

Bi-weekly Current Affairs (16-31) March 2023 (English PDF)

Bi-Weekly One Liner Updates

16-31st March 2023

Dear readers,

Bi-Weekly One-Liners Updates is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **two weeks** (16-31st) of **March 2023**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. What is the Wholesale Price-based Inflation (WPI) for February 2023 _____ **3.85%**.

Note:

- It will primarily contribute to the fall in the prices of crude petroleum, food products, electronics, chemicals, and electrical equipment.
- In February, fuel and power rose 14.82% as compared to 15.15% in January 2023.
- While the food index stood at 2.76% (Feb 2023) against 2.95% (Jan 2023).
- Retail inflation (Feb 2023): 6.44%

2. How many countries' foreign banks have received approval from RBI to open Vostro accounts to settle international trade in rupees _____ **18**.

Note:

- 18 Countries: Botswana, Fiji, Germany, Guyana, Israel, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Oman, Russia, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda, and UK
 - MoS Finance, Bhagwat Karad informed in the Rajya Sabha.
 - In July 2022, govt informed that it would set up a mechanism to settle international trade in rupees.
3. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved Reliance Industries Ltd to acquire which German firm wholesale operations in India for ₹2,850 crore _____ **Metro AG's**.

Note:

- On 22 December 2022, Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL) signed definitive agreements to acquire a 100% equity stake in Metro Cash & Carry India Pvt Ltd.
 - Metro started operations in India in 2003 as the first company to introduce a cash-and-carry business format in the country.
4. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) signed an MoU with which international bank to promote innovation in financial products and services _____ **Central Bank of the UAE**.

Note:

- Both central banks will work together to explore Central Bank Digital Currencies.
 - They will also investigate interoperability between the CBDCs of CBUAE and RBI.
 - They will conduct proof-of-concept and pilot tests of the bilateral CBDC bridge to facilitate cross-border transactions of remittances and trade.
5. According to the credit rating agency CRISIL report, what would be India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2023-24 _____ **6%**.

Note:

- Report Title: Rider in the Storm: Tracing India's Growth in a Volatile World
- It was also estimated that the corporate revenue would continue to grow in double digits, buoyed by strong domestic demand.
- Retail inflation will average 5% over 2023-24, lower than the 6.8% (averaged in 2022-23).



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6. Which General Insurance company announced the Digit Double Wallet, Digit Infinity Wallet, and Digit Global Treatment under its Health Insurance policy _____ **Go Digit General Insurance.**

Note:

- The three plans—Digit Double Wallet, Digit Infinity Wallet, and Digit Global Treatment
 - Aim: To meet Indians' newly evolved health insurance demands following the pandemic
 - Under the Infinity Wallet and Worldwide Treatment plan for every claim-free year, the policyholders can earn 50% of the sum insured as a cumulative bonus of up to 100% of the SI.
7. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed Rs 5 lakh monetary penalty on which mortgage financier for failing to transfer matured deposits of certain depositors to designated bank accounts of such depositors during 2019-20 _____ **HDFC Ltd.**

Note:

- As per RBI, HDFC was found to be non-compliant with certain provisions of Housing Finance Companies (NHB) Directions, 2010.
 - CEO of HDFC Bank: Sashidhar Jagdishan.
8. Sri Lanka's Seylan Bank has opened an Indian rupee-denominated Nostro account in which bank of India in Mumbai _____ **Indian Bank.**

Note:

- Aim: To help in setting cross-border transactions using the Indian rupee
 - It enables local customers to enter into transactions denominated in the Indian Rupee and eliminates the need to conduct Trade and Remittance transactions in US dollars.
 - Nostro account: It is a bank account held in a foreign country by a domestic bank, denominated in the currency of that country.
9. Which government organization has received approval from the Union Government for listing on the Stock Exchanges _____ **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA).**

Note:

- The CCEA decided to approve an Initial Public Offer (IPO) by the part sale of the Government's stake in the CPSE.
 - Aim: To raise funds through the issue of fresh equity shares
 - Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) will drive the listing process.
10. Which life insurance provider has launched Pru Gold plan _____ **ICICI Prudential Life.**

Note:

- It is an innovative long-term savings product designed to enable customers to create an additional income stream to meet their diverse income requirements.
 - Besides receiving guaranteed lifelong income, the life cover component in the product provides financial security to the family.
 - This product is available in three variants i.e. Immediate Income, Immediate Income with Booster, and Deferred Income.
11. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) executive board has approved a loan of _____ four-year extended financing arrangement for Sri Lanka _____ **\$3-billion.**

Note:

- It paves the way for an immediate disbursement of about \$333 million to the cash-strapped country.
- The new Extended Fund Facility (EFF) arrangement program aims to restore Sri Lanka's macroeconomic stability and debt sustainability, mitigate the economic impact on the poor and vulnerable, and safeguard financial sector stability.



12. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of 22.7 million rupees (\$274,915) on which private lender _____ **RBL Bank Ltd.**

Note:

- Reason: For not complying with certain directives on loan recovery agents
 - The RBI has found deficiencies in regulatory compliance after it examined complaints received against RBL's recovery agents during the financial years 2018-19 to 2021-22.
 - RBL Headquarters: Mumbai; MD & CEO: R. Subramaniakumar
13. The gross NPA ratio was declining from 14.6% in March 2018 to _____ in December 2022
_____ **5.53%.**

Note:

- All PSBs are in profit with aggregate profit being Rs 66,543 crore in 2021-22 and that further increased to Rs 70,167 crore in the first nine months of the current financial year.
 - At the same time, resilience has increased with the provision coverage ratio of PSBs rising from 46% to 89.9% in December 2022.
 - The capital adequacy ratio improved from 11.5% to 14.5% in December 2022.
14. India and the World Bank have signed a loan agreement to construct the Green National Highway Corridors Project in how many States _____ **Four.**

Note:

- Four states: HP, Rajasthan, UP, and Andhra Pradesh
 - The agreement has been signed to construct 781 kilometers, with loan assistance of 500 million dollars.
 - The total project cost is over 7,662 crore rupees.
 - Objective: To demonstrate safe and green highways keeping in view climate resilience and the use of green technologies
15. Which Qatar bank has announced to launch of a Unified Payment Interface (UPI) remittance service to India _____ **Commercial Bank.**

Note:

- With this decision, this bank becomes the first bank in Qatar to offer this service.
 - Customers can use Commercial Banking digital platforms to initiate UPI payments using UPI-ID.
 - The transactions can be completed within 60 seconds and are available 24/7.
 - UPI is a convenient payment system that allows customers to transfer money in real time.
16. Women employees constitute over _____ of the total workforce on average in the nationalized banks in the country _____ **25%.**

Note:

- The largest Public Sector Bank-- the State Bank of India (SBI), has 26.7% women employees in their total staff strength.
 - While Indian Overseas Bank has a maximum of 36% women staff and the Punjab National Bank has the least 24% women staff strength.
 - This data was provided by the Ministry of Finance in the Lok Sabha.
17. According to the data shared by the Union MoS for Finance, Dr. Bhagwat Kisanrao Karad in Rajya Sabha, the enrolments under Atal Pension Yojana have shown a hike of what percent in FY 2021-22 from FY 2019-20 _____ **More than 40%.**



Note:

- The total fund allocated under APY for Government Co-contribution, Payment of Incentives to Banks, Promotional Campaigns, and Gap fund is Rs. 2078.94 crore (2015 to Feb 2023).
 - Out of the total amount, Rs. 1529.41 crores has been released till February 2023.
18. According to the Finance Ministry report, the Indian economy is expected to grow at what percent in FY23 despite global headwinds _____ **7%**.

Note:

- Retail inflation would moderate in line with wholesale inflation which fell to a 25-month low in January 2023.
 - It will be supported by the gains from high services exports, the moderation in oil prices, and the recent fall in import-intensive consumption demand.
 - The current account deficit (CAD) of India is estimated to fall in FY23 and FY24.
19. Which bank has entered into a co-lending pact with Autotrak Finance (AFL) through YubiCo.Lend platform to offer new tractor loans for agricultural and allied activities in rural segments of the country _____ **Axis Bank**.

