

- Union Minister for Youth Affairs Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated the fourth Y20 consultation meeting in Pune on 11 March. The Y20 Summit presents a unique platform for young minds to share their vision, values and ideas and develop solutions and recommendations that will be presented to the G20 leadership.

- The aim of the summit is for youth to be heard and actively shape the global agenda. Active participation of the young minds present at the event will lead to a deeper understanding of the challenges facing society and humanity and ways to solve them at the Y20 discussion platform.

#### **40. New health programme 'Arogya Mahila' launched for women in Telangana**

- Telangana Health Minister T Harish Rao has launched a new health programme for women, named 'Arogya Mahila', on the occasion of International Women's Day.
- Under the programme, tests would be conducted for women every Tuesday initially in 100 health centres and medicines provided to them free of cost. The women, if necessary, would be sent to 'referral hospitals' for further medical care. Harish Rao also to be launched the scheme 'Nutrition kit' would be started for the benefit of pregnant women after the Sri Rama Navami festival to be celebrated later this month. The 'Nutrition kit' would comprise several items, including ghee and protein mix powder.

#### **41. Ashok Leyland unveils all-women production line at Tamil Nadu plant**

- Heavy commercial vehicle maker Ashok Leyland has unveiled a new production line that would produce engines at its manufacturing facility in Hosur completely operated by women employees.
- The initiative to introduce an all-women production line is to promote women empowerment and encourage them take up roles in manufacturing industry. Ashok Leyland, the flagship company of Hinduja Group, has set up this new line with 80 women employees.

#### **42. Green national highway corridor project to be implemented in four states**

- India and the World Bank have signed a loan agreement for the construction of the Green National Highway Corridors Project (GNHCP) in four States.
- These four states are Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. Agreement has been signed for construction of 781 kilometer green national highway corridor in these states with a line of credit of \$500 million. It will integrate safe and green technology designs such as local and marginal materials, industrial by-products and other bioengineering solutions.

#### **43. tigers 'reintroduced' in Madhya Pradesh's Madhav National Park after 27 years**

- A tiger and tigress were reintroduced in the Madhav National Park (MNP) in Madhya Pradesh's (MP) Shivpuri district in a bid to revive the big cat population in the area. The tiger was transferred from Satpura Tiger Reserve, and the tigress was shifted from Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in MP.
- The 2 tigers were released in the park by Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Union Minister Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia. A 3rd tiger from Panna Tiger Reserve is expected to arrive at the park in 2-3 days.

#### **44.PM Modi Inaugurates World's Longest Railway Platform in Hubballi, Karnataka**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the world's longest railway platform of 1.5 kilometers at Sri Siddhaarooda railway station in Hubballi, Karnataka, along with other developmental projects.
- The platform is now registered in the Guinness Book of World Records, and it will cater to the transportation needs of the Hubballi-Dharwad region, enhancing the operational capacity of the yard. The platform will allow trains to operate in both directions, and it will aid in the transportation needs of the region. Gorakhpur platform in Uttar Pradesh, which was the longest platform, has now slipped to second place, while Kollam Junction in Kerala has the third longest platform.

#### **45.Two-day G20 flower festival begins in New Delhi**

- Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav has inaugurated a two-day G20 Flower Festival. The Festival has been organized at Delhi's Connaught Place for highlighting the vibrancy of G20 members and guest countries. G20 countries like Japan, Singapore, and the Netherlands are participating in it.
- Flower plants of different colours and varieties are being displayed in different forms and installations to showcase the diversity of the Indian subcontinent. The festival is also showcasing the painting and photographs of flowers of G20 member countries and guest countries.

#### **46.Nitin Gadkari unveiled first methanol run buses in Bengaluru, Karnataka**

- Union Minister for Road and Transport Nitin Gadkari unveiled Bengaluru's first methanol-run buses. The project is aimed at reducing the level of emissions and the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) NITI Aayog, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Ashok Leyland are conducting the project together.
- In the pilot project, the BMTC is planning to launch 80 buses that will run on methanol fuel and 20 Ashok Leyland buses will also be introduced in the initial phases. As part of the project, the Indian Oil Corporation will provide free diesel and methanol for three months.

#### **47.Kochi Metro becomes the first in the country to accept digital currency for parking**

- In an initiative to promote Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) has become the 1st metro in India to accept digital currency in its parking facilities. The programme was inaugurated by KMRL MD Loknath Behera at Thykoodam Metro station.
- The programme was introduced in association with Maharashtra based IDFC FIRST Bank partnered with Anantham Online, a technology startup. This initiative comes at the back of a pilot programme launched by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

#### 48. Asia's largest tulip garden in J&K to open to the public on 19 March

- The Indira Gandhi Tulip Garden, which is Asia's largest tulip garden in Kashmir, will open to the public on March 19, 2023. The garden spread between Dal Lake and Zabarwan Hills.
- This garden is spread over 1050 kanals (52.5 hectares). It started with 50,000 tulips, then 3.50 lakh tulips and now we have 15 Lakh. Besides 1.5 million Tulips of various colours and hues, the garden, also known as Siraj Bagh, will have other spring flowers like hyacinths, daffodils, muscari and cyclamens on display.

#### 49. Uttarakhand Becomes 1st State to Start Insurance Scheme for Sericulturists

- Uttarakhand has become India's first state to launch the "Resham Keet Bima" scheme to protect its sericulturists. This scheme will be run under Saral Krishi Beema.
- In the first phase of this pilot project, 200 sericulturists from 5 blocks of 4 districts — Dehradun, Haridwar, Udham Singh Nagar, and Nainital have been insured from the ill effects of climate change, scarcity of water, and other hazards. The decision to do this has been taken by the Agriculture Insurance Company of India and the department.



#### 50. Union Minister Anurag Thakur inaugurates 16th meeting of SCO Youth Council

- The 16th meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Youth Council was held in hybrid mode in New Delhi, under the chairship of India. Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated the SCO Youth Council meeting.
- During the meeting, the SCO Member States shared information on the activities of the SCO Youth Council in 2022-2023. They noted the high level of participation and the interest shown by the youth delegates of the SCO member states in the discussion held during the Conference. They also noted the promising enthusiasm shown by the youth delegates to engage in community development activities for the betterment of the society.

#### 51. Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurates "AgriUnifest" in Bengaluru

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar on 15 March inaugurated a 5-day cultural program "AgriUnifest" in Bengaluru.



- It was organized by Bangalore Agricultural University in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). More than 2500 meritorious students from 60 State Agricultural Universities/Deemed Universities/Central Universities participated in it. Students showcase their skills in 18 events under 5 disciplines (Music, Dance, Literature, Theatre, Fine Arts).

## **52. Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel inaugurates 3rd Divya Kala Mela at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh**

- Madhya Pradesh (MP) Governor Shri Mangubhai Patel inaugurated the 3rd Divya Kala Mela at Bhopal, MP. In the presence of Social Justice and Empowerment Dr Virendra Kumar & Minister of State Kumari Pratima Bhowmik, inaugurated this 10-day fair. It will be organised by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, this divine art fair will run till 21 March, 2023.

## **53. International Conference on 'Buddhist Heritage' begins in New Delhi**

- An international conference on 'Shared Buddhist Heritage' started in New Delhi. It is being organized with a focus on India's civilizational connection with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) nations 2023. India is also going to host SCO Tourism Ministers' Meeting (TMM) on 17th -18th March 2023 in Kashi.
- The conference on 'Shared Buddhist Heritage' is a first-of-its-kind event under India's leadership of SCO. It brings together Central Asian, East Asian, South Asian and Arab countries on a common platform to discuss 'Shared Buddhist Heritage'. The SCO countries comprise of member states, observer states and dialogue partners, including China, Russia, and Mongolia.

## **54. India's first behavioural lab to be set up in Rajasthan**

- The Rajasthan government approved the setting up of India's first Behavioural lab at Jaipur, Rajasthan, India. It will be set up at the Patel Bhawan at Harish Chandra Mathur Rajasthan Institute of Public Administration (HCM-RIPA), Jaipur. For this, the Chief Minister (CM) Shri Ashok Gehlot has approved a financial proposal of Rs 1.22 crore.
- The lab to be set up in about 2665.04 square feet area will be managed and operated by IIM Udaipur. The faculty of the IIM will impart training on applied methods, and certificate courses of Ph.D level will be conducted.

## **55. Indian Railways to become Net Zero Carbon Emitter by 2030**

- Indian Railway has set a target of becoming Net Zero Carbon Emitter by 2030. IR has taken a number of initiatives to reduce its carbon emissions which include use of energy efficient technologies like completely switching over to production of three phase electric locomotives with regenerative features, use of head on generation (HOG) technology, use of LED lights in buildings and coaches, star rated appliances and afforestation.
- Further, the key strategies that have been identified for achieving the Net Zero Carbon emission target are procurement of power through renewable energy

sources; shifting from diesel to electric traction; promotion of energy efficiency; and afforestation.

### **56.Amit Shah inaugurated APMC Kisan Bhavan at Krishi Shivir in Junagadh, Gujarat**

- Union Home and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of the District Bank Headquarters and inaugurated the APMC Kisan Bhavan at Krishi Shivir in Junagadh, Gujarat on 19 March.
- Natural agricultural products will be promoted with the Amul brand, which will benefit the farmers. The government is planning to expand this network to every district in the coming five years. Strong cooperative infrastructure is the only solution for the welfare of the farmers in the country. National level multi-state cooperatives, recently approved by the Union Cabinet to promote organic products and exports, will help farmers multiply their income over the next 10 years.

### **57.Nagpur hosts preparatory meeting for Civil 20 under India's G20 Presidency**

- The C-20 is an engagement group working under the G-20 Secretariat that provides a platform for civil society organisations and non-governmental organisations to air their concerns and brainstorm on various issues.
- The two-day meeting was inaugurated at Radisson Blu Hotel in Nagpur under the chairmanship of Mata Amritanandamayi and in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. In the Inception meeting, 14 different topics prepared for C-20 were discussed. Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari participated in the closing ceremony of the meeting on 21 March.

### **58.Sagar Parikrama Phase-IV begin in Karnataka**

- The fourth phase of Sagar Parikrama began on March 18 covering three coastal districts of Karnataka. It covered three districts Uttara Kannada, Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts of Karnataka.
- Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Purushottam Rupala and concerned state ministers and stakeholders were present at the event. During the event, progressive fishermen were awarded certificates/acknowledgements related to Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), KCC and State Scheme.

### **59.PM Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina jointly inaugurated the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline**

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina jointly inaugurated the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (IBFP) in a virtual mode. The foundation stone for the construction of this pipeline was laid by both Prime Ministers in September 2018. Numaligarh Refinery Limited has been supplying petroleum products to Bangladesh since 2015. This is the second cross-border energy pipeline between India and its neighbours.

