

# Bi-Weekly Current Affairs (1-15 March 2023) English PDF



**Bi-Weekly One Liners Updates****1st -15<sup>th</sup> March 2023****Dear readers,**

**Weekly One Liners Update** is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **first two weeks** (1-15<sup>th</sup>) of **March** 2023. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

**Banking & Financial Awareness**

1. According to the Union ministry of statistics, what is the India's Gross Domestic Production (GDP) growth has been registered in the October-December third quarter of the current fiscal (2022-23) \_\_\_\_\_ **4.4%**.

**Note:**

- GDP in the third quarter of 2022-23 is estimated at Rs 40.19 lakh crore, as against Rs 38.51 lakh crore in the third quarter of 2021-22.
  - The real GDP is estimated to grow at 7% for the current FY compared to 9.1% in 2021-22.
  - While Nominal GDP is estimated to grow at 15.9 percent.
2. According to the data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the credit growth of Indian banks has doubled to what percent in the October-December quarter (2022-23) from a year earlier \_\_\_\_\_ **16.8%**.

**Note:**

- Bank credit had expanded by 8.4% in the quarter that ended December 2021 and 17.2% in the quarter that ended September 2022.
  - The aggregate deposits of banks increased by 10.3% year-on-year in the December quarter.
  - Banks' credit-deposit ratio rose further to 75.9% in the December quarter.
3. Which financial service provider has received the final registration from SEBI to commence its mutual fund operations \_\_\_\_\_ **Bajaj Finserv Ltd.**

**Note:**

- Bajaj Finserv Mutual Fund, with Bajaj Finserv Asset Management Ltd (BFAML) as the Investment Manager, will soon offer a range of mutual fund products.
  - The products include equity, debt, and hybrid funds, both in the active and passive segments, for investors.
4. Global rating firm Moody's Investors Services, what would be the India's growth rate has been projected for 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **5.5%**.

**Note:**

- Moody's also projected the growth of India at 6.5% in 2024.
  - According to Moody's projection, India's growth rate in 2023 is the highest among G20 countries.
  - It is followed by China (5 %) and Indonesia (4.8%).
  - The US is expected to grow by 0.9%, the Euro area by 0.5%, Japan by 1.5%, and the UK (-0.4%).
5. According to the Finance Ministry, what amount has been collected as gross goods and service tax (GST) revenue in the month of February 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs 1,49,577 crore.**

**Note:**

- This amount was increased by around 12% on an annual basis (YoY).
- India's GST revenue in February 2022 was Rs 1,33,026 crore.
- Of the total revenue collected, CGST is Rs 27,662 crore, SGST is Rs 34,915 crore, IGST is Rs 75,069 crore while cess is Rs 11,931 crore (including Rs 792 crore collected on import of goods).

**Join Our Classroom Program Now**

6. Which Indian stock exchange has received the approval from Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch the rupee-denominated NYMEX WTI Crude Oil and Natural Gas (Henry Hub) futures contracts in its commodity derivatives segment \_\_\_\_\_ **National Stock Exchange (NSE).**

**Note:**

- Earlier, NSE had signed a data licensing agreement with CME Group allowing NSE to list, trade and settle rupee-denominated NYMEX WTI Crude Oil and Natural Gas derivatives on its platform.
  - NSE MD: Ashishkumar Chauhan
7. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC) has partnered with which bank to launch a co-branded travel credit card - IRCTC \_\_\_\_\_ Bank Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_ **HDFC Bank.**

**Note:**

- It is a co-branded card, in a single variant, and is available on NPCI's Rupay network.
  - This is the third tie-up of IRCTC after the State Bank of India and Bank of Baroda.
  - The card will provide exclusive benefits and maximum savings on bookings of train tickets.
  - Chairman & MD, IRCTC: Rajni Hasija
8. Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has launched Unified Payment Interface (UPI) and 'Swadhan-e-pension-Gov' services for which co-operative bank \_\_\_\_\_ **Kangra Central Cooperative Bank.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To make bank transactions easier and quicker, especially for the elderly and those living in remote areas
  - These services would benefit thousands of account holders of the bank.
  - He also released the bank's annual calendar on this occasion.
9. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of three crore six lakh sixty-six thousand rupees on which online payment service provider \_\_\_\_\_ **Amazon Pay (India) Private Limited.**

**Note:**

- Reason: For non-compliance with certain directions related to Prepaid Payment Instruments and Know Your Customer.
  - The action was based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the entity with its customers.
10. RBI has imposed a cap of \_\_\_\_\_ on withdrawals by individual customers from Tamil Nadu-based Musiri Urban Co-operative Bank \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs 5,000.**

**Note:**

- Reason: It is a part of several restrictions imposed on the lender due to its deteriorating financial condition.
  - The restrictions on the lender will remain in force for six months from the close of business on March 3, 2023.
  - Without the approval of the RBI, the cooperative bank cannot grant loans, make any investments, or disburse any payments.
11. Which insurance company has become the second domestic insurance company to launch surety insurance bonds \_\_\_\_\_ **New India Assurance.**

**Note:**

- Surety bond insurance acts as a security arrangement for infrastructure projects and will insulate the contractor as well as the principal.
- These bonds are legally enforceable tripartite contracts that guarantee compliance, payment, and performance.
- The issuing insurer provides a guarantee, for a premium, in case of a default in the execution of a project.



12. The board of directors of which bank has recommended the reappointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as managing director and CEO for three years, with effect from 27 October 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **HDFC Bank.**

**Note:**

- The Bank also informed that it is subject to the approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the shareholders.
- Sashidhar Jagdishan joined the Bank in 1996 and was appointed as a chief financial officer in 2008, after which he was appointed as the MD and CEO.

13. According to National Statistical Office (NSO), what is the estimated annual per capita (net national income) at current prices for 2022-23, showing a growth of around 99% from Rs 86,647 in 2014-15 \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs 1,72,000.**

**Note:**

- However, after adjusting for inflation (constant prices), the per capita income has risen by approximately 35% from Rs 72,805 in 2014-15 to Rs 98,118 in 2022-23.
- The average growth of India's per-capita income in real terms from 2014 to 2019 was 5.6 percent per annum.

14. The World Bank will lend up to \$1 billion to India to strengthen which sector \_\_\_\_\_ **health infrastructure.**

**Note:**

- The lending will be divided into two complementary loans of \$500 million each.
- The bank will support India's flagship Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) which was launched in October 2021.
- The loans will prioritize health service delivery in seven States - Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh.

15. MoS, personnel, public grievances, and pensions informed that the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare will integrate all the pension portals - Pension Disbursing Bank portals, ANUBHAV, CPENGRAMS, CGHS, etc into a single portal. Who is he \_\_\_\_\_ **Dr. Jitendra Singh.**

**Note:**

- These portals will be integrated into the form of the newly created "Integrated Pensioners' Portal" (<https://ipension.nic.in>).
- Aim: To ensure the ease of living for the elder citizens

16. The All India Home Price Index (HPI), released by the RBI, has recorded a growth (year-on-year) of what percent to 302 in the third quarter (ended December) of 2022-23 as compared with 293.8, despite the rise in interest rates \_\_\_\_\_ **2.79%.**

**Note:**

- On a quarter-on-quarter sequential basis, the index rose from 298, an increase of 1.34%, from September 2022.
- The Y-o-Y movements in HPI varied widely across the cities, ranging from a growth of 7.1% (Kochi) to a contraction of 9% (Jaipur).

17. According to the CRIF High Mark, the total of which loan outstanding was Rs 100.28 lakh crore in Dec 2022, up from Rs 81.91 lakh crore a year ago \_\_\_\_\_ **Retail.**

**Note:**

- The share of female borrowers in the retail loans outstanding has gone up to 26% at Rs 26.07 lakh crore as of Dec 2022 from 25% (Rs 20.47 lakh crore) in Dec 2021.
- Major retail loan products availed by female borrowers in India: Gold loans (42% share), Education loans (35%), Home loans (32%), and Loans against property (29%)



18. The RBI Governor, Shaktikanta Das has launched which mission during the Digital Payments Awareness Week 2023, which is being observed from March 6 to 12, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ 'Har Payment Digital'.

**Note:**

- Campaign theme: Digital Payment Apnao, Auron ko bhi Sikhao (Adopt digital payments and Also teach others)
- RBI has launched a program to adopt 75 villages and convert them into digital payment-enabled villages.
- Payment system operators (PSOs) will adopt these villages across the country.

19. Which stock exchange and UN Women India launched a new program named 'FinEMPOWER' on 8th March 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).**

**Note:**

- It is a year-long joint capacity-building program between BSE and UN Women to empower women toward financial security.
- BSE and UN Women India collaboratively organized the 'Ring the Bell for Gender Equality' ceremony to accelerate investment in women leaders and entrepreneurs at BSE.
- MD and CEO of BSE: Sundararaman Ramamurthy

20. Max Life Insurance and which SFB have partnered to offer life insurance offerings to SFB's customers \_\_\_\_\_ **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank.**

**Note:**

- Through this partnership, both will offer a range of savings, protection, retirement, and group life insurance plans to Ujjivan SFB customers.
- Max Life Insurance Company Limited is a joint venture between Max Financial Services Limited and Axis Bank Limited.
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited began its operations in February 2017.