Note:

- This partnership will leverage the wide customer experience of Autotrak Finance and the deep financial expertise of Axis Bank to enable easy credit availability for farmers.
 - They would be able to reach out to potential customers.
 - Axis Bank CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry
20. Which government department has launched a free-of-cost Mobile app namely AIS for taxpayers _____ **Income Tax Department**.

Note:

- Aim: To facilitate the taxpayers to view their information as available in the Annual Information Statement (AIS) and Taxpayer Information Summary (TIS)
 - In the app, taxpayers can view various information related to TDS, interest, share transactions, tax payments, Income Tax refunds, and GST Data among others.
 - It will also have the option and the facility to provide feedback.
21. Which fintech organization has collaborated with Bharat BillPay to strengthen its loan repayment facility _____ **Amazon Pay**.

Note:

- Bharat BillPay is a biller platform of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
 - Loan repayment is one of the top categories in terms of bill payment, amongst other options such as electricity and municipal tax payments.
 - The category facilitates loan repayment options for customers who avail of their loans through banks, microfinance institutions, and NBFCs.
22. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has laid the foundation stone for the establishment of a "Greenfield Data Centre" and 'Enterprise Computing & Cybersecurity Training Institute' in which state _____ **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.

Note:

- The Governor also highlighted the need for augmenting the existing computing infrastructure of the RBI supported by cutting-edge facilities for research and capacity building.
- It will cater to the emerging requirements of the RBI and the financial sector.



23. Which country joined the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) as an official member _____ **Egypt**.

Note:

- Egypt completed all the necessary procedures to become an eligible member on February 20, 2023.
 - BRICS' New Development bank was established in July 2014, after an intergovernmental agreement was signed by the partner nations at the sixth BRICS summit in Fortaleza.
 - NDB bank includes India, Brazil, Russia, China, and South Africa as member countries.
24. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 30 lakh on which bank for violating rules _____ **Karur Vysya Bank**.

Note:

- Reason: For non-compliance with certain provisions of directions issued by RBI on 'Reserve Bank of India (Frauds - Classification and reporting by commercial banks and select FIs) directions 2016'
 - The penalty was imposed in the exercise of powers conferred on RBI under the provisions of Section 47 A(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
25. The central government has increased the Dearness Allowance (DA) by how much percent, taking the total to 42% of the Basic Pay for central government employees and pensioners _____ **4%**.

Note:

- The Union Cabinet has given its approval to release an additional installment of DA to Central Governments employees and Dearness Relief to Pensioners with effect from 1st January 2023.
 - The combined impact on the exchequer on account of both DA and Dearness Relief will be over 12,815 crore rupees per annum.
26. Which bank signed an agreement as an additional bancassurance partner in the life insurance category with SBI Life _____ **Karur Vysya Bank**.

Note:

- Under this arrangement, banks earn additional revenue from the sale of insurance products via commission.
 - And, insurance companies can reach a wider set of customers without increasing their manpower.
 - Bancassurance: It is an arrangement between a bank and an insurance firm through which the insurer sell its products to the bank's customers.
27. Which international organization will provide a loan of up to Rs 754 crore to SAEL Industries Ltd for setting up biomass power plants in Rajasthan _____ **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**.

Note:

- SAEL is a solar and agricultural waste-to-energy company.
 - It has developed a business model where crop residues are used as fuel in waste-to-energy projects.
 - The company aims to grow its portfolio to 3.5 GW over the next four years by adding 100 MW of new biomass and 600 MW of new solar capacity annually.
28. The Centre has notified a hike in wage rates up to 10% under MGNREGS for 2023-24, which state having the highest daily wage at ₹357 per day _____ **Haryana**.

Note:

- Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh the lowest at ₹221.
- The wage hikes, which range from ₹7 to ₹26, will come into effect from April 1, 2023.
- It is a flagship program aimed at enhancing the livelihood security of households in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment.



29. Which General Insurance launched the 'Anywhere Cashless' feature for health insurance policyholders to avail of cashless facilities at any hospital _____ **ICICI Lombard**.

Note:

- The feature will be subject to the hospital's acceptance of the cashless facility.
 - Policyholders must inform the company 24 hours prior to the date of admission by giving basic information about the patient, policy details, hospital name, diagnosis, and treating doctor, among others.
30. S&P Global Ratings has kept its forecast for India's economic growth unchanged at what percent for 2023-24 and 6.9% for 2024-25 _____ **6%**.

Note:

- In the quarterly economic update for Asia-Pacific, S&P highlighted that the inflation rate will be eased to 5% in 2023-24 from 6.8% in the current financial year (2022-23).
 - It has also been forecasted that the GDP of India will grow by 7% in the current financial year ending March 31 (2022-23).
 - S&P Global HQ: New York, U.S.
31. According to the World Bank's report titled 'Falling Long-Term Growth Prospects: Trends, Expectations, and Policies', the global economy's 'speed limit' is on track to crash to a three-decade low by which year _____ **2030**.

Note:

- The 'speed limit' refers to the maximum long-term growth rate without sparking inflation concerns.
 - At 2.2%, the global average potential GDP growth rate would be sharply lower than the 3.5% recorded in the first decade of the century.
32. Aditya Birla Group has agreed to sell its insurance broking business, Aditya Birla Insurance Brokers Ltd (ABIBL) to which private equity firm for ₹455 crore _____ **Samara Capital**.

Note:

- ABIBL is specialized in providing integrated insurance broking and advisory services to companies and individuals.
 - It also offers reinsurance solutions to insurance companies.
 - It is subject to receipt of the approval of IRDAI and other regulatory and statutory approvals.
33. Which bank will acquire Silicon Valley Bank and assume control of all its deposits and loans _____ **First Citizens Bank**.

Note:

- As part of the deal, North Carolina-based First Citizens Bank has agreed to purchase \$72 billion worth of SVB's assets at a \$16.5 billion discount from the FDIC.
 - First Citizens Bank will take control of \$56 billion in deposits.
 - The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) will continue to retain receivership of around \$90 billion worth of SVB's assets.
34. Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has fixed what percent interest rate on employees' provident fund (EPF) deposits for 2022-23 _____ **8.15%**.

Note:

- In March 2022, EPFO lowered the interest on EPF for 2021-22 to 8.1% for its about five crore subscribers, from 8.5% in 2020-21.
- After the CBT's decision, the interest rate on EPF deposits for 2022-23 will be sent to the Ministry of Finance for concurrence.



- EPFO provides the interest rate only after finance ministry ratification.
35. The government has set a maximum rate of GST compensating cess on pan masala, cigarettes, and other kinds of tobacco, with the highest rate tied to the retail sale price. What is the full form of GST _____ **Goods and Services Tax.**

Note:

- The cess rate was capped as part of amendments to the Finance Bill 2023.
- According to the amendment, the maximum GST compensation cess rate for pan masala will be 51% of the retail sale price per unit, from the current cess charge at 135% ad valorem.
36. Which organization has received approval from RBI to commence operations as an NBFC Account Aggregator (AA) _____ **CRIF Connect Private.**

Note:

- CRIF Connect is uniquely positioned to benefit both consumers and financial institutions.
- It is an end-to-end encrypted platform that securely fetches and transfers a consumer's financial data based on their explicit consent between financial institutions, making data sharing extremely safe based on RBI-approved guidelines.
37. The SEBI has simplified the procedural requirements for FPIs onboarding. What is the full form FPI _____ **Foreign Portfolio Investors.**

Note:

- SEBI has allowed designated depository participants (DDPs) to grant FPI registration based on scanned copies of application forms and supporting documents.
- Trading can only be activated following the verification of the physical documents.
- It has allowed DDPs to accept the use of digital signatures by FPIs for the execution of registration-related documents.
38. SEBI has imposed penalties totaling of what amount on PNB Finance and Industries Ltd, Camac Commercial Company Ltd, and various other entities _____ **₹35.67 crore.**