## **60. Government signs MoU with 27 steel companies, kickstarting Rs 6,322-crore PLI scheme**

- The government signed memorandums of understanding (MoU) with 27 companies, kickstarting the Rs 6,322-crore production-linked incentives (PLI) scheme for specialty steel, that is expected to generate investments of up to Rs 30,000 crore over the coming five years.
- The scheme will create 25 million tonnes of additional specialty steel manufacturing in the country and create 55,000 new jobs as per a statement by the Indian Steel Association (ISA).

## **61. External Affairs Minister Jaishankar inaugurates Geoffrey Bawa in New Delhi**

- External Affairs Minister of India Dr. S. Jaishankar inaugurated the Sri Lankan exhibition “Geoffrey Bawa: It is Essential To be There”, at the National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi. Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture of India, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi was also present on this occasion.
- The historic exhibition which features the works of Sri Lanka’s iconic architect the late Geoffrey Bawa, is jointly organized by the National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi, the High Commission of Sri Lanka in New Delhi and the Geoffrey Bawa Trust to mark the 75th anniversary of Indo-Lanka diplomatic relations, which falls this year.

## **62. 2nd G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group meeting begins in Udaipur**

- The 2nd Sustainable Finance Working Group (SFWG) meeting under India's G20 chairmanship began in Udaipur, Rajasthan and will last for three days.
- The focus of the meeting is to identify relevant policies and best practices for mobilising sustainable finance to help ensure global growth and stability. Two workshops were organised during the meeting, namely Non-pricing policy levers to support sustainable investment and efficient finance for the Sustainable Development Goals.

## **63. Government to develop mega textile parks in 7 states under PM MITRA scheme**

- The Central Government has announced plans to set up mega textile parks in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra. The PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks for the Textile Industry are a step towards realizing the vision of making India a global hub for textile manufacturing and exports.
- The step is inspired by the 5F vision of the Prime Minister, which includes, Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign. It is expected that these parks will enhance the competitiveness of the textile industry by helping it achieve economies of scale and attract global players to manufacture in India.

#### **64. World Food India-2023 to be organised in New Delhi**

- The second edition of 'World Food India-2023' will be organised by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India, from 3-5 November, 2023 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras, and Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries and Jal Shakti, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, launched the website, publicity brochure and promotional video for WFI-2023.

#### **65. Maharashtra Government to launch second phase of Jalyukt Shivar project**

- Government of Maharashtra has decided to launch the second phase of Jalyukt Shivar project. It is a scheme that targets drought-prone areas by Undertaking water conservation measures. It's to make the state drought-free by removing water scarcity in 5000 villages per year.
- The scheme attempts to arrest maximum run-off water during the monsoon months, in village areas known to receive less rainfall. Under the scheme, decentralised water bodies are installed at various locations within villages to enhance the groundwater recharge.

#### **66. Yuva Utsav on theme of 'Panch Pran of Amrit Kaal- India @2047' organised in Mizoram**

- The first ever of its kind, a Yuva Utsav on the theme of 'Panch Pran of Amrit Kaal – India @2047' was organised in Siaha district of Mizoram. The festival, which is being organised by the Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) all across the country, has evoked huge enthusiasm among the students and youth of the district.
- On the occasion, Chief Guest of the programme, local legislator Dr. K. Beichhua Siaha said that it is a huge opportunity for the youth to take part in various talent hunt programs in the Youth Festival. The Yuva Utsav is being celebrated marking the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in the spirit of Yuva Shakti.

#### **67. Stadium Named After Hockey Star Rani Rampal in Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh, First Woman To Get This Honour**

- 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 Bareilly. The MCF Rae Bareilly has renamed the hockey stadium as 'Rani's Girls Hockey Turf'. Rani shared photos on her social media handles, where she is seen interacting with the players and inaugurating the stadium alongside other staff members.

#### **68. Tamil Nadu's 18th wildlife sanctuary to come up in Erode**

- The Tamil Nadu government in its budget has announced that a new wildlife sanctuary called 'Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary' will be formed in Erode district. It will be the 18th such sanctuary in the state.
- Spread across 80,567 hectares in the forest areas of Anthiyur and Gobichettipalayam taluks in Erode district, the sanctuary will include reserve

forest areas in Anthiyur, Bargur, Thattakarai and Chennampatti. The proposed sanctuary is expected to house several animal species, including elephants, tigers, leopards, panthers, wild boars and deer.

### **69. Amit Shah chairs regional conference on 'Drug Trafficking and National Security' in Bengaluru**

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired the Regional Conference on 'Drug Trafficking and National Security' in Bengaluru on 24 March. Representatives from 5 southern states and 3 union territories participated in the conference.
- The Union Home Minister also supervised the destruction of 9,298 kg of seized narcotics worth Rs 1,235 crore during the meeting. The Home Minister focused on aspects such as zero tolerance in the regional conference on ways to reduce drug trafficking through sea routes and consequential stringent punitive action on drug traffickers.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **1. UAE to host first I2U2 vice-ministerial meeting in Abu Dhabi**

- The United Arab Emirates is set to host the first vice-ministerial meeting of the I2U2 in Abu Dhabi this week. It will be attended by senior officials from the four countries – India, Israel, the United States and the UAE.
- Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment Jose W Fernandez will lead the US delegation at the meeting in Abu Dhabi on February 21-22, according to an official statement. Fernandez will represent the US at the I2U2 Business Forum, hosted by the UAE.

### **2. Financial crime watchdog FATF suspends Russia's membership over Ukraine war**

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) suspended Russia's membership for its "illegal, unprovoked and unjustified" full-scale military invasion of Ukraine, an official statement said. Russia's actions were "unacceptably run" counter to FATF's core principles that aims to promote security, safety, and integrity of the global financial system, it said.
- The global watchdog on terror financing said it is also deeply concerned by the reports of arms trade between Russia and United Nations sanctioned jurisdictions, and malicious cyber-activities emanating from Russia. The Russian Federation remains accountable for its obligation to implement the FATF standards.

### **3. Pakistan government hikes policy interest rate by 200 bps for IMF bailout**

- Pakistan's government has agreed to raise the policy interest rate by 2% or 200 basis points to meet another condition set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to unlock USD 1.1 billion of the bailout package. According to The Express Tribune, the rate currently stands at 17%.
- Decision by Pakistan Officials will raise the interest rate to 19%, well below the previous record of 19.5% set in October 1996. Sources in Pakistan's



finance ministry said a technical-level discussion had taken place between Islamabad and the IMF review mission.

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

- Japan, the United States, South Korea and Taiwan have held the first meeting of senior officials under a new U.S.-led framework to help ensure a stable supply of semiconductors.
- The initiative is part of a U.S. strategy to build a resilient chip supply chain and reduce Chinese involvement. Governments of the four economies, home to the world's leading chipmakers and suppliers of relevant materials and equipment, joined the meeting as observers, according to the ministry.

#### **5. Bangladesh govt signs agreement with ISA to increase usage of solar energy in Bangladesh**

- The government of Bangladesh signed an agreement with the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to increase the use of solar energy in Bangladesh. The agreement was signed between the ISA Director General Ajay Mathur and the Bangladesh Power Division Secretary Habibur Rahman. The agreement is to be implemented by December 2026.

#### **6. UPI To Expand Into UAE and Indonesia After Success in Singapore**

- Following the successful launch of cross-border real-time digital payment connectivity with Singapore last week, experts believe that India's UPI will likely expand to the UAE, Mauritius, and Indonesia. It is a matter of pride that India's world-class UPI digital payment infrastructure has gone global and will make it easier for Indian users to conduct business abroad.
- The Indian diaspora will be able to scan QR codes across borders and conduct quick and inexpensive transactions. This initiative is commendable, and it will serve as a model for other countries looking to use technological advancements to facilitate smooth cross-border commerce, according to Mehul Mistry.

#### **7. Essar Group bets \$3.6 billion on decarbonisation in India and UK**

- Essar Group announced a fresh investment of \$3.6 billion in setting up an Essar Energy Transition (EET) to spearhead green energy transition projects in the UK and India. The green energy projects will include an investment of \$1.2 billion in green ammonia manufacturing in India. The projects are expected to be commissioned by 2026-27. The group will develop a range of low-carbon energy transition projects over the next five years, for which \$2.4 billion will be invested across its site at Stanlow, between Liverpool and Manchester.

#### **8. Vietnam's Parliament Selects Mr Vo Van Thuong as its New President of Vietnam**

- A member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), Mr Vo Van Thuong, was elected as the new President of Vietnam by the National

Assembly (NA) till the term ending 2026. He is the youngest person to serve in this position since the republic's founding in 1945.

- Thuong's election follows the sudden resignation of his predecessor Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc in January, who the Party blamed for wrongdoing. Thuong received 98.38% (487 out of 488) of the vote, according to the parliament's online portal.

## **9. The Qatar Ministerial Meeting On South-South Cooperation**

- The Qatar Ministerial Meeting On South-South Cooperation: During LDC5, a Ministerial Meeting on South-South Cooperation was held with the goal of exploring concrete, innovative, and actionable solutions in support of the DPoA deliverables through multi-stakeholder participation of the global South and traditional development partners.
- The South-South cooperation track aims to provide a platform to forge broad partnerships in support of deliverables of the DPoA. A thorough review of the role of South-South cooperation and good practises in leveraging it as an important means of implementation in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) was conducted during the preparatory process.

## **10. Colombia opens military service to women for first time in 25 years**

- Colombia has opened military service to women for the first time in 25 years. A cohort of 1,296 women have been enlisted in Colombia's Army last month, February.
- Colombia has long had compulsory military service for men ages 18 to 24. The army relies heavily on those young recruits to staff bases, protect infrastructure and carry out administrative tasks, while its professional soldiers confront drug trafficking gangs and rebel groups. This year, officials allowed females in the same age range to voluntarily join the military, in what the army says is part of an effort to strengthen the role of women in its ranks.

## **11. Indonesia's Mount Merapi volcano erupts, covering villages in ash**

- Indonesia's Mount Merapi, one of the world's most active volcanoes, erupted on March 12, sending smoke and ash spreading over nearby villages.
- The volcano is located on the island of Java near Yogyakarta, the cultural capital of Indonesia. The ash cloud has reached 9,600 feet above the surface. The area up to seven kilometers from the blast site has been restricted. In 2010 a major eruption of the volcano killed over 300 people. Indonesia, which has about 130 active volcanoes, lies on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", where the meeting of continental plates causes high volcanic and seismic activity.

## **12. US recognizes McMahon Line as international border**

- The US formally recognized the McMahon Line as the international boundary between India's Arunachal Pradesh and China, and rejected Beijing's claim that the northeastern state falls under Chinese territory.
- Apart from recognising the McMahon Line, the resolution also condemned Chinese provocations in the region, including China's use of military force to change the status quo along the Line of Actual Control, construction of

villages in contested areas, publication of maps with Mandarin-language names for cities featuring Arunachal Pradesh, and expansion of Beijing's territorial claims over Bhutan.