21. As per the Finance Ministry notification, the exchange between virtual digital assets and fiat currencies, the exchange between one or more forms of virtual digital assets, and the transfer of virtual digital assets will be covered under which act \_\_\_\_\_ **Money Laundering Act.**

**Note:**

- The safekeeping or administration of virtual digital assets and the participation in financial services related to the offer and sale of virtual digital assets will also come under the preview of the Act.

22. SEBI has imposed restrictions on the placement of bids, price, and volume for the companies undertaking \_\_\_\_\_ through the stock exchange route, effective on March 9, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Share buyback.**

**Note:**

- A company will not be able to purchase more than 25% of the average daily trading volume of its shares in the 10 trading days preceding the day in which such purchases are made.
- The company will not place bids in the first 30 minutes and the last 30 minutes of the regular trading session.

23. On International Women's Day 2023, which Asset Management Company (AMC) launched a digital campaign called 'DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality' \_\_\_\_\_ **Kotak Mahindra.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To drive the culture of digital literacy among the women's fraternity
- The campaign calls for the digital inclusion of all with the hashtag, #IncludeAll.
- The digital campaign showcases Kotak group's women employees sharing their stories about supporting and empowering other women in their lives.





24. Which bank and ITC (FMCG) joined hands to offer lending products and services to farmers who are a part of ITC's agriculture ecosystem \_\_\_\_\_ **Axis Bank.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To enable the bank to reach out to the unserved and under-served farmers across rural regions.
  - The bank will offer credit facilities for rural lending products like Farmer Funding loans & Gold Loans.
  - The bank will also leverage ITC-MAARS (Meta Market for Advanced Agricultural Rural Services) to address farmers' financial needs.
25. In an exchange filing, the Bank of Baroda has informed that the bank's board has approved divesting up to \_\_\_\_\_ stake in subsidiary BoB Financial Solutions Ltd \_\_\_\_\_ **49%.**

**Note:**

- Currently, BOB holds 100% of the total equity share capital of BFSL.
  - BFSL, a registered non-banking financial institution, is primarily involved in credit cards and merchant-acquiring businesses.
26. The FinMin has tightened the definition of \_\_\_\_\_ under the anti-money laundering law, mandating reporting entities to collect information from their clients \_\_\_\_\_ **Beneficial Owners.**

**Note:**

- Beneficial Owners: Any individual or group holding 10% ownership (earlier 25%) in the client of a reporting entity
  - The reporting entities are banks and financial institutions engaged in real estate and jewellery sectors.
  - They also include intermediaries in casinos and crypto or virtual digital assets.
27. Stock exchanges BSE and NSE have designated how many trading platforms as Qualified Stock Brokers (QSBs) with effect from July 1, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **15.**

**Note:**

- These shortlisted stock brokers are required to meet enhanced obligations and discharge additional responsibilities.
  - Some of the notable stock brokers in the QSB list are Zerodha Broking, 5Paisa Capital, HDFC Securities, IIFL Securities, ICICI Securities, Motilal Financial Services, Kotak Securities, and Sharekhan among others.
28. Which bank has partnered with Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd to offer home loans at competitive interest rates to customers from lower and middle-income groups \_\_\_\_\_ **Yes Bank.**

**Note:**

- This partnership is in accordance with the co-lending framework of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
  - Under this framework, the RBI enables banks and non-banking companies to jointly bring forth financial solutions that cater to the requirements of unserved and underserved sections of society.
29. Which Small Finance Bank has launched the 'Unpause Initiative' to assist women who have taken a career break and are now ready to return to the workforce \_\_\_\_\_ **Ujjivan SFB.**

**Note:**

- The initiative is part of the bank's commitment to promoting workplace diversity and inclusion.
  - The bank's employees participated in a 3 km walk from its registered headquarters in Koramangala to support an initiative.
  - Ujjivan SFB has also announced a special Hiring Drive and Employee referral program for women.
30. Central government has released how much amount as a monthly instalment for March towards tax devolution to states, which is much more than the normal monthly devolution of Rs 70,159 crore made for states \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs 1,40,318 crores.**



**Note:**

- This is in line with the commitment to strengthen the hands of states to accelerate their capital and developmental expenditure, an official statement said.
  - Uttar Pradesh has received the highest instalment of Rs 24,783 crore among all states.
31. Which Mutual Fund has been rebranded itself as Bandhan Mutual Fund and its schemes will reflect the new name with effect from March 13, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **IDFC Mutual Fund.**

**Note:**

- IDFC Mutual Fund has also unveiled a new logo as the company was acquired by Bandhan Financial Holdings-led consortium in April 2022
  - Scheme of the fund house will be renamed to replace the word 'IDFC' with 'Bandhan'.
  - Unitholders of IDFC MF would continue to benefit from the same high-quality investment approach.
32. Which bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Central Warehousing Corporation to facilitate financing under e-NWR (Electronic Negotiable Warehousing Receipt) \_\_\_\_\_ **Punjab National Bank.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To provide easy access to finance to farmers/ food processors/ traders against the pledge of agriculture commodities stored in CWC warehouses
  - CWC is a statutory body under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
33. According to the report, released by PhonePe and Boston Consulting Group, India's digital payments market will more than triple from \$3 trillion to \$10 trillion by which year \_\_\_\_\_ **2026.**

**Note:**

- In 2015, the Indian government launched its Digital India program, with the objective to achieve a "faceless, paperless and cashless" status for financial transactions at the grass-root level.
  - NPCI launched UPI in 2016, which enables inter-bank transactions through mobile devices instantly.
34. In an initiative to promote Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), which metro has started accepting digital currency in its parking facilities \_\_\_\_\_ **Kochi Metro.**

**Note:**

- With this, Kochi Metro is the first Metro in the country to accept CBDC.
  - The program was inaugurated at the parking facility in Thykoodam and system would be introduced in all other parking areas of the Metro soon
  - The program was introduced in association with IDFC FIRST Bank partnered with Anantham Online, a technology startup
35. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted an 'Infrastructure Finance Company (IFC)' status to which government organization \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA).**

**Note:**

- Earlier, it was classified as an Investment and Credit Company (ICC).
  - With the IFC status, IREDA will be able to take higher exposure in RE financing.
  - It will also help the company to access a wider investor base for fund mobilization, resulting in competitive rates for fundraising.
36. According to the Mudra portal (as of 27.01.2023), more than 38.58 crore loans have been extended since the inception of the Scheme. This scheme was launched in which year \_\_\_\_\_ **April 2015.**

**Note:**

- Out of this, over 26.35 crore loans have been extended to Women Entrepreneurs (68%).
- SC/ST/OBC category borrowers received 19.84 crore loans (51%).
- As per the Ministry of Labour survey, PMMY helped in generating 1.12 crore net additional employment in the country from 2015 to 2018.



37. Which Small Finance Bank has launched a new savings account for women customers called the Blossom Women's savings account \_\_\_\_\_ **Suryoday SFB.**

**Note:**

- Women can earn up to 7% interest rate per annum
- An exclusive and free Rupay Platinum Debit Card that rewards women customers with discounts and cashback.
- Monthly Interest Pay-out in the account
- One complementary account for child (Savings Aditya Account)
- Average Monthly Balance (AMB) of ₹10,000

38. According to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), what is India's retail inflation in February 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **6.44%.**

**Note:**

- But it remained above the upper band of the 4+/- 2 percent medium-term target of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the second consecutive month.
- While food inflation eased marginally to 5.95 percent in February 2023 from 6% in January 2023, inflation for cereals, milk, and fruits picked up.

39. Which US based bank has become the second bank in the country after Silicon Valley Bank to shut down \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature Bank.**

**Note:**

- The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) has been appointed as a receiver, which typically means it will liquidate the bank's assets to pay back its customers, including depositors and others.
- The standard insurance amount from FDIC is \$250,000 per depositor, per bank, for each account ownership category.

### Obituaries

1. A M Ahmadi passed away at 90 due to a brief illness, was a \_\_\_\_\_ **Former Chief Justice of India.**

**Note:**

- He was the 26th Chief Justice of India from October 1994 to March 1997.
- In 1964, he was appointed a civil and sessions judge in Ahmedabad and become the state's law secretary.
- In 1976, he was appointed a judge of the Gujarat High Court and was elevated to the Supreme Court in 1988.

