

Monthly G.K Capsule

February, 2023

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NATIONAL NEWS

1.Amrit Udyan in Rashtrapati Bhavan to open for public from January 31

- The famous Amrit Udyan (formerly Mughal Gardens) at the Rashtrapati Bhavan will open to the public from January 31, 2023. President Droupadi Murmu will grace the opening of the Gardens of Rashtrapati Bhavan – Udyan Utsav 2023 today. The visitors will be able to see cultivated Tulips of 12 unique varieties and many other attractions.
- The public will be able to witness Herbal Garden, Bonsai Garden, Central Lawn, Long Garden, and Circular Garden during their visit to the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

2.Aero India 2023 to be held in Bengaluru

- The 14th edition of Aero India, touted to be Asia's largest air show, will be held at the Air Force Station in Bengaluru's Yelahanka in February 2023.
- Tickets for the 2023 edition of Aero India, a biennial air show and aviation exhibition held in Bengaluru, will cost almost the same as the previous one in 2021. The Aero India air show will be held at the Air Force Station in Bengaluru's Yelahanka from February 13 to 17, 2023.

3.First India Stack Developer Conference to be held in New Delhi

- The first India Stack Developer Conference will be held in New Delhi. The conference will dwell on ways and means to ensure wider adoption of India's digital goods all over the world. The conference will be attended by over 100 digital leaders from the Industry, Government, start-ups and unicorns and academia. Delegates from G20 countries and G20 Secretariat have also been invited to the Conference.

4.PM Modi Releases Commemorative Rs 75 Coin To Mark NCC Anniversary

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a special day cover and a commemorative specially minted coin of Rs 75 denomination commemorating 75 successful years of the National Cadet Corps (NCC). Notably, the grand event took place in view of the 75 years of the inception of the NCC.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the chief of all three armed forces of the country also accompanied the Prime Minister at the event. Apart from these dignitaries, 196 officers and cadets from at least 19 foreign countries also took part in the celebrations commemorating 75 years of NCC.

5.Luminous to build India's first green solar panel factory in Uttarakhand

- Luminous Power Technologies announced its plan to build the country's first green energy-based solar panel manufacturing facility in Uttarakhand.
- The state-of-the-art facility will be equipped with the latest technology to design and produce high-quality solar panels that will be used for both residential and commercial applications, it stated. Once operational, the facility, spread across 4.5 lakh square feet/10 acres will help enable a solar production capacity of 500 MW per annum, expandable up to 1 GW, producing a range of solar panels with a power output of 40W to 600W.

6.158th birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai commemorated

- The 158th birth anniversary of the great freedom fighter Lala Lajpat Rai, popularly known as Punjab Kesari, was celebrated at his birthplace Dhudike .
- Punjab minister Aman Arora accompanied by MLA Nihal Singh Wala Manjit Singh Bilaspur and MLA Dharamkot Devinderjit Singh Laddi Dhole paid rich tributes to Lala Lajpat Rai at his memorial established at Dhudike village in Moga. On this occasion, the cabinet minister also announced a grant of Rs 12 lakh on the demand of the villagers.

7. Khadi Fest 2023 Begins at KVIC Headquarters, Mumbai

- Manoj Kumar, Chairman, Khadi and Village Industries Commission, inaugurated the Khadi Fest-23, which will take place at the KVIC Headquarters in Mumbai from January 27 to February 24, 2023, in the presence of Vinit Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, KVIC, and other senior officials.
- Manoj Kumar stated in his inaugural address that KVIC has been entrusted with the responsibility of providing livelihood to the most backward and poor people in this country. He stated that events and exhibitions such as Khadi Fest give Khadi Institutions, PMEGP, and SFURTI units a platform to market the products of thousands of artisans directly to customers' hands.

8. Shri Sarbananda Sonowal Inaugurates National Logistics Portal-Marine, a Single Window Logistics Portal to reduce the logistics cost

- Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated The National Logistics Portal (marine) in New Delhi .
- The National Logistic Portal (marine) (NLP) is a project of national importance, as envisaged by the Ministry of Ports Shipping Waterways and the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. It is a one-stop platform aimed at connecting all the stakeholders of the logistics community using IT, to improve efficiency and transparency by reducing costs and time delays and achieving easier, faster, and more competitive offerings of services, to promote the growth of the logistics sector and thereby improve trade.

9.India's G-20 Sherpa Mr Amitabh Kant inaugurates India's first Model G-20 Summit

- India's G-20 Sherpa Mr Amitabh Kant inaugurated India's first Model G-20 Summit organised by Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini's Indian Institute of Democratic Leadership.
- The two-day Model G-20 Summit has been organised at the Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini's Uttan campus near Mumbai to celebrate India's presidency and take the idea of G-20 to the youth. Dr Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President of ICCR and Vice Chairman of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini chaired the inaugural ceremony.

10.Assam's Bioethanol Unit Will Be Set Up By October 2023

- The minister of state for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Rameswar Teli revealed that India's first ever bio-refinery unit for production of bioethanol from bamboo is expected to be set up by October 2023 in Assam. It will be the country's first unit for producing ethanol from bamboo.
- He mentioned this while addressing the 'Evolve-2023', an international e-mobility and alternative fuels conference organised by the Kerala Motor Vehicles Department.

11.Rashtrapati Bhavan's Mughal Gardens renamed as Amrit Udyan

- The Mughal Garden, located within the grounds of the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the city. The garden, known for its beautiful flowers and lush green plants, has now been renamed Amrit Udyan and is set to open its doors to the public from January 31.
- The President's secretariat has announced the opening date, ticket prices, and other details for visitors who want to explore the garden's beauty. The Mughal Garden, now known as Amrit Udyan, is a spectacular sight to behold.

12.Indian Coast Guard celebrates 47th raising day in Kolkata

- On the occasion of its 47th raising day celebration, Indian Coast Guard announced its decision to install a new radar in the Sunderbans area for better patrolling and surveillance of the area while taking guard against any terror activities from across the border.
- A senior ICG official said that the decision to install the new radar was taken to protect the waterway and thwart any possible infiltration of terrorists from Bangladesh.

13.Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan announces 'Ladli Bahna' scheme

- The Madhya Pradesh government will give Rs 1,000 every month to women from all sections of society who don't pay income tax, chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced.
- It's been named 'Ladli Bahna' scheme, following from the 'Ladli Laxmi' that is a flagship scheme of the MP government for girls from poor families. Ladli Bahna covers a wider spectrum of beneficiaries.

14.PM virtually inaugurates Jal Jan Abhiyan in Rajasthan

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi stressed that the Jal-Jan Abhiyan is being launched at a time when water scarcity is being seen as a future crisis all over the world. Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the Jal Jan Abhiyan in Abu Road in Sirohi district of Rajasthan.
- He noted that the 21st-century world is realising the seriousness of limited water resources on earth and pointed out that water security is a huge question for India due to its large population. He said , “in the Amrit Kaal, India is looking towards water as the future.

15.‘Jeevan Vidya Shivr’ organised for Delhi govt school teachers

- Deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia addressed teachers on the first day of the 5-day ‘Jeevan Vidya Shivr’ organised by the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) Delhi for 4,000 teachers from government schools.
- “Jeevan Vidya Shivr will help them build their capacity to help children become good human beings,” he said.

16.Uttar Pradesh government launches campaign to empower underprivileged girls

- Uttar Pradesh government has launched a campaign to empower girls from the underprivileged class. According to a statement, the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan will work under the Aarohini Initiative Training Programme for the safety and security of girls in 746 Kasturba Gandhi Residential Girls Schools in the state.
- Director General of School Education Vijay Kiran Anand said the main objective of the Aarohini programme, which will be implemented in three phases, is gender sensitisation.

17.Visakhapatnam to be Andhra Pradesh’s new capital – CM Jagan Mohan Reddy

- Andhra Pradesh (AP) Chief Minister (CM) Shri YS Jagan Mohan Reddy announced that Visakhapatnam popularly known as Vizag will be the new capital of the AP at the International Diplomatic Alliance meeting in New

Delhi. The CM further announced that the AP government is organising the 'Global Investors Summit' in Visakhapatnam on March 3 and 4, 2023.

- The announcement of the new capital comes 9 years after the formation of Telangana state and Hyderabad being given as its capital. The Andhra government in 2015 had announced that Amaravati would come up as the new capital.

18. India to be theme country at 2025 Madrid, Spain International Book Fair

- India will be invited as the focal country at the Madrid International Book Fair in 2025. Spain is the theme country at the 46th International Kolkata Book Fair.
- Ridao, who was present at the Spain Pavilion, said, "We want to have a direct relation with Indian authors, which will begin from this book fair in a bigger way." "We are inviting India as the theme country at the Madrid International Book Fair in 2025. It is usually for publishers only. But, we can expand the horizon, to include cinema and music as well," he told PTI.

19. Goa Government Initiates Vision For All School Eye Health Initiative

- The government of Goa has taken a major step towards ensuring better eye health for school students by launching the "Vision for All School Eye Health Program". The initiative aims to provide comprehensive eye care services to school students and raise awareness about the importance of regular eye check-ups.
- Through this program, the government aims to reach out to every school in the state and provide eye check-ups and treatments, if necessary, to the students. The initiative is a much-needed step towards addressing the rising concern of poor eye health among children and teenagers. It will also provide a platform for early detection of eye problems and prompt treatment, thus preventing any long-term vision damage.

20. Jai Jai Maharashtra Maza to be Maharashtra's state anthem from Feb 19

- The Marathi patriotic and iconic song – 'Jai Jai Maharashtra Maza, Garja Maharashtra Maza' – has been designated as the 'state song' and would be played at all official functions and ceremonial events.
- The song will be adopted as the state song on 19 February 2023 the birth anniversary of legendary Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, who laid the foundation of the "Hindavi-swarajya" or self-rule of the Hindu people.

21. Uttarakhand – Construction of "Bajrang Setu" to be completed by July 2023

- Uttarakhand, Asia's second and country's first cable suspension bridge "Bajrang Setu" is being constructed at Rishikesh. The construction of the new bridge would cost Rs 67 crores and all efforts are made to complete it by July 2023.
- This bridge is coming up next to the famous 90-year-old Laxman Jhula. Laxman Jhula has been closed since 2022 when it was found that it wasn't safe for pedestrians anymore & however, it will not be removed and will be preserved as a heritage.

22. Tourism minister G Kishan Reddy launches Visit India Year – 2023 initiative, logo

- Minister of Tourism G Kishan Reddy launched the Visit India Year –2023 initiative and also unveiled its logo in New Delhi on Tuesday, kicking off the year of grand plans and activities for promoting tourism in the country.
- Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that launch of Visit India Year 2023 logo is taking place in this important year as India is heading G20. He said, more than one lakh foreign delegates will visit India this year and they will be showcased entire gamut of India's culture, including monuments and festivals.

23. Proposal to rename Etawah as Mulayam Nagar in memory of Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh

- A proposal was made at the District Panchayat Board meeting in Etawah to change the name of Etawah district to Mulayam Nagar in the memory of the Samajwadi Party (SP) founder and former Uttar Pradesh (UP) Chief Minister Mr Mulayam Singh.
- He is the founder of the SP, who died in 2022 was a tall socialist leader from Uttar Pradesh. In his political inning spanning roughly six decades, he served as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh 3-times, and also went on to become the Minister of Defence in the Central government.

24. Amit Shah lays foundation stone of Rs 450-cr nano urea plant in Jharkhand

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of a Rs 450-crore nano urea plant and township of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) in Jharkhand's Deoghar.
- This will be India's fifth nano urea plant. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the world's first nano urea plant in Gujarat last year, according to IFFCO.
- Nano urea improves crop productivity, soil health, and nutritional quality of produce and aims to address the imbalanced and excessive use of conventional urea.

25.Odisha CM's secretary VK Pandian conferred with FIH President award

- V Karthikeyan Pandian, an IAS officer, and private secretary to Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, was conferred with President's award by International Hockey Federation during the 47th FIH Congress.
- Karthikeyan was awarded for his contribution towards the development and promotion of hockey in Odisha.