### **13.PM Modi, Bangladesh PM Hasina to virtually inaugurate first India-Bangladesh cross-border oil pipeline**

- First India-Bangladesh cross-border oil pipeline will be virtually inaugurated by PM Modi and Bangladesh PM Hasina on March 18. The 130 km India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline will be used to export diesel to Dhaka.
- Out of 130 km, 125 km lies inside Bangladesh's territory and 5 km lies inside India. It has been built from approximately 377 cr , drawn from the Indian Line of Credit (LoC). The pipeline stretches from West Bengal's Siliguri to a Meghna petroleum depot in Dinajpur's Parbatipur.

### **14.International Criminal Court issues arrest warrant against Vladimir Putin for war crimes in Ukraine**

- The International Criminal Court on 17 March issued an arrest warrant against Russian President Vladimir Putin on charges of war crimes.
- The move mandates 123 member states to arrest Putin and transfer him to The Hague for trial if he steps onto their territory. It was immediately rejected by Moscow while Ukraine on the other hand welcomed the decision. According to the court, these crimes were allegedly committed from 24 February 2022 on Ukrainian-occupied territory.

### **15.26th edition of 'Elevate' held in Dubai**

- The sixth pitching session of the second season of Elevate concluded in Dubai 22 March. The event saw the participation of six startups from India and the registration of 180 investors. The six startups that participated in the Elevate session were winners of the National Startup Awards 2022.
- Season II to Session VI hosted a special guest, Padmaja Ruparel, Co-Founder, Indian Angel Network (IAN). She is a member of the Government's NEAC, the National Expert Advisory Committee on Innovation, Incubation and Technology Entrepreneurship. She shared her insights and thoughts on the opportunities in the growing startup ecosystem in India.

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

### **1.Former bureaucrat Shailesh Pathak has been appointed as the new secretary-general of FICCI. Pathak will take charge on March 1**

- In a career spanning 37 years, Pathak has spent time in the government as an IAS Officer as well as helmed large companies in the private sector. His extensive international exposure includes an Eisenhower Fellowship in 2000 as an emerging Indian Leader, an EU Visitor Programme hosted by the European Commission 2003, and a Chevening scholarship at the University of Oxford in 2011.

### **2.Pepsi ropes in Ranveer Singh as brand ambassador**

- Pepsi ropes in Ranveer Singh as brand ambassador. Pepsi has roped in Ranveer Singh as its brand ambassador. Pepsi has always been synonymous with the voice of the youth and believes in empowering them with self-expression, self-confidence, and self-belief. This match between Pepsi and Ranveer is sure to enthrall audiences across the country.
- Commenting on the partnership, Saumya Rathor, Category Lead, Pepsi Cola, PepsiCo India, said, "Pepsi represents the spirit of youth in a bottle and for us, Ranveer perfectly embodies that very spirit. Ranveer stands for the brand ethos – be it being effortless, audacious, or having the gumption to be your true self."

### **3. Godrej Inds appoints Vishal Sharma as CEO-designate of chemicals business**

- Godrej Industries (GIL) has announced the appointment of Vishal Sharma as the "chief executive officer- designate" (CEO-Designate) of GIL-Chemicals business with effect from 1 March 2023. Vishal Sharma will report to Nitin Nabar, executive director and president (chemicals), Godrej Industries.
- Vishal Sharma will join Godrej from Ecolab Inc. where his previous role was as senior vice president of India, Middle East and Africa (IMEA) region, based in Dubai since June 2020. In this role, Vishal led Ecolab's strategy and operations in IMEA and was responsible for achieving record sales and profit growth in this region.

### **4. Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, elects Bola Tinubu as the new president**

- Bola Ahmed Tinubu has been declared as the winner of Nigeria's presidential elections, beating out two other prominent candidates. It comes three days after criticism by observers for widespread logistical failings, violence that suppressed the vote and cries from opposition parties of a sham.
- Over decades, the former two-term governor of Lagos has evolved into a divisive yet towering figure in Nigerian politics. The wealthy, so-called political godfather is a power broker who helped outgoing president Muhammadu Buhari win the presidency in 2015.

### **5. Pramerica Life Insurance appoints Pankaj Gupta as MD and CEO**

- Pramerica Life Insurance appointed Pankaj Gupta as the managing director and chief executive officer. Gupta was Group Head – Distribution Strategy & Alliances of HDFC Life. Pankaj succeeds Kalpana Sampat, who was the previous MD & CEO. Prior to HDFC Life, Pankaj has also held senior leadership roles at Citigroup, ICICI Bank, and TCS.
- Pramerica Life Insurance Limited is a joint venture between DIL, a wholly owned subsidiary of Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Limited and Prudential International Insurance Holdings, Ltd. (PIIH), a fully owned subsidiary of Prudential Financial, Inc. (PFI).

### **6. Indian-American woman judge named first Justice of a district court in US**

- Indian-American judge Tejal Mehta took oath as the first justice of Ayer District Court in the US state of Massachusetts.

- Mehta, who served as an the associate justice with the same court, was unanimously selected and sworn in by Judge Stacey Fortes, chief justice of the District Court, on March 2, the Lowell Sun reported. The ceremony was attended by several members of Mehta's family, including her 14-year-old daughter Mena Sheth, who was among the ceremony speakers.

## **7. Manik Saha sworn in as Tripura Chief Minister**

- Manik Saha was sworn in as Chief Minister of Tripura again on March 8, after the BJP returned to power in the recently-concluded Assembly election. In the swearing-in ceremony that took place in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and BJP national president J.P. Nadda, eight others were inducted in the Tripura Cabinet, including one from the BJP ally, the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT).
- The CPI (M)-led Left Front and its electoral partner, the Congress, did not attend the ceremony in protest against the post-election violence allegedly perpetrated by BJP activists against opposition workers and supporters.

## **8. Savlon India names Sachin Tendulkar as world's first 'Hand Ambassador'**

- Savlon Swasth India has announced Sachin Tendulkar as the World's First 'Hand Ambassador' to inspire billions to wash their hands. The campaign features a series of films featuring Sachin Tendulkar's Hand as their chief protagonist – bringing the importance of hand hygiene to everyone's notice.
- ITC's Savlon Swasth India Mission has been at the forefront, seeding behavioural change towards hand hygiene through innovative experiences and initiatives. Started in 2016, the Savlon Swasth India Mission program is run by ITC Limited.

## **9. Arun Subramanian Becomes First Indian-American US District Judge in New York**

- Indian American attorney Arun Subramanian became the first member of the community to become a Judge of the Manhattan Federal District Court of New York, also becoming the first South Asian judge to serve on the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.
- In a Tweet, the Senate Judiciary Committee said that Subramanian has been directly engaged in every aspect of civil litigation and has clerked at every level of the federal judiciary.

## **10. Rohit Jawa has been appointed as the new CEO and MD of Hindustan Unilever Ltd.**

- On 10 March 2023, Rohit Jawa was appointed as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the famous Fast- Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) Company Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) Company. Rohit Jawa will succeed Sanjiv Mehta, the current Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who will retire on March 30, 2023.
- Rohit Jawa will also take over as President of Unilever South Asia from the current Chief of Transformation based in London.



### 11. Mr Xi Jinping elected as China's president for 3rd term

- China's Mr Xi Jinping sworn in for his third term as the country's head of state. He leads the ruling Communist Party, has become China's longest-serving head of state since the Communist victory in 1949. He received a unanimous 2,952 votes followed by a standing ovation.
- China's 3,000-member rubber-stamp legislature has formally appointed him as President for another 5 years during a ceremonial vote in Beijing's Great Hall of the People, China. There was no other candidate in the election. Xi has also been elected for a third term as chairman of China's Central Military Commission.



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### 12. Surekha Yadav becomes Asia's first woman loco pilot to operate Vande Bharat Express

- Asia's first woman loco pilot Surekha Yadav has become the first female to operate the newly-introduced semi-high speed Vande Bharat Express train.
- She piloted a semi-high speed train between Solapur station and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in Mumbai on 13 March. The train left Solapur station on March 13 on schedule and reached CSMT five minutes before its scheduled arrival for a journey of over 450 km. Yadav set another record in Central Railway by becoming the first woman loco pilot of Vande Bharat Express.

### 13. RBI approves reappointment of Mr Sumant Kathpalia as MD, CEO of IndusInd Bank

- IndusInd Bank has announced that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the re-appointment of Mr Sumant Kathpalia as Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Bank for a further period of 2 years with effect from March 24, 2023.
- The nod by RBI comes nearly 6 months after the IndusInd Bank's board of directors had cleared another term for Kathpalia, who has been the lender's MD & CEO since March 2020.
- IndusInd Bank recorded a rise of 68.71% in profit after tax to ₹1,959.20 crore for the quarter ended December 2022 from a profit of ₹1,161.27 crore in the same quarter last year.

### 14. Siddhartha Mohanty appointed as the interim chairman of LIC

- Siddhartha Mohanty has been appointed as the Interim Chairman of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) for three months with effect from March 14, 2023. He is presently a Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of LIC Housing Finance.
- Currently, Bishnu Charan Patnaik, Ipe Mini, Siddhartha Mohanty, and Raj Kumar are the Managing Directors of LIC. Mangalam Ramasubramanian Kumar is the Chairman of the company.

### **15. FDIC names former Fannie Mae chief Tim Mayopoulos as CEO of Silicon Valley Bank**

- The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation on Monday named former Fannie Mae head Tim Mayopoulos as the chief executive officer of Silicon Valley Bank, a subsidiary of the defunct SVB Financial Group. He steps in after regulators shuttered the startup-focused lender on Friday after a run on its deposits that left it with a dearth of capital. Mayopoulos served as the chief executive officer of mortgage financier Fannie Mae for more than six years before he joined fintech Blend.

### **16. Amitava Mukherjee assumes additional charge as NMDC CMD**

- NMDC said its Director (Finance) Amitava Mukherjee has taken the additional charge as its Chairman-Cum-Managing Director. Mukherjee, an Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS) officer from the 1995 batch, has a Master's in Commerce from Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya in Bilaspur and is also a Cost Accountant.
- His leadership enabled the timely completion of NMDC Steel Ltd's demerger from NMDC Ltd. His areas of expertise are project management, digital initiatives, and policy formulation.

### **17. Shreya Ghodawat appointed as India's ambassador of 'She Changes Climate'**

- Climate entrepreneur Shreya Ghodawat has been appointed as India's ambassador for She Changes Climate. The global non-profit organization launched a special initiative for International Women's Day titled 'Embrace Equity' that aims to amplify the voices of women around the impacts of climate change. The campaign promotes the role of women in accelerating climate change. According to UN Women, more than 150 countries have laws that discriminate against women.

### **18. Mr Pankaj Gupta appointed as MD & CEO of Pramerica Life Insurance**

- Haryana based Pramerica Life Insurance Limited has appointed Mr Pankaj Gupta as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The appointment has been approved by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and the Board of Pramerica Life Insurance.
- He will be responsible for driving strategic growth led transformation to bring Pramerica Life amongst the leading life Insurance companies in India. Pankaj succeeds Ms Kalpana Sampat, who was the previous MD & CEO.