2. Sasthipada Chattopadhyay passed away in Howrah, West Bengal, was a \_\_\_\_\_ **Writer.**

**Note:**

- He was known for his famous 'Pandav Goenda' (five detectives) series.
- He joined Anandabazar Patrika and also worked for its 'Rabibasoryo' supplement before joining the Indian Railways.
- He created two more detective series — 'Detective Ambar Chatterjee' and 'Goenda Tatar'.

3. Chandrashekhra Dasgupta passed away at the age of 82, was a \_\_\_\_\_ **Former Indian diplomat.**

**Note:**

- He joined the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) in 1962.
- He served as the ambassador to the European Union, Belgium, Luxembourg, and China.
- He was honoured with the Padma Bhushan in 2008 for his work in Indian civil service.





4. Satish Kaushik passed away at the age of 66 in Delhi due to cardiac arrest. He was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Actor**.

**Note:**

- Kaushik was an alumnus of the National School of Drama (NSD) and the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII).
  - He was known for his iconic roles in Mr. India, Tere Naam, Roop Ki Rani Choron Ka Raja, Deewana Mastana, Brick Lane, Saajan Chale Sasural among others.
5. Pat McCormick died at 92 in California due to health-related problems and dementia, was associated with which sports \_\_\_\_\_ **Athlete (Diving)**.

**Note:**

- She won the women's 3-meter springboard and 10-meter platform competitions at the 1952 Olympics in Finland.
  - She was honored by the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) with the James E. Sullivan Award - amateur athlete of the year in 1956.
  - She was the 2nd woman to win the award after Swimmer Ann Curtis (1944).
6. Kenzaburo Oe passed away at the age of 88 on March 3, 2023, due to age-related issues, was a famous \_\_\_\_\_ **Novelist**.

**Note:**

- He was known for his pacifist and anti-nuclear views.
- He was honoured with the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1994 for creating "an imagined world, where life and myth condense to form a disconcerting picture of the human predicament today".
- His notable works are 'A Personal Matter' and 'The Silent Cry'.

### Important Days

1. World Wildlife Day 2023 is marked annually on which date to celebrate the unique wild species and create awareness to help conserve them \_\_\_\_\_ **March 3**.

**Note:**

- Theme 2023: Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation
  - The 68th session of the UNGA has designated March 3 as World Wildlife Day on December 20, 2013.
  - Reason: To raise awareness about the conservation of the world's wild flora and fauna
2. Which edition of the Jan Aushadhi Diwas is being organized on 7th March 2023 across India to enhance awareness about the scheme and promote generic medicines \_\_\_\_\_ **5th**.

**Note:**

- Theme 2023: Jan Aushadhi – Sasti bhi Acchi bhi
  - The Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI), and States/UTs.
  - A week-long event is being organized in different cities all across the country from March 1-7, 2023.
3. The International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness was observed on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **5 March**.

**Note:**

- Aim: To deepen the global public's understanding of how disarmament efforts contribute to enhancing peace and security, preventing and ending armed conflicts, and curbing human suffering caused by weapons.
- This day seeks to promote better awareness and understanding of disarmament issues among the public, especially young people.



4. World Obesity Day is observed on which date every year to promote practical solutions and maintain a healthy weight \_\_\_\_\_ **March 4.**

**Note:**

- 2023 theme: Changing Perspectives: Let's Talk About Obesity

5. India celebrates National Security Day every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **March 4.**

**Note:**

- The purpose of this day is to express gratitude to our nation's security forces, which include the police, paramilitary units, guards, commandos, army officers, and other units involved in preserving the safety and security of our citizens.

- 2023 theme: Nurture young minds – Develop safety culture

6. National Safety Day is observed on which date annually to promote safe working environment and ensure the safety of people in all aspects \_\_\_\_\_ **March 4.**

**Note:**

- This year will mark the onset of the 52nd National Safety Day.

- The theme for 2023 National Safety Day is 'Our Aim – Zero Harm'.

7. Zero Discrimination Day is observed on which date to celebrate the right of everyone to live a full and productive life and live it with dignity \_\_\_\_\_ **1 March.**

**Note:**

- Zero Discrimination Day is helping to create a global movement of solidarity to end all forms of discrimination.

- Theme 2023: Save lives: Decriminalise

8. World Civil Defence Day is observed on which date to raise awareness about the importance of civil defence measures in protecting people \_\_\_\_\_ **1st March.**

**Note:**

- The day honours the work of several civil defence organisations.

- 2023 theme: Uniting the world's leading specialists for the safety and security of future generations

9. World Seagrass Day is celebrated annually on which date to raise awareness about seagrass and its important functions in the marine ecosystem \_\_\_\_\_ **1st March.**

**Note:**

- The seagrasses are grass-like plants that live close to the sea.

- They are the only flowering plant to grow in the marine environment.

10. International Women's Day is observed every year on which date to raise awareness about gender equality and create a better society free of gender bias \_\_\_\_\_ **March 8.**

**Note:**

- The day celebrates women and addresses issues such as women's equal rights, violence and abuse against women, and reproductive rights.

- 2023 Theme: DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality

- This theme emphasizes the importance of technology in bringing gender issues to light.

11. No Smoking Day is observed on which Wednesday of March \_\_\_\_\_ **Second.**

**Note:**

- In 2023, No Smoking Day falls on March 8.

- Aim: To encourage people to quit smoking and raise awareness about its harmful effects on their health

- This year's theme is: "Stopping smoking improves your brain health".

- The United Kingdom witnessed that people in the country are getting addicted to smoking.



12. The International Day of Women Judges is observed every year on which date to honour all-female judges who have taken the lead in the fight against social injustice \_\_\_\_\_ **March 10.**

**Note:**

- This day is being observed with the campaign “Women in Justice, Women for Justice”.
- It is a symbolic day for the fight for gender equality and the fight against gender-based discrimination.
- In April 2021, UNGA enacted resolution 75/274 designating March 10 as the International Day of Women Judges

13. The world observes World Kidney Day on which Thursday in March each year \_\_\_\_\_ **Second.**

**Note:**

- This year, this day falls on March 9.
- The International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations-World Kidney Alliance are working together on it (IFKF-WKA).
- Theme 2023: Kidney Health for Everyone – Preparing for the Unexpected, Supporting the Vulnerable

### **New Appointments**

1. Who has been appointed as the Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau (PIB), with effect from March 1, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Rajesh Malhotra.**

**Note:**

- He succeeded Satyendra Prakash, who was superannuated on February 28, 2023.
- He was associated with the ECI as in-charge of media and communication for 21 years (1996-2017).
- While Priya Kumar was named the Director General of Doordarshan News (DD News).
- She will succeed Mayank Agrawal.

2. Who has defeated vice president Atiku Abubakar to win the disputed presidential election in Nigeria \_\_\_\_\_ **Bola Tinubu.**

**Note:**

- He received 37%, Atiku Abubakar polled 29%, and Labour's candidate Peter Obi received 25% of the vote.
  - The opposition parties dismissed the poll as a sham and demanded a rerun.
  - He will become Nigeria's fifth elected president since 1999.
3. Pakistan Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif has appointed whom as the Ambassador-at-Large for Kartarpur Corridor \_\_\_\_\_ **Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora.**

**Note:**

- This appointment is part of efforts to attract Sikh pilgrims from across the world.
- He hails from Kartarpur in Narowal.
- He is also the central general secretary of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) minorities wing.
- This corridor links Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan with the Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur district, Punjab, India.

4. Who has created history by becoming the first woman MLA of the Nagaland Assembly \_\_\_\_\_ **Hekani Jakhalu.**

**Note:**

- She was announced the winner from the Dimapur-III constituency in the 2023 Nagaland Assembly elections.
- She defeated Azheto Zhimomi of LJP (Ram Vilas) by 1,536 votes.
- Of 31,874 votes counted in the constituency, she received 45.16% of the votes, just ahead of the LJP (RV)'s Azheto Zhimomi who received 40.34% votes.



5. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of whom as director general of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) till her superannuation (30.06.2024) \_\_\_\_\_ **Rashmi Shukla.**

**Note:**

- Presently, she is serving as the Additional Director General of CRPF.
- SSB: A border protection force of India deployed along the borders with Nepal and Bhutan.
- SSB Founded: 1963; Headquarters: New Delhi

6. Who has been elected as the new President of the Vietnam \_\_\_\_\_ **Van Thuong.**

**Note:**

- His election comes after the sudden resignation of his predecessor Nguyen Xuan Phuc in January 2023, who the Party blamed for wrongdoing and violations.
- A total of 487 out of 488 deputies present at the National Assembly voted for him.
- He is the youngest member of the party's Politburo (the country's top decision-making body).

7. Karnataka Bank has appointed whom as a chief financial officer (CFO) on a contract basis \_\_\_\_\_ **Abhishek Sankar Bagchi.**

**Note:**

- He has replaced Muralidhar Krishna Rao, whose tenure has been completed on 1 March 2023.
- He has over 18 years of work experience in RBI reporting, strategic planning, fund management, financial reporting, financial planning & control, taxation, and budgeting.
- He was CFO and Head of Finance at NSDL Payments Bank since September 2017.