26.‘Desert Festival’ of Rajasthan set to take off in Jaisalmer in February

- The 4-day Jaisalmer ‘Desert Festival’, locally called Maru Mahotsav’, is celebrated in Rajasthan during February every year.
- The festival is being organized by the Rajasthan Tourism Department in collaboration with Jaisalmer District Administration. Along the way, groups of artists performed folk dances like Kalbelia, Horse, Kachhi Ghodi, Gair, etc.

27.Maharashtra Leads Charts In EV Sales Under FAME-II Scheme

- Maharashtra has so far seen the highest number of electric vehicle (EV) sales in the country under the second phase of the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme.
- Karnataka took the second spot, followed by Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. Together, these six states accounted for more than 60% of the total sales, so far, under the EV promotion scheme. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh accounted for more than 60% of the total sales under the Centre’s FAME-II scheme.

28.DCPCR launches WhatsApp chatbot – Bal Mitra

- Delhi Deputy Chief Minister (CM) Manish Sisodia launched the WhatsApp chatbot named Bal Mitra.
- The Chatbot was developed by the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) which is an effort to enable two-way communication between people and the child rights panel. Its aim is to provide accurate information about children and their rights while maintaining the confidentiality of information reported to it.

29.Indo-Tibetan Border Police wins ice hockey tournament in Ladakh

- For the third consecutive year, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has won the final match of Ice Hockey Tournament organised by Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council in Leh.
- Team ITBP defeated Skara in the final match by six goals to five to lift the running trophy for the third time. The temperature in Leh is around minus

20 degree Celsius these days. Total 8 local ice hockey teams participated in this one week Ice Hockey Tournament which has been a key attraction for the locals during the peak winter season. The Ice rink is located at a height of more than 11K feet MSL near Leh. ITBP has a strong Ice Hockey team of the country.

30.Yaya Tso to become Ladakh's first biodiversity heritage site

- Yaya Tso Lake was declared Ladakh's first biodiversity heritage site under the Biological Diversity Act. The Biodiversity Management Committee, the panchayat of Chumathang village, along with the SECURE Himalaya Project recently resolved the issue and declared Yaya Tso Lake a biodiversity heritage site.
- Lake Yaya Tso is known as a bird's paradise for its beautiful lake located at an altitude of 4,820 metres in Ladakh. It is a nesting habitat for a large number of birds and animals, such as the bar-headed goose, black-necked crane and brahminy duck. It is also one of the highest breeding sites of the black-necked crane in India.

31.Uttar Pradesh to be major beneficiary of hike in ethanol blending

- Uttar Pradesh (UP) will be a major beneficiary of the hike in ethanol blending to 20% with petrol in the next two years.
- The total number of distilleries in the state is 75 with a total production capacity of 49 crore litres per annum. The total number of ethanol producing distilleries is 55 with a production capacity of 166.17 crore litres per annum. Establishment of 17 new distillery units is underway and expected to be commissioned in the next two years.

32.Indore becomes first civic body to launch green bonds to raise Rs 244 crore for 60-mw solar plant

- Indore Municipal Corporation, ranked top in cleanliness survey for six consecutive years, has become the country's first civic body to launch green bonds, seeking to raise Rs 244 crore for a 60-mw solar plant at its water pumping station.
- The public issues of the green bonds will be open for subscription from February 10-14, Pushyamitra Bhargava, mayor of Indore, and Divyank Singh, chief executive of the Indore Smart City Development Commission, told reporters.

33.Jharkhand govt launches water conservation scheme with over Rs 467 cr outlay

- Jharkhand Agriculture Minister Badal Patra launched a water conservation scheme with an outlay of Rs 467.32 crore to provide benefits to farmers in the state that experienced drought last year.
- Under the programme, 2,133 ponds will be renovated and 2,795 percolation tanks will be constructed in all the blocks of 24 districts of the state, an official release said. The minister also laid the foundation for the renovation work of 71 ponds and 184 percolation tanks.

34.Sculpture Park Inaugurated At Bikaner House In Delhi

- Rajasthan Chief Secretary Usha Sharma inaugurated a Sculpture Park at Bikaner House. The sculpture park has a glimpse of modern and contemporary art and culture and the sculptures will be on display till the end of March.
- From February 9, the venue will also be hosting 'Bikaner House Dialogues' on issues related to art, literature, culture, and heritage.

35.PM inaugurates Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023 in Lucknow

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023 in Lucknow. He also inaugurated the Global Trade Show and launched Invest UP 2.0 during the programme.
- Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023 is the flagship investment summit of the Government of Uttar Pradesh which will bring together policymakers, industry leaders, academia, think tanks and leaders from across the world to collectively explore business opportunities and forge partnerships. The Prime Minister also took a walkthrough of the exhibition on display.

36.UP Government Launched Family ID – One Family One Identity, Portal

- To identify families as a unit for executing the “one job per family” idea, the UP government has developed the portal for the development of “Family ID – One Family One Identity.”
- To identify families as a unit for executing the “one job per family” idea, the Uttar Pradesh government has created the “Family ID – One Family One Identity” webpage. According to a state government, all of these families will be able to obtain the ID, while the ration card ID of the families that already own one will be regarded as their family ID.

37.First In Country, Lithium Reserves Found In Jammu And Kashmir

- The Centre has informed that 5.9 million tonnes of lithium reserves have been found for the first time in the country. The reserves were discovered during exploration by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) in the Reasi

district of Jammu and Kashmir. Lithium is a non-ferrous metal and is one of the key components in EV batteries.

- "Geological Survey of India for the first time established Lithium inferred resources (G3) of 5.9 million tonnes in the Salal-Haimana area of the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir," the Ministry of Mines said in a Tweet.

38.PM Narendra Modi flags off two new Vande Bharat trains from Mumbai

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off two new Vande Bharat trains from Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus. The new and upgraded version of Vande Bharat Express will run between Mumbai and Solapur and Mumbai and Sainagar Shirdi.
- Mumbai-Solapur train, the ninth Vande Bharat train will connect the country's commercial capital to the City of Textiles and Hutatmas in Maharashtra and ensure faster connectivity to pilgrimage centres such as Siddheshwar in Solapur, Akkalkot, Tuljapur, Pandharpur near Solapur and Alandi near Pune.

39.Rene Zondag, PBI president inaugurates Tennis center in Pune

- Through the leadership of its Director Cesar Morales, the first PBI(Press Information Bureau) centre at the Padukone-Draavid Centre in Bengaluru has been effectively teaching some of the notable players, including Sahaja Yamalapalli, Shrivalli Bhamidipaty, and Rishi Reddy.
- Over 200 players are present at the High performance centre. Milos Milunovic will serve as the technical director of the second centre in Pune, which is slated to grow further to include locations in Mumbai, Solapur, and Chennai, among other cities. Rene Zondag, president of PBI, announced the opening of the new centre, which spans 12.5 acres and offers top-notch amenities.

40.Urban-20 City Sherpas meeting was held in Ahmedabad

- A two-day Urban-20 City Sherpas meeting was held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- The purpose of the meeting was to focus on fostering solidarity between cities to find common solutions that are in line with the overall objectives of the G20. It is the third of the G20 events being held in Gujarat as part of India's presidency of the Group of 20.
- The U20 is one of the G20's engagement groups. It provides a forum for cities in the G20 countries to discuss and propose collective solutions to key urban development issues, such as climate change, social inclusion, sustainable mobility, and affordable housing.

41.The President inaugurates the 2nd Indian Rice Congress in Cuttack

- President Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated the second Indian Rice Congress at National Rice Research Center Institute (NRRI) in Bidyadharpur .
- Many honourable dignitaries including Governor Prof. Ganeshi Lal, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Honorable Guest and State Agriculture Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain were also present at the event. The theme of the second Indian Rice Congress is “**Changes in Rice Research: Recent Scientific Developments and the World Food Crisis**”.

42.Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurates AMRITPEX 2023 - National Philatelic Exhibition at Pragati Maidan

- The Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Railways, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated AMRITPEX 2023 - National Philatelic Exhibition. This five day Mahakumbh of Stamps (11th to 15th February, 2023) in Hall 05, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, is being organized as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Celebrations.
- The Minister of State for Communications, Shri Devusinh Chauhan, Secretary, Department of Posts, Shri Vineet Pandey, Director General Postal Services, Shri Alok Sharma and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

43.India jumps to 55th place in ICAO's aviation safety oversight ranking

- India's aviation safety oversight ranking has jumped to the 55th position from 112th place earlier, with a significant improvement in the country's score under the ICAO's coordinated validation mission, according to regulator DGCA.
- Under its Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) Continuous Monitoring Approach, an ICAO Coordinated Validation Mission (ICVM) was undertaken in India from November 9 to 16, 2022.

44.India's First AC Double Decker Electric Bus Introduced in Mumbai

- The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST)'s latest fleet of India's first AC double-decker electric buses are all set to run on the streets of Mumbai this week. BEST received possession of these buses.
- After monitoring the buses and running a few tests, BEST will roll out the services for passengers. The general manager of BEST, Lokesh Chandra said, “To begin with, we will put one bus into operation during the week.” In August last year, this double-decker e-bus manufactured by Switch Mobility was first launched by union minister Nitin Gadkari.

45.M&M to Establish Electric Vehicle Manufacturing Facility in Telangana

- The Telangana government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. for establishing a manufacturing facility, including development and production of electric three and four-wheelers, pertaining to its 'Last Mile Mobility' business.
- The MoU was signed on the sidelines of the announcement of Telangana Mobility Valley, 'India's first new mobility-focused cluster', at the first edition of Mobility Next Hyderabad Summit. The facility will involve an investment of about Rs 1,000 crores, creating employment for about 800-1,000 persons.

46. Bihar and Chhattisgarh among States that allocated more towards education

- Among the big States in the country, Chhattisgarh and Bihar allocated the most proportion of their budget towards education in FY23. While Chhattisgarh allocated 18.82 per cent of the State's estimated net budget expenditure to education, Bihar allocated 18.3 per cent.
- The States that have spent a higher portion of their budget expenditure on education are Delhi, Assam, and Himachal Pradesh, which allocated 22 per cent, 20 per cent and 19 per cent, respectively, of their budgets on education this fiscal year.

47. Govt launches app 'Khanan Prahari' and CMSMS to curb unauthorized mining

- The government has launched a mobile app namely 'Khanan Prahari' and a web app Coal Mine Surveillance and Management System (CMSMS) for reporting unauthorized coal mining activities so that monitoring and taking suitable action on it can be done by concerned Law and Order enforcing authority.
- 462 cases have been reported on the Apps till January this year. Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said this in a written reply in Rajya Sabha. The Minister said that CMSMS has been developed to curb illegal mining and take transparent action as an e-Governance initiative of the government on the use of Space Technology.

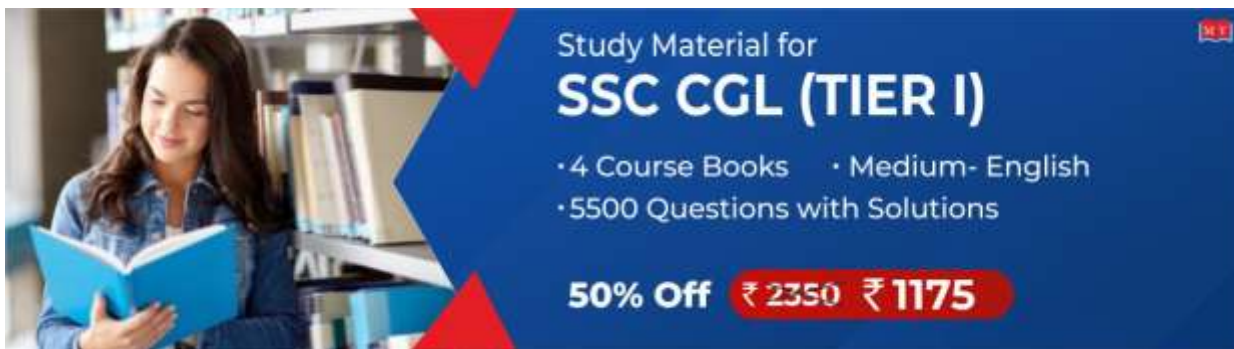
48. PM Narendra Modi inaugurates National tribal festival 'Aadi Mahotsav' in Delhi to showcase tribal culture

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 16 inaugurated the "Aadi Mahotsav", the mega National Tribal Festival at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in Delhi to showcase the tribal culture on the national stage. Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda was also present at the occasion.
- The Prime Minister also paid floral tribute to tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda, who belonged to the Munda tribe. Birsa Munda was born on

November 15 in 1875. During British rule in the late 19th century, he spearheaded an Indian tribal religious Millenarian movement across the tribal belt of modern-day Bihar and Jharkhand.