**19. MS Dhoni Appointed as the Brand Ambassador of Viacom18**

- Former India captain & four-time Indian Premier League (IPL) winner Mahendra Singh Dhoni (MS Dhoni) has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Viacom18 Media Private Limited.
- In partnership with Viacom18, MS Dhoni will participate in various network initiatives and feature on JioCinema, Sports18, and his social media accounts. He will also be part of JioCinema's upcoming TATA IPL campaign.

**20. India's KR Parvathy appointed as UN Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan**

- United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Kavilmadam Ramaswami Parvathy of India as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan, with the host Government's approval. She takes up her post on 15 March.
- Ms. Parvathy brings more than 30 years of experience in development and humanitarian sectors, focusing on strategic planning, performance, and risk management, people management, conflict analysis and humanitarian access negotiations.

**21. Govt appoints ex-RBI official Mr Deepak Mohanty as PFRDA Chairman**

- The government has appointed Mr Deepak Mohanty, former Reserve Bank official, as the Chairperson of the Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA).
- He replaced Mr Supratim Bandyopadhyay, whose term ended in January, 2023. According to an order issued by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Finance Ministry, Mr Mohanty will hold this post from the date of assumption of charge till attaining the age of 65 years or until further orders, whichever is earlier. Prior to this, he was the Whole-Time Member (Economics) of PFRDA for 2 years overseeing areas of development and regulation of pension funds.

**22. G Krishnakumar appointed as the chairman of Bharat Petroleum Corporation**

- State-run Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) appointed G. Krishnakumar, currently serving as the Executive Director, as the Chairman and Managing Director of the company.
- Krishnakumar is an Electrical and Electronics Engineer from National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli, and a Post Graduate in Finance Management from Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai. He was earlier an executive director in the company and succeeds Arun Kumar Singh, who retires as chairman in October 2022.

**23. Indian Industrialist Ratan Tata appointed in 'Order of Australia' for distinguished service**

- For distinguished service to the Australia-India bilateral relationship, particularly to trade, investment, and philanthropy, Indian industrialist and

philanthropist Ratan Tata has been appointed as an Honorary Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO).

- Australia's High Commissioner to India, Barry O'Farrell informed that Australia's Governor-General has made this appointment announcement.

## **24. Jayanti Chauhan To Lead Bisleri, As Tata Consumer Withdraws Acquisition Plan**

- Jayanti Chauhan, Bisleri International chairman Ramesh Chauhan's daughter will steer bottled Water Company now that Tata Consumer products Ltd (TCPL) has withdrawn from the acquisition process, as per the ET report.
- The 42 year old, Jayanti Chauhan currently heads as vice chairman of the company that her father builds and promoted. Going further she will be working with the professional management team led by Angelo George. Jayanti has been involved with the Bisleri business periodically over the year. The Vedica, part of Bisleri's portfolio, has been her focus in recent years.

## **25. Ranveer Singh Named India's Most Valuable Celebrity of 2022**

- Actor Ranveer Singh has overtaken cricketer Virat Kohli as India's most valuable celebrity in 2022, according to a Kroll report. Find out more about the top 10 most valuable celebrities in India and their brand values.
- Deepika Padukone has moved up two ranks to the fifth spot with a brand value of \$82.9 million and has become the brand ambassador of Qatar Airways and Pottery Barn. Former cricketer MS Dhoni is ranked sixth with a brand value of over \$80 million. Sachin Tendulkar has entered the top 10 for the first time, ranking eighth with a brand value of \$73.6 million.

## **26. Mr Deepak Bagla quits as managing director and Chief Executive Officer of Invest India**

- Mr Deepak Bagla, Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Invest India, the government's nodal investment promotion and facilitation body, has resigned from his post. He has cited "personal reasons" for stepping down from the post.
- Mr Bagla was at the helm of Invest India since 2015. Earlier, he had stints at World Bank, Citibank, and private equity firm 3i Group. He is the president of the Geneva-based World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies with a membership of 105 countries.

## **27. Virat Kohli named Luxor's brand ambassador**

- Stationery manufacturer Luxor Writing Instruments Private Limited has appointed cricketer Virat Kohli as its new brand ambassador. He will represent Luxor's stationery products and help the company increase its appeal among young writers. He will also help to enhance the market position in the country.
- Indian stationery brand Luxor has partnered with Schneider Pens of Germany to introduce a premium range of creative writing instruments in India.

## **28. Google Doodle honours Kitty O'Neil on her 77th birth anniversary**



- Google Doodle honoured Kitty O'Neil, an American stunt performer and once "the fastest woman in the world", on her 77th birth anniversary. Kitty, who was deaf since childhood, was a legendary American stunt performer, daredevil, and rocket-powered vehicle driver. Today's(24-03-2023) Google Doodle was illustrated by Washington DC-based, deaf guest artist Meeya Tjiang.

## **BANKING**

### **1.GST collections record second highest mop-up of Rs 1.56 lakh crore in January**

- India collected Rs 1.56 lakh crore as Goods and Services Tax (GST) in January. At Rs 1.56 lakh crore, the GST collections for January are second only to the record Rs 1.68 lakh crore collected in April 2022. It is up 10.6 percent from the first month of 2022 and 4.3 percent higher from December 2022.
- GST collections stood at Rs 1.5 lakh crore in December 2022 and Rs 1.41 lakh crore in January 2022. The latest number means GST collections have now exceeded the Rs 1.4-lakh crore mark for 11 months in a row.

### **2.Third day of IDEX, NAVDEX 2023 sees signing of 11 deals worth \$1.5bn**

- UAE's Tawazun Council signed 9 deals with local and foreign companies worth 5.7 billion dirhams (\$1.5 billion) on behalf of the country's Defense Ministry on Wednesday(22 February, 2023) — the third day of the International Defense and Naval Defense exhibitions currently underway in Abu Dhabi.
- The council also signed two deals worth 134 million dirhams on behalf of the Abu Dhabi Police. With the signing of these 11 deals, the number of agreements signed across the ongoing defense expo reached 34 worth 18.4 billion dirhams, according to the council's spokesmen Majed Ahmed Al-Jaberi and Zayed Saeed Al-Meraikhi.

### **3.India's GDP Growth Slows Down To 4.4% In October-December Quarter**

- India's economic growth rate slowed to 4.4% in the third quarter of the current fiscal year. India's gross domestic product growth for the October-December period matched the Reserve Bank of India's 4.4% year-on-year estimate. Before the data release, 42 economists polled by Reuters had given a median forecast of 4.6%.
- The growth rate has been slipping since the revised 13.2% logged for the first fiscal quarter, from April to June. The figure for July to September came in at 6.3%. In the October-December period of the previous year, the South Asian nation's GDP grew 5.2%, according to the latest numbers.

### **4.FDI equity inflows decline 15% to \$36.75 bn in Apr-Dec FY23**

- Foreign direct investment (FDI) into India declined by 15 per cent to USD 36.75 billion during the April-December this fiscal, according to the latest



Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade data. The FDI inflows stood at USD 43.17 billion during the corresponding period of the previous year.

- The total FDI inflows, which includes equity inflows, re-invested earnings and other capital, declined to USD 55.27 billion during the nine months of the current fiscal year as against USD 60.4 billion in the year-ago period.

### **5. IRCTC Partners With HDFC Bank To Launch Travel Credit Card**

- Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC) has joined hands with HDFC Bank to launch one of India's most rewarding co-branded travel credit cards.
- Known as the IRCTC HDFC Bank Credit Card, the newly launched co-branded card is in a single variant and is available exclusively on NPCI's Rupay network. This is the third tie-up of IRCTC after State Bank of India and Bank of Baroda.

### **6. Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance launches 'Nishchit Aayush Plan'**

- Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI), the life insurance subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL) launched a new-age savings solution ABSLI Nishchit Aayush Plan, which aims to provide financial security to policyholders while also providing long-term savings benefits.
- It empowers you to fulfil your life goals so that you can meet your responsibilities and financially secure your family even in your absence.

### **7. India's per capita income doubles since 2014-15**

- India's per capita income in nominal terms doubled to Rs 1,72,000 since 2014-15 when the Narendra Modi-led NDA came to power but uneven income distribution remains a challenge, say economic experts.
- As per the National Statistical Office (NSO), the annual per capita (net national income) at current prices is estimated at Rs 1,72,000 in 2022-23, up from Rs 86,647 in 2014-15, suggesting an increase of about 99 per cent. In real terms (constant prices), the per capita income has increased by about 35 per cent from Rs 72,805 in 2014-15 to Rs 98,118 in 2022-23.

### **8. RBI imposes 3.06 crore penalty on Amazon Pay (India) for violation of norms**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of over 3.06 crore on Amazon Pay (India) Private Limited for non-compliance with certain provisions related to Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) and Know Your Customer (KYC) direction.
- The penalty has been imposed under Section 30 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. This action is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the entity with its customers.

### **9. RBI has launched a mission to make every citizen a user of digital payment**

- As part of Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW) 2023, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Mr. Shaktikanta Das announced the **‘Har Payment Digital’** campaign, which aims to make every citizen of the nation a user of digital payments. The theme of the awareness week is **‘Adopt Digital Payments and Teach Others Also’**.
- The Central Bank in a statement stated that digital payments in India have seen an exponential increase in the last few years. Further, the citizens of the country have also embraced the use of digital payments for the speed, convenience, and security that it offers. Nevertheless, despite being aware of digital payments, a sizable portion of the population still does not use them.

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#### **11. World Bank commits \$1 billion to India for public healthcare infra**

- The World Bank will extend two complementary loans of \$500 million each to India to bolster public healthcare infrastructure in the country.
- In a statement, the multilateral body said its combined financing of \$1 billion will support India's flagship Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), launched in October 2021.

#### **12. Kotak MF launches ‘DigitALL’ campaign to celebrate International Women’s Day**

- Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company (Kotak Mutual Fund) has launched a digital campaign called ‘DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality’, which calls for digital inclusion of all with the hashtag #IncludeAll.
- The digital campaign video showcases Kotak group’s women employees sharing their stories about supporting and empowering other women in their lives by imparting them the knowledge of digital literacy.

#### **13. Digital payments market in India will more than triple to \$10 trillion by 2026**

- In a country witnessing rapid growth, it comes as no surprise that India also has one of the fastest-growing fintech landscapes in the world, driven primarily by the advancement in the digital payments segment. Boston Consulting Group (BCG), in collaboration with PhonePe, India’s leading

digital payments company, today unveiled a report titled, “Digital payments in India: A US\$10 trillion opportunity”.

#### **14.Bandhan Bank opens Mega Currency Chest in West Bengal**

- A Mega Currency Chest has been opened by Bandhan Bank in Kolkata, West Bengal. This is the Bank's third mega currency chest, the other two being in Patna and Shri Gunveer Singh, Chief General Manager, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) inaugurated the currency chest.
- This chest would facilitate fresh currency circulation and help the bank serve its clientele. Bandhan Bank currently has over 1 crore customers in West Bengal. In the Kolkata region, the bank has 182 bank branches.