8. Hockey India has appointed whom as the new chief coach of the Indian men's hockey team \_\_\_\_\_ **South African Craig Fulton.**

**Note:**

- He will succeed Australian Graham Reid who resigned in January 2023.
- He has nearly 25 years of coaching experience and earned 195 caps over a span of 10 years for South Africa.
- He also played Atlanta and Athens Olympic Games.
- He was named the Belgium Coach of the Year after he guided his club KHC Dragons to the Belgium Hockey League title in the 2020-21 season.

9. Who has been re-appointed as the Prime Minister of Kuwait \_\_\_\_\_ **Crown prince, Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf al-Sabah.**

**Note:**

- This decision came more than a month after the government resigned due to increased tensions with the parliament.
- Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Sabah, who also oversees the duties of the ruling emir has nominated Sheikh Ahmed.
- Although political parties are prohibited in Kuwait, the legislature has more power than similar bodies in other Gulf monarchies.

10. Who has taken charge as the 28th Controller General of Accounts (CGA) effective from 6th March 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **S.S. Dubey.**

**Note:**

- Prior to this role, he was an Additional Controller General of Accounts, Public Financial Management System (PFMS).
- CGA is 'the Principal Advisor' on Accounting matters to the Union Government.
- CGA is also responsible for exchequer control and internal audits for the Central Government.



11. Who has taken oath as the chief minister of Meghalaya for the second consecutive term \_\_\_\_\_ **Conrad K Sangma.**

**Note:**

- Governor Phagu Chauhan has administered the oath of office to Sangma.
- The sworn-in ceremony was attended by PM Narendra Modi, BJP president JP Nadda and home minister Amit Shah.
- While Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP)'s Neiphiu Rio will take oath as Nagaland chief minister.

12. Who has been sworn in as the new chief minister of Tripura for the second consecutive term \_\_\_\_\_ **Dr. Manik Saha.**

**Note:**

- Tripura governor Satyadeo Narain Arya administered the oath to him at Vivekananda Maidan in the capital city of Tripura, Agartala.
- The oath ceremony was attended by PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.
- In 2022, he was made the chief minister after replacing Biplab Deb.

13. Name the Indian-American has been confirmed as the first South Asian District Judge for the Southern District of New York \_\_\_\_\_ **Arun Subramaniam.**

**Note:**

- His nomination was confirmed by Senate Majority Leader Senator Chuck Schumer by a vote of 58-37.
- He received his Juris Doctor (J.D) from Columbia Law School in 2004 and his BA from Case Western Reserve University in 2001.
- South District New York notably has one of the largest South Asian-American populations in the country.

14. Who has been selected by the Indian Air Force to take over a frontline combat unit's command in the western sector \_\_\_\_\_ **Group Captain Shaliza Dhami (Ludhiana).**

**Note:**

- She becomes the first woman officer in the history of the IAF to be given the frontline combat unit command.
- Currently, she is posted in the operations branch of a frontline command headquarters.
- She also served as flight commander of a Chetak unit at the Hindon air base— both firsts for an IAF woman officer.

15. Who has been elected the third President of Nepal \_\_\_\_\_ **Ram Chandra Paudel.**

**Note:**

- He defeated CPN-UML Vice-chair Subash Chandra Nembang.
- He won the presidential elections with 33,802 votes, while his opponent received 15,518 votes.
- The President is elected by an Electoral College consisting of the members of the Federal Parliament and the Provincial Assembly.
- The tenure of Bidya Devi Bhandari as Nepal's President will be ended on March 12.

16. Who has been named by the Citi group as the head of Citi Commercial Bank (CCB) business in India \_\_\_\_\_ **Bhanu Vohra.**

**Note:**

- He has replaced Tushar Vikram, who is now the global head of healthcare for CCB.
- He will report to Ashu Khullar (Citi India CEO) and Rajat Madhok (head of Citi Commercial Bank Asia Pacific).





17. Who has been appointed as the new CEO of Axis Mutual Fund \_\_\_\_\_ **B Gopkumar.**

**Note:**

- He would replace Chandresh Nigam who has stepped down as the CEO.
- Nigam's tenure will be ended April 30, 2023, and Gopkumar will take over on May 1, 2023, for a 3-year term.
- Gopkumar has been in charge of Axis Securities since October 2019.

18. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) with effect from 27th June 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Rohit Jawa.**

**Note:**

- He is presently the Chief of Transformation for Unilever and has been appointed for 5-year.
- He will succeed Sanjiv Mehta, who was the part of Hindustan Unilever since 2013.
- He will also join Unilever Leadership Executive (ULE).

19. Who has secured an unprecedented third term as the President of China and has been re-elected as the General Secretary of the Communist Party for five-year \_\_\_\_\_ **Xi Jinping.**

**Note:**

- Nearly 3,000 members of China's rubber-stamp parliament, National People's Congress (NPC), voted unanimously for Xi Jinping to be president.
- Apart from him, Zhao Leji has been elected as the new parliament chair and Han Zheng as the new vice president.

20. Who has been appointed as the interim chairman of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) for three months with effect from March 14, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Siddhartha Mohanty.**

**Note:**

- He is presently a managing director and chief executive officer (MD & CEO) of LIC Housing Finance.
- Currently, Bishnu Charan Patnaik, Ipe Mini, Siddhartha Mohanty, and Raj Kumar are the Managing Director of LIC.

21. RBI has approved the appointment of whom as MD and CEO of IndusInd Bank for two years from 24 March 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Sumant Kathpalia.**

**Note:**

- RBI's confirmation comes nearly six months after the bank's board of directors had cleared another term for Kathpalia.
- He has been an MD & CEO of the bank since March 2020.
- Before this role, he served as Head of the Consumer Bank at IndusInd Bank.

22. Asia's first female locomotive pilot is operating the Vande Bharat Express. Who is she \_\_\_\_\_ **Surekha Yadav.**

**Note:**

- She operated Vande Bharat Express from Solapur to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminal (CSMT) in Maharashtra.
- She hails from Stara, Maharashtra, and become the country's first female train driver in 1988.

### **Important News – India**

1. Which ministry has launched a digital platform - Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC) \_\_\_\_\_ **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).**

**Note:**

- It was established by Union MoS Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar.



**Join Our Classroom Program Now**



- It is a faceless dispute-resolution mechanism that would make all platforms (big and small) accountable to digital citizens.
- In accordance with the modified IT Regulations, 2021, the IT Ministry announced that three GACs must be established.
- 2. Union MoS (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh has launched which Fellowship scheme for the Indian Diaspora abroad \_\_\_\_\_ **VAIBHAV**.

**Note:**

- Aim: To improve the research ecosystem of India's Higher Educational Institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world
- Eligible applicant:
- Should be NRI, PIO, or OCI.
- Must have obtained Ph.D/M.D/M.S degree from a recognized University.
- 3. Union Minister for fisheries and animal husbandry, Purushottam Rupala, has launched which phase of the National Surveillance programme \_\_\_\_\_ **Phase 2**.

**Note:**

- Reason: For aquatic animal diseases and genetic improvement programme
- Aim: To help the farmers to identify and report the disease and also offer solutions
- The government has allocated 33 Crore rupees for a period of three years for the implementation of the programme.
- The crop insurance scheme for shrimp-growing farmers was also launched.
- 4. The Indian govt has approved the signing contract with which organization for the acquisition of three Cadet Training Ships \_\_\_\_\_ **Larsen and Toubro Limited**.

**Note:**

- The delivery of these indigenously designed, developed, and constructed ships are scheduled to commence in 2026.
- These ships can use to train the officer cadets at sea and can be deployed for the evacuation of people.
- They can also train cadets from friendly countries to strengthen diplomatic relations.
- 5. Government eMarketplace (GeM) has commemorated the success of "SWAYATT" initiative. What is the full form of SWAYATT \_\_\_\_\_ **Startups, Women, and Youth Advantage Through eTransactions**.

**Note:**

- This initiative aims to promote Startups, Women, and Youth Advantage Through eTransactions (SWAYATT) on GeM.
- It was established by GeM in February 2019.
- Goal: To stimulate the inclusion of diverse categories of sellers and service providers on the portal.
- It was achieved by taking aggressive measures to simplify their training and registrations.
- 6. Which organization has commissioned India's first air-cooled condenser at the North Karanpura supercritical thermal plant in Jharkhand \_\_\_\_\_ **NTPC**.

**Note:**

- It would help in water conservation.
- This project has been envisaged with Air Cooled Condenser (ACC) which has almost 1/3rd water footprint as compared to a conventional Water Cooled Condenser (WCC).
- NTPC started commercial operation of 1st unit of 660 MW at North Karanpura (3X660 MW) on March 1, 2023.