49. Tamil Nadu unveils new e-vehicle policy

- Tamil Nadu government has launched its Electric Vehicles Policy-2023, with an aim to increase the usage of electric vehicles to transform the state into a preferred destination for EV manufacturing.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin released the 'Tamil Nadu Electric Vehicles Policy 2023' and the government aims to attract Rs 50,000 crore worth of investment in EV manufacturing during the policy period. The policy shall be valid for five years from the date of the policy notification, or until a new one is announced, according to a government release.



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50. Dr Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates IFFCO Nano Urea Liquid Plants at Aonla and Phulpur in UP

- Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the IFFCO Nano Urea Liquid Plants at Aonla and Phulpur in Uttar Pradesh.
- Union Minister highlighted the benefits of Nano urea stating that it is the best green technology and provides solution of pollution. It saves the soil and also increases the production and hence is the best for the farmers. He further said that Government's Expert Committee has given approval to Nano DAP and it will also come to replace DAP shortly. He added that Nano-DAP will immensely benefit our farmers and it will be available at half the cost of DAP.

51. Ladakh to host India's first frozen-lake marathon at Pangong Tso

- India's first "frozen-lake marathon" at Ladakh's Pangong Tso at a height of 13,862 feet will be held on February 20 and the army and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) have been roped in to implement a "proper action plan" for the event.
- The 21-kilometre marathon, with Lukung as its starting point, will end at Maan village. Seventy-five selected athletes from India and abroad are

participating in the run, giving them an opportunity to make a bid for a Guinness world record for the world's highest "frozen-lake marathon".

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. Biden nominates Indian-American astronaut Raja Chari to be promoted to Brigadier General

- Nearly a year after he returned from a six-month-long mission to space, Indian-American astronaut Raja Chari has been nominated by President Joe Biden for the appointment to the grade of Air Force Brigadier General.
- The nomination will have to be confirmed by the Senate. The US Senate approves all senior civilian and military appointments. The US Department of Defense in a statement said that Air Force Colonel Chari, 45, was nominated for the appointment to the grade of brigadier general.

2. India-Egypt MoU on cultural cooperation signed for 5 years – Culture Ministry

- The Ministry of Culture signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cultural cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, to strengthen the cultural ties with Egypt.
- Under the aegis of the MoU on Cultural Cooperation, both countries look forward to witnessing a host of cultural activities happening in due course in the realm of Music, Dance, Theatre, Literature, Library, Organising Festivals in respective countries, and Research and Documentation, etc. For continued cultural cooperation, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed for 5 years.

3. South Africa to host 15th BRICS summit at Durban in August 2023

- Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov & Foreign Minister of the State of Eritrea Osman Saleh announced that the 15th BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) summit is set to take place in South Africa's Durban in late August, 2023.
- The foreign ministers of Brazil, Russia, India, and China met for the first time on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2006, kicking off BRIC cooperation. South Africa participated in the 3rd BRICS summit in China for the first time in April 2011.

4. Pakistan inflation rises to 48-year high as IMF visits

- Inflation has risen to a 48-year high in crisis-hit Pakistan, where the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is visiting for urgent talks, according to data released on February 1 by the country's statistics bureau.

- Year-on-year inflation in January 2023 was recorded at 27.55 percent, the highest since May 1975, with thousands of containers of imports held up at Karachi port. Pakistan's economy is in dire straits, stricken by a balance-of-payments crisis while it attempts to service high amounts of external debt.

5.Saudi Arabia to Host Football's 2027 Asian Cup

- Saudi Arabia has been named as host of the 2027 AFC Asian Cup, and incredibly, will hold the continent's biggest international for the first time.
- Less than a month after Cristiano Ronaldo arrived to play for Al-Nassr, and two since the Saudi national team's fine performances at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, the news cements the country's status as a major hub of the world's most popular game on the largest continent. It was always likely that Saudi would get the official nod as the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) conducted its congress in Bahrain's capital of Manama.

6.New British stamp with image of King Charles unveiled

- From coins and banknotes and to the official royal cypher used by the government, Britain has been slowly introducing replacements featuring the new monarch since his mother's death in September.
- New 'everyday' stamps featuring the image of King Charles were revealed for the first time, the latest item in Britain to get a makeover following the death of Queen Elizabeth. In keeping with a tradition dating back to the first Penny Black in 1840, the new "definitive" stamp uses an adapted version of a portrait of Charles which is also appearing on new coinage.

7.Chinese Search Giant Baidu to Launch ChatGPT-Style Bot

- Baidu, known as China's Google, will embed it in search engine, Tech giants in the US and China are in a race to adopt AI.
- Baidu Inc. is planning to roll out an artificial intelligence chatbot service similar to OpenAI's ChatGPT, according to a person familiar with the matter, potentially China's most prominent entry in a race touched off by the tech phenomenon. The tool, whose name hasn't been decided, will allow users to get conversation-style search results much like OpenAI's popular platform.

8. World Government Summit 2023 set to Begin in Dubai

- The World Government Summit 2023 will be held under the theme of "Shaping Future Governments".
- The Summit will bring thought leaders, global experts and decision makers from around the globe to share and contribute to the development of tools, policies, and models that are essential in shaping future governments.

9.India to organise 12th World Hindi Conference in Fiji

- External Affairs Minister, Dr S Jaishankar, and Fiji Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka will inaugurate the 12th World Hindi Conference on February 15 in Fiji. The conference, scheduled to be held at Nadi from February 15-17, will be on the theme "Hindi – Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence."
- The conference will be spread over one plenary session and ten parallel sessions on topics such as Hindi in Girmitiya countries, Hindi in Fiji and the Pacific, Information Technology and Hindi in the 21st century, Media and the global perception of Hindi, global reference of Indian knowledge traditions and Hindi, Linguistic coordination and Hindi translation.

10.South Africa starts joint military exercise with Russia-China

- South Africa is starting a joint military exercise with Russia and China that some countries say it amounts to an endorsement of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The US has also criticised the 10-day naval drills, which will continue over the first anniversary of the war in Ukraine.
- But South Africa's government says it remains neutral regarding the conflict, and that it routinely hosts similar drills with other countries, including France and the US. The Mosi II naval exercises are taking place in the Indian Ocean, off the South African coast. The South African National Defence Force says 350 members of its armed forces will take part.

11.India and Spain agreed to collaborate on digital infrastructure, climate action, and sustainable development

- India and Spain agreed to collaborate on digital infrastructure, climate action, and sustainable development. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Spanish counterpart Mr. Pedro Sanchez agreed to strengthen the growing relationship between both countries. Both leaders discussed many bilateral and international issues of mutual interest. India and Spain leaders reviewed ongoing bilateral initiatives and expressed satisfaction at the recent high-level exchanges. Both leaders agreed to collaborate on issues such as digital infrastructure, climate action, clean energy transition, and sustainable development.

12.European Parliament formally bans sale of gas and diesel cars from 2035

- The European Parliament formally approved a law to ban the sale of new gas and diesel cars in the European Union starting in 2035 in a move designed to speed up the transition to electric vehicles.
- The new legislation, which is part of a broader effort by the EU to combat climate change, says that by 2035, carmakers must achieve a 100% cut in carbon-dioxide emissions from new cars sold, which means no new fossil fuel-powered vehicles could be sold in the 27-country.

13.Qatar lifts ban on frozen seafood from India

- Qatar has lifted a temporary ban on import of frozen seafood from India, paving the way for enhanced export and improved bilateral relations with the West Asian country.
- A press release from the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) citing Chairman D.V. Swamy said the ban was imposed in November last year ahead of the FIFA World Cup following alleged detection of Vibrio cholera from a few consignments from India. The Qatari authorities had informed India that the ban was temporary and owing to lack of sufficient testing laboratories in the country in the run-up to the football event.

14.In Dubai, Pashupati Kumar Paras inaugurated the India Pavilion at Gulfood 2023.

- Agricultural and Process Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) is participating in the 28th edition of Gulfood 2023, which is being held in the United Arab Emirates. Gulfood is a global platform that connects the food and beverage industry, providing ample opportunities to Indian exporters.
- The India Pavilion at Gulfood 2023 was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Pashupati Kumar Paras. The theme for the India Pavilion at Gulfood 2023 is “**Flavors of India,**” which showcases the diverse culinary traditions and rich heritage of Indian cuisine.

15.Seattle becomes the first U.S. city to ban caste discrimination

- The Seattle City Council added caste to the city's anti-discrimination laws, becoming the first U.S. city to ban caste discrimination and the first in the world to pass such a law outside South Asia.
- Calls to outlaw discrimination based on caste, a division of people based on birth or descent, have grown louder among South Asian diaspora communities in the United States. But the movement has been getting pushback from some Hindu Americans who argue that such legislation maligns a specific community.

16.Tilottama Sen wins bronze medal in Women's 10m Air Rifle at ISSF World Cup at Cairo in Egypt

- Indian teen Tilottama Sen has won bronze medal in the women's 10m Air Rifle at ISSF World Cup at Cairo in Egypt. The 14-year-old Sen won second bronze for India, fifth overall after ending the top eight ranking round with a score of 262. She missed out on the gold medal match by the narrowest possible margin of 0.1.
- Great Britain's Seonaid McIntosh won gold and Switzerland's Olympic Champion Nina Christen came second to win silver.

NEW APPOINTMENTS AND PERSON IN NEWS

1.Naresh Lalwani takes over as new General Manager of Central Railway

- Naresh Lalwani has taken over as the new General Manager of Central Railway. He is a senior officer of the Indian Railway Engineering Service of 1985 batch. Before taking over as General Manager, Central Railway.
- He was working as Senior Deputy General Manager and Chief Vigilance Officer of Western Railway. He succeeds Ashok Kumar Misra, General Manager Western Railway who was holding the additional charge of Central Railway as well.

2.Equatorial Guinea appoints Manuela Roka Botey as first female PM

- Equatorial Guinea has appointed Manuela Roka Botey as prime minister. She became the first woman in the country to hold the position. President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, who has ruled the country since 1979, made the announcement in a decree read on state television.
- Ms Botey was previously the education minister and joined the government in 2020. She replaces former premier Francisco Pascual Obama Asue, who has been in the position since 2016.

3.Former NATO general Petr Pavel becomes new President of Czech Republic

- Petr Pavel, a former chairman of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) military committee, has become the new president of the Czech Republic, Al Jazeera reported.
- Pavel, 61, defeated billionaire Andrej Babis in a run-off vote to replace controversial President Milos Zeman as he emerged as the new Czech President. A former military general, Pavel got more than 58 per cent of the vote, according to the Czech Statistics Office.

4.Unilever appoints Hein Schumacher as new CEO

- Unilever announced the appointment of Hein Schumacher as its new Chief Executive Officer, following an extensive, global search process. Hein will replace Alan Jope, who announced in September 2022 his intention to retire from Unilever.
- Hein is currently CEO of the global dairy and nutrition business Royal FrieslandCampina and became a Non-Executive Director of Unilever in October last year. He will begin as Unilever CEO on 1 July 2023, after a one-month handover period.
- Hein is a business leader with an excellent track record across multiple leading companies in the consumer goods industry. As CEO of Royal FrieslandCampina, an €11bn turnover business operating in over 40

countries, he has delivered significant portfolio and organisation change as part of transforming it into a more focused, growth-driven and sustainable business.

5. Equatorial Guinea appoints Ms Manuela Roka Botey as first female PM

- Equatorial Guinea's President Mr Teodoro Obiang Nguema appointed Ms Manuela Roka Botey, as Prime Minister (PM), of Equatorial Guinea. She is the first woman to hold the position in the country.
- She succeeded former Prime Minister Mr Francisco Pascual Obama Asue, who has held the position since 2016. Mr Teodoro Obiang has served as the President of Equatorial Guinea since August 1979.
- She served as the Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Letters and Social Sciences at the National University of Equatorial Guinea. Prior to the appointment as PM, she had been the Minister for National Education, University Education and Sports since August 2020.