Note:

- It includes promoters Samir Jain and Meera Jain who have also been barred from the securities market.
- Reason: Comply with the minimum public shareholding requirement under Sebi norms
- Listed companies are required to have at least 25% public shareholding.
- SEBI imposed a fine of Rs 12 crore on PNBFIL.
39. Which organization has recommended an interchange fee of up to 1.1% on merchant UPI transactions done using prepaid payment instruments (PPIs)-wallets/cards-with effect from April 1, 2023 _____ **NPCI.**

Note:

- The charges will be levied on UPI payments of over ₹2,000 made to online merchants, large merchants, and small offline merchants.
- However, on certain merchant categories, a lower interchange starting from 0.5%, might be levied as per applicable caps.
40. Under the IRDAI (Payment of Commission) Regulations, 2023, the IRDAI has replaced the earlier individual cap on commission payments on insurance products with an overall cap on EoM of insurers _____ **Expenses of Management.**



Note:

- EoM: It is computed as a percentage of premiums collected, and includes commissions/other expenses.
 - It is applicable for life and non-life insurers.
 - The EoM of general insurers cannot exceed 30% of the gross premium written in India in a financial year.
41. The Finance Ministry informed that the government has decided to make a gross market borrowing of what amount in the first half of FY24 _____ **₹8.88 trillion.**

Note:

- It is accounting for 57.55% of the overall market borrowings planned for the year.
 - The borrowing is scheduled to be completed in 26 weekly tranches of Rs 31,000-39,000 crore.
 - The Centre has budgeted a gross market borrowing of ₹15.43 trillion in FY 2024.
 - The borrowing program is finalized in consultation with the RBI.
42. According to data presented in the Rajya Sabha, the public sector banks (PSBs) have written off around what amount in the first 9 months of the current fiscal year _____ **₹91,000 crores.**

Note:

- PSBs have just managed to recover a little over ₹1 out of ₹5 in written-off accounts during FY22.
 - However, the pace of recovery has picked up from around 8% in 2017-18 to a little over 21% in FY22.
 - Bank-wise details: SBI (₹17,356 cr) followed by Union Bank of India (₹16,497 crore), and BoB (₹13,032 cr)
43. SEBI has approved a framework for an ASBA like facility for secondary market trading. What is the full form of ASBA _____ **Application Supported by a Blocked Amount.**

Note:

- It is based on the blocking of funds for trading in the secondary market through UPI.
 - ASBA:
 - It is an IPO application process under which the application money by an investor is blocked in that investor's bank account.
 - And once the IPO application is approved, the application money is debited from the investor's account.
44. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has allowed PE funds to sponsor Mutual Fund schemes. What is the full form of PE _____ **Private Equity.s**

Note:

- The decision comes in the backdrop of IDFC Mutual Fund getting acquired by a consortium comprising Bandhan Financial Holdings Ltd, Sovereign Wealth Fund GIC, and private equity fund ChrysCapital.
 - It has also permitted the set-up of self-sponsored asset management companies (AMCs).
 - SEBI chairperson: Madhabi Puri Buch
45. The Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank has approved a \$100 million loan to which Indian state _____ **Odisha.**

Note:

- Reason: To robust its early forecasting systems for improved response to disasters and enhance its social protection coverage for poor and vulnerable households through digital platforms
- Odisha is vulnerable to natural disasters with cyclones hitting the state every 15 months on average.
- The Program has a maturity of 12.5 years with a grace period of 3 years.



46. Which fintech organization has joined hands with NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) to extend its support to women entrepreneurs in the country _____ **BharatPe.**

Note:

- Focus area: To facilitate the development of a first-of-its-kind aggregator platform that gives access to peer support, mentorship, networking channels
 - According to the 6th economic census, women comprise only 13.76% of the total entrepreneurs in India.
47. Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co. Ltd. (ABHICL) has signed a bancassurance pact with which bank for the distribution of health insurance products _____ **UCO Bank.**

Note:

- This partnership enables ABHICL to expand its national footprint by leveraging UCO Bank's widely distributed network of 3,164 branches.
 - ABHICL now has 17 bancassurance partners with over 80,000 direct-selling agents, across the country.
 - CEO, Aditya Birla Health Insurance: Mayank Bathwal
48. Which capital firm has signed a strategic MoU with the State Bank of India (SBI) for various financial products and offerings _____ **Godrej Capital.**

Note:

- Both organizations joined together to make financial solutions more accessible and affordable, unlocking opportunities for financial inclusion.
 - The association leverages the strengths of both groups by facilitating a gamut of financial services provided by the bank such as banking products, credit cards, and wealth management.
49. Axis Bank and which Housing Finance Limited signed a partnership agreement under the co-lending model through the Yubi Co.Lend platform _____ **Shriram Housing Finance Limited.**

Note:

- Both lenders will offer secured MSME loans and home loans to the middle and low-income segment borrowers based in rural and semi-urban regions.
 - It will leverage the financial expertise of bank, and the loan processing technology of SHFL to assess the credit profile of borrowers and provide loans at competitive interest rate
50. Ambit Finvest has partnered with SKALEUP (digital technology services arm of Bajaj Finserv Direct) to develop a D2C instant loan application. What is the full form of D2C _____ **Direct-to-customer.**

Note:

- Under this partnership, they will provide give business loans to MSME business owners through a completely paperless and automated digital onboarding process.
 - Ambit Finvest is the NBFC of the Ambit Group.
 - CEO of Bajaj Finserv Direct: Ashish Panchal
51. The World Bank's Executive Board of Directors has approved a USD 363 million loan to which Indian state _____ **Karnataka.**

Note:

- Reason: To provide a clean drinking water supply to two million rural households in the state through a piped water connection in their homes
- The USD 363 million loan from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).
- The loan has a maturity of 13.5 years including a grace period of two years.



Obituaries

1. Sameer Khakhar has died at 71 due to respiratory and other medical problems, was a veteran _____ **Actor**.

Note:

- He rose to fame with his roles in TV shows 'Nukkad' and 'Circus'.
 - He was also featured in 'Shrimaan Shrimati', and 'Adaalat'.
 - He also played vital roles in films, including 'Hasee Toh Phasee', 'Jai Ho', and 'Patel Ki Punjabi Shaadi'.
2. Jag Mohan Nath (retd), who passed away, was a veteran _____ **IAF Wing Commander**.

Note:

- He was honoured with the Maha Vir Chakra, for gathering information during his missions which proved vital to Indian air efforts during the wars.
 - Wing Commander Nath retired in 1970 and later joined Air India as a commercial pilot.
3. Charukeerthi Bhattaraka Swamy of which mutt, passed away at 73 due to health-related issues _____ **Jain mutt**.

Note:

- The seer was a scholar in Sanskrit and Prakrit.
 - During his tenure as head of the mutt, he conducted mahamastakabhisheka, the grand anointment of the 57-foot tall Gomateshwara statue at Shravanabelagola four times (1981, 1993, 2006, and 2018).
 - The ceremony is organized once in 12 years.
4. Naidunia Abhay Chhajlani, who passed away at 88 due to health-related issues, was associated with which field _____ **Journalism**.

Note:

- He entered the field of journalism in 1955 and graduated from the Thomson Foundation, Cardiff (UK).
 - He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2009 for his outstanding contribution to journalism.
 - He also served as the president of the Indian Language Newspaper Association (ILNA) and Indian Newspaper Society (INS).
5. Gordon Moore, who passed away, was the creator of which semiconductor company _____ **Intel**.

Note:

- He was the driving force behind the development of modern computing devices.
 - He started working on semiconductors in the 1950s and co-founded the Intel Corporation in 1968.
 - He was best known for coining Moore's law which predicted the speed of advances in computer chips that came to explain the exponential improvement in technology of all kinds.
6. Renowned actor 'Innocent' Vareed Thekkethala, who passed away at 75, was associated with which regional cinema _____ **Malayalam**.