7. Youth Affairs and Sports and Information and Broadcasting Minister, Anurag Singh Thakur has launched Yuva Utsava - India@2047 in which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Ropar, Punjab.**

**Note:**

- He has also launched the Dashboard of Yuva Utsav.
- Aim: To promote youth power
- In the first phase, Yuva Utsav is being organized in 150 districts across the country till the 31st of March, 2023.
- Youth Affairs Ministry is conducting 'Yuva Utsav India @2047' under its flagship youth organization Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan.

8. Union Home Minister, Amit Shah has launched the first phase of the Safe City project in which city \_\_\_\_\_ **Bengaluru, Karnataka.**

**Note:**

- The project is an initiative to ensure the safety and security of residents in Bengaluru, especially women.
  - Phase-1 of the project features high-resolution cameras, forensic vans, safety islands, and much more.
  - The city police must maintain maximum reach and speed in addressing emergency situations while using the right technological intervention.
9. During the Indian Seed Congress event, organized by the National Seed Association of India, Agriculture Minister said that the government would soon launch a seed traceability system. Who is he \_\_\_\_\_ **Narendra Singh Tomar.**

**Note:**

- Reason: To ensure the availability of good quality seeds to the farmers
  - This system will help to curb the pilferage in the seed trade sector.
  - India is in the leading position in agriculture but needs to be self-sufficient in oilseeds and cotton areas.
10. Which university has become the first foreign university to receive the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)'s approval to set up an International Branch Campus in GIFT City \_\_\_\_\_ **Deakin University (Australia).**

**Note:**

- During Budget 2023-24, Finance Minister announced that the World Class Foreign Universities and Institutions would be allowed in GIFT City.
  - The in-principle approval was based on the recommendation of the Committee of Experts set up by GIFT City Company Ltd.
11. President Droupadi Murmu has launched the 'Catch the Rain-2023' as part of efforts to turn the conservation of water into a mass campaign in the run-up to the monsoon season. What is the theme of this campaign for 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Source Sustainability for Drinking Water.**

**Note:**

- The president also conferred 18 awards under Swachh Bharat Mission – Grameen, Jal Jeevan Mission, and National Water Mission.
12. The SWAMIH Investment Fund has completed 20,557 homes worth ₹12,000 crore since its inception in 2019. What is the full form of SWAMIH \_\_\_\_\_ **Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing.**



**Note:**

- About SWAMIH Investment Fund:
  - It was launched in November 2019.
  - Aim: To complete stressed and brownfield properties registered under Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA).
  - SWAMIH investment fund is a government-funded initiative and it is managed by the State Bank Group's SBICAP Ventures Limited.
13. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has prohibited sale of hallmarked gold jewellery or gold artefacts without the \_\_\_\_\_ digit alphanumeric hallmark unique identification number (HUID) after March 31, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Six-digit.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To protect consumers and enhance their confidence in the purchase of hallmarked gold jewellery.
  - It would ensure traceability and assure quality in gold jewellery.
  - The six-digit HUID number was introduced on July 1, 2021.
14. Which edition of the Raisina Dialogue will be organized from 2-4 March 2023 in New Delhi \_\_\_\_\_ **8th.**

**Note:**

- The Dialogue will be inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi and joined by the PM of Italy, Giorgia Meloni as the Chief Guest.
  - Theme 2023: Provocation, Uncertainty, Turbulence: Lighthouse in the Tempest
  - It is a flagship conference of India on geopolitics and geo-strategy.
  - It is organized by the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with Observer Research Foundation.
15. The first Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) meeting of the G20 is being organized in which city of India from 1st - 3rd March 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Gurugram, Haryana.**

**Note:**

- The ACWG was joined by over 90 delegates from 20 member countries, 10 Invitee countries, and 9 International Organizations.
  - Aim: To strengthen International Anti-corruption mechanisms
  - G 20 ACWG meetings have one Chair (Presidency country) and one co-chair country.
  - The co-chair for the G20 ACWG 2023 is Italy.
16. Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated the three-day-long Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela in which city \_\_\_\_\_ **New Delhi.**

**Note:**

- It is being organized with the theme Nutrition, Food, and Environmental Protection with Shree Anna.
  - The event also conducts technical sessions on contemporary issues in Agriculture, including the development of Shree Anna-based value chain, Smart Farming Model, Sustainable Agriculture, and Farmer Producer Organisations.
17. India hosted the Quad Foreign Ministers in which city on March 3, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **New Delhi.**

**Note:**

- External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar chaired the meeting.
- The Foreign Ministers of Australia and Japan and the Secretary of State of the US participated in the meeting.



- It is an opportunity for the Ministers to continue their discussions held at their last meeting in New York in September 2022.

18. President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the 7th International Dharma-Dhamma Conference in which city of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Bhopal (MP)**.

**Note:**

- Theme: Eastern Humanism for the New Era
  - Aim: To bring together religious, political, and thought leaders from Dharma-Dhamma traditions to ponder over building a philosophical framework for the emerging new world order
  - Organized by: India Foundation in collaboration with Sanchi University of Buddhist-Indic Studies
19. Governor of Goa, P.S. Sreedharan Pillai has inaugurated which edition of the Commonwealth Law Conference in Goa, which is being held from March 5-9, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **23rd**.

**Note:**

- The event was also attended by Union Minister for Law, Kiren Rijiju, and Goa CM Pramod Sawant.
  - Minister also informed that the government had started eCourts phase III to make Indian Judiciary completely paperless.
  - 500 delegates from 52 countries attended the Conference.
  - It is a platform for open discussions on critical issues.
20. India and which country have agreed to work in the areas of deep tech startups and forge lasting ties in the manufacturing of semiconductor chips \_\_\_\_\_ **Lithuania**.

**Note:**

- Minister Jitendra Singh and Economy and Innovation Vice Minister of Lithuania, Karolis Aemaitis discussed ways and means to revive the 2010 agreement in the area of science and tech.
  - In 2010, a revised Indian counter-draft with a few modifications was formally submitted to the Lithuanian and its formal response is still awaited.
21. National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has signed two MoUs with \_\_\_\_\_ and Lamrin Tech Skill University \_\_\_\_\_ **HTMi**.

**Note:**

- NSDC and HTMi: It aims to provide certificates, diplomas, advanced diplomas, and certification courses in hospitality trades to aspiring students.
  - NSDC, HTMi, and LTSU: LTSU as an implementation partner for the first phase of this partnership, NSDC & HTMi envisage similar such partnerships as the program gets scaled up.
22. The flagship company of the Godrej Group, Godrej & Boyce has partnered with which organization to collaborate on Machinery & Plant (M&P) projects for Railways and Metro Rail, offering 'Made in India' world-class equipment \_\_\_\_\_ **Renmakch**.

**Note:**

- With the help of this partnership, Godrej & Boyce will be able to offer a complete value chain ranging from design to building for the Railways.
  - The Company has been a trusted partner of the Indian Railways for over 15 years.
23. India has signed an MoU with which country on research, technology, and innovation collaborations in New Delhi \_\_\_\_\_ **Mexico**.

**Note:**

- Focus: Key technology areas including Aerospace, Electronics, Earth and Ocean Sciences and Water, Minerals, Clean Energy, Biotech, and Healthcare
- Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh has assured Mexican Foreign Minister, Marcelo Ebrard that India with CSIR and sister Organizations will provide tangible results in the three priority areas of Water, Lithium and Vaccines.





24. After having comprehensive talks between Indian PM Modi and Giorgia Meloni, both countries are ready to elevate their bilateral ties to a strategic partnership. Giorgia Meloni is a PM of which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Italy**.

**Note:**

- Both countries signed an MoU on defense cooperation and announced the establishment of a 'Startup Bridge' between India and Italy.
  - Both nations also decided to hold joint exercises and training courses between the armed forces.
  - Italian PM also attended the 8th Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi.
25. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has installed a 200-meter-long Bamboo Crash Barrier on the Vani-Warora Highway in which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Maharashtra**.

**Note:**

- The highway connects the Chandrapur and Yavatmal districts of the state.
  - This Bamboo Crash Barrier has been christened as 'Bahu Balli'.
  - Bahu Bali: The bamboo species used in the making of this barrier is Bambusa Balcoa.
  - It is treated with creosote oil and coated with recycled High-Density Poly Ethylene (HDPE).
26. PM Anthony Albanese arrived in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on a state visit to India on March 8, 2023. He is a PM of which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Australia**.

**Note:**

- During his four-day tour, he will also visit Mumbai and Delhi as well.
  - He will be accorded a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhawan on 10th March and call on President Droupadi Murmu.
  - He will hold the Annual Summit with PM Modi to discuss areas of cooperation under the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
27. The Task Force report titled "Production and Promotion of Organic and Bio-fertilizers with Special Focus on Improving Economic Viability of Gaushalas" was released by which government organization \_\_\_\_\_ **NITI Aayog**.