6. Four Indian-American lawmakers appointed as members of key US House Committees

- Four Indian-American lawmakers-- Raja Krishnamoorthi, Pramila Jayapal, Ami Bera and Ro Khanna-- have been appointed as members of key US House Committees, reflecting the growing influence of the community in American politics.
- Congressman Krishnamoorthi was appointed on February 1, to serve as Ranking Member on the House Select Committee on Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Another Indian-American Congressman Khanna has also been made a member of this new committee, formed in the 118th Congress by Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy for the specific purpose of investigating and developing policy to address the United States' economic, technological and security competition with the CCP.

7. Advocate Victoria Gowri assumes office as judge of Madras High Court

- Advocate L Victoria Gowri took oath as an additional judge of the Madras High Court, while the Supreme Court was hearing two petitions challenging her appointment.
- Acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court administered the oath to Victoria Gowri, who courted controversy after her comments made about minority religions surfaced in the public domain after the Supreme Court collegium recommended her name on January 17.

8. Licious' Parent Company Signs Vir Das as its Brand Ambassador

- UnCrave, a plant-based meat brand owned by Delightful Gourmet Pvt Ltd, which also owns the meat delivery service Licious, has signed comedian-actor Vir Das as a brand ambassador.
- The actor will also do a campaign for the brand that will consist of a series of films, the first of which is titled 'Without Meat,' in which Das describes a life without meat in his signature style. The campaign also heralds the introduction of a new product by the brand, the 'Mutton Galouti Kebab'.

9. Pfizer Limited appoints Meenakshi Nevatia as Managing Director and Additional Director

- Pfizer Limited announced that its Board of Directors has appointed Meenakshi Nevatia as an Additional Director and the Managing Director for a period of five years with effect from 3rd April 2023.
- She succeeds S.Sridhar, who announced his early retirement in August 2022. "Meenakshi is a seasoned leader with nearly 30 years of business leadership and consulting experience with top companies such as McKinsey and Co, Novartis Pharmaceuticals and more recently with Stryker Corporation.

10. Ramesh Bais appointed as new Governor of Maharashtra

- Ramesh Bais, who was the governor of Jharkhand, has been appointed as the new Governor of Maharashtra. He will replace Bhagat Singh Koshyari as Governor of Maharashtra. Bais has served as the 10th Governor of Jharkhand since July 2021. He was also the Governor of Tripura from July 2019 to July 2021.
- Bais was also the minister in former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government from 1999. He served as a Union Minister of State (Independent charge) for the Environment and Forests. He was elected to Lok Sabha from Raipur.

11. Myntra appointed Ranbir Kapoor as a brand ambassador

- Flipkart-owned Myntra Designs Private Limited has appointed Indian Bollywood actor Ranbir Kapoor as its brand ambassador. Kapoor will be seen focusing on men's fashion wear, in its upcoming brand campaign.
- The actor will feature in a brand campaign titled 'Be Extraordinary Everyday' slated to go live shortly alongside Kiara Advani. The brand's existing ambassador and fashion icon, Kiara Advani, will continue to drive awareness about the women's western wear category. Kapoor joins Tamannaah Bhatia and Vijay Deverakonda in representing the brand.

12. Mohammad Shahabuddin Chuppu elected as the 22nd President of Bangladesh

- Mohammad Shahabuddin Chuppu, a former judge and freedom fighter will be Bangladesh's new President, the Chief Election Commission has announced. Mr. Chuppu (74) was elected unopposed on February 13 and will replace President Mohammad Abdul Hamid.
- The Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal declared Mr. Chuppu, Awami League Advisory Council member and the party's nominee, the President-elect of Bangladesh unopposed after scrutinising his nomination papers submitted.

13.ICAI Elects Mr Aniket Sunil Talati as New President & Mr Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal as Vice President for the Year 2023-24

- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has elected Chartered Accountant (CA) Mr Aniket Sunil Talati as President of ICAI & CA Mr Ranjit Kumar Agarwal as Vice President (VP) for the year 2023-24. Both will be responsible for organising the three-tiered CA exam and looking after all administrative affairs.
- Currently, Mr Aniket Sunil Talati is the Director of the ICAI Accounting Research Foundation (ICAI ARF), Indian Institute of Insolvency Professionals of ICAI (IIPI) as well as Extensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL) India.

14.Indian-American Neal Mohan is new YouTube CEO

- YouTube Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Susan Wojcicki is stepping down from her role and Indian-American Neal Mohan is all set to become the new CEO of the streaming firm.
- Mohan will join a growing list of Indian-origin CEOs at the helm of US-based global giants, including Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen, and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai.

15.Lt Gen MVS Kumar is new Army Vice Chief

- The Indian Army has appointed Lt General MV Suchindra Kumar as the new Army Vice Chief as the present officer holding the charge has been shifted to South Western Army Command as Army Commander.
- Before being appointed as the Army Vice Chief, Lt Gen MV Suchendra Kumar served as the deputy chief of Army Staff (strategy). He has been a part of various important assignments including the White Knight Corps in Jammu and Kashmir.

16.Tata Motors VP Rajan Amba named as MD of Jaguar Land Rover India

- Jaguar Land Rover India, part of Tata Motors, has appointed Rajan Amba, Vice President - Sales, Marketing and Customer Care, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles.

- Amba will be taking up his new position in JLR from 1st March 2023, as per ETAuto sources. Rajan was a key contributor to the development of the commercial teams, the new zone organization, the network expansion, the improvement of the customer experience, and the growth of TMPV's market share over the past two and a half years.

17. Indian-origin medic appointed as first female chief of Oxford University Hospitals

- The leading Indian-origin medic in the United Kingdom, Professor Meghana Pandit has been appointed as the first female Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.
- The appointment will take effect from March 1, said the OUH, in a statement. Pandit also becomes the trust's first person of colour to be appointed CEO of any National Health Service (NHS) trust in the Shelford Group. Notably, the trust represents some of the biggest teaching hospitals in the country.

18. B V R Subrahmanyam appointed as the new Niti Aayog CEO

- Former IAS officer B V R Subrahmanyam was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Niti Aayog replacing Parameswaran Iyer, who has been named as the Executive Director of World Bank.
- Subrahmanyam, a 1987-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Chhattisgarh cadre, was last year appointed as chairman and managing director, India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) on contract basis for a period of two years after his superannuation on September 30.

19. Centre appoints Rajeev Raghuvanshi as new Drug Controller General of India

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Rajeev Raghuvanshi as the new Drug Controller General of India (DCGI). Raghuvanshi, who is currently the Secretary-cum-Scientific Director at Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission, has been given the DCGI charge for a three-year period ending on February 28, 2025.
- The appointment has been made in "Level 14 of the Pay Matrix", on "short term contract basis", and with effect from the "date of his assumption of charge of the post till his attaining the age of superannuation on 28.02.2025, or until further orders.

20. Justice Shri Sanjaya Kumar Mishra sworn in as 14th Chief Justice Of Jharkhand High Court

- Justice Shri Sanjaya Kumar Mishra was sworn in as the 14th Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court (HC). Governor P. Radhakrishnan administered

the oath of office to Chief Justice Mishra. Chief Secretary Sukhdev Singh read out the warrant of appointment issued by President Droupadi Murmu.

- The Union Ministry of Law and Justice issued a notification regarding the appointment of justice Mishra as the chief justice of the high court. The post of the chief justice of the Jharkhand High Court was lying vacant after the superannuation of justice Ravi Ranjan on December 19, 2022.

21. Rajesh Rai appointed new CMD of Indian Telephone Industries (ITI)

- The Union government has appointed Rajesh Rai as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) for a period of five years. Prior to assuming charge as CMD in ITI, he served as general manager (admin) of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd (MTNL), Mumbai. ITI Limited is a government-owned company in the telecommunications technology segment established as a departmental factory in 1948. It has manufacturing facilities in Bengaluru, Naini, Rae Bareilly, Mankapur, and Palakkad.

22. Air Marshal AP Singh To Be New Vice Chief Of Indian Air Force

- Air Marshal A P Singh has been appointed as the new Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force. He will succeed Air Marshal Sandeep Singh, who will retire from service.
- Air Marshal A P Singh is currently serving as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Central Air Command. He was commissioned into the fighter stream of the IAF on December 21, 1984. Air Marshal A P Singh is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Defence Services Staff College and National Defence College.

23. RBI appoints V. Ramachandra as advisory committee member of SIFL, SEFL

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed V. Ramachandra as a member of the Advisory Committee of Srei Infrastructure Finance Ltd. (SIFL) and Srei Equipment Finance Ltd. (SEFL) with immediate effect. This follows the resignation of Farokh N. Subedar from the Advisory Committee with effect from January 31, 2023.
- The Advisory Committee will now comprise of Venkat Nageshwar Chalasani, former Deputy Managing Director, State Bank of India, T. T. Srinivasaraghavan, former Managing Director, Sundaram Finance Ltd., V. Ramachandra, former Chief General Manager, Canara Bank.

24. UPSC recommends Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi as next DCGI

- Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission secretary-cum-scientific director Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi has been recommended to be the next Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).
- The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) conducted interviews for the appointment of the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI). The UPSC conducted interviews for the appointment of the DCGI, with the top contenders being Dr. VG Somani, Dr Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi, and Dr Jai Prakash.

25.Puma ropes in women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur as its new brand ambassador

- Sports brand Puma India has on-boarded Indian women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur as its new brand ambassador, part of its commitment towards the women's business, especially in the sports segment in India.
- She was roped in over a social experiment that uncovered the country's overall mindset towards gender perception in sports. The brand had posted a cryptic teaser video of a player taking position at the stumps and quizzed the audience to guess its next brand ambassador. According to the 5000 responses, 80% of the consumers assumed the brand ambassador to be a male cricketer.



26.Morgan Stanley appoints Mr Arun Kohli as the new country head for India

- Morgan Stanley has named Mr Arun Kohli as its new country head for India. Mr Kohli will be replacing Mr Sanjay Shah, a veteran of 26 years at the firm, who is retiring. Mr Kohli, based in London, has been associated with Morgan Stanley for the past 15 years.
- He headed the bank's post-Brexit strategy. Presently, he is serving as Morgan Stanley's managing director (MD) and chief operating officer (COO) for Europe, the Middle East, and Africa (EMEA) regions.

BANKING

1.Economic Survey 2022-23, Indian economy to grow 6.5% next year

- The Economic Survey for 2022-23 has pegged India's GDP growth for the next fiscal 2023-24 in a broad range of 6-6.8 percent. The Survey's baseline forecast for real GDP growth is 6.5 per cent.
- The Survey was tabled by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament . Indian economy will grow 6% to 6.8% in the next financial year starting April 1, down from 7% projected for the current year, as a global slowdown is likely to hurt its exports. At that pace, India's economic growth next fiscal year will still be the fastest among major economies.

2. Central Bank of Nigeria launches domestic card scheme AfriGo to boost the cashless economy

- The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) governor Godwin Emefiele launched a domestic card scheme AfriGo to boost the cashless economy & rival foreign cards like Mastercard and Visa. To enhance its drive to make Africa's biggest economy a cashless society and save the country foreign transaction fees.
- Nigeria was joining China, Russia, India and Turkey with a domestic card scheme. AfriGo is owned by CBN and Nigerian banks. AfriGo is meant to provide more options for domestic consumers in a "cost-effective and competitive manner".

3. IMF expects Indian economy to grow at 6.1% in 2023 & 6.8% in 2022

- According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Indian economy is expected to grow by 6.1% in 2023 and 6.8% in 2024.
- IMF Chief Economist and Research Department Director Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas attributed the decline in India's growth rate during 2023 largely due to external headwinds. The growth of the Indian economy is set to decline from 6.8% in 2022 to 6.1% in 2023. The IMF World Outlook further stated that global growth is projected to fall from around 3.4% in 2022 to 2.9% in 2023 and rise to 3.1% in 2024.

4. RBI imposes monetary penalty on the Bank of Baroda

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of 30.00 lakh on the Bank of Baroda (BoB) for non-compliance with certain provisions of the 'Reserve Bank of India – (Know Your Customer (KYC)) Direction, 2016' and Reserve Bank of India (Interest Rate on Deposits) Directions, 2016.
- This penalty has been imposed in the exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of section 47 A (1) (c) read with section 46 (4) (i) and Section 51(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. 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 bank with its customers.