#### **15.IREDA Gets Infrastructure Finance Company Status from RBI**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted an 'Infrastructure Finance Company (IFC)' status to Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA). It was earlier classified as 'Investment and Credit Company (ICC)'.
- With the IFC status, IREDA will be able to take higher exposure in RE financing. The IFC status will also help the company to access wider investor base for fund mobilisation, resulting in competitive rates for fund raising. The recognition of IREDA as an IFC will increase the investors' confidence, enhance the brand value, and generate positive outlook in the market.

#### **16.Wholesale inflation falls to two-year low of 3.85% in February**

- Wholesale Price-based Inflation (WPI) for February 2023 eased to two year low of 3.85 percent against 4.73 percent recorded in preceding month. Decline in the WPI is primarily contributed by fall in prices of crude petroleum & natural gas, food products, electronic, chemicals and electrical equipment.
- In February, fuel and power rose 14.82 per cent as compared to 15.15 per cent in January this year and food index stood at 2.76 per cent against 2.95 per cent in preceding month.

#### **17.IDFC Mutual Fund rebrands itself as Bandhan MF & unveils new logo**

- IDFC Mutual Fund (MF) has rebranded itself as Bandhan Mutual Fund. The fund house's schemes will be renamed, with the word 'Bandhan' replacing 'IDFC' in each of them. The new brand logo will also be unveiled, closely resembling the Bandhan Bank logo, but with additional colours and styling.
- IDFC MF was earlier a part of the IDFC group, and was acquired by a Bandhan Financial Holdings-led consortium in April 2022. The deal was approved by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in November 2022.

#### **18.Canara Bank launches Rupay Credit Card on UPI**

- Canara Bank in collaboration with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched the Rupay Credit Card through Unified Payment Interface (UPI) using the BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) app.

- It's aim is to leverage the reach of UPI and the strength of credit card products. With this introduction, Canara Bank customers can link their active Rupay Credit Card to UPI and make merchant payments without the physical use of a card, similar to account-based UPI transactions.

### **19.India's retail inflation drops to 6.44% in February 2023**

- According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, India's consumer price inflation (CPI) based inflation eased marginally to 44 percent in February 2023. This is lower than 6.52 percent in January but still above the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) upper tolerance limit of 6 percent. The rural inflation was 6.72 percent and urban inflation was 6.10 percent.
- The combined food inflation was also near 6 percent limit at 5.95 percent. It was 6 percent in January. The RBI has raised its benchmark repo rate by 250 basis points since May last year. According to reports, there is expectations of another 25 basis points hike to 6.75 percent in April before it hits the pause button.

### **20.RBI's Shaktikanta Das named 'Governor of the Year' by Central Banking**

- Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das has been named the 'Governor of the Year' by the international publication Central Banking. Das, who has been at the helm of the central bank since December 2018, faced multiple crises starting from the pandemic and then the war in Ukraine, and now the inflation.
- He has been given the award for captaining the financial markets through turbulent periods. Das has become the second governor to get this award after Raghuram Rajan, who was awarded back in 2015.

### **21.CRISIL forecasts India's GDP growth at 6% for next FY against NSO's projection of 7%**

- CRISIL expects India's GDP (gross domestic product) growth to touch 6% in fiscal 2024, compared with 7% estimated by the National Statistical Organisation (NSO) for fiscal 2023. As per the estimates, on the domestic front, the peak impact of the rate hikes of 250 basis points since May 2022, which has pushed interest rates above pre-Covid-19 levels will play out in fiscal 2024.
- Consumer inflation is expected to moderate to 5.0% on average in fiscal 2024 from 6.8% in fiscal 2023, owing to high-base effect and some softening of crude and commodity prices. A good rabi harvest would help cool food inflation, while the slowing economy should moderate core inflation, it added.

### **22.RBI and Central Bank of UAE sign MoU to promote innovation in financial products and services**

- The Reserve Bank of India and the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Abu Dhabi to promote innovation in financial products and services.
- As per the MoU, both central banks will work together to explore Central Bank Digital Currencies and investigate interoperability between the CBDCs

of CBUAE and RBI. They will conduct proof-of-concept and pilot tests of the bilateral CBDC bridge to facilitate cross-border transactions of remittances and trade. This collaboration is expected to increase efficiency and reduce costs in cross-border transactions, furthering the economic ties between India and UAE.

### **23.IDFC First Bank becomes official banking partner for Mumbai Indians**

- IDFC First Bank has announced a three-year partnership with Mumbai Indians as its official banking partner. This marks IDFC First Bank's debut in cricket partnerships.
- The partnership between IDFC First Bank and Mumbai Indians brings together two brands with a shared commitment to values, ethical practices, social responsibility and digital innovation. The partnership also aims to promote social initiatives and drive positive change. Through this partnership, IDFC FIRST Bank aims to reach out to all the cricketing fans and create awareness on how they can #GetMore from their bank.

### **24.New York's Signature Bank shut down in connection with Silicon Valley Bank collapse**

- State regulators in the United States of America (USA) shut down New York-based Signature Bank after California authorities closed Silicon Valley Bank, marking the 3rd largest failure in US banking history.
- The shutdown is the result of the collapse of SVB Financial Group's Silicon Valley Bank, with the economic meltdown spreading to other institutions. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) has been appointed as a receiver. This means that FDIC will liquidate the assets of Signature Bank to pay back depositors and others.

### **25.RBI imposes Rs 2.27 crore penalty on RBL Bank for non-compliance**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 2.27 crore on private sector lender RBL Bank for not complying with certain directives on loan recovery agents. The RBI noticed "deficiencies in regulatory compliance" after it examined complaints received against the Mumbai-based lender's recovery agents during the financial years 2018-19 to 2021-22.

### **26.Canara Bank sells stake in Russian joint venture to SBI for Rs 121 crore**

- Canara Bank has sold its 40% stake in Commercial Indo Bank LLC, a joint venture with State Bank of India, to SBI for approximately Rs 121.29 crore. The joint venture was established in 2003 and operates in Russia.
- The sale agreement between the two banks was executed on November 11, 2022, and the entire transfer of shares was completed on the same day. The agreement was announced in January of the same year, and Canara Bank has now confirmed that it has received the full consideration amount for the sale.

### **27.Axis Bank & Autotrak Finance Limited enters into co-lending partnership through Yubi**



- Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector bank and Autotrac Finance Limited Ltd (AFL), a Gurgaon based Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) , announced its strategic partnership under the colending model through the Yubi Co.Lend platform.
- Through this partnership, both lenders will offer 'New Tractor Loans' for the Agricultural and Allied activities to cater the financial needs of the rural segment in India. The partnership will leverage the wide customer experience of Autotrac Finance and deep financial expertise of Axis Bank to enable easy credit availability for farmers at an optimal interest rate.

## **SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE**

### **1. Germany to pursue \$5.2-billion deal with India to build 6 submarines**

- Germany will pursue a \$5.2 billion deal with India to jointly build six conventional submarines in the country during Chancellor Olaf Scholz's February 25-26 visit, two Indian and two German sources said.
- The naval project is the latest attempt by a Western military manufacturing power to wean New Delhi away from its dependence on Russia for military hardware. India seeks to replace its ageing submarine fleet, with 11 of its 16 conventional submarines more than two decades old, and as it seeks to counter China's growing presence in the Indian Ocean.



### **2. Vistara Brand To Discontinue After Merger With Air India**

- India's two (and only) full-service airlines, Air India and Vistara, will join forces next year and merge to become a single entity. Both brands are significant in their own way, but one will have to give up its identity once the merger process is complete. And that airline is going to be Vistara.

### **3. Chandrayaan-3 Inches Closer to Launch After ISRO Successfully Tests Cryogenic Engine Meant to Power the Rocket**

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has achieved another milestone in its bid to land a spacecraft on the Moon. Last Friday, February 24, the organisation successfully conducted the flight acceptance hot test of the CE-20 cryogenic engine that will power the rocket for Chandrayaan-3.
- The 25-second hot test was a resounding success, with all propulsion parameters found to be satisfactory and closely matched with predictions. The CE-20 cryogenic engine will be further integrated with the propellant tanks,

stage structures and associated fluid lines to realise the fully integrated flight cryogenic stage, ISRO confirmed.

#### **4.FSSAI specifies comprehensive group standard for millets**

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has specified a comprehensive group standard for millets. It has notified Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Second Amendment Regulations, 2023. The standards will be enforced on September 1.
- FSSAI has now framed a comprehensive group standard for 15 types of millets specifying 8 quality parameters e., maximum limits for moisture content, uric acid content, extraneous matter, other edible grains, defects, weevilled grains, and immature and shriveled grains, so as to ensure availability of good quality (standardized) millets in domestic and global markets.

#### **5. IAF participated in exercise Shinyuu maitri with Japan air self defense force**

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) participated in Exercise Shinyuu Maitri with the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) on the 1st and 2nd of March 2023. The exercise was organized on the sidelines of the Indo-Japan Joint Army Exercise, Dharma Guardian, which took place from 13 February 2023 to 02 March 2023 in Komatsu, Japan. The IAF participated with one C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.
- The exercise consisted of two phases: discussions on transport operations and tactical maneuvering, followed by flying drills by IAF's C-17 and JASDF C-2 transport aircraft.

#### **6. Indo-France Joint Military Exercise Frinjex-2023 to commence at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**

- The maiden Joint Military Exercise FRINJEX-23 between Indian Army and French Army will be conducted at Pangode Military Station in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram on March 7-8, 2023.
- It is for the first time that the armies of both nations will engage in this format with each contingent comprising a Company Group each from the Thiruvananthapuram-based Indian Army troops and French 6th Light Armoured Brigade. The exercise is aimed at enhancing inter-operability, coordination and cooperation between both forces at the tactical level.

#### **7. HCL Technologies partners Microsoft to bring quantum computing to clients**

- Homegrown information technology (IT) services firm, HCL Technologies, announced a partnership with Microsoft's quantum cloud computing service, Azure Quantum. Through this partnership, HCLTech will offer businesses cloud-based quantum computing services to its clients, by using Microsoft's platform as the technology stack. The services will be provided through HCLTech's Q-Labs, which has already been among one of Microsoft's partners to offer Azure Quantum credits.

## **8. Indo-France Joint Military Exercise – Frinjex-2023 to commence at Kerala**

- The maiden Joint Military Exercise FRINJEX-23 between Indian Army and French Army will be conducted at Pangode Military Station in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on March 7-8, 2023.
- For the first time, armies of both countries are engaging in this format with each contingent comprising a Company Group. To enhance interoperability, coordination and cooperation between both forces at tactical level. The theme for the exercise is based on **“Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Operations in a Contested Environment”**.