**Note:**

- It suggested measures to make Gaushalas economically viable, address the problem of stray and abandoned cattle, and utilization of cow dung and cow urine in the agriculture and energy sector.
  - It provides factual estimate of operating and fixed costs and other Gaushalas issues.
28. Which organization has issued operational guidelines, that the government will provide financial assistance to eligible agencies for undertaking initiatives for the promotion of Geographical Indications (GIs) products \_\_\_\_\_ **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**.

**Note:**

- It can be extended to eligible agencies as 100% grants in aid for the promotion of GIs.
  - DPIIT is an arm of the commerce and industry ministry.
29. PM Modi has dedicated the 10-lane Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway in Karnataka to the nation. This expressway is \_\_\_\_\_ km long \_\_\_\_\_ **118Km**.

**Note:**

- It was constructed at a cost of over 8400 crore rupees.
- It will reduce the travel time between Bengaluru and Mysuru from three hours to about 75 minutes and boost connectivity and socio-economic growth in Karnataka.
- He also laid the foundation stone for the Mysuru-Kushalnagar highway.



30. Which railway zone has achieved 100% electrification of its broad gauge network of 3,825 kilometers \_\_\_\_\_ **Central Railway.**

**Note:**

- The CSMT-headquartered zonal railway informed that the 52-kilometer Ausa Road-Latur Road stretch in the Solapur division was the last non-electrified section and its electrification was completed in March 2023.
- This move helps in reducing carbon footprints of 5.204 lakh tonnes every year as well as savings of 1670 crore rupees.

31. Which edition of 'World Food India-2023' will be organized from 3-5 November 2023 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi \_\_\_\_\_ **Second.**

**Note:**

- The event will be organized by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- During the event, Union Minister Pashupati Kumar Paras outlined pivotal elements of the WFI-2023 as Millets- 'Shree Anna-The Super Food of India', Innovation and Sustainability 'Green Food', White Revolution 2.0, making India an export hub and focus on technology and digitisation.

32. The Ministry of Jal Shakti had constituted a Committee to identify how many Water Heritage Structure (WHS) in reference to 75 years of India's Independence \_\_\_\_\_ **75.**

**Note:**

- A total of 421 nominations were received and out of which, Committee has recommended 75 water heritage structures.
- It includes 5 WHS from Gujarat and 4 WHS from Andhra Pradesh.
- At present, there is no central fund allocated/dispensed for the maintenance of these sites.

33. India and which country signed Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) to strengthen cooperation and promote research networking between research institutions from both countries \_\_\_\_\_ **Sweden.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To promote mobility funding opportunities in both countries
- It facilitates academic cooperation through mobility activities as well as through seminars, workshops, and conferences.
- This partnership will take forward joint Science and Technology efforts particularly in smart cities, AI, and many more.

34. India and which country signed an audio-visual co-production agreement to offer filmmakers financial incentives amounting to up to 30% of the expenditure incurred in the respective countries \_\_\_\_\_ **Australia.**

**Note:**

- The agreement was signed by I&B Secretary Apurva Chandra and Australian High Commissioner Barry O'Farrell.
- Australia is the 16th country with which India has a co-production agreement.
- It would benefit mainly small filmmakers keen on shooting movies in that country.

35. India and which country inked an initial pact on increasing private-sector cooperation in the area of semiconductors \_\_\_\_\_ **USA.**

**Note:**

- The two countries would facilitate business opportunities and develop an ecosystem with a view to reducing their dependency on China and Taiwan.
- Both sides have agreed to set up a semiconductor sub-committee, led by the Department of Commerce for the US side and MeitY and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the Indian side.



36. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the 3rd Session of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) in which city on March 10, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **New Delhi.**

**Note:**

- Theme: Building Local Resilience in a Changing Climate
  - It is jointly organized by the Home Ministry, National Disaster Management Authority, National Disaster Response Force, and National Institute of Disaster Management.
  - It will comprise four Plenary Sessions, one Ministerial Session, and eight Thematic Sessions.
37. The Election Commission of India (ECI) hosted the 3rd International Conference in virtual format on 09 March 2023. What is the theme of this conference \_\_\_\_\_ **Inclusive Elections and Elections Integrity.**

**Note:**

- ECI is leading the Cohort on Elections Integrity which was established as a follow-up to the 'Summit for Democracy' held virtually in December 2021.
  - Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioners Anup Chandra Pandey and Arun Goel addressed the Conference.
38. Misra Centre for Financial Markets and Economy (MCFME) at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA), along with which organization has organized 'International Research Conference on FinTech: Innovation, Inclusion, and Regulation' \_\_\_\_\_ **Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning (CAFRAL).**

**Note:**

- It is a two-day conference for bringing top researchers, practitioners, and regulators from across the globe together to deliberate on key issues of FinTech.
39. Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav has inaugurated two-day G20 Flower Festival has been organized in which city \_\_\_\_\_ **New Delhi.**

**Note:**

- G20 countries like Japan, Singapore, and the Netherlands are participating in it.
  - Flower plants of different colours and varieties are being displayed in different forms and installations to showcase the diversity of the Indian subcontinent.
40. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioners Anup Chandra Pandey and Arun Goel has inaugurated Vote Fest 2023 to create awareness on the election process in which city \_\_\_\_\_ **Bengaluru.**

**Note:**

- They also inaugurated 'Electhon 2023', which is a 30-hour hackathon for securing the electoral future.
  - The fest seeks people's suggestions on improving voter turnout, ensuring the registration of new voters, and how to ensure the involvement of urban youth in the democratic process.
41. Which edition of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) has been concluded in New Delhi \_\_\_\_\_ **Third.**

**Note:**

- Organized by: Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM).
- NPDRR was comprised of 4 Plenary Sessions, 1 Ministerial Session, and 8 Thematic Sessions with more than 1200 subject experts, practitioners, academicians and delegates.



42. Who has inaugurated the exhibition titled 'Women and Nation Building: 1857 to the Republic' at National Archives of India, New Delhi on 133rd Foundation Day of National Archives of Indian \_\_\_\_\_ **Arjun Ram Meghwal.**

**Note:**

- The exhibition highlights the contributions of women in nation building and freedom struggle from 1857 in an interesting manner like Durgawati Devi and Kasturba Gandhi.
  - It also presents a selection of original documents drawn from the attics of the archival repository.
43. Which \_\_\_\_\_ launched the MSME Competitive (LEAN) Scheme at the NDMC Convention Centre, Delhi \_\_\_\_\_ **Union Minister Narayan Rane.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To provide a roadmap to global competitiveness for the MSMEs of India
- Under the scheme, MSMEs will implement LEAN manufacturing tools like 5S, Kaizen, KANBAN, visual workplace, and Poka Yoka.
- MSMEs can reduce wastages substantially, increase productivity, improve quality, work safely, expand their markets, and finally become competitive and profitable.

#### **Important News – World**

1. According to the WHO Global Report on Sodium Intake Reduction, two million deaths can be prevented by which year and seven million by 2030 if policies recommended by WHO to reduce sodium intake are implemented \_\_\_\_\_ **2025.**

**Note:**

- The world is off-track to achieve its global target of reducing sodium intake by 30% by 2025.
- The global average salt intake is estimated to be 10.8 grams per day (more than double the WHO recommendation of fewer than 5 grams of salt per day (one teaspoon)).

#### **Important News – State**

1. Irinjadappilly Sree Krishna Temple (Thrissur district), has introduced a life-size motorized model of an elephant for performing rituals such as carrying processional deities. This temple is located in which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Kerala.**

**Note:**

- The 11-foot-tall robotic elephant, weighing 800 kg and made of an iron frame and rubber coating, was donated by People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India.
  - Film actor Parvathy Thiruvothu joined hands with PETA in donating the robotic elephant, which cost 5 lakh rupees.
2. Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced that Mauganj, a tehsil of Rewa district, will be the \_\_\_\_\_ district of state \_\_\_\_\_ **53rd.**

**Note:**

- It will be developed by joining four tehsils of Rewa district.
  - Four tehsils: Mauganj, Hanumana, Nai Garhi, and Deotalab.
  - Residents of Mauganj were raising the demand for a separate district for a long time.
  - He has also released 605 crore in the bank accounts of 27,000 beneficiaries of the Sambal Yojana in financial distribution program.
3. Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has announced a nearly \_\_\_\_\_ increase in the monetary award under the Himachal Pradesh Mahila Vikas Protsahan Puraskar \_\_\_\_\_ **Five-fold.**

**Note:**

- The monetary award for the Mahila Vikas Protsahan Puraskar has been hiked to Rs 1 lakh from the current Rs 21,000.
- The allowance for district-level awards has been raised from Rs 5,000 to Rs 25,000.