5.RBI's Monetary Policy Committee raises repo rate by 25 bps to 6.50%

- The Reserve Bank of India's key repo rate was raised by 25 basis points (bps) as widely expected, the sixth straight increase, as core inflation remained high despite signs retail inflation has peaked.
- The central bank said that its policy stance remains focused on withdrawal of accommodation. The monetary policy committee (MPC), comprising three members from the central bank and three external members, raised the key lending rate or the repo rate to 6.50% in a split decision.

6.Airtel Payments Bank launches BizKhata for Small Businesses and Merchants

- Airtel Payments Bank has launched its current account - BizKhata, which comes with unlimited transactions and instant activation for small merchants and business partners across the country.
- Airtel Payments Bank, the only profitable full-scale payments bank, is raising the bar by ramping up the services offered by Payments Bank. Now, Airtel Payments Bank has announced its current account offering for small merchants and business partners.

7.India received highest ever foreign inward remittances in a single year of \$89,127 million in FY 2021-22

- In 2021–2022, India received a total of US\$ 89,127 million inward remittances from foreign, the largest amount ever in a single year, said the Union Minister of State for Finance Mr. Pankaj Chaudhary. The data on inward remittances for the past 4 years are as follows: US\$ 80,185 million in 2020-21, US\$ 83,195 million in 2019-20, US\$ 76,396 million in 2018-19, and lastly, US\$ 69,129 million in 2017-18.
- Moreover, the highest share of 5 major countries in inward remittances to India through Authorised Dealer (ADs) banks are from the United States (23.4%), followed by United Arab Emirates (18%), United Kingdom (6.8%), Singapore (5.7%) and Saudi Arabia (5.1%).

8.RBI announces pilot launch of QR Code-based Coin Vending Machine to improve the distribution of coins

- On 8th Feb 2023, RBI announced that QR Code-based Coin Vending Machine (QCVN) will be launched in collaboration with a few leading banks to improve the distribution of coins. The pilot project will roll out in 19 locations in 12 cities across the country.
- Our Correspondent reports that The QCVN is a cashless coin dispensation machine which will dispense coins against debit to the customer's bank account using Unified Payments Interface (UPI). Unlike cash-based

traditional Coin Vending Machines, the QCVN would eliminate the need for physical tendering of banknotes and their authentication.

9.RBI expands scope of TReDS platform to allow insurance facility, secondary market ops & to improve cashflow of MSMEs

- RBI expands scope of TReDS platform to allow insurance facility, secondary market ops & to improve cashflow of MSMEs. The guidelines on Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) were issued in December 2014 with the objective of facilitating the financing of trade receivables of MSMEs, the RBI said.
- The move of the central bank is expected to boost the trade of receivables and increase cash flows to MSMEs.

10.HDFC Bank becomes 1st Private sector bank to enable linking of 'RuPay Credit on UPI'

- HDFC Bank has become the first private sector bank in India to take up a service that allows customers to use RuPay credit cards on a unified payments interface (UPI) with Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) and other UPI-enabled apps. It's aim to enable safe, and secure payment transactions.
- Till 2022, UPI was being linked to savings accounts from where the payments used to be debited. From now on, HDFC Bank RuPay credit cards can be linked to a UPI ID enabling a customer to use the credit card on popular payments platforms.

11.IndiaRatings expects India's growth to be below 6% in FY24, long pause on repo rate

- IndiaRatings projected a dip in FY24 growth to 5.9%, lower than Reserve Bank's 6.4%. The agency predicts that growth would not surpass 6% in 2023–2024 despite factors such as continuing government capital spending, deleverage corporations, reduced NPAs, the Production-Linked Incentive Scheme, and the expectation that global commodity prices will remain stable.

12.RBI appoints Vikramaditya Singh Khichi in advisory panel of Reliance Capital

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed Vikramaditya Singh Khichi, former ED of Bank of Baroda, on a panel to advise the administrator of crisis-ridden Anil Ambani-promoted Reliance Capital. Khichi has been appointed in the advisory committee of Reliance Capital consequent upon the resignation of Srinivasan Varadarajan from the panel .
- In November 2021, the RBI had superseded the board of Anil Ambani-promoted Reliance Capital Ltd (RCL) and later initiated bankruptcy

proceedings against the debt-ridden NBFC in view of payment defaults and serious governance issues.

13.Kotak Mahindra Bank takes corporate digital banking portal ‘Kotak fyn’ live

- Private sector lender Kotak Mahindra Bank has gone live with ‘Kotak fyn’, an integrated portal developed to offer comprehensive digital banking and value-added services to its business banking and corporate clients. The portal will offer services across all products, including trade & services, account services, payments, and collections and make banking seamless for the bank’s clients.
- It is expected to reduce complexity and friction for customers. The portal will assure paperless transactions and will offer the facility to unify data across multiple product-specific portals and back-office systems to create a single view of transactions, positions and balances.

14.Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launches Hello Ujjivan – India’s first voice, visual, vernacular banking app

- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launched Hello Ujjivan, India’s first mobile banking application with 3 V’s – voice, visual, vernacular-enabled features – to provide banking access to individuals who have limited reading and writing skills.
- The app is designed to instill banking habits in MicroBanking and Rural customers who are digitally challenged.

15.SBI opens third specialised Startup branch in Gurugram

- State Bank of India (SBI) inaugurated its third specialised branch for startups at Gurugram to provide all banking services required by them under one roof. Gurugram houses the third highest number of unicorns in the nation after Bengaluru and Mumbai.
- The primary aim of this branch is to provide end-to-end support to startups at every stage of their journey, starting from the formation of the entity till their IPOs and FPOs.

16.Edelweiss General Insurance rebranded as Zuno General Insurance

- Edelweiss General Insurance has rebranded as Zuno General Insurance Limited (Zuno GI), a new-age digital insurer with an aspiration to reimagine and redefine Insurance to make it easy, friendly, and transparent.
- The name & identity represents the young, innovative, approachable, digital native, and upbeat personality of the brand and resonates with the Millennial and GenZ audience. Along with the new identity, the company

has launched a consumer study titled 'Usage Based Insurance: Decoding Awareness, Perception, and Behaviour'.

- The study was done to understand Millennials and GenZ's awareness, understanding, and consideration for UBI.

17.India's WPI inflation eases to 24-month low of 4.73 per cent in January

- India's wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation eased to 4.73 per cent in January on an annual basis from 4.95 per cent in December, stated provisional data from the Commerce Ministry, indicating moderating supply-side pressures.
- The month-on-month change in WPI index for January witnessed an increase of 0.13 per cent as against a contraction of 1.12 per cent in the preceding month.

18.RBI announces 2nd global hackathon HARBINGER 2023

- The Reserve Bank announced its second global hackathon -- 'HARBINGER 2023 - Innovation for Transformation' with the theme 'Inclusive Digital Services'.
- Fintechs have been invited to develop solutions that have the potential to make digital financial services accessible to the differently-abled, facilitate efficient compliance, extend the reach of Central Bank Digital Currencies and enhance the scalability of blockchains.

19.RBI's financial literacy week starts from Feb 13 to Feb 17, 2023

- Financial Literacy Week (FLW) is being organised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from February 13 to February 17, 2023.
- The theme selected for current year Financial Literacy Week (FLW) is "Good Financial Behaviour – Your Saviour". In 2022, RBI observed 'financial literacy week' from February 14 to February 18, 2022 with the theme "Go Digital – Go Secure".
- Since 2016, the RBI has been organising Financial Literacy Week (FLW) every year to disseminate financial education messages on a particular theme among the public across the country.

20.Paytm Payments Bank becomes first to launch UPI LITE feature

- Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) is now live with its UPI LITE a feature enabled by National Payments Corporation of India for multiple small-value UPI transactions. The UPI LITE feature enables faster real-time transactions with a single click through Paytm as the bank aims to drive the adoption of digital payments across the country.
- Designed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), UPI LITE was launched by the Reserve Bank of India in September 2022. It also de-

clutters the bank passbook of small value transactions, as these payments would now only show in the Paytm balance and history section, and not in the bank passbook.

21.ICICI Bank signs pact with BNP Paribas

- ICICI Bank and BNP Paribas have signed an initial pact to cater to the banking requirements of European corporates operating in India and Indian companies in the European Union.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two entities establishes a framework of a partnership between the two banks for providing financial services to corporate customers operating in the India. Anup Bagchi, Executive Director, of ICICI Bank said as the fifth largest economy in the world and with a strong focus to become a regional manufacturing hub, India is at the forefront of leading the world's growth in the near future.

22.Indian Overseas Bank launches electronic bank guarantee scheme

- Public sector Indian Overseas Bank has launched the facility of issuance of e-BG (Electronic Bank Guarantee) scheme in association with the National e-Governance Services Ltd, the bank.
- The e-BG is an instrument issued by the city-headquartered bank in which the bank undertakes to guarantee a specific amount against the non-fulfillment of some action/performance of the applicant. The main features of the e-BG are completely paperless mode with digital stamping and digital signature.

SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE

1.India & Japan concludes “Veer Guardian 2023” Air exercise

- The inaugural edition of the 16-day bilateral air exercise between the Indian Air Force and the Japan Air Self-Defence Force has concluded in Japan. The exercise, 'Veer Guardian 2023', involved precise planning and skilful execution by both the air forces.
- The IAF and JASDF engaged in air combat manoeuvring, interception and air defence missions, both in visual and beyond visual range settings. Aircrew of the two participating air forces also flew in each other's fighter aircraft to gain a deeper understanding of each other's operating philosophies, the IAF said.

2.PepsiCo Foundation and CARE launches ‘She Feeds the World’ programme in India

- PepsiCo Foundation, the philanthropic arm of PepsiCo and CARE, have launched 'She Feeds the World' program in India to strengthen the role of small-scale women producers through sustainable training and economic support.
- The program, which will be implemented in the Alipurduar and Cooch Behar districts of West Bengal, aims to reach out to more than 48,000 women, men and children and indirectly benefit 1,50,000 individuals.

3.Indian stock markets migrating to T+1 settlement cycle

- New Delhi, Indian stock markets are embarking on a shorter settlement cycle or T+1 regime for the final list of large stocks from Friday, a move that will help reduce margin requirements for clients and boost retail investment.
- T+1 (trade plus one) means that market trade-related settlements will need to be cleared within one day of the actual transactions taking place. Earlier, trades on the Indian stock exchanges are settled in two working days after the transaction is done (T+2).

4.Coal India Ltd to launch M-Sand projects in a big way

- Sand is classified as a "minor mineral", under The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulations) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) and administrative control over minor minerals vests with the State Governments, and accordingly, regulated through State specific rules. Due to high demand, regulated supply and complete ban of sand mining during monsoon to protect river ecosystem, finding alternative to river sand became necessary.
- Sand Mining Framework (2018) prepared by Ministry of Mines envisages alternative sources of sand in the form of Manufactured Sand (M-Sand) from crushed rock fines (crusher dust), sand from Overburden (OB) of coal mines.

5.Reliance Consumer Products Limited announces strategic partnership with Sri Lanka's Maliban Biscuit Manufactories

- Reliance Consumer Products Limited, the FMCG arm of Reliance Retail Ventures Limited, has announced a strategic partnership with the Sri Lanka's Maliban Biscuit Manufactories.
- Maliban, a heritage brand and a household name in Sri Lanka, is a pioneering biscuit manufacturer well-known for the last 70 years for its range of quality products. The company has expanded its products to reach global markets and now exports to over 35 countries across 5 continents.

6.India's first mission to study the sun Aditya-L1 is to be launched by June-July 2023

- For the first time in the history of India, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch a scientific mission to study the sun – Aditya-L1 mission in June or July, 2023. Aditya L1 is India's first space-based mission to observe the Sun and the solar corona.
- It's aim is to study the sun from a halo orbit around the Sun-Earth system's Lagrangian point 1 (L 1). Scientists at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru have spent over 15 years building and assembling nearly 40 different optical elements.

