

# Weekly Current Affairs

19-25 March, 2023

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## **NATIONAL NEWS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina jointly inaugurated the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (IBFP) in a virtual mode. The foundation stone for the construction of this

pipeline was laid by both Prime Ministers in September 2018. Numaligarh Refinery Limited has been supplying petroleum products to Bangladesh since 2015. This is the second cross-border energy pipeline between India and its neighbours.

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

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

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

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

### **7. 2nd G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group meeting begins in Udaipur**

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

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

- The Central Government has announced plans to set up mega textile parks in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar

Pradesh, and Maharashtra. The PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks for the Textile Industry are a step towards realizing the vision of making India a global hub for textile manufacturing and exports.

- The step is inspired by the 5F vision of the Prime Minister, which includes, Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign. It is expected that these parks will enhance the competitiveness of the textile industry by helping it achieve economies of scale and attract global players to manufacture in India.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Indian team's star hockey player Rani Rampal has become the first woman in the sport to have a stadium named after her, in Rae Bareilly. The MCF Rae Bareilly has renamed the hockey stadium as 'Rani's Girls Hockey Turf'. Rani shared photos on her social media handles, where she is seen interacting with the players and inaugurating the stadium alongside other staff members.

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

- The Tamil Nadu government in its budget has announced that a new wildlife sanctuary called 'Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary' will be formed in Erode district. It will be the 18th such sanctuary in the state.
- Spread across 80,567 hectares in the forest areas of Anthiyur and Gobichettipalayam taluks in Erode district, the sanctuary will include reserve forest areas in Anthiyur, Bargur, Thattakarai and Chennampatti. The proposed sanctuary is expected to house several animal species, including elephants, tigers, leopards, panthers, wild boars and deer.



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

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

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

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

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

### **2. 26th edition of 'Elevate' held in Dubai**

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

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

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

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

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

- The government has appointed Mr Deepak Mohanty, former Reserve Bank official, as the Chairperson of the Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA).
- He replaced Mr Supratim Bandyopadhyay, whose term ended in January, 2023. According to an order issued by the Department of Financial Services

(DFS), Finance Ministry, Mr Mohanty will hold this post from the date of assumption of charge till attaining the age of 65 years or until further orders, whichever is earlier. Prior to this, he was the Whole-Time Member (Economics) of PFRDA for 2 years overseeing areas of development and regulation of pension funds.

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

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

### **4.Indian Industrialist Ratan Tata appointed in ‘Order of Australia’ for distinguished service**

- For distinguished service to the Australia-India bilateral relationship, particularly to trade, investment, and philanthropy, Indian industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Tata has been appointed as an Honorary Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO).
- Australia’s High Commissioner to India, Barry O’Farrell informed that Australia’s Governor-General has made this appointment announcement.

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

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

### **6.Ranveer Singh Named India’s Most Valuable Celebrity of 2022**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **BANKING**

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



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

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

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

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

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


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

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

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

## **SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **BOOKS & AWARDS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Sergio Perez earned his first win of the 2023 Formula One season with a dominant performance at the Saudi Arabia Grand Prix. Red Bull teammate Max Verstappen climbed into second place after starting in 15th position, staying in first place in the championship standings thanks to his fastest lap.

- Fernando Alonso was at the center of musical chairs around the final podium spot after in third place, but he was initially replaced by George Russell after a penalty.

## SPORTS

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

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

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

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

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### 3. Swimmer Sampanna Ramesh Shelar becomes fastest Indian in U21

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

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

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

### OBITUARY

#### 1.British writer & historian Patrick French passed away

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

### IMPORTANT DAYS

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

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

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

- The word Nowruz (Novruz, Navruz, Nooruz, Nevruz, Nauryz), means new day. Nowruz marks the first day of spring and is celebrated on the day of the astronomical vernal equinox, which usually occurs on 21 March.

- It is celebrated as the beginning of the new year by more than 300 million people all around the world and has been celebrated for over 3,000 years in the Balkans, the Black Sea Basin, the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Middle East and other regions.

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

- World Water Day is celebrated all over the world on March 22nd, 2023. It is an international event observed annually on March 22nd every year all over the world highlighting the importance of freshwater.
- The idea for this international day goes back to 1992, the year in which the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro took place. That same year, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution by which 22 March of each year was declared World Day for Water, to be observed starting in 1993.

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

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

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

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

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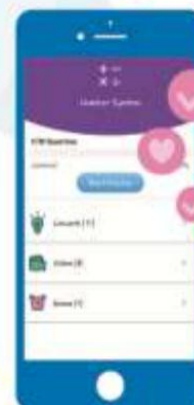
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