## **9. India, US to sign memorandum of understanding on semiconductors**

- The United States and India will sign a memorandum of understanding on semiconductors as both countries discuss coordination of investment and continue dialogue around policies to spur private investment. Raimondo, who is on a four-day trip to India, is accompanied by the chief executive officers of 10 U.S. companies and is scheduled to meet India's trade minister.
- The two nations will map the semiconductor supply chain together and identify opportunities for joint ventures and technology partnerships, Raimondo added. India has been seeking to attract more big-ticket investments under a \$10 billion incentive plan for chip and display production, aiming to become a key player in the global supply chain.

## **10. Max Life partners with Ujjivan SFB to offer life insurance solutions**

- Max Life Insurance and Ujjivan Small Finance Bank have partnered to offer life insurance offerings to Ujjivan SFB's customers. Through this partnership, both will offer a range of savings, protection, retirement, and group life insurance plans to Ujjivan SFB customers. Max Life Insurance Company Limited is a joint venture between Max Financial Services Limited and Axis Bank Limited.

## **11. Indian navy conducts major exercise Tropex with 70 ships, 6 submarines and over 75 aircraft**

- Indian navy's biggest-ever biennial exercise Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (Tropex) witnessed the participation of around 70 ships, six submarines and more than 75 aircraft and covered over 21 million square nautical miles.
- A series of complex drills and manoeuvres featuring almost all assets of the Indian navy was a major highlight of Tropex that culminated this week in the Arabian Sea, reports the NDTV citing the country's navy officials. The exercise, which began in November last, also witnessed significant participation from the Indian Army, the Indian Air Force and the Coast Guard.

## **12. US hands over NISAR satellite to ISRO**

- The US Air Force C-17 aircraft landed in Bengaluru and handed over NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) NISAR to the Indian space agency which marks a milestone in the US-India ties in space collaboration.

- NISAR, an Earth-observation satellite, is being jointly developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). NISAR was envisioned by NASA and ISRO eight years ago in 2014 as a powerful demonstration of the capability of radar as a science tool and help us study Earth's dynamic land and ice surfaces in greater detail than ever before.

### **13. Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with French Navy**

- Indian Navy's indigenously built Guided Missile Frigate, INS Sahyadri participated in the Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with French Navy (FN) ships in the Arabian Sea from 10 - 11 March 2023.
- French Navy (FN) ships FS Dixmude, a Mistral class amphibious assault ship, and FS La Fayette, a La Fayette class frigate participated in the exercise. The exercise featured a wide spectrum of development at sea which included cross deck landings, boarding exercises and seamanship development. The smooth conduct of the exercise reaffirmed the high level of interoperability and cooperation between the two navies.

### **14. India, France conduct maritime partnership exercise in Arabian Sea**

- Indian Navy's indigenously built guided missile frigate, INS Sahyadri participated in a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with French Navy (FN) ships FS Dixmude, a Mistral Class Amphibious Assault Ship and FS La Fayette, a La Fayette Class Frigate, in the Arabian Sea. The partnership exercise was conducted on March 10-11.
- According to the Ministry of Defence, the exercise witnessed a wide spectrum of evolutions at sea which included cross-deck landings, boarding exercises and seamanship evolutions. The seamless conduct of the exercise reaffirmed the interoperability and high level of cooperation between the two navies.

### **15. NTPC commissions India's first Air cooled condenser at the North Karanpura Super Critical plant in Jharkhand**

- NTPC has commissioned India's first Air cooled condenser installed Super Critical plant to demonstrate its Commitment towards water conservation through reduce, reusing and recycling. NTPC, the country's largest integrated energy utility, has started commercial operation of the 1st Unit of 660 MW at North Karanpura (3\*660 MW), in Jharkhand.
- This project has been envisaged with Air Cooled Condenser (ACC) which has almost 1/3rd water footprint as compared to a conventional Water Cooled Condenser (WCC).

### **16. CCI clears Reliance Retail's acquisition of Metro Cash & Carry India**

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) said it has approved Reliance Retail Venture's acquisition of German firm Metro AG's wholesale operations in India.
- Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL) is a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) while Metro Cash & Carry India is engaged in the wholesale operations in India. In December last year, it was announced that RRVL had



signed definitive agreements to acquire a 100 percent equity stake in the company for a total cash consideration of Rs 2,850 crore.

### **17.3rd edition of France-led Multinational Naval Exercise La Perouse 2023 Kicks Off in Indian Ocean**

- The third edition of the multilateral exercise “La Perouse” was conducted from 13 to 14 March 2023 in the Indian Ocean region.
- This edition will witness participation of personnel, ships and integral helicopters of Royal Australian Navy (RAN), French Navy, Indian Navy, Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force(JMSDF), Royal Navy and the United States Navy. Its aim is to enhance maritime domain awareness and maximise maritime coordination among participating navies in the Indo-Pacific region.

### **18.South Korea to build ‘world’s largest’ chip centre with \$230 billion investment from Samsung**

- Samsung Electronics expects to invest 300 trillion won (\$230 billion) over the next 20 years as part of an ambitious South Korean national project to build the world’s largest semiconductor manufacturing base near the capital, Seoul.
- The plans were announced by President Mr Yoon Suk Yeol and confirmed by the electronics giant. The chip manufacturing “mega cluster” of facilities will be built in various locations in Gyeonggi province by 2042. The centre will be anchored by 5 new semiconductor plants built by Samsung.

### **19.ISRO to launch OneWeb India-2 mission from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota**

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch OneWeb India-2 mission from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on March 26. Under a commercial agreement with NewSpace India Ltd, will launch 72 satellites of UK-based Network Access Associates Ltd and place them in low Earth orbit.
- NewSpace is the commercial wing of ISRO. The first set of 36 satellites was launched on 23 October 2022 by an LVM3 M2 launch vehicle. In the second mission on March 26, the remaining 36 satellites, each weighing approximately 5805 kg, will be placed in a 450 km circular low earth orbit by the LVM3 M3 launch vehicle.

### **20.IIT Bombay ranks first in country in Engineering and Technology**

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has been ranked 1st in India and 47th globally in engineering and technology by the QS World University Rankings for 2023. IIT Bombay scored 80.4 out of 100.
- The institute is ranked in 4 out of 5 broad subject areas, which include Engineering & Technology, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences & Management and Arts & Humanities.

### **21.Egypt Joins BRICS Bank as New Member Weeks after President Sisi’s India Visit**



- Egypt has officially become a member of the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) after President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi's visit to India. Learn more about the NDB, its objectives, and the benefits of membership.
- The move is aimed at enhancing infrastructure in Egypt and reducing the country's dependence on US dollars. The NDB funding is expected to play a significant role in enhancing Egypt's infrastructure and achieving sustainable development goals.

## **22. India, UK hold joint maritime exercise 'Konkan' in Arabian Sea**

- The annual bilateral maritime exercise 'Konkan' between the Indian Navy and UK's Royal Navy was held off the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea from March 20-22. The joint exercise by both the navies demonstrated operational readiness, enhanced interoperability and improved capability to conduct joint operations.
- INS Trishul, a Guided Missile Frigate, and HMS Lancaster, a Type 23 Guided Missile Frigate, participated in 'Konkan 2023' and conducted several maritime exercises to enhance interoperability and imbibe best practices.

## **23. IT department launches mobile App for taxpayers to view and correct AIS**

- The Income Tax Department has launched a Mobile app where taxpayers can view and can request to correct any discrepancy in the Annual Information Statement (AIS) so that they can rectify it or calculate their tax liability accordingly.
- Taxpayers can use the app to view their information related to Tax deducted at Source (TDS), interest, dividends, share transactions, tax payments, Income Tax refunds and other Information, including GST Data and foreign Remittances as available in AIS.

## **BOOKS AND AWARDS**

### **1. Chairman and managing director of JSW group Sajjan jindal won the EY Entrepreneur of the year Award 2022**

- Sajjan Jindal, Chairman and Managing Director, JSW Group was named the EY Entrepreneur of the Year™ 2022 and will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) at Monte Carlo in June 2023. Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Honorable Union Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs & Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, graced the ceremony as the Chief Guest and addressed the audience. Sri Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa and Former NITI Aayog CEO, presented the Special Jury Award to Mr. Deepak Bagla, Managing Director and CEO of Invest India, for his visionary work to attract and facilitate unprecedented foreign investments into the country.

### **2. MIT professor Hari Balakrishnan wins 2023 Marconi Prize**

- Computer scientist Hari Balakrishnan has been awarded the 2023 Marconi Prize. Dr. Balakrishnan is a professor in the Department of Electrical

Engineering and Computer Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

- The Marconi Prize is a top honour for computer scientists and is awarded by the U.S.-based Marconi Foundation. It is given to those “who have made a significant contribution to increasing digital inclusivity through advanced information and communications technology.” Dr. Balakrishnan has been cited “for fundamental contributions to wired and wireless networking, mobile sensing, and distributed systems”.

### **3. Naatu Naatu from S.S. Rajamouli's RRR will be performed live at Oscars 2023**

- SS Rajamouli's RRR, starring Jr NTR and Ram Charan, made India proud by fetching an Oscar 2023 nomination in the Best Original Song category. The Academy recently confirmed that the viral song will be performed live at the Oscars stage with Rahul Sipligunj and Kaala Bhairava.
- In an earlier interaction, composer MM Keeravaani revealed that the rehearsals for the live performance are currently underway. The bigger question is whether the two stars, Jr NTR and Ram Charan, would shake a leg on the stage.

### **4. India Wins GSMA Government Leadership Award 2023**

- The Ministry of Communications has informed in a press release that GSM Association (GSMA) has conferred Government Leadership Award 2023 to India for implementing best practices in telecom policy and regulation.
- Speaking on the occasion of India receiving the award, The Minister for Communications, Electronics & IT and Railways, Ashwini Vaishnaw said “GSMA Awards represent global recognition of the telecom reforms carried out by PM Shri Narendra Modi ji. We all have seen the effect of reforms. RoW permissions which used to take more than 230 days, now get approval within 8 days. More than 85% mobile tower clearances are now instantaneous.

### **5. Short Stories collection “The Book of Bihari Literature” by Abhay K**

- Bihar Minister of Industry, Samir Kumar Mahaseth has released a book titled “The Book of Bihari Literature”, edited by Abhay Kumar, an Indian poet-diplomat, during Grand Trunk Road Initiatives 3.0 (GTRi 3.0) held in Patna, Bihar. The book, published by HarperCollins, is a collection of short stories and poems written over a period of 2600 years, translated into English from various languages such as Angika, Bajjika, Bhojpuri, Magahi, Maithili, Hindi, Urdu, Pali, Sanskrit, and Farsi. Samir Kumar Mahaseth insisted that the book is an important contribution towards promoting the rich literature of Bihar across India and the world.

### **6. J&K Tourism wins best adventure tourism destination award**

- The India Tourism Survey has chosen J&K Tourism for best adventure tourism destination award. The awards were given away at New Delhi by Union Minister of State for Culture & Parliamentary Affairs, Arjun Ram Meghwal at a glittering function after the results of the survey were

announced. The award has been given to the Tourism Department in recognition of its sustained efforts in promoting Gulmarg as an adventure destination of international order.