7.IIM Ahmedabad & IIM Bengaluru Bag Top Position in IIRF Releases MBA Ranking 2023

- The Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF) has published the list of the top business and management schools for the academic year 2023, according to which, IIM Ahmedabad has taken over the top spot this year, followed by IIM Bengaluru and IIM Kolkata in second and third place, respectively.
- However, IIM Lucknow has jumped from first to fourth place this year, in the IIRF MBA Ranking 2023 list. The IIRF ranking 2023 has been released by the aspirants of business, management, and finance streams. The public universities too the top three spots, while among private colleges, Mittal School of Business of Lovely Professional University (LPU), Jalandhar, rose from 84th place last year to 41st in 2023, and MYRA School of Business, Mysuru, rose by 60 ranks to get ranked at 30th in 2023.

8.Mission UDAN gets a lift, 50 small airports to be revived

- Regional aerial connectivity will soon get a boost with the government going to revive old, unused airstrips across the country.
- Fifty additional airports, heliports, water aerodromes and advanced landing grounds will be revived for improving regional air connectivity. In the last eight years, the number of airports in use has increased from 74 to 147, thanks to the subsidised regional connectivity scheme (RCS) 'Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik' (UDAN). Domestic air traffic recovery has been among the highest in India globally, post-Covid, and India is now the world's third-largest aviation market.

9.Railways gets first-class berth; H-powered trains by December

- The railways has received a record budgetary push of over Rs 2.4 lakh crore to accelerate projects like introducing hydrogen-powered wagons and trains, laying of additional tracks, electrification of network, and revamping stations with better amenities for passengers.
- Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the first indigenously designed and developed hydrogen-fuelled train will be rolled out by December 2023, and such trains will be operated on heritage routes. Announcing the highest

ever allocation, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said this was over nine times the amount earmarked in 2013-14.

10.Reliance Consumer bites into biscuit market to take on Britannia, Parle

- Reliance Consumer Products (RCPL), the FMCG arm and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Retail Ventures (RRVL), has entered into a strategic partnership with Sri Lanka-headquartered Maliban Biscuit Manufactories (Maliban).With this pact, Reliance will offer a range of biscuits to Indian consumers.
- This also marks Reliance's entry into the biscuit space and it will also directly compete with Britannia Industries and Parle Products.Maliban, a household name in Sri Lanka, is well known for the last 70 years for its range of biscuits, crackers, cookies and wafers.

11.Indian Army's 'Exercise Topchi' 2023 held in Maharashtra

- The Indian Army's 'Exercise Topchi', annual firepower demonstration and training exercise of the Regiment of Artillery was conducted by the School of Artillery at Devlali Field Firing Ranges in Nashik's Devlali, Maharashtra.
- It's aim to demonstrate the coordinated use of firepower and surveillance assets, including guns, mortars, rocket launchers, drones, and aviation assets.Indigenously manufactured weapon systems were the highlight of the exercise.

12.NASA partners with IBM to build AI foundation models to advance climate science

- U.S. space agency NASA isn't just concerned about exploring outer space, it's also concerned about helping humanity to learn more about the planet Earth and the impacts of climate change.
- NASA and IBM announced a partnership that will see the development of new artificial intelligence (AI) foundation models to help analyze geospatial satellite data, in a bid to help better understand and take action on climate change. To date, NASA has largely relied on the development of its own set of bespoke AI models to serve specific use cases. The promise of the foundation model approach is a large language model (LLM) that has been trained on lots of data that can serve as a more general purpose system that can be customized as needed.

13.DRDO develops unfurlable antenna for space radar

- Electronics and Radar Development Establishment (LRDE), a Bengaluru, Karnataka lab of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has developed an UnFurlable Reflector Antenna (UFRA), major

subsystem for a space radar, The UFRA holds significant potential in the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), & also in the military.

14. Reliance Retail becomes the first Indian retailer to accept the Digital Rupee

- Reliance Retail has become the first Indian retailer to introduce Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), also known as the digital rupee (e₹-R) at its stores. The launch of this facility was in collaboration with Innoviti Technologies, ICICI Bank, and Kotak Mahindra Bank.
- At the launch event, V Subramaniam, Director of Reliance Retail Ltd, stated that just like the use of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), the digital currency will also become a part of India's payment ecosystem. Reliance was also the first to introduce dynamic QR-based in-store UPI payments.

15. IIT Madras collaborates with ISRO to develop astronaut training module

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras announced a collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) to curate a training module for Indian Spaceflight Programme. A MoU was signed between ISRO and IIT Madras for collaboration on the application of Extended Reality (XR) and other technologies in Indian Human Spaceflight Programme.
- This training module will be created on the basis of Augmented Reality (AR)/ Virtual Reality (VR) / Mixed Reality (MR).

16. IIT Patna Partners with Drone Destination to open Bihar's 1st govt-approved UAV training center

- One of India's leading unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) training and manufacturing groups, Delhi-based Drone Destination (DD) Private Limited, has signed a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Patna to open Bihar's first government-approved drone training hub.
- DD is the state-run Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Udan Academy (IGRUA)'s partner for drone training and has several centers across India. IIT Patna has been at the forefront of being a technology-first institution and plans to develop a large Drone Centre of Excellence to propel the UAV ecosystem.

17. Govt revises broadband connectivity, raises minimum download speed to 2 Mbps

- The government has revised the definition of broadband connectivity. The Centre has specified a higher minimum download speed of 2 Mbps (megabits per second).

- Earlier, the definition notified by the Telecom Department in July 2013 had benchmarked it to 512 kbps (kilobits per second) as the minimum download speed. As of November 30, 2022, India had about 825.4 million broadband subscribers, of which 793.5 million were wireless broadband users and the rest were wireline. The top five service providers constituted 98.4% market share of the total broadband subscribers at the end of November 2022.

18. Jupiter Overtakes Saturn as The Planet With The Most Known Moons

- The battle for the most known moons in the Solar System is raging on. After losing its lead to Saturn in 2019, Jupiter has once again surged ahead. Astronomers have counted 12 previously unknown moons in orbit around our Solar System's biggest planet, bringing the known total to 92, and leaving Saturn, with its measly count of 83, in the dust.
- The orbits of the moons, which are unnamed, have been published in the circulars of the International Astronomical Union's Minor Planet Center, which keeps records of all the small bodies discovered in the Solar System.

19. K Satyanarayana Raju appointed as new MD and CEO of Canara Bank

- Central government has announced the appointment of K Satyanarayana Raju as Managing Director and CEO of Canara Bank. His appointment is effective from February 7. Earlier, Raju served Canara Bank as executive director from March 2021.
- He replaced L V Prabhakar who demitted office on December 31, 2022. He has experience in heading various branches for 12 years including a specialised corporate banking branch. He was the regional head of Shimoga, Vijayawada, Hyderabad and Mumbai. Raju also led the Mumbai zone as the zonal head.

20. Rajan Pental appointed as Executive Director of YES BANK

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed Mr Rajan Pental as the Executive Director of YES Bank for a period of 3 years.
- He will continue to spearhead the YES bank's retail banking portfolio, apart from his appointment as an executive director. He has been part of Yes Bank since November 2015. He is currently the Global Head of Retail Banking of Yes bank.

21. 'NISAR' satellite made by ISRO-NASA to be launched from India in September

- An Earth-observation satellite jointly developed by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and ISRO will be sent to India in late February 2023 for a possible launch in September.

- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) Chairman S Somnath recently visited NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in California to oversee the final power test of the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite before it is sent to India. The mission will help study Earth's land and ice surfaces in greater detail than ever before. This SUV-sized payload will be carried in a special cargo container for the 14,000 km flight to the UR Rao Satellite Center in Bengaluru.

22. World's first cloud- built demo satellite, launched by ISRO's mini-rocket SSLV-D2, made by an indian firm

- JANUS-1 satellite that rode on Isro's new mini-rocket SSLV-D2 and reached its orbit successfully is the world's first satellite fully conceived, designed and manufactured using an Indian company's end-to-end cloud platform. Interestingly, the complete assembly, integration and test for JANUS-1 has been conducted in Bengaluru by Ananth Technologies Ltd (ATL).
- JANUS-1 is a software defined 6U technology demonstration satellite designed and built using the Antaris cloud software platform and SatOS software, as well as XDLinx's modular spacecraft bus. ATL has also contributed various avionics subsystems for Isro's earth observation satellite EOS-7 that was the main payload of SSLV-D2.

23. MEA launches 'mPassport Police App' to expedite process

- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has launched the 'mPassport Police App' to streamline and expedite the process of police verification of passport issuance. The new digital services were launched by Union Home Minister Amit Shah during the 76th Raising Day Parade of Delhi Police.
- These personnel are responsible for carrying out verification of antecedents of passport applicants. A new app developed by the external affairs ministry and rolled out in New Delhi is expected to cut the time for police verification of passport applicants to five days and reduce the scope for misuse of the process. While launching the services, Shah said that anyone in Delhi who applies for a passport will not need to wait for 15 days for police verification.

24. Central water commission inks an agreement with IIT, Roorkee for development of international centre of excellence for dams under drip scheme

- The Central Water Commission (CWC), Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti entered into a Memorandum of Agreement for Development of International Centre of Excellence for Dams (ICED) under externally funded Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project Phase II and Phase III.

- This MoA will remain valid for ten years or till the duration of the DRIP Phase-II and Phase-II Scheme, whichever is earlier, from the date of signing.

25.India, Uzbekistan to hold 4th Joint Military Exercise- ‘Dustlik’ from 20 Feb. in Uttarakhand

- As part of a military-to-military exchange program between the Indian Army and Uzbekistan Army, the fourth edition of biennial training Exercise DUSTLIK (2023) will be conducted in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand. The Indian contingent will be represented by the 14th Battalion, The GARHWAL RIFLES, part of Western Command in this bilateral exercise.
- The Uzbekistan Army will be represented by troops of the North Western Military District of Uzbekistan Army. This joint exercise is aimed at enhancing military capability to undertake multi-domain operations in a Sub Conventional scenario under United Nations Mandate.

26.Surf Excel becomes HUL’s first \$1 billion brand

- Hindustan Unilever’s Surf Excel detergent brand crossed a billion dollars in annual sales in 2022, the first brand in India’s home and personal care category to reach that mark.
- Surf Excel posted more than 8,200 crore in annual sales last year, becoming also the first HUL brand to top that mark, driven by the company’s increased focus towards premium products. HUL’s second largest brand is Brooke Bond at 5,000 crore annual sales. Launched around six decades ago, Surf tasted success early and became a market leader soon after being launched.



27.Bell in honour of slack CDS Bipin Rawat positioned at Nepal’s Shree Muktinath temple

- In a solemn ceremony at Nepal’s Shree Muktinath Temple, a bell became once positioned in honour of India’s slack Chief of Defense Workers, Standard Bipin Rawat. The bell, named “Bipin Bell,” became once installed as a tribute to the slack CDS who had expressed his fervent curiosity in visiting the temple over and over.

- The temple, a Vishnu Temple and one among the Shakti Peeth, holds immense significance for Hindus and the position of the bell is a homage to Gen Rawat. The Shree Muktinath Temple has been visited by several dignitaries, at the side of Indian Top Minister Narendra Modi, who visited in 2018.

28.Serum Institute to establish centre of excellence for Infectious Diseases & Pandemic Preparedness in Hyderabad

- Serum Institute of India has announced the establishment of a Dr. Cyrus Poonawalla Centre of Excellence in Infectious Diseases and Pandemic Preparedness at Hyderabad. It will be located at the Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH-H) in the city.
- The Centre of Excellence is being set up for providing the community with a centralized location for information, resources, and support during times of public health emergencies.

29.IIT Delhi builds ‘Time Capsule’ to lock in letters and postcards for 2047

- The researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)- Delhi have designed and developed a time capsule that is scheduled to be opened in 2047. The time capsule is meant to store written letters or postcards by the people on their vision for India in 2047.
- The activity was part of an event organized by the Government of India that planned a “Time Capsule: Share Your Vision of India @ 2047” concept for the five-day National Philately Exhibition AMRITPEX 2023. The event concluded, at New Delhi’s Pragati Maidan.

30.ChatGPT launches boom in AI-written e-books on Amazon

- Brett Schickler had never before considered the possibility of becoming a published novelist. But, after finding out about the ChatGPT artificial intelligence initiative, Schickler believed he had been given a chance.
- Schickler produced a 30-page illustrated children’s e-book in a couple of hours using the AI programme, which can produce text blocks from straightforward instructions, and made it available for purchase through Amazon.com Inc.’s self-publishing division in January.