Note:

- He joined the film industry in 1972 with the movie 'Nrityashala' starring Prem Nazir and Jayabharathi.
- He acted in over 700 films and was known for his comic roles.
- He was also a former Lok Sabha MP.



- He had won the 2014 Lok Sabha elections as an independent candidate backed by the Left Democratic Front, from Chalakudy.
- He also acted in a few Hindi films, notably 'Malamaal Weekly'.
- 7. Vivan Sundaram, who passed away in Delhi at the age of 79, was a veteran _____ **Artist.**

Note:

- His work has been showcased in museums and exhibitions across the world.
- He worked with different media – painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography, installation, and video art.
- He was a founding member of the Kasauli Art Center, the Journal of Arts & Ideas, the Safdar Hashmi Memorial Trust (SAHMAT), and a managing trustee of the Sher-Gil Sundaram Arts Foundation.

Important Days

1. World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated on which date every year to raise awareness about consumer rights and promote consumer protection _____ **March 15.**

Note:

- 2023 Theme: Empowering Consumers Through Clean Energy Transitions
 - This day was first observed on March 15, 1983, which was inspired by US President John Fitzgerald Kennedy's US Congress address on March 15, 1962.
 - He addressed the issue of consumer rights and laid emphasis on its importance.
2. National Vaccination Day is observed every year on which date to spread awareness about the importance of vaccinations for human health _____ **March 16.**

Note:

- The theme for 2023 has not been announced by the Ministry of Health.
 - The day was first observed in 1995 when the Indian government started the Pulse Polio Immunisation program.
 - It focuses on the relevance of vaccinations in the battle against deadly diseases and appreciates the hard work of healthcare professionals.
3. Global Recycling Day is observed every year on which date to help recognise, and celebrate, the importance recycling plays in preserving our precious primary resources and securing the future of our planet _____ **18th March.**

Note:

- It is a day for the world to come together and put the planet first and was created in 2018.
 - Theme of 2023: Creative Innovation
4. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has organized which edition of Poshan Pakhwada from 20th March to 3rd April 2023 with various activities nationwide _____ **Fifth.**

Note:

- Theme 2023: "Nutrition for All: Together Towards a Healthy India"
 - Aim: To raise awareness about the importance of nutrition and promote healthy eating habits through Jan Andolan and Jan Bhagidari
 - Poshan Abhiyaan was launched by PM Narendra Modi on 8th March 2018 to improve nutritional outcomes in a holistic manner.
5. The International Day of Happiness (World Happiness Day) is celebrated every year on which date to create a kinder and happier world by urging people to adopt simple, daily practices to be happy _____ **March 20.**



Note:

- Theme 2023: Be Mindful. Be Grateful. Be Kind
 - On 12th July 2012, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed March 20 as the International Day of Happiness in its resolution 66/281.
 - This day was first celebrated in 2013.
6. World Oral Health Day is observed globally on which date every year with the primary aim of creating awareness about the importance of oral health _____ **March 20.**

Note:

- The theme for 2023 is 'Be Proud of Your Mouth,' which is the same theme used for the past three years.
 - World Oral Health Day was celebrated first on September 12, 2007, by the World Dental Federation (FDI).
 - It is the birth date of Dr. Charles Godon (founder of FDI).
7. The International Day of Forests is celebrated each year on which date to raise awareness about the importance of forests and trees for the survival of humanity _____ **March 21.**

Note:

- 2023 theme: Forests and health
 - This day can be traced back to 1971 when the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) established World Forestry Day.
 - In 2011, the United Nations declared the years 2011 to 2020 as the International Decade of Forests.
8. World Water day is celebrated on which date every year to spread awareness about the water crisis all over the world _____ **March 22.**

Note:

- UNGA adopted World Water Day in 1992.
 - The theme for 2023 is "Accelerating the change to solve the water and sanitation crisis."
 - In 2015, the world was committed to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 as part of the 2030 agenda.
 - A promise to provide safely managed water and sanitation by 2030.
 - The report is published on World Water Day every year.
9. World Meteorological Day is observed on which date every year to celebrate the formation of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1950 _____ **March 23.**

Note:

- This day was designated to raise awareness about various weather-related issues and to encourage people to take action to address them.
 - 2023 theme: The future of weather, climate, and water across generations
 - The theme highlights the changes in weather and climatic conditions and their effects on Earth.
10. World Tuberculosis Day is observed every year on which date to educate the world about the impact of tuberculosis, globally _____ **March 24.**

Note:

- The theme for 2023 World Tuberculosis Day is "Yes! We can end TB!".
- On March 24, 1882, Dr. Robert Koch announced the discovery of Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the bacterium that causes tuberculosis.



- The elimination of Tuberculosis is one of the sustainable development targets to be achieved by 2030 by the world.
- 11. International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is observed every year on which date to raise awareness of the history of the transatlantic slave trade, its impact on the modern world, and its legacies, including racism and prejudice _____ **March 25.**

Note:

- 2023 theme: Fighting Slavery's Legacy of Racism Through Transformative Education
- It was established in 2007 with the adoption of General Assembly resolution 62/122.
- 12. Earth Hour was observed annually on which day in March from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm _____ **Last Saturday.**

Note:

- In 2023, this day was observed on March 25 at 8.30 pm local time.
- It is a worldwide movement organized by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to encourage individuals, communities, and businesses to turn off non-essential electric lights for one hour.
- It was first started in Sydney, Australia on March 31, 2007, at 7:30 pm local time and has since gained popularity and momentum.
- 13. The international theatre community and ITI centers celebrate World Theatre Day on which date every year to raise awareness about their importance in entertainment and the changes they bring to society _____ **March 27th.**

Note:

- The theme for 2023 is "Theatre and a Culture of Peace."
- The International Theatre Institute founded World Theatre Day in 1961.
- ITI is a worldwide organization that promotes international exchange in theatre arts and promotes the values of UNESCO.

New Appointments

1. Along with M Jagannath, who has been appointed as the Managing Directors (MD) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) _____ **Tablesh Pandey.**

Note:

- M Jagannath took the charge as MD on March 13, 2023.
- Before this, he was working as the Zonal Manager of South Central Zone, Hyderabad and
- While Tablesh Pandey is an Executive Director at the Central office of LIC in Mumbai and will take charge on April 1, 2023.
- 2. Along with MC Mary Kom, who has been appointed as the brand ambassadors of the IBA Women's World Championships 2023 _____ **Farhan Akhtar.**

Note:

- BFI also unveiled the title sponsor, Mahindra Automotive for the event.
- The championship is scheduled from March 15 to 26 at the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex in New Delhi.
- India is hosting the World Championships for the third time.



3. Who has been appointed as the next US Ambassador to India _____ **Eric Garcetti**.

Note:

- His appointment will now fill in the key diplomatic position that had been vacant for more than two years.
 - His nomination was confirmed via a 52-42 vote, which was pending before the US Congress since July 2021.
4. Who has been appointed as the chairman of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) _____ **Deepak Mohanty**.

Note:

- He replaced Supratim Bandyopadhyay, whose term ended in Jan 2023.
 - Before this, Mohanty was a former executive director of the Reserve Bank of India.
 - He was appointed PFRDA member (Economic) in August 2020 for a period of three years or till attaining the age of 62 years.
5. Who has been appointed as the MD & CEO designate as the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) _____ **K Krithivasan**.

Note:

- He has replaced Rajesh Gopinathan, who resigned recently.
 - Gopinathan completed his six years as CEO and was reappointed as CEO till 2027.
 - He will continue with the company till September 15, 2023, and provide transition and support to K Krithivasan.
 - Before this role, K Krithivasan served as President and Global Head of BFSI Business Group, TCS.
6. Who has been appointed as an MD of UCO Bank _____ **Ashwani Kumar**.