#### **7. BHEL wins CBIP Award 2022 for 'Best Contribution in Solar Energy'**

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

#### **8. NTPC conferred with the CBIP Award 2022 for 'Outstanding Contribution in Power Generation'**

- NTPC received the CBIP Award 2022 for 'Outstanding Contribution in Power Generation'. The award has been presented by Union Minister R.K. Singh. Shri Ramesh Babu V, Director (Operations) received the award on the behalf of NTPC.
- NTPC is committed to generate power responsibly and sustainably. It plays a key role in the Indian energy sector in terms of size and efficiency. OPTCL received the 'CBIP Award 2022' for the 'Best Performing Transmission Power Sector'. OPTCL has received the award for the first time for its remarkable Project Execution, Asset Addition, System Availability, Innovative Measures, etc.

#### **9. Red Bull's Max Verstappen won 2023 Bahrain Grand Prix**

- Red Bull's driver, Max Verstappen has won the season-opening Bahrain Grand Prix 2023, held at Bahrain International Circuit. He defeated Red Bull's Sergio Perez, who placed second in the race.
- Fernando Alonso (Aston Martin's driver) placed third followed by C. Sainz Jr. (Ferrari's driver). It was the first time he had won in Bahrain and also the first time he had triumphed in a Formula One opener.

#### **10. Union MoS Dr L. Murugan confers 8th National Photography Awards**

- Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Dr L. Murugan presented the 8th National Photography awards in New Delhi. A total of 13 awards were presented comprising of one Lifetime Achievement Award with cash prize of Rs.3,00,000; one award each in Professional Photographer of the Year category and Amateur Photographer of the Year category with cash prize of Rs.1,00,000 and Rs.75,000 respectively; and 5 Special Mention Awards in both Professional and Amateur categories with cash prize of Rs.50,000/- and Rs.30,000/- each respectively.

#### **11. Bengaluru receives 'healthy city' award for smoking laws**

- Bengaluru won the 'Partnership for Healthy Cities' award at a summit held in London for effectively enforcing smoke-free laws.
- BBMP chief commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said Bengaluru has been lauded for its efforts to curb public smoking and, thereby, significantly reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases. The global summit brought together mayors and officials from over 50 cities to discuss public health concerns and the best practices that can save lives and create healthier spaces.

## **12.Bombay Jayashri chosen for Sangita Kalanidhi Award 2023 by Music Academy**

- Renowned Carnatic vocalist and Padma Shri awardee Bombay Jayashree has been selected for the Sangita Kalanidhi award for 2023 by the Music Academy.
- Jayashree is one of the foremost Carnatic musicians of today, trained initially by his parents and later by TR Balamani and violinist Lalgudi G. Jayaraman. Apart from Carnatic music, Jayashree is also trained in Veena, classical dance and Hindustani music. She is known for her melodious and meditative style of singing.

## **13.Rohan Bopanna becomes oldest tennis player to win ATP Masters 1000 title**

- Rohan Bopanna, 43, made history by becoming the oldest tennis player to win an ATP Masters 1000 title. He won the men's doubles title at the Indian Wells Masters 2023 tournament in California with Australian partner Matthew Ebden.
- The Indo-Australian pair beat top seeds, Wesley Koolhof of Netherlands and Neil Skupski of United Kingdom, 6-3, 2-6, 10-8 in the final to lift the BNP Paribas Open trophy. With the Indian Wells Open win, 43-year-old Bopanna surpassed Daniel Nestor as the oldest player to win an ATP Masters 1000 title. Nestor had won the Cincinnati Masters in 2015 at the age of 42.

## **14.Sergio Perez wins Saudi Arabia Grand Prix**

- Sergio Perez earned his first win of the 2023 Formula One season with a dominant performance at the Saudi Arabia Grand Prix. Red Bull teammate Max Verstappen climbed into second place after starting in 15th position, staying in first place in the championship standings thanks to his fastest lap.
- Fernando Alonso was at the center of musical chairs around the final podium spot after in third place, but he was initially replaced by George Russell after a penalty.

## **15.The Gateway to Eternity', written by former MP Dr. Karan Singh**

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

## **16.'The Elephant Whisperers' Wins Best Documentary Short Film**

- An Indian documentary, The Elephant Whisperers, has won an Oscar for the Best Documentary Short Film. The film, directed by Kartiki Gonsalves and produced by Guneet Monga,
- The Elephant Whisperers tells the story of an indigenous couple, Bomman and Belli, who are entrusted with an orphaned baby elephant, Raghu. It is set in the Mudumalai National Park in Tamil Nadu.

## **17.RRR's 'Naatu Naatu' wins Best Original Song award**

- The song 'Naatu Naatu' from the Indian film RRR has won the Oscar in the Best Original Song category at the 95th Oscar Awards.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.
- The song beat out other nominees in the category including Applause (Tell It Like a Woman), Hold My Hand (Top Gun Maverick), Lift Me Up (Black Panther Wakanda Forever) and This Is a Life (Everything Everywhere All At). Its music was composed by AR Rahman and its lyrics were written by Gulzar.

## **SPORTS**

### **1.Madhya Pradesh wins senior women's national hockey championship**

- Madhya Pradesh defeated Maharashtra 5-1 to win the Champions Trophy in the 13th Senior Women's National Hockey Tournament held in Andhra Pradesh.Diksha Tiwari scored in the 2nd and 4th minutes for Madhya Pradesh in this game and gave the team a stunning lead. Lalrindiki then scored a goal for Maharashtra in the 25th minute. However, Madhya Pradesh, who did not give up, added to their tally.

### **2.Daniil Medvedev beats Andy Murray, wins Qatar Open title**

- Daniil Medvedev won the Qatar Open on debut when he defeated Andy Murray 6-4, 6-4 in a final matchup of former No. 1s. Medvedev converted fast starts in each set.
- He reached 4-1 in the first and 3-1 in the second.Murray fought but was too far back, and Medvedev won his 17th singles title

### **3.Lionel Messi scores 700th career club goal**

- Messi scored the 700th club goal of his career, a number matched only by Cristiano Ronaldo, while Mbappe become PSG's joint-record scorer with his 200th goal for the club.Mbappe reached his second century of goals in just 246 games, per Opta, 55 games less than Edinson Cavani took to reach the landmark.

### **4. Jeswin Aldrin breaks men's long jump national record with 8.42m leap**

- Tamil Nadu's Jeswin Aldrin hogged the limelight with a national record in men's long jump in the second AFI National Jumps Competition.



- The 21-year-old leapt 8.42 metres to erase the the previous mark of 8.36 metres set by India teammate M Sreeshankar at the Federation Cup in Kozhikode in April last year. Aldrin, who had won silver at the Asian Indoor Championships in Astana last month with a 7.97-metre effort, made the most of being in a competitive frame to break the national record.



The advertisement is for a 'Video Course for Punjab Patwari'. It features a man in a blue shirt and a red turban. The text on the left lists the course details: '605 + Video Lectures', 'Weekly Live Doubt Session', and 'Video Lectures by IBT Experts'. A red banner at the bottom shows a '50% Off' discount, reducing the price from ₹7700 to ₹3700. The background is dark purple with yellow and white geometric shapes.

### **5. Hockey India appoints South African Craig Fulton as new Chief Coach of Indian men's hockey team**

- Men's National Hockey Team of India designates South Africa's Craig Fulton as the new Chief Coach. The team previously failed to win the World Cup at home. Craig Fulton has replaced the Australian Hockey Player Graham John Reid who bid farewell after the country's disappointing show in the World Cup.
- Under the guidance of John Reid, the Indian team was led to a historic bronze medal-winning show at the Tokyo Olympics. In the past, Fulton has shown exemplary results while considering his previous stints as a coach. His fame began with a stint leading the Irish Men's Team between 2014 to 2018 when the team qualified for the Rio Olympics in the year 2016.

### **6. Mirabai Chanu wins BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year for second year running**

- Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu has won the 2022 BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award after a public vote. Chanu becomes the first athlete to win the award twice in a row after winning for the year 2021.
- Born in Manipur state, in north-east of India, Chanu learned to weightlift by carrying firewood. At the 2020 Tokyo Olympics she became the first Indian to win a silver medal in weightlifting and in 2022 secured gold at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, England. She won a silver medal at the World Weightlifting Championships 2022.

### **7. Ashleigh Gardner & Harry Brook won ICC Player of the Month for February**

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the winners of the ICC Player of the Month awards for February 2023. Australia's Ashleigh Gardner was named the ICC Women's Player of the Month, and England's Harry Brook was named the ICC Men's Player of the Month. Ashleigh Gardner was awarded the award for her performance in the Women's T20 World Cup 2023 held in South Africa.

### **8.Prithviraj Tondaiman of India won bronze in trap shooting in Doha**

- Prithviraj Tondaiman of India won the bronze medal at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup 2023 on March 11, 2023 in Doha, Qatar. Two-time world champion Oguzhan Tuzun of Turkey won gold with a score of 33/35, while Great Britain's Matthew John took silver with a score of 30/35. This was India's first medal at the ISSF World Cup, which is currently taking place. The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) governs the Olympic shooting disciplines of rifle, pistol, and shotgun.

### **9.India's Sarabjot Singh wins gold in ISSF World Cup Shooting Championships**

- In Madhya Pradesh, India's Sarabjot Singh bagged the first gold Medal of the ISSF World Cup Shooting Championship on March 22. He won gold in the Men's 10m air pistol category.
- Sarabjot Singh completed a clean sweep in the gold medal match with a perfect score of 10.9. ISSF Shooting World Cup was inaugurated on March 21 in Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh.

### **10.IPL becomes India's first unicorn with \$1.1B valuation**

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

### **11.Swimmer Sampanna Ramesh Shelar becomes fastest Indian in U21**

- Pune-based swimmer, Sampanna Ramesh Shelar has become the fastest Indian in under 21 group to swim across the Palk Strait from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka to Dhanuskodi in Tamil Nadu in 5 hours and 30 minutes. The previous record was 8 hours and 26 minutes.
- His swim commenced at 6.00 am from Talaimannar and he reached Dhanushkodi at 11.26 am completing the distance of 29 Kms. He is a Bachelor of Physical Education student and trains under the guidance of Mr. Jitendra Khasnis.

### **12.Ashneer Grover launches fantasy sports app CrickPe ahead of IPL**

- Ashneer Grover's new venture Third Unicorn has launched a fantasy sports app called CrickPe, ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023 that begins from March 31. The new app aims to take on Dream11 and Mobile Premier League (MPL).
- CrickPe will charge a 10% platform fee on all funds received for any public or private contest. Players above 18 years of age are allowed to create a virtual team of cricket players and enter paid contests to earn cash prizes. The online fantasy sports market is currently dominated by Dream11.