31.INS Sumedha Visits Abu Dhabi To Participate In IDEX And NAVDEX 23

- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sumedha has participated in NAVDEX 23 (Naval Defense Exhibition) and IDEX 23 (International Defense Exhibition) in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE). The exercise held from 20 to 24 February 2023.
- The ship’s participation in two leading regional naval and defence exhibitions will showcase the strengths of India’s indigenous ship building

and underscore the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat'.

32.Blue Origin wins first NASA business for New Glenn

- Blue Origin has won its first NASA award for its New Glenn rocket, with the agency selecting the large rocket to launch a pair of Martian smallsats. NASA announced Feb. 9 it selected New Glenn for the launch of the two Escape and Plasma Acceleration and Dynamics Explorers (ESCAPADE) spacecraft. The rocket will launch ESCAPADE in late 2024, with the spacecraft entering orbit around Mars 11 months later.
- The award, a task order under NASA's Venture-Class Acquisition of Dedicated and Rideshare (VADR) contract, is the first NASA has issued for New Glenn, the large rocket Blue Origin has been working on for several years but has yet to launch.

33.QUAD Nations Launch 'QUAD Cyber Challenge'

- QUAD countries launched 'Quad Cyber Challenge' for improving cyber security.To strengthen the cyber security system in the Indo-Pacific region.The Quad Cyber Challenge will end on 10 April, 2023.
- The National Cyber Coordination Office along with the National Security Council (NSC) Secretariat is coordinating the Quad Cyber Challenge on behalf of India.It is part of continuous efforts of Quad countries to increase cyber security awareness and create a more secure and resilient cyber ecosystem.

34.Defence Minister launches 'iDEX Investor Hub', Rs 200 cr already pledged

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the 'iDEX Investor Hub' (iIH), under which more than Rs 200 crores had already been pledged by leading Indian investors.
- He also launched the ninth edition of 'Defence India Startup Challenges (DISC 9)' on "Cybersecurity" during the annual defence innovation event 'Manthan' as part of the Aero India 2023. Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) is the flagship initiative of the Department of Defence Production to encourage start-ups and other such entities engaged in defence innovation.

35.TCS Named to World's Most Admired Companies List by FORTUNE Magazine

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been named to FORTUNE magazine's list of the World's Most Admired Companies.

- Regarded as a barometer of corporate reputation, the list is based on a survey of business executives, directors and analysts around the globe. Companies are evaluated based on criteria such as innovation, social responsibility, quality of management, global competitiveness, talent management, and quality of products/services.

36. AIIMS Delhi named as Centre of Excellence for artificial intelligence in healthcare

- The Centre has designated All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, also known as AIIMS Delhi as the centre of excellence (CoE) for Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare. It was announced by the Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya to the Lok Sabha.
- AI tools can support monitoring of physical and financial aspects of programmes including fraud detection, effective disease management, identifying early warning signals as part of surveillance, development of clinical decision support system (CDSS) supporting practitioners in providing quality care, etc.

37. Garuda Aerospace unveils solar-powered drone SURAJ

- Garuda Aerospace unveiled SURAJ, a solar-powered unmanned intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) aerial J-Glider at the Aero India 2023 show.
- SURAJ is an ISR high-altitude drone designed specifically for surveillance operations, providing real-time information to the high command, and protecting jawans on the ground, as per the drone firm. SURAJ will have ISR capability and will be equipped with Artificial Intelligence, machine learning and bionic chip for advanced real-time processing.

38. 4th edition of joint military Exercise Dharma Guardian-2023 set to strengthen India-Japan ties

- India and Japan will kick off an exercise 'Ex Dharma Guardian' at Camp Imazu in Shiga Province, Japan from February 17 to March 2, 2023. The Indian Army contingent arrived at the exercise location on February 12, 2023.
- This will be the 4th edition of the Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' between India and Japan. Exercise Dharma Guardian will strengthen bilateral ties and the level of defence cooperation between the Indian Army and the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force.

BOOKS & AWARDS

1. Optiver ambassador Anish Giri wins Tata Steel Chess Masters 2023

- GM Anish Giri beat Richard Rapport in the last round of the Tata Steel Masters 2023 to win his first Tata Steel Masters event.
- The 18-year-old GM Nodirbek Abdusattorov was the leader of the tournament until Round 12 but he lost against Jorden Van Foreest to tie second with Magnus Carlsen.²

2. Former PM Manmohan Singh Conferred With Lifetime Achievement Honour In UK

- Former prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh was recently conferred a Lifetime Achievement Honour by the India-UK Achievers Honours in London for his contribution to economic and political life.
- The Honour, announced at an awards ceremony last week, will be handed over to Dr Singh in New Delhi by the National Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU) UK at a later date. The India-UK Achievers Honours by NISAU UK, in partnership with the British Council in India and the UK's Department for International Trade (DIT), celebrate the achievements of Indian students who studied at British universities and the Lifetime Achievement Honour is a nod to Dr Singh's academic achievements at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

3. Dr Peggy Mohan has bagged the 'Mathrubhumi Book of The Year' award

- Author Dr Peggy Mohan has bagged the 'Mathrubhumi Book of The Year' award at the fourth edition of Mathrubhumi International Festival of Letters (MBIFL 2023).
- Her book 'Wanderers, Kings and Merchants,' portraying the evolution of language as the outcome of migrations, and won the award that carries Rs two lakh as a cash prize and a sculpture. Nobel Laureate Abdulrazak Gurnah presented the award to Mohan at the valedictory ceremony of the four-day MBIFL 2023. MBIFL 2023, also known as 'Ka' in Malayalam, featured Nobel and Booker Prize winners and Jnanpith awardees and others among over 400 names in creative fields.

4. NTPC bags 'ATD Best Awards 2023' for 6th consecutive year

- Country's largest power generation company NTPC Limited has been conferred with 'ATD Best Awards 2023' by Association for Talent Development (ATD), USA.
- NTPC Limited has won this award for the sixth time for showcasing enterprise success in the area of talent development. The foundation of NTPC's culture has always been employee involvement through creative techniques. This award is a testimony to the contemporary HR practices of NTPC.

5. MRF's Mammen gets ATMA lifetime achievement award

- K M Mammen, chairman and managing director of MRF Ltd and past chairman of Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA) received the ATMA lifetime achievement award. Hisashi Takeuchi, managing director & CEO - Maruti Suzuki India Ltd presented the award to Mammen at the ATMA annual conclave 2023 at New Delhi .
- It is noted that Mammen has been at the helm of every landmark achievement that has brought MRF to the milestone of over INR 19,000 crore turnover and in its ranking, of being amongst one of the top tyre companies in the world.

6.Salman Rushdie's magical new novel 'Victory City' contains 'the wisdom of a lifetime'

- Salman Rushdie's protagonist in his new novel "Victory City" — a fictional retelling of the fallen Indian empire of Vijayanagar — lives to be 247 years old and buries 24,000 of her verses on the history of the city, works that would be discovered centuries later.
- But when the story begins, she is a 9-year-old girl who watches her mother and all the women she knows die by self-immolation when soldiers destroy their city. Alone, she becomes a vessel for a local goddess, who bestows her with divine abilities and a long life.

7.Google Doodle honours PK Rosy, the first Malayalam woman actor, on her 120th birth anniversary

- Google honours PK Rosy, the first female lead to feature in Malayalam cinema, on her 120th birth anniversary (Feb 10). Google is celebrating PK Rosy by dedicating a Google Doodle, to her.
- “Remembering PK Rosy, the first female lead to feature in Malayalam cinema, on her birth anniversary. #GoogleDoodle,” reads a note from Google.

8.Dr. A.B.K. Prasad selected for “Raja Ram Mohan Roy National Award”

- Veteran Journalist Dr. A.B.K. Prasad has been chosen for the prestigious “Raja Ram Mohan Roy National Award” for excellence in Journalism-2020 for his outstanding contribution towards journalism, the Press Council of India, New Delhi announced.
- Dr. Anne Bhavani Koteswara Prasad's journalistic career is spread over 75 years and has the singular honour of being the editor of all the mainstream journals of Andhra Pradesh. He has also served as the Chairman, Official Language Commission during the period 2004 to 2009 in the united Andhra Pradesh.

9.Maharashtra Bhushan award for social worker Appasaheb Dharmadhikari

- The state government announced that renowned social worker, preacher and reformer Dattatreya alias Appasaheb Dharmadikari will be honoured with Maharashtra Bhushan award for the year 2022.
- Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis held a meeting with Appasaheb at his residence in Revdanda in Raigad district.
- Incidentally, his father Nanasaheb Dharmadhikari was conferred with the same award in 2008 by then chief minister Ashok Chavan.

10.Egyptian President bestows Global Best M-GOV Awards on IIT Indore students

- Students from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore, India, won AED 1 million by winning the gold medal at the World Government Summit in Dubai on Monday.
- Niyati Totala and Neel Kalpeshkumar Parikh of The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore, were awarded the prestigious medal by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi. These students were the creators of the 'Blockbill' app. Blockbill is a blockchain-based receipt generation app that generates digital receipts for all of its users' transactions.

11.Superstar Sridevi's official biography to hit the shelves this year

- Westland Books announced the publishing of the official biography of superstar Sridevi.
- Titled "Sridevi: The Life of a Legend", the book draws a complete portrait of the actor, who ruled the commercial cinema space in the '80s and '90s. It is written by debutant author Dhiraj Kumar and will be released this year.

12.Angela Merkel receives UNESCO Peace Prize in Ivory Coast

- Angela Merkel has been awarded the Felix Houphouet-Boigny UNESCO Peace Prize in Yamoussoukro, the capital of the Ivory Coast. The jury for Felix Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize was impressed by Merkel's courageous decision in 2015 to open her country to refugees.
- 2018 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Denis Mukwege was the jury president. Former German chancellor Angela Merkel said she will donate the prize money to an Ivorian NGO called "L'enfance en danger."

13.Writer Subhash Chandran bagged the Akbar Kakkattil award

- A renowned writer Subhash Chandran bagged the Akbar Kakkattil award for his novel 'Samudrasila'. Samudrashila was published by Mathrubhumi. The award will be presented by writer M. Mukundan at an event on February 17.
- Samudrasila has been picked by a jury comprising writer Sethu, Dr. Mini Prasad, and KC Narayanan. Subhash Chandran is a two-time recipient of the

Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award.Akbar Kakkattil Award was started by a trust in memory of the short story writer and novelist from Kozhikode.The award comprises a cash prize of 50,000 and a sculpture.Novels released in the last five years are eligible for this award.

14.The Kashmir Files wins best film at Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards

- The Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival awards were announced with The Kashmir Files winning the Best Film award and Anupam Kher taking the Most Versatile Actor Of The Year award for the film.
- Alia Bhatt not just received her Best Actress award for Gangubai Kathiawadi but also received husband Ranbir Kapoor's Best Actor award for Brahmastra on his behalf.

15.Vignesh and Visakh NR become India's first brothers to become Grandmasters

- M Vignesh N R defeated IM Ilja Schneider (GER) to cross 2500 in the live ratings to become India's 80th and the first ever brothers to become Grandmasters. He also won 24th NordWest Cup 2023 at Bad Zwischenahn in Germany.
- The Chennai boy reached the milestone after crossing 2500 in the live ratings. Vignesh's elder brother Visakh NR had become India's 59th GM in 2019. Thus, Visakh and Vignesh become India's first brothers who are Grandmasters.

16.JP Nadda launches book 'Modi: Shaping a Global order in flux'

- BJP national president JP Nadda launched a book "Modi: Shaping a Global Order in Flux".This book is going to open a debate on how PM Modi has taken a decision which has changed India's image worldwide.
- It's necessary to understand what was the image of India before Modi ji came to power. The publisher of the book is Wisdom Tree.

SPORTS

1.Germany beat Belgium 5-4 in penalty shootout to win FIH Men's Hockey World Cup in Bhubaneswar

- In the FIH Hockey World Cup, Germany have lifted the World Cup after 17 years beating Belgium 5-4 in a penalty shootout, after the game ended 3-3 in the final at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.
- Germany now have won the World Cup three times, first in 2002 and second in 2006.