Note:

- Before Indian Bank, he worked as chief general manager of the Mumbai Zone of Punjab National Bank (PNB).
 - He would succeed Soma Sankara Prasad, whose tenure will be completed on May 31, 2023.
 - The final decision on the FSIB recommendation would be taken by the ACC headed by PM Narendra Modi.
7. Who will take over as the CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance on June 19, 2023, subject to regulatory and statutory approvals _____ **Anup Bagchi**.

Note:

- He will replace the present CEO, NS Kannan, who will superannuate on June 18, 2023.
 - He has been working with the ICICI group since 1992 and was appointed as an executive director of ICICI Bank on February 1, 2017.
 - He worked as the Non-Executive Director of ICICI Prudential Life since October 2018.
8. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appointed whom as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan _____ **India's Kavilmadam Ramaswami Parvathy**.

Note:

- She has served in leading roles at the World Food Programme in Turkey and Afghanistan.
- She has more than 30 years of experience in the development and humanitarian sectors, focusing on strategic planning, performance, risk management, people management, conflict analysis, and humanitarian access negotiations.



9. Who has been appointed as the Luxor Writing Instruments Private Limited new brand ambassador _____ **Virat Kohli**.

Note:

- 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.
 - Luxor International Private Limited is a well-known Indian stationery manufacturer.
10. Who has been appointed as CMD of the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), with effect from the date of his assumption of charge of the post for a period of five years _____ **Lalit Kumar Gupta**.

Note:

- He was recommended for the post of CMD of CCI by the PESB panel.
 - Presently, he is serving as Director (Finance) in the same organization.
 - He joined CCI in August 1994 and has a very long association with Cotton Corporation of about 25 years.
11. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director & CEO (Additional charge) of Invest India _____ **Manmeet K Nanda**.

Note:

- She is joint secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
 - She has replaced Deepak Bagla, who resigned from the post.
 - Deepak Bagla has served the organization for nearly 8 years and contributed to Invest India's development.
12. Who has been selected by the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) as the new chairman of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) _____ **Siddhartha Mohanty**.

Note:

- As per the guidelines, the chairman is selected from the four managing directors of the company.
 - At present, he is an MD of LIC and was earlier given interim charge as chairman for a period of three months, effective from March 14, 2023.
 - The final decision will be taken by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
13. Former Brazilian President, Dilma Vana Rousseff has been appointed as the new President of which international bank, with immediate effect _____ **New Development Bank (NDB)**.

Note:

- She has replaced Marcus Troyjo.
 - She served as the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil between January 2011 to August 2016.
 - She was elected the President of Brazil for two consecutive terms.
 - NDB is a multilateral financial institution set up by the five BRICS countries.
14. Who has been appointed as the Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court _____ **Justice Pritinker Diwaker**.

Note:

- Justice Ramesh Sinha of Allahabad has been appointed as Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court.
- Justice K Vinod Chandaran of Kerala High Court as Chief Justice of Patna HC.
- In February 2023, the SC Collegium recommended several judges as Chief Justices of HC.



15. The 14th Dalai Lama has named an 8-year-old Mongolian boy as the 10th Khalkha Jetsun Dhampa Rinpoche - the third highest rank in which country's Buddhism _____ **Tibetan Buddhism.**

Note:

- The ceremony was organized in Dharamsala, where the Dalai Lama (87) lives in exile.
- The eight-year-old boy is the son of a university professor and has a twin brother.
- In 1995, the Dalai Lama named a new Panchen Lama, the second most important figure in the faith.
- The boy was arrested by Chinese authorities.

16. Which private news channel has appointed U.K. Sinha and Dipali Goenka as the Independent Directors of NDTV for two years effective March 27, 2023 _____ **NDTV.**

Note:

- U.K. Sinha has also been designated as the Non-Executive Chairperson of NDTV.
- U.K. Sinha served as the Chairman of SEBI between 2011 and 2017 and also served as the Chairman of UTI Asset Management for 6 years.
- Dipali Goenka is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of Welspun India Limited.

17. Vice-President, Jagdeep Dhankhar appointed whom as the Vice Chancellor of Panjab University for a term of three years _____ **Prof (Dr.) Renu Cheema Vig.**

Note:

- She is also the first woman to hold the position in the varsity's 141-year history.
- She was working as the Acting Vice Chancellor of Panjab University since January 16, 2023, after the resignation of Prof. Raj Kumar amid allegations of corruption.
- A three-member selection committee was formed for recommending names for the position

18. The board of Hero Motocorp has appointed whom as the new CEO with effect from May 1, 2023 _____ **Niranjan Gupta.**

Note:

- He has been elevated from his current designation of Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Head-Strategy and Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A).
- He has played an important role in Hero Motocorp's partnerships with Harley Davidson and Zero Motorcycles.
- While Pawan Munjal will continue as Executive Chairman and Whole-Time Director on the company's Board.

19. Which organization has approved the reappointment of Praveer Sinha as CEO and MD for four years, effective from May 1, 2023 _____ **Tata Power.**

Note:

- His present tenure as a CEO and MD is scheduled to conclude on April 30, 2023.
- Currently, He is also serving as the Chairman of the CII Western Region council and co-chairs the CII National Committee on Power.
- He has also contributed to setting up the first international incubator in India for promoting innovations in the clean energy space.

20. The central government has approved the appointment of whom as Acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court with effect from March 31, 2023 _____ **Justice TS Sivagnanam.**

Note:

- He succeeded the current Chief Justice Prakash Shrivastava who retired.



- He enrolled in the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu in September 1986.
- He was appointed as an additional judge of the Madras High Court in March 2009.
- He was transferred to the Calcutta High Court in October 2021.

Important News – India

1. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) - NITI Aayog launched _____ to strengthen the ecosystem of Atal Tinkering Labs _____ **ATL Sarthi**.

Note:

- Atal Innovation Mission has established Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATL) in schools to foster curiosity, creativity, and imagination in young minds.
 - ATL Sarthi is a charioteer and will enable the Atal Tinkering Labs to be efficient and effective.
2. Which Indian organization has launched the 'Learning Science via Standards' series for students _____ **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**.

Note:

- Focus: Aimed to use scientific concepts, principles, and laws to help students understand their practical applications in manufacturing, functioning, and testing of quality characteristics of different products
 - This series is in a continuum with an earlier BIS initiative under which 'Standards Clubs' are being established in educational institutions.
3. Union Minister of Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated a 5-day cultural program "AgriUnifest" in which city _____ **Bengaluru**.

Note:

- This program was organized by Bangalore Agricultural University in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
 - It was participated by students from 60 State Agricultural Universities/Deemed Universities/Central Universities participated.
 - Aim: To integrate Indian agriculture by connecting various Indian cultures
4. MoS (I/C) Earth Sciences Dr. Jitendra Singh has informed in Lok Sabha that REACHOUT is being implemented by the which ministry _____ **Ministry of Earth Sciences**.

Note:

- REACHOUT: Research, Education, and Training Outreach.
 - It is an umbrella scheme of the following six sub-schemes: R&D in Earth System Science; International Training; Centre for Operational Oceanography; Program for Development of Skilled manpower in Earth System Sciences; Outreach and awareness; KRCNet; BCWC
5. Union Minister Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying has unveiled the department's annual publication, the 'Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2022'. Who is the Union Minister Fisheries _____ **Parshottam Rupala**.