## **OBITUARIES**

### **1.Ex President Pratibha Patil's husband Devisingh Shekhawat Passed away**

- Former President Pratibha Patil's husband Devisingh Ransingh Shekhawat passed away at the age of 89 in Pune, Maharashtra. He was an Indian agriculturist and politician. He served as the first gentleman of India (2007-2012) as the husband of President Pratibha Patil. He also served as the first gentleman of Rajasthan (2004-07) and also as mayor of Amravati (1991-92). He was a member of the Indian National Congress.

### **2. Former diplomat & Padma Bhushan awardee Chandrashekhar Dasgupta Passed away**

- A former Indian diplomat and the recipient of Padma Bhushan, Chandrashekhar Dasgupta passed away at the age of 82. Dasgupta was born on 2 May 1940, in Kolkata, West Bengal, India. He joined the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) in 1962. He served as Indian ambassador to the European Union, Belgium, Luxembourg and China.
- He served as vice-chair of the preparatory committees of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), popularly known as the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

### **3. Veteran actor-director Satish Kaushik passes away at 67**

- Veteran Bollywood actor-writer-director Satish Kaushik - remembered as 'Calendar' in the film "Mr. India" - passed away at 67 late on Wednesday, 08 March. Born in Haryana, Kaushik was an alumnus of the NSD and the FTII, and started his film career in the early 1980s.
- He penned the dialogues for the 1983 classic "Jaane Bhi Do Yaaron", which acquired a cult following over the years. He is known for his comic roles as 'Calendar' in "Mr. India", "Pappu Pager" in "Deewana Mastana" among many others.

### **4. Classical Dancer & Padma Awardee Dr. Kanak Rele passed away**

- A World renowned Indian classical dancer & Mohiniyattam exponent Kanak Y. Rele passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra at the age of 85. Dr. Kanak Rele was born on 11 June 1937, in Gujarat, British India. She was an Indian dancer, choreographer, and academic best known as an exponent of Mohiniyattam.
- She was the founder-director of the Nalanda Dance Research Centre, Mumbai, Maharashtra in 1966 & the founder-principal of the Nalanda Nritya Kala Mahavidyalaya in 1972 in Mumbai. In 1990, she received the Padma Shri, the fourth-highest civilian award in the Republic of India for arts. In 2006, the Government of Madhya Pradesh conferred the Kalidas Samman on her for her contributions to and excellence in the field of classical dance.

### **5. Sipra Das gets Lifetime Achievement honour in National Photography Awards ceremony**

- Sipra Das awarded with Lifetime Achievement award at the 8th National Photography Award ceremony. A total of 13 photographers have received National Photography awards in various categories in New Delhi.
- Senior photojournalist Shipra Das was honoured with Lifetime Achievement award. The winner of the Lifetime Achievement award was given a cash prize of Rs 3,00,000. The winners of Professional Photographer of the Year and Amateur Photographer of the Year category were given cash prize of Rs.1,00,000 and Rs.75,000 respectively.

#### **6.America's 4-time Olympic diving champion Pat McCormick Passed away**

- Patricia Joan Keller McCormick, who became the first diver to sweep the women's 3-metre springboard and 10-metre platform competitions at consecutive Olympics, has passed away at the age of 92 in California, United States of America (USA).
- Pat McCormick was born on May 12, 1930, Seal Beach, California, USA. She won both diving events at two consecutive Summer Olympics, in 1952 and 1956. She served on the Los Angeles 1984 Summer Olympics organising committee.

#### **7.Veteran actor Sameer Khakhar of 'Nukkad' fame passed away**

- Veteran actor Sameer Khakhar, best known for essaying the role of Khopdi in the hit '80s TV show 'Nukkad', passed away at the age of 71.
- Sameer Khakhar's notable works include TV show "Circus", "Shrimaan Shrimati" and films such as "Parinda", Salman Khan-starrer "Jai Ho", Sidharth Malhotra and Parineeti Chopra's "Hasee Toh Phasee", Sudhir Mishra-directed "Serious Men", and Vikas Bahl's web series "Sunflower". Recently, he played a supporting role in Sudhir Mishra's Netflix film Serious Men, the ZEE5 series Sunflower and Prime Video's Farzi.

#### **8.British writer & historian Patrick French passed away**

- Award-winning British author, historian and academic Patrick French, passed away at the age of 57 in London, United Kingdom (UK). French was born on 5 March 1966 in England. He was appointed the inaugural Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Ahmedabad University in July 2017.
- He was the author of several books including: Younghusband: the Last Great Imperial Adventurer (1994), a biography of Francis Younghusband; The World Is What It Is (2008), an authorised biography of Nobel Laureate V. S. Naipaul that won the National Book Critics Circle Award in the United States of America; and India: A Portrait (2011).

### **IMPORTANT DAYS**

#### **1.World NGO Day is celebrated every year on 27<sup>th</sup> of February**



- World NGO Day is observed every year on February 27. World NGO Day is a day set aside to recognize, celebrate and honor the fundamental contributions and profound impact that these independent organizations have had on the world.
- World NGO Day was originally founded in 2009 by Marcis Liors Skadmanis, a social entrepreneur. However, it was observed for the first time on February 27, 2014. It's a day set aside to honor all non-governmental and nonprofit organizations, recognizing their impact on the world.

## 2. National Science Day is observed every year on 28th February

- National Science Day is celebrated in India on February 28th each year to mark the discovery of the Raman effect by Indian physicist Sir C. V. Raman on 28 February 1928. For his discovery, Sir C.V. Raman was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930. National Science Day is celebrated to spread a message about the importance of science used in the daily life of the people.
- Theme : **"Global Science for Global Wellbeing"**

## 3. World Civil Defence Day 2023 celebrated on 01st March

- The 1st of March is designated as World Civil Defence Day to raise awareness about the importance of civil defence measures in protecting people and property from natural disasters, accidents, and other emergencies. The day honours the work of several civil defence organisations. The day also recognises the efforts put in by the organisations in protecting communities and saving lives. The day also honours civil defence personnel, who work tirelessly to ensure the safety and well-being of their communities.
- Theme: **"Uniting the world's leading specialists for the safety and security of future generations"**.

## 4. International Women's Day is celebrated every year on 8<sup>th</sup> of March

- International Women's Day falls on March 8 annually. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality. International Women's Day 2023 is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women, who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.
- Theme: **DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality**

## 5. 54th CISF Raising Day observed on March 10 across the country

- The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is commemorating Raising Day for the 54th consecutive year. All paramilitary groups have been commemorating their Raising Day outside of Delhi for the past two years. At the former center of Left Wing Extremism in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region, the CRPF will hold its annual Raising Day on March 19. (LWE). On December 1st, BSF held the Raising Day Parade at Amritsar. This is the second time outside of Delhi and the first time in Gujarat. One of India's six paramilitary forces, the CISF is the nation's main armed police force.

## 6. World Consumer Rights Day is observed every year on 15<sup>th</sup> March



- World Consumer Rights Day is observed annually on 15 March. The day is recognised to create global awareness about the rights and needs of consumers.
- This year, World Consumer Day falls on Wednesday, 15 March 2023. One of the primary reasons behind celebrating World Consumer Day is to highlight the fundamental rights of all consumers, honouring and respecting them, and making sure to protect them.
- Theme: **Empowering Consumers Through Clean Energy Transitions**

### **7.National Vaccination Day is observed every year on March 16**

- On 16th March 2023, National Vaccination Day is observed all over India. It is a national event celebrated annually since 1995 on 16th March every year. National Immunisation Day, also called National Vaccination Day 2023 is observed to convey the importance of vaccination and its role in public health.
- On the same day the first dose of Oral Polio Vaccine was given in India in 1995. The day is observed to celebrate the Indian government's Pulse Polio Campaign which was an initiative to eradicate polio from the country.
- Theme : **"Vaccines Work For All"**

### **8.World Sparrow Day is observed every year on 20th March**

- Every year on March 20, people celebrate World Sparrow Day. It is designated to raise awareness about sparrow conservation and protection, as their numbers are declining globally. The first commemoration of the day occurred in 2010.
- The goal of the day is to educate people about the value of sparrows in the ecosystem, their role in pollination, and their importance in pest control.
- The theme of World Sparrow Day 2023 is "I Love Sparrows", with the goal of encouraging more people to appreciate the relationship between humans and sparrows.

### **9.International Nowruz Day is observed every year on 21<sup>st</sup> of March**

- The word Nowruz (Novruz, Navruz, Nooruz, Nevruz, Nauryz), means new day. Nowruz marks the first day of spring and is celebrated on the day of the astronomical vernal equinox, which usually occurs on 21 March.
- It is celebrated as the beginning of the new year by more than 300 million people all around the world and has been celebrated for over 3,000 years in the Balkans, the Black Sea Basin, the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Middle East and other regions.

### **10.World Water Day is observed every year on 22nd March**

- World Water Day is celebrated all over the world on March 22nd, 2023. It is an international event observed annually on March 22nd every year all over the world highlighting the importance of freshwater.
- 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. That same year, the United Nations General Assembly

adopted a resolution by which 22 March of each year was declared World Day for Water, to be observed starting in 1993.

### 11. World Meteorological Day 2023 observed on 23rd March

- World Meteorological Day is observed on 23rd March annually. The day commemorates the establishment of the World Meteorological Organisation by coming into force at the convention in 1950.
- The day highlights the importance of the atmosphere of the earth and behavior of the people connected with each other. It is observed on 23rd March every year to commemorate the establishment of the World Meteorological Organisation which is a specialized agency formed by the United Nations.
- Theme: **"The Future of Weather, Climate, and Water Across Generations"**

### 12. World Tuberculosis Day is observed every year on 24<sup>th</sup> March

- World Tuberculosis Day is observed every year on 24 March to raise awareness about tuberculosis and encourage timely action to combat the global TB epidemic. The theme of the year 2023 is - **"Yes! We can end TB!"**. It aims to urge leaders from around the world to act to stop the TB epidemic.
- The theme emphasizes the importance of increased funding, rapid action, multi-sectoral collaboration, rapid adoption of new WHO guidelines, and adoption of innovation to eliminate tuberculosis.



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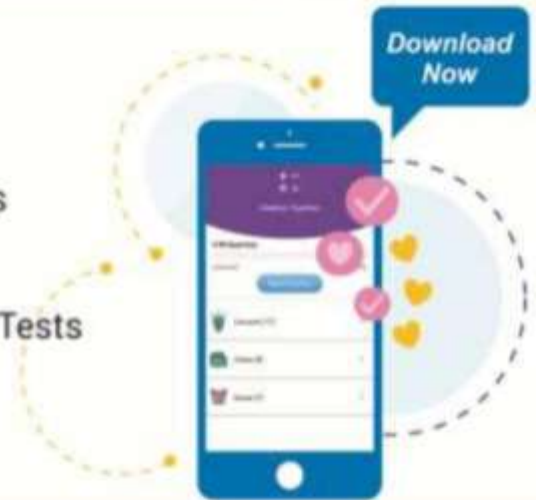
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