4. Which iconic aircraft of legendary leader Biju Patnaik was unveiled by Odisha's CM, Naveen Patnaik at the Bhubaneswar for public viewing \_\_\_\_\_ **Dakota aircraft.**

**Note:**

- It was unveiled on the 107th birth anniversary of the former CM of Odisha.
  - It was brought from Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata to Bhubaneswar on January 18, 2023.
  - A 10-member team of Aerospace Research Development required has dismantled the aircraft and packed it in proper shape for public viewing
5. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw released a unique cover of the Department of Posts, 'Go Green, Go Organic' for which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Sikkim.**

**Note:**

- The special cover is a testament to the state's achievements in organic farming and progress and a reminder of the importance of sustainable development for the entire country.
  - Sikkim is the first state in the world to get recognized as an Organic state by the World Book of Records (London).
6. Which state celebrated Yaoshang festival \_\_\_\_\_ **Manipur.**

**Note:**

- The festival is celebrated by the Meetei who are predominantly Hindu and it is celebrated at the same time as Holi.
  - However, during the Yaoshang festival, apart from playing with colour, the festival also witnessed a number of cultural and religious activities for five days.
  - The Manipur Governor and CM conveyed warm greetings to the people of Manipur.
7. Which state government has announced to launch the fourth women's policy \_\_\_\_\_ **Maharashtra.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To give more opportunities to women
  - State Government initiative:
  - To introduce a rehabilitation scheme for those above 18 years old girls from the orphanage.
  - To start a Hirkani Room(Kaksha) for breastfeeding mothers at the police station.
  - Govt also proposed to provide equal and dignified positions to women in all sectors.
8. Which UT launched Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen Internship-2023 for engaging the youth, who are interested in working in rural areas \_\_\_\_\_ **Jammu and Kashmir.**

**Note:**

- It will provide an opportunity for young minds to gain valuable experience, develop their skills, and contribute meaningfully towards the implementation of the SBM (G) Phase II.
9. Which state has become India's first state to launch the Resham Keet Bima scheme for sericulturists \_\_\_\_\_ **Uttarakhand.**

**Note:**

- In the first phase of this pilot project, 200 sericulturists from five blocks of four districts -- Dehradun, Haridwar, Udham Singh Nagar, and Nainital -- have been insured from the ill effects of climate change, scarcity of water, and other hazards.
  - This scheme will be run under Saral Krishi Beema.
10. According to the Landslide Atlas report, prepared by the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of ISRO, which district has the maximum exposure to landslide risk in the country \_\_\_\_\_ **Rudraprayag (Uttarakhand).**





**Note:**

- Tehri district (Uttarakhand) ranked second on the list of landslide-prone districts.
  - As per the State Emergency Operation Centre data, Uttarakhand reported 253 landslides between 2018 and 2021.
  - Kerala's Thrissur and Palakkad districts ranked 3rd and 5th respectively.
11. Which state government announced a new livelihood and income-generating scheme for the tribal people with an outlay of Rs 500 crore for 2023-24 to 2025-26 \_\_\_\_\_ **Odisha**.

**Note:**

- The livelihood cluster development initiative will be implemented by the ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare dept under Mukhya Mantri Janajati Jeebika Mission.
  - The state-funded scheme will be implemented in 119 tribal sub-plan (TSP) blocks.
12. A new initiative called 'beggar-free city' has been started in which Indian city \_\_\_\_\_ **Nagpur, Maharashtra**.

**Note:**

- Commissioner of Police of Nagpur City, Amitesh Kumar informed that notification of 144 CrPC has been issued in this regard.
  - Notices have been served to people.
  - The Nagpur police will strictly enforce this and begging will not be allowed in public places.
  - This is the joint venture of Nagpur City police and Nagpur Municipal Corporation's (NMC) social welfare department.
13. Sweden India Business Council (SIBC) has signed an MoU with which state government for cooperation in waste to energy, sustainable infrastructure & transportation, defense manufacturing, and investment \_\_\_\_\_ **Maharashtra government**.

**Note:**

- The MoU was signed between SIBC and Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) in the presence of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.
- Both have also agreed to work together to explore and facilitate funding opportunities.

**Honor & Awards**

1. Which country has been awarded the prestigious GSM Association (GSMA) Government Leadership Award 2023 at Mobile World Congress Barcelona on 27 February 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **India**.

**Note:**

- Reason: For implementing best practices in telecom policy and regulation
  - Minister for Communications, Ashwini Vaishnaw has also informed that the Right of Way (RoW) permissions which used to take more than 230 days, now get approval within 8 days.
  - More than 85% of mobile tower clearances are now instantaneous.
2. Who has won the 2023 PEN America award for lifetime achievement in literature \_\_\_\_\_ **Hindi writer Vinod Kumar Shukla**.

**Note:**

- It is one of the most coveted literary prizes worldwide.
- His acclaimed novels like Naukar Ki Kameez (1979) and poetry collections like Sab Kuch Hona Bacha Rahega (1992).
- He was awarded the Sahitya Akademi award in 1999 for Naukar Ki Kameez, the Atta Galatta-Bangalore Literature Festival Book Prize in 2019, and the Mathrubhumi Book of the Year award in 2020.



3. Which Indian ministry has received the Porter Prize 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry.**

**Note:**

- The ministry was honored for the government's strategy in managing COVID-19, its approach, and the involvement of various stakeholders (involvement of ASHA workers to create PPE Kits).
  - It was announced during 'The India Dialog' at Stanford University, California.
  - Porter Prize: This award was named after award-winning economist Michael E. Porter.
  - Minister for Health: Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya
4. Under the Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) program of the Union Ministry for Power, which organization was awarded as the top performer among all Discoms across the country for energy conservation measures \_\_\_\_\_ **Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL).**

**Note:**

- The award ceremony was held in New Delhi on March 1.
  - During PAT cycle II, a total number of 80,686 'Energy saving certificates' (ESCerts) were issued to PSPCL.
  - PAT is a flagship scheme under the National Mission on Enhanced efficiency.
5. Which organization has been honored with the CBIP Award 2022 for Outstanding Contribution in Power Generation, attributed to its Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Station (VSTPS) \_\_\_\_\_ **NTPC Limited.**

**Note:**

- VSTPS is the largest power station in the country for its efficiency and high level of generation.
  - Union Minister of Power, R.K. Singh presented the award.
  - It is conferred to institutions/individuals for their outstanding contributions to the development of water, power, and Renewable Energy Sectors.
6. Who was honored with the Player-of-the-Year award 2023 by the Asian Chess Federation (ACF) for winning the gold medal with a record-breaking score of 9/11 in the 44th Chess Olympiad at Mahabalipuram \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian GM D Gukesh.**
- Most Active Federation: All India Chess Federation
  - Man-of-the-Year: Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin
  - Best Women's team of the Year: Indian women's team
  - Men's Coach-of-the-Year: GM R B Ramesh
  - Women's Coach-of-the-Year: GM Abhijit Kunte
7. According to the Airport Council International (ACI), which Indian airport has been ranked among the cleanest airports in Asia-Pacific \_\_\_\_\_ **Delhi airport.**

**Note:**

- ACI is a trade association of global airports.
  - The airport service quality award is based on passenger surveys carried out to rate customer satisfaction on the day of travel.
  - It covers over 30 performance indicators across key elements of a passenger's airport experience such as ease of finding your way and dining offerings.
8. Who has won the 2022 BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award after a public vote \_\_\_\_\_ **Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu.**

**Note:**

- She becomes the first athlete to win the award twice in a row after winning for the year 2021.
- At the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, she became the first Indian to win a silver medal in weightlifting.



- Para Sportswoman: Bhavina Patel (TT Player)
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Pritam Siwach (Women Hockey Player)
- Emerging Player: Nitu Ghanghas (Boxer)
- Best goal (Puskas award): Marcin Oleksy
- 9. Which Indian ministry has bagged a Golden & Silver Star at The International 'Golden City Gate Awards 2023' at ITB, Berlin 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Ministry of Tourism of India.**

**Note:**

- Category: TV/Cinema Commercials International and Country International
  - Arvind Singh, Secretary (Tourism) received awards on 8th March 2023 at ITB, Berlin.
  - The Golden City Gate Tourism Multi-media Awards are given annually in various categories related to the Tourism and Hospitality sectors.
10. The Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri has launched the WINS Awards 2023. What is the full form of WINS \_\_\_\_\_ **Women Icons Leading Swachhata.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To recognize celebrate and disseminate inspiring and exemplary initiatives in urban sanitation and waste management by women-led organizations and individual women.
  - The applications are open from 8th March to 5th April 2023.
  - Applications for the Awards are open to SHG, Micro-enterprises, NGOs, Startups, and Individuals.
11. RRR's Naatu Naatu has created history by winning the prestigious Academy Awards 2023 in which category \_\_\_\_\_ **Best Original song.**

**Note:**

- The music of Naatu Naatu was given by M. M. Keeravani and Lyrics by Chandrabosedouble-dagger.
- While India's The Elephant Whisperers (directed by Kartiki Gonsalves) won the award for Best Documentary Short Subject.
- Best Actress: Michelle Yeoh (Everything Everywhere All at Once)
- Best Actor: Brendan Fraser (The Whale)

**Sports News**

1. Asia's longest-ever cycle race was flagged off from Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar (J&K) and will culminate at which city \_\_\_\_\_ **Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu).**

**Note:**

- The race will cover the longest highway, National Highway-44 distance of 3651 kilometers, passing through twelve major states, three major metropolitan cities, and over twenty major cities of the country.
  - It has been accorded the status of Asian Ultracycling Championship by the World Ultracycling Association.
2. Who defeated his Russian compatriot Andrey Rublev by 6-2, 6-2 to win the 2023 Dubai Tennis Championships title \_\_\_\_\_ **Daniil Medvedev.**

**Note:**

- With this performance, he moved to sixth in the ATP rankings, while Rublev dropped to number seven.
- After winning the trophies in Rotterdam and Doha in February 2023, he is the third player to win three titles in as many weeks since 2021, joining Casper Ruud (July 2021) and Felix Auger-Aliassime (October 2022).