Note:

- Total milk production in the country during 2021-22 is 221.06 million tonnes.
- Top 5 Producing States:
- Milk: Rajasthan (15.05%), UP (14.93%), MP (8.06%), Gujarat (7.56%) and Andhra Pradesh (6.97%).
- Egg: Andhra Pradesh (20.41%), TN (16.08%), Telangana (12.86%), WB (8.84%) and Karnataka (6.38%)



6. Union Minister of Renewable Energy & Power, R. K. Singh informed in the Lok Sabha, that Solar projects of an aggregate capacity of _____ have been installed in the country (as of 28.02.2023) _____ **64,380 MW.**

Note:

- India's solar capacity has increased from 21,651 MW to 64,380 MW, an increase of 197% in the last 5 years.
 - The Government has set a target of achieving 500 GW of installed capacity from non-fossil fuels (including around 270 GW of solar capacity) by 2030.
7. Japan's PM is on a two-day visit to India from 20th March 2023. Who is he _____ **Kishida Fumio.**

Note:

- He will hold talks with PM Modi and also hold discussions on regional issues of mutual interest and priorities for their respective Presidencies of the G7 and G20.
 - Japan is the fifth largest investor in India
 - The bilateral trade stood at 20.75 billion dollars in 2022 (largest ever)
 - Defense and security cooperation has emerged as one of the most important pillars of the Special Strategic
8. Who has released the Women and Men in India 2022 report _____ **Mos (IC) for MoSPI, Rao Inderjit Singh.**

Note:

- India's sex ratio is expected to improve from 943 in 2011 to 952 by 2036.
 - The Labor Force Participation Rate (above 15 years) has been increasing since 2017-2018.
 - However, the rate was 77.2% for males and only 32.8% for females in 2021-22.
 - It has also highlighted the gender disparity in wages, with men in rural areas earning more than women in urban areas.
9. According to the US Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, India can achieve energy independence by its 100th year of independence in which year _____ **2047.**

Note:

- Study title: Pathways to Atmanirbhar Bharat
 - It has been suggested that achieving this goal would result in significant economic, environmental, and energy benefits for India, including USD 2.5 trillion in consumer savings by 2047.
 - It also reduces fossil fuel import expenditure by 90% (\$240 billion) annually.
10. According to the report, published GCEW, revealed that India will face a reduction of over 16% in food supply due to water and heat stress in which year _____ **2050.**

Note:

- However, the report placed China at the top, where food supply would be reduced by 22.4%, followed by South America by 19.4%.
 - The water supply availability in India is between 1100-1197 billion cubic meters (bcm).
 - In contrast, the demand is expected to grow from 550-710 bcm in 2010 to 900-1,400 bcm in 2050.
11. Which edition of International SME Convention 2023 (ISC) is to be organized from 19th to 21st March 2023 in New Delhi _____ **3rd annual.**

Note:

- It is jointly organized by Ministry of MSME & Ministry of External Affairs, India SME Forum, along with Govt. of Madhya Pradesh as a Key State Partner and Govt. of Uttar Pradesh as Associate State Partner.



- International partner: International Network for SMEs and World Union of Small and Medium Enterprises
- 12. The Civil20 India (C-20) Inception meeting will be hosted by which Indian city from 20th to 21st March 2023 _____ **Nagpur, Maharashtra.**

Note:

- It is one of the empowered groups, which provides a platform for Civil Society Organisations to voice the people's aspirations to the world leaders in G20.
- The inaugural ceremony will be attended by Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi and Spiritual leader Mata Amritanandmayi.
- Focus issues: Health, Lifestyle for Environment, Art and Crafts
- 13. Which union minister has virtually addressed the Global Conference on Digital Health – Taking Universal Health Coverage to the Last Citizen _____ **Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.**

Note:

- This conference is a co-branded event under India's G20 Presidency organized by WHO – South-East Asia Region in collaboration with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- The Indian government aims to launch a global initiative on digital health as an institutional framework.
- 14. The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and which ministry signed an MoU for the skilling of rural youth and empowering women _____ **Ministry of Ayush.**

Note:

- The MoU is valid for three years.
- Under this MoU, the training program shall be funded as per Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) cost norms.
- National Rural Livelihoods Mission and DDU-GKY will communicate to States/UTs for enlisting willing SHG members and rural poor youth
- 15. Which Indian petroleum organization has signed MoU with Shell Energy India Private Ltd to explore prospects of importing and handling of ethane and other hydrocarbons _____ **GAIL (India).**

Note:

- It is primarily used as petrochemical feedstock and is separated from the other components of natural gas in most well-developed gas fields.
- It will be transported further through 14,830 km of natural gas pipelines to different demand centres.
- Ethane is mainly used to produce ethylene, which is used for other products.
- 16. V.V. Giri National Labour Institute (VVGNI) signs MoU with which organization to promote professional and organizational development in labour and employment-related areas that benefit stakeholders in the sector _____ **Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).**

Note:

- It includes policy advocacy, with the organizations working together to advocate for policies.
- 17. The Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ministry has signed an MoU with which international organization during the Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference _____ **World Food Programme.**



Note:

- The MoU between WFP and the Government of India for cooperation between 2023 and 2027 was signed in the presence of Agriculture Minister Tomar.
 - The WFP is working towards promoting food self-sufficiency and supporting governmental and global efforts to ensure long-term solutions to the challenge of hunger.
18. India and Japan signed an MoC for the renewal of the Japanese language and the exchange of notes on JICA loan for 300 billion Yen on which high-speed railway project _____ **Mumbai-Ahmedabad**.

Note:

- PM Kishida formally invited PM Modi to G7 Hiroshima Summit.
 - PM Modi also urged the Japanese PM to declare 2024 as the year of Youth Exchanges between the two countries.
19. Which wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC Limited has signed a Joint Venture Agreement with IOCL for setting up renewable energy projects to meet Round the Clock power requirement of IOCL Refineries _____ **NGEL**.

Note:

- NGEL has set a target of building a renewable generation portfolio of 60 GW over the next decade to aggressively pursue its green energy business.
20. Government has announced the sites for setting up of _____ PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks for the Textile industry in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra _____ **Seven**.

Note:

- PM MITRA will offer the opportunity to create an Integrated Textiles Value Chain right from spinning, weaving, processing/dyeing and printing to garment manufacturing etc. at one location and will reduce logistics cost of the Industry.
21. According to a Parliamentary Standing Committee report, the groundwater levels in Delhi, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, and 20 other cities dipped by how much meter from 2017 to 2020 _____ **More than 20 meters**.

Note:

- While Faridabad (Haryana) becomes 100% dependent on groundwater use and cities like Ghaziabad (UP) are on the verge of becoming totally dependent on it.
 - The total annual extractable groundwater resource of 398 billion cubic meters (BCM) in the country till 2020, 245 BCM was being extracted.
22. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched a DigiClaim, under the ambit of which scheme for claim disbursement through National Crop Insurance Portal _____ **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana**.

Note:

- With the DigiClaim Module, insurance claims of over 1,260 crore rupees have been disbursed to insured farmers of six states on March 23, 2023.
 - The states are Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, and Haryana.
23. BharatPe co-founder Ashneer Grover launched a cricket-focused fantasy sports app. What is the name of this application _____ **CrickPe**.

Note:

- The launch comes ahead of the marquee Indian Premier League (IPL) tournament that is set to begin on March 31, 2023.



- This sports app can be available on the Google Play store and Apple store.
 - He has raised about \$4 million in seed funding for his venture Third Unicorn Pvt Ltd.
 - Notably, the cricket app has been launched to take on rivals like Dream11, MPL, and My11Circle.
24. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has extended the subsidy of what amount per LPG cylinder for a period of one year, under the PM Ujjwala Yojana _____ **200 rupees.**

Note:

- It will be provided to the Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries for up to 12 refills per year.
 - The total expenditure on it in 2022-23 will be 6,100 crore rupees and in 2023-24 will be 7,680 crore rupees.
 - The government launched PM Ujjwala Yojana in May 2016 to provide deposit-free LPG connections to women of poor households.
25. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved Minimum Support Price (MSP) for which fiber at 5,050 rupees per quintal for 2023-24 _____ **Raw Jute.**

Note:

- The approval is based on the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices recommendations.
 - This would ensure a return of 63.20% over the all-India weighted average cost of production.
 - The Jute Corporation of India will continue as Central Government Nodal Agency to undertake Price Support Operations and the losses incurred, if any.
26. FM Nirmala Sitharaman has announced the government has established a committee to review the New Pension System (NPS). Who is the head of this panel _____ **TV Somanathan.**

Note:

- From January 2004, the government has opted to move to NPS for all new recruits, with the government employees contributing 10% of their salary towards pension and the govt making a matching contribution.
 - Recently, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, HP, and Punjab have decided to opt out of NPS.
27. The first Urban Climate Film Festival under U20 engagement events was organized by which organization from 24-26 March 2023 _____ **National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).**

Note:

- A curated selection of 11 films from nine countries was showcased in the festival to create wider awareness of the impact of climate change on life in cities.
 - The festival was organized with support from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the French Development Agency, and the European Union.
28. Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav launched which project to green the 5 km buffer area around the Aravalli Hill Range in four states _____ **Aravalli Green Wall Project.**

Note:

- He also unveiled the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation Through Forestry Interventions and a FAQ on Agro-forestry published by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education.
29. The Government has constituted a Committee to monitor the stock of which pulse held by entities such as importers, millers, stockists, and traders in close coordination with the state governments _____ **Tur.**

Note:

- The decision has come against the backdrop of reports of market players not releasing stocks despite the regular arrival of imports in good quantities.
- The Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary Nidhi Khare.