2.New Zealand Cricket To Introduce Debbie Hockley Medal; Honour Best Women's Cricketer

- New Zealand Cricket (NZC) announced that outstanding women's cricketer will be honoured with the inaugural Debbie Hockley Medal at this year's annual cricket awards ceremony.
- The newly-minted honour, to be afforded equal status to the Sir Richard Hadlee Medal for the outstanding male cricketer of the year, is to become a regular event at the New Zealand Cricket Awards, to be hosted this year on March 23 in Auckland.

3.Chouhan declares Khelo India Youth Games open in Bhopal, 6,000 athletes to take part in 27 sports

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the fifth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) at a glittering function here, kick-starting a sporting extravaganza that will see participation from nearly 6,000 athletes from across the country in 27 disciplines.
- The CM declared the Games open at the Taty Tope stadium in the state capital Bhopal. "The Khelo India Youth Games will be historic in Madhya Pradesh," Chouhan said on the occasion.

4.Murali Vijay announces retirement from all forms of international cricket

- Out-of-favour India player Murali Vijay announced he was retiring from international cricket. The right-handed batter who featured in 61 Tests, 17 ODIs and nine T20 Internationals last played for the country in the Perth Test against Australia in December 2018. His Test debut was against Australia in the 2008-09 season at Nagpur as a replacement for Gautam Gambhir.
- He featured in first-class and List A cricket for Tamil Nadu late in 2019. As far as professional cricket is concerned, he last turned out for Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier League in 2020.

5.Babita Phogat joins Oversight Committee panel formed against WFI

- Former wrestler Babita Phogat has joined the oversight committee formed to investigate the allegations on Wrestling Federation (WF) of India.
- The Oversight Committee is also doing an enquiry into the allegations of sexual misconduct, harassment and/intimidation, financial irregularities and administrative lapses of the WFI, as leveled by prominent sportspersons. The committee was formed during IOA's emergency Executive Council meeting earlier this month, which was attended by the likes of Abhinav Bindra, and Yogeshwar along with IOA president PT Usha and joint secretary Kalyan Chaubey.

6. Usman Khawaja bags inaugural Shane Warne Men's Test Player of the Year award

- Australia's Usman Khawaja bagged the inaugural Shane Warne Men's Test Player of the Year award following brilliant performances in the last 12 months.
- The left-hander has been Australia's leading run scorer in Tests since making a comeback in January 2022. Khawaja amassed 1020 runs at an average of 78.46. He capped off the voting period with an unbeaten 195 during the rain-affected New Year's Test against South Africa. The SCG – his third consecutive Test century at the venue.



7. Gary Ballance becomes second player in Test history to set rare record

- Gary Ballance etched his name in history books on as he became only the 2nd cricketer on the planet to score a Test hundred for two different countries. He achieved the feat after a match-saving 137 not out for Zimbabwe in the 1st Test vs the West Indies.
- Though it was Ballance's 5th Test ton but the first one for Zimbabwe. His other 4 hundreds in whites came for England before he moved to his native country Zimbabwe. Kepler Wessels was the first player to do so as he scored a Test ton for Australia and South Africa.

8. Smriti Mandhana reacts on becoming most expensive player for WPL 2023, to play for RCB

- In the opening bid of first ever Women's Premier League, India's star player and vice-captain Smriti Mandhana was sold to Royal Challengers Bangalore for 3.4 crore -- \$415,000 approx. This is the highest bid by any franchise in the WPL 2023 auction as of yet.
- Looking at the details, the RCB has spent over half of its total bidding capacity on four players in the first marquee set. This includes India's explosive wicketkeeper-batter Richa Ghosh for 1.9 crore, Australian all-

rounder Ellyse Perry for 1.7 crore and Indian bowler Renuka Singh for 1.5 crore.

9.Oval, London will host ICC World Test Championship 2021-23 final

- The International Cricket Council announced that the ICC World Test Championship 2021-23 final will take place at The Oval, London from June 7 to 11. The reserve day is scheduled on June 12.
- New Zealand had won the inaugural edition, defeating India by eight wickets in the 2021 final in Southampton. Australia leads the nine-team points table for the ongoing cycle with a healthy points percentage of 75.56, followed by India at 58.93.

OBITUARIES

1.Senior ISIS Leader Bilal al-Sudani killed by US military forces in a special operation in Somalia

- A US military operation has killed a senior ISIS leader and 10 members of the terror group in northern Somalia.
- According to US officials, a key regional leader of the Islamic State group, Bilal al-Sudani was killed during a gunfight after US troops descended on a mountainous cave complex in northern Somalia. Around 10 of Sudani's Islamic State associates at the scene were also killed.

2.Former Law Minister Shanti Bhushan passes away at 97

- Senior advocate and former Law Minister Shanti Bhushan passed away following a brief illness. He was 97. A source close to his family said he was not keeping well for some time and died at his home in Delhi.
- Bhushan served as India's law minister from 1977 to 1979 in the Morarji Desai cabinet. He was best known for successfully arguing for setting aside the election of Indira Gandhi in 1975.

3.Legendary Telugu Filmmaker K. Viswanath passes away at 92

- Telugu Filmmaker K. Viswanath died at 92 at his home in Hyderabad from age-related ailments. The legendary Telugu filmmaker is known for films such as 'Sankarabharanam', 'Sagara Sangamam', 'Swathi Muthyam', and 'Swarna Kamalam'.
- The five-time national award winner died at the age of 92.

4.Pervez Musharraf, former Pakistani president and army general, dies at 79

- Pervez Musharraf, former president general (retired), on Sunday died in a Dubai hospital, the country's army said. He was 79. Musharraf had been undergoing treatment for an ailment at an American Hospital Dubai.
- Senior military chiefs “express heartfelt condolences on sad demise of General Pervez Musharraf”, a brief statement released by the military's media wing said. "May Allah bless the departed soul and give strength to bereaved family."

5. Former Indian National Team Footballer Parimal Dey Passed Away

- Former Indian National Team footballer Parimal Dey passed away at the age of 81. Parimal Dey was born on May 4, 1941, West Bengal. At the domestic level, he fondly called Jangla had the honour of winning the Santosh Trophy twice in 1962, 1969.
- He made 5 appearances for India and scored a goal in the country's bronze medal finish in the 1966 edition of the Merdeka Cup in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia & that was also his only goal for India. He holds the distinction of winning the Calcutta Football League and IFA Shield double thrice in 1966, 1970, and 1973. He also won the Durand Cup (1967, 1970), and Rovers Cup (1967, 1969, 1973).

6. Yakshagana artiste Baliga Narayana Bhagawatha passed away

- Veteran Yakshagana playback singer and scriptwriter Balipa Narayana Bhagawatha passed away at the age of 84 in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka.
- He was born on March 19, 1938, in Padre village in Kasaragod of Kerala. His grandfather Balipa Narayana Bhagavatha was also a famous Bhagawatha who had first popularised the Balipa style of singing. He entered the Yakshagana field at the age of 13.

7. Olympian and Asian Games gold medallist Tulsidas Balaram Passed away

- One of India's finest footballers and a member of the golden era of Indian football (1951-1962), Tulsidas Balaram, passed away at the age of 84 in Kolkata.
- In 1962, he received the Arjuna Award from the Government of India. The Government of West Bengal awarded him 'Banga Vibhushan' in 2013. He played in two Olympics in 1956 and 1960 and reached the pinnacle of Asian football when India, under the guidance of legendary coach Syed Abdul Rahim, won the Asian Games gold in Jakarta, beating South Korea 2-1 in 1962.

8. Legendary American pop composer Burt Bacharach passes away at 94

- Born on 12th of May, 1928 at Kansas City at Missouri in the United States, Bacharach won several accolades, including eight Grammys and three Oscars, two Golden Globes and a lifetime achievement prize. He wrote over 500 songs from the late 1950s to the 1980s. He wrote hit songs for artists ranging from Dionne Warwick to the Carpenters.
- He also collaborated with several stars like Aretha Franklin, Dusty Springfield, Tom Jones, White Stripes and Marlene Dietrich.

9.TV show Nukkad's Veteran actor Javed Khan Amrohi passes away

- Veteran actor Javed Khan Amrohi passed away in Mumbai. According to reports, the actor was having breathing difficulties. The actor was best known for his work in the entertainment industry.
- PTI reported that the actor died on Tuesday (14 February,2023) due to lung failure at a hospital here, according to his filmmaker Ramesh Talwar. He was in his early 70s.The veteran actor was suffering from a breathing ailment and was bedridden for the past one year. He was undergoing treatment at Surya Nursing Home in suburban Mumbai, Talwar told PTI.

10.Eminent Indian painter Lalitha Lajmi passes away at 90

- Acclaimed Indian painter and printmaker Lalitha Lajmi passed away on February 13, the National Gallery of Modern Art announced.
- Lajmi was born in 1932 in Calcutta. Her father was a poet and mother a linguist. Like her brother, she cultivated an interest in dance, but given the family's limited resources, was unable to train formally. Her art was self-taught too, drawing from autobiographical references as well as the films of Raj Kapoor, Satyajit Ray and Guru Dutt.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1.World Wetlands Day observed every year on 2nd February

- World wetlands day is observed on February 2 every year with an aim to raise global awareness about the crucial role of wetlands for people and the planet. This day serves to the influence and positive production that Wetlands have had on the world and in terms brings communities together for the benefit of Mother Nature. This day, also raises global awareness because wetlands play a significant role not only in people but in the planet.
- **Theme:** “It's Time for Wetlands Restoration,”

2.The International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is observed on 6 February

- The International Day of Zero Tolerance for female genital mutilation (FGM), observed annually on 6 February, provides an opportunity for all

stakeholders involved in ending FGM to celebrate achievements, advocate for abandonment of the practice and raise awareness. WHO and HRP invite all to raise their hands and voices to end the harmful practice of FGM.

- Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve altering or injuring the female genitalia for non-medical reasons and is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women.

3. World Pulses Day is observed every year on 10th of February

- World Pulses Day is celebrated on February 10 every year and recognized Pulses as a global food. Pulses, also known as legumes, are the edible seeds of leguminous plants cultivated for food.
- The UN General Assembly in 2019 decided to dedicate a day to Pulses to increase awareness and access to pulses globally known as World Pulses Day. The UN General Assembly after recognizing the value of pulses in 2013, adopted 2016 as the International Year of Pulses (IYP). The UN, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), increased public awareness of pulses' nourishing and environmental benefits.
- **Theme:** "Pulses for a Sustainable Future".

4. World Day of Social Justice is celebrated every year on 20th February

- Every year on February 20th, the World Day of Social Justice promotes the importance of fair and just relations between the individual and society. The day also tackles issues such as poverty, exclusion, gender equality, human rights, and social protections.
- Social justice has become a popular idea in recent years. However, the idea of it goes back to the time of Saint Augustine of Hippo, a fourth-century philosopher. A Jesuit priest named Luigi Taparelli coined the phrase "social justice." Taparelli was a Catholic scholar who lived from 1793 to 1882. The term social justice spread during the revolutions of 1848. This was a time of political upheavals in Europe.

5. Central Excise Day 2023 observed on 24th February

- Central Excise Day 2023 is being observed on 24th February every year to commemorate the Central Excise and Salt Act which was enacted on 24th February 1944. Know what this day stands for and what this day means below.
- The day honours the contribution of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) to the country and the officers associated with it and its services. The day also encourages the officers to carry out their duties with utmost sincerity. Every year, officers do their duties of checking the corruption of goods from the manufacturing sector.

6. World Radio Day is celebrated every year on 13th February

- World Radio Day is a celebration of the role of radio as a means of communication and expression. It is important to understand the role of radio and how it has helped people to stay updated with the news. World Radio Day 2023 will be celebrated on 13 February. Everyone should think of ways to celebrate this day so that more people can be aware of the importance of radio.
- Theme: **Radio and Peace**

7. UN Declares February 17 Global Tourism Resilience Day

- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has adopted Jamaica's resolution to designate and declare the first-ever Global Tourism Resilience Day to encourage capacity building in tourism resilience.
- Global Tourism Resilience Day, which had support from not only Jamaica but more than 90 countries around the world, will now be recognized every year on February 17.



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