3. Which team won its 5th Santosh Trophy National Football Championship title after defeating Meghalaya by 3-2 in the final at the King Fahd International Stadium in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia \_\_\_\_\_ **Karnataka.**

**Note:**

- Karnataka last won the title 54 years ago.
  - Earlier, Services won third place beating Punjab 2-0 in the play-off match held before the final.
  - Most successful team: West Bengal (32 titles)
  - Santosh Trophy was founded in 1941 and organized by the All India Football Federation (AIFF).
4. Who has won the season-opening Bahrain Grand Prix 2023, held at Bahrain International Circuit \_\_\_\_\_ **Red Bull's driver, Max Verstappen.**

**Note:**

- He defeated Red Bull's Sergio Perez, who placed second in the race.
  - It was the first time he had won in Bahrain and also the first time he had triumphed in a Formula One opener.
  - Fernando Alonso (Aston Martin's driver) placed third followed by C. Sainz Jr. (Ferrari's driver).
5. Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated Khelo India Dus Ka Dum Tournament at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in which city \_\_\_\_\_ **New Delhi.**

**Note:**

- In the run-up to the International Women's Day 2023 celebrations, the Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry organized the Khelo India Dus Ka Dum tournament from the 10th to the 31st of March.
- Nearly 15,000 women athletes participated in the contest in more than 50 cities of the country.
- The game features 10 sports.

### **Books and Authors**

1. Who released the book 'India's Vaccine Growth Story- From Cowpox to Vaccine Maitri' at World Book Fair in New Delhi \_\_\_\_\_ **Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya.**

**Note:**

- Additional Secretary of Finance Ministry Sajjan Singh Yadav has authored the book.
  - Dr. Mandaviya also urged the writers to inculcate research-based documentation.
  - The research-based documentation reflects knowledge and science that have proven exemplary in times of crisis.
2. Who has released a book titled India's Struggle for Independence – Gandhian Era \_\_\_\_\_ **Supreme Court Judge Justice V. Ramasubramanian.**

**Note:**

- It was authored by a former Judge of Madras High Court, P. Jyothimani, and G. Balan, former professor of history, Pachaiyappa's College.
  - It was published by Vanathi Pathipagam.
  - The book covers aspects such as the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi as of the date.
3. Who has authored the book titled "As Good as My Word" \_\_\_\_\_ **KM Chandrasekhar.**

**Note:**

- He served as the Cabinet Secretary from 2007 to 2011.
- The book provides knowledge of Indian politics and bureaucracy during the UPA era.
- In his book, Chandrasekhar gives a thorough overview of the UPA administration during one of its most difficult periods and talks about his own role in navigating India through many crises.



4. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar released of the book “Mundaka Upanishad: The Gateway to Eternity”. It was written by \_\_\_\_\_ Dr. Karan Singh.

**Note:**

- Dr. Karan Singh is a former member of parliament.
- He is a philosopher and politician from India.
- Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan initially released this book in 1987.

**Science and Defence**

1. ISRO has successfully conducted the flight acceptance hot test of which engine for the Chandrayan-3 mission \_\_\_\_\_ **CE-20 cryogenic**.

**Note:**

- The test was successfully conducted on February 24 at the ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.
  - The hot test was carried out for a planned duration of 25 seconds at the High Altitude Test Facility.
  - The engine will power the Cryogenic Upper Stage of the LVM3 launch vehicle of the mission.
2. The Indian government has approved the procurement of 70 HTT-40 Basic Trainer Aircraft from which organization for the Indian Air Force \_\_\_\_\_ **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.

**Note:**

- Reason: It will meet the shortage of basic trainer aircraft of IAF for the training of newly inducted pilots.
  - The HTT-40 is a turboprop aircraft designed to have good low-speed handling qualities and provide better training effectiveness.
  - The aircraft will be supplied over six years.
3. The maiden joint military exercise 'FRINJEX-23' between India and which country, will be scheduled to conduct at the Pangode military station in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala from March 7 and 8, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **France**.

**Note:**

- It is for the first time that both countries are engaging in this format with each contingent comprising a Company Group.
  - The theme for the exercise is based on “Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Operations in a Contested Environment”.
4. Which INS has participated in the International Maritime Exercise/ Cutlass Express 2023 (IMX/CE-23), which is being held in the Gulf region from 26 Feb to 16 Mar 23 \_\_\_\_\_ **INS Trikand**.

**Note:**

- INS will exercise with participants from over 50 nations and international maritime agencies.
- Common aim: To enhance maritime security and keep sea lanes in the region safe for maritime commerce.
- IMX/CE-23 is one of the largest multinational maritime exercises in the world.

5. Which edition of the 2023 Naval Commanders' Conference has been started on March 6, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **First**.

**Note:**

- The first phase of the conference is held onboard India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, in the Arabian Sea off Goa.
- Rajnath Singh addressed the Naval Commanders onboard INS Vikrant.
- This conference serves as a platform for Naval Commanders to discuss important security issues at the military-strategic level and interact with senior government functionaries.





6. The US Air Force handed over an earth observation satellite, NISAR to ISRO on March 8, 2023. What is the fullform of NISAR \_\_\_\_\_ **NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar.**

**Note:**

- A US Air Force C-17 aircraft carrying the NISAR has landed in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
  - It was jointly developed by NASA and ISRO.
  - This satellite will be used by ISRO for a variety of purposes including agricultural mapping, and landslide-prone areas.
  - It is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory.
  - It will map the entire globe in 12 days.
7. ISRO has successfully carried out an "extremely challenging" controlled re-entry experiment of the decommissioned orbiting which satellite \_\_\_\_\_ **Megha-Tropiques-1 (MT-1).**

**Note:**

- The final impact region estimated is in the deep Pacific Ocean within the expected latitude and longitude boundaries.
  - The low Earth satellite was launched on October 12, 2011.
  - It is a joint satellite venture of ISRO and the French space agency, CNES for tropical weather and climate studies.
8. Which space agency has partnered with the Italian Space Agency, Agenzia Spaziale Italiana (ASI) to build and launch MAIA (Multi-Angle Imager for Aerosols) missions \_\_\_\_\_ **NASA.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To investigate the health impacts of air pollution in the world's most populated cities.
  - It is the first mission of the agency whose primary goal is to benefit societal health and will launch before the end of 2024.
  - It will consist of the PLATiNO-2 satellite (provided by ASI), and a science instrument (NASA).
9. The Indian Navy successfully fired a medium-range surface-to-surface missile (MRSAM) from which INS \_\_\_\_\_ **INS Visakhapatnam.**

**Note:**

- Reason: To validate the capability of the anti-tank missiles
  - MRSAM was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and produced at Bharat Dynamics Ltd.
  - The DRDO has already handed over two other versions to Indian Army and Indian Air Force to augment the country's air defense power.
10. Which edition of the multi-lateral maritime exercise La Pérouse 2023 started between the navies of India, Australia, French, Japan, and the United States in the Indian Ocean Region from 13-14 March 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Third edition.**

**Note:**

- It is a biennial exercise, conducted by the French Navy.
  - Aim: To enhance maritime domain awareness and optimize maritime coordination amongst the participating navies in the Indo-Pacific Region
  - India's INS Sahyadri and fleet tanker INS Jyoti have participated.
11. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report, which country remained the world's largest arms importer from 2018 to 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **India.**

**Note:**

- Saudi Arabia is the second-largest arms importer from 2018 to 2022.
- Russia was India's largest arms supplier in the periods between 2013-17 and 2018-22.
- But Russia's share of arms imports to India fell from 64 to 45%.

While France emerged as the second-largest arms supplier to India followed by the US.



# Buy Test Series

---

## Unlock All 650+ Mock Tests for SSC & Railway

- Unlimited Access
- All Exams covered
- Designed by Experts
- Performance Analysis