30. Union Minister for Rural Development, Giriraj Singh has onboarded 19 Captive Employers under which scheme _____ **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY).**

Note:

- Captive employers will train Rural Poor Youth and employ trained youth in their company or subsidiary.
 - MoRD and the Captive Employers also signed MoU towards this aim.
 - DDU-GKY is a placement-linked skilling program of the Ministry of Rural Development under the aegis of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).
31. The Union government has sanctioned how much amount under the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) Scheme Phase -2 for setting up 7432 public fast charging stations across the country _____ **800 crore rupees.**

Note:

- At present, there are about 6,586 charging stations across the country.
 - This move will boost the electric vehicle ecosystem in India and encourage more people to switch to cleaner modes of transportation.
 - The government has formulated FAME India Scheme in 2015.
32. The Ministry of Education has shortlisted around how many schools across the country for its flagship Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) _____ **9,000.**

Note:

- The institutions were selected based on six broad parameters including curriculum, access and infrastructure, human resources, and gender equity were assessed.
 - PM Modi announced this scheme on 5th September 2022.
 - It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
 - Aim: To upgrade and develop around 14,500 schools
33. Which ministry has constituted a nine-member task force to make India a 'product developer and manufacturing nation' _____ **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).**

Note:

- It will be chaired by the additional secretary (MeitY), Bhuvnesh Kumar with the joint secretary (electronics), Amitesh Kumar Sinha as the member convenor.
 - This is an effort to position itself as an alternative to the likes of China and Vietnam.
34. According to the annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Report 2021-22, which sector has the highest estimated percentage distribution of female workers _____ **Agriculture.**

Note:

- Nearly 63% of workers are female in the agriculture sector at the pan-India level, followed by 11.2% in the manufacturing sector.
 - The government has incorporated several protective provisions in the labor laws for equal opportunity and a congenial work environment for women workers.
35. Which ministry has issued PAHCHAN cards to 30.53 lakhs handicrafts artisans and 30.90 lakhs handloom weavers across the country under the PAHCHAN initiative _____ **Ministry of Textiles.**

Note:

- The cardholder's details are available on the website of the Office of the Development Commissioner of Handicraft and Handloom.



- PAHCHAN card is an initiative to issue Aadhar link identity cards to handicrafts artisans under this initiative.
- The Union MoS for Textiles, Darshana Jardosh informed in Lok Sabha.
- 36. Which renewable organization has signed an MoU with Indian Army for setting up Green Hydrogen Projects in its establishments on Build, Own, and Operate (BOO) model _____ **NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd.**

Note:

- Aim: To reduce complex logistics and dependence on fossil fuels and to accelerate decarbonization.
 - NTPC REL CEO, Mohit Bhargava and Lt. General Rajinder Dewan signed MoU.
 - NTPC REL will also design, develop, and install renewable energy projects for the Indian Army.
 - NTPC REL is a wholly subsidiary of NTPC.
37. Which government department signed an MoU with the Sant Nirankari Mandal for spreading the message of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan among the youth, women, and students _____ **Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (SJE).**

Note:

- Aim: To create awareness about the ill effects of substance abuse among the youth, with a focus on higher education institutes, and university campuses.
 - It was signed in the presence of Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Virendra Kumar and MoS, SJE Pratima Bhounik.
38. Which government organization and the Society for Electronic Transactions and Security (SETS) collaborated to do joint R&D leading for the development of tools and products in deep tech domains _____ **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).**

Note:

- Both organizations will also conduct joint research on emerging tech areas like Cyber Security, IoT Security, etc.
 - Aim: To improve self-reliance on information and cyber security and to reduce dependence on tools developed outside the country.
39. PM Modi addressed the One World TB Summit 2023 in which city on the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day (March 24) _____ **Varanasi.**

Note:

- Organized by: Health and Family Welfare Ministry and Stop TB Partnership
 - In March 2018, the PM called on India to achieve TB-related SDG targets by 2025.
 - The PM also awarded select States/UTs and districts for their progress toward ending TB.
 - State level: Karnataka and J&K
 - District level: Nilgiris, Pulwama, and Anantnag
40. The second G20 Infrastructure Working Group (IWG) meeting is being organized in which state from March 28-29, 2023 _____ **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.**

Note:

- It is being conducted under the theme of Financing Cities of Tomorrow: Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable.
- The conference is attended by 63 representatives of G-20 countries and other invited organizations, ADB and World Bank.
- The first G-20 IWG summit was held in Pune (Maharashtra) under the presidency of India.



41. The first G20 Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG) Meeting under India's G20 Presidency is being organized in which city from March 28– 30, 2023 _____ **Mumbai (Maharashtra).**

Note:

- The event was attended by 100 delegates from G20 member countries, invitee countries, regional groupings, and international organizations.
 - On the first day, an International Conference will be held on 'Trade Finance'.
 - On the second day, the focus will be on making trade work for growth and prosperity.
42. Which country hosted a meeting of National Security Advisors (NSA)- SCO and top officials on March 29, 2023, _____ **India.**

Note:

- National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval addressed the meeting.
 - Pakistan and China attended the SCO-NSA meeting virtually.
 - SCO is an intergovernmental organization established in 2001.
 - Members: India, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
43. The First G20 Disaster Risk Reduction WGM under India's G20 Presidency is being held in which state from 30th March to 1st April 2023 _____ **Gandhinagar, Gujarat.**

Note:

- The meeting was inaugurated by Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr. P K Mishra and MoS for Communications Devusinh Chauhan.
 - Five priority areas have been identified for the meeting which include an early warning for all, resilient infrastructure, and improving the National system for financing Disaster Risk Reduction.
44. Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board approved a unified tariff for a natural gas pipeline of Rs 73.93 per metric million British thermal units (MMBtu), effective from which date _____ **April 1, 2023.**

Note:

- Aim: To boost the consumption of natural gas and increase its share in India's energy basket from 6.2% to 15% by 2030
- Three zones for unified tariff:
- 1st: Up to the distance of 300 km from the source
- 2nd: More than 300 km and up to 1,200 km
- 3rd: Remaining length of the grid system

Important News – State

1. Which state government has cancelled 813-gun licenses in the state to clamp down on the gun culture, along with a review of all licenses issued within 3 months _____ **Punjab.**

Note:

- The new rule will also bar the issuance of new licenses for the next 3 months, except in extraordinary circumstances.
 - The ban is on carrying and displaying weapons in public functions, religious places, marriage ceremonies, or any other events in Punjab.
2. An Agri Legal Aid Clinic has been inaugurated in which district of Telangana to provide benefits to the farmer community _____ **Jangaon District.**

Note:

- It was inaugurated by Supreme Court Judge Justice V. Ramasubramanian.



- It is a Joint initiative of Telangana Legal Services Authority with technical support from NALSAR University of Law, and an NGO, Legal Empowerment and Assistance for Farmers Society.
- Aim: To educate farmers on various agricultural legislations, Welfare Schemes, rights etc.
- 3. J&K LG, Manoj Sinha laid the foundation stone for a ₹250-crore mega shopping mall at which area of Srinagar _____ **Sempora area.**

Note:

- This shopping mall will be constructed by Dubai-based Emaar Group.
 - It is the first "foreign direct investment" in the Union territory.
 - It will be constructed over an area of 10 lakh sq. ft. and is expected to be completed by 2026.
4. Which state observed its 111th foundation day on March 22, 2023 _____ **Bihar.**

Note:

- On this day, the state of Bihar was carved out from the Bengal presidency in 1912.
 - The theme of the 2023 event is "Yuva Shakti Bihar ki Pragati".
 - This year, a number of events are being organized in Gandhi Maidan, Patna from March 22 to 24, 2023.
 - Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar have congratulated people on the occasion of Bihar Divas.
5. Which state government has notified Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary as the 18th wildlife sanctuary in the state _____ **Tamil Nadu.**

Note:

- It is spread over 80,567 hectares in the forest areas of Anthiyur and Gobichettipalayam taluks in Erode district.
 - It is close to Malai Mahadeshwara wildlife sanctuary, BRT Wildlife Sanctuary, and Cauvery wildlife sanctuary in Karnataka.
 - It also acts as a connecting point between Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve and Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary.
6. Which state government signed an MoU with the French Development Agency Agence Francaise de Development (AFD) for Rs 817.12 crore project _____ **Himachal Pradesh.**

Note:

- Objective: To develop better sewerage facilities in five towns of the state - Manali, Bilaspur, Palampur, Nahan and Karsog.
 - It also aims to improve drinking water supply in Manali and Palampur towns.
 - The beneficiaries of the project would receive house service connections in these five cities
7. The Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in New Delhi has imposed a penalty of what amount on the Kerala government for its failure to check the indiscriminate pollution of the Vembanad and Ashtamudi lakes _____ **₹10 crore.**

Note:

- The Bench was led by its chairperson Adarsh Kumar Goel.
 - The penalty of ₹10 crore had to be utilized for conservation/restoration measures by preparing an action plan to be preferably executed within six months.
8. Which state becomes the first state in India to pass the 'Right to Health (RTH) Bill' _____ **Rajasthan.**

Note:

- Under this bill, private hospitals will not be able to charge emergency patients and will be compensated by the state.



- Free healthcare services including diagnostics, drugs, emergency transport, emergency care, and procedure will be provided at public institutions.
- In the case of medico-legal nature, no private or public hospital can delay treatment on grounds of police clearance.

Important News – World

1. Which country has formally recognized the McMahon Line as the international boundary between India's Arunachal Pradesh and China _____ **The US.**

Note:

- The US has also rejected Beijing's claim that the northeastern state falls under Chinese territory.
 - A bipartisan resolution acknowledged Arunachal Pradesh as an integral part of India.
 - The resolution, titled 'Reaffirming the state of Arunachal Pradesh as Indian territory and condemning the People's Republic of China's provocations in South Asia'.
2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina jointly inaugurated the India-Bangladesh friendship diesel pipeline. The foundation stone for the construction of this pipeline was laid in which year _____ **September 2018.**

Note:

- Since 2015, Numaligarh Refinery Limited has been supplying petroleum products to Bangladesh.
 - IBFP is the first cross-border energy pipeline between India and Bangladesh with a capacity to transport 1 MMTPA of High-Speed Diesel to Bangladesh.
3. TIME Magazine has released its annual list of the _____ greatest places in the world for 2023 _____ **50.**

Note:

- Among the chosen destinations are two locations from India: Ladakh and Mayurbhanj.
 - Ladakh is a high-altitude region, which is famous for its breathtaking landscapes, crystal-clear lakes, and snow-capped mountains.
 - On the other hand, Mayurbhanj is a lesser-known destination located in the eastern state of Odisha.
 - The list also includes Willamette Valley; Río Grande etc.
4. According to the tenth Global Terrorism Index (GTI) report, which country remains most impacted by terrorism for the fourth consecutive year, despite the attacks and deaths falling by 75% and 58%, respectively _____ **Afghanistan.**

Note:

- Afghanistan followed by Burkina Faso, Somalia, Mali, and Syria.
 - Pakistan has climbed four spots to rank sixth on the index.
 - While India ranked 13th on the index.
 - South Asia remains the region with the worst average GTI score.
5. According to the World Happiness Report 2023, published by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, What is the rank of India _____ **125.**

Note:

- India's neighboring countries such as Nepal, China, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka have a higher ranking than India.
- Finland tops the ranking for the sixth consecutive year with a score of 7.8 followed by Denmark and Iceland.
- Out of the 137 countries, Afghanistan has ranked last.



6. Which country's Food Bank launched an initiative to distribute three million meals and food parcels to disadvantaged individuals and families during Ramadan _____ **UAE**.

Note:

- Aim: To raise public awareness regarding the crucial goal of achieving zero food waste
 - For this initiative, the organization has partnered with Ne'ma -the national initiative to reduce food loss and wastage, to enhance community awareness, education, and empowerment in making better decisions regarding food consumption.
7. Which country has launched its National Genome Strategy to provide a comprehensive legislative and governance framework to support the development and implementation of genomic programs _____ **UAE**.

Note:

- The strategy will last ten years and will focus on delivering public health priorities while improving the country's well-being.
 - The Emirates Genome Council will oversee the National Genome Strategy.
 - It will advance the nation's preventive and personalized healthcare agenda.
8. According to a Kroll report 'Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2022: Beyond the Mainstream', with a brand value of \$181.7 million, who is India's most valued celebrity of 2022 _____ **Actor Ranveer Singh**.

Note:

- He surpassed cricketer Virat Kohli, who occupied the top spot for five years.
 - Kohli ranked second, followed by actors Akshay Kumar, and Alia Bhatt.
 - Notably, the aggregate brand value of the top 25 celebrities is \$1.6 billion in 2022 (estimated), a 29.1% rise from 2021.
9. According to the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023, how many programs from various campuses have been featured in the global top 100 list _____ **44**.

Note:

- In 2022, only 35 Indian programs were featured in the list.
 - Five broader areas of University ranking: Engineering and Technology, Arts and Humanities, Life Sciences and Medicine, Natural Science and Social Sciences and Management.
 - IIT Delhi's Electrical engineering ranked 49 and IIT Bombay's mathematics ranked 92.
10. According to the 2023 M3M Hurun Global Rich List, released by Hurun India and M3M India, who is the only Indian in the world's top 10 billionaires list (rank 9) _____ **Mukesh Ambani**.

Note:

- The list is topped by Elon Musk, followed by Jeff Bezos, Bernard Arnault, Bill Gates, Warren Buffett, and Sergey Brin.
 - Indian billionaires list: Gautam Adani and family (Rank 23); Cyrus S Poonawalla (Rank 46); Shiv Nadar and family (Rank 50); Lakshmi N Mittal (Rank 76)
11. According to UN World Water Development Report 2023, what percent of the world's population does not have safe drinking water, and 46% lack access to safely managed sanitation _____ **About 26%**.

Note:

- Between 2-3 billion, people experience water shortages for at least 1 month per year.
- This poses severe risks to livelihoods and access to electricity.
- The global urban population facing water scarcity is projected to double from 930 million (2016) to 1.7 -2.4 billion (2050).



12. According to the Passport Index 2023, released by Arton Capital, what is the rank of India passport _____ **144.**

Note:

- In 2023, India ranked 138th out of 199 countries.
- The ranking was topped by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with a mobility score of 181, followed by Sweden, Germany, Finland, Luxembourg, Spain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, and Austria.
- Note: India ranked 85th out of 199 countries in the Henley Passport Index 2023.

Honor & Awards

1. Name the writer whose novel 'Pyre' has been selected for the International Booker prize longlist for 2023 _____ **Tamil writer Perumal Murugan.**

Note:

- This book is a translation of his original Tamil book 'Pukkuli' which tells the story of an inter-caste couple who elope, setting in motion a story of terrifying foreboding.
- Aniruddhan Vasudevan translated this novel into the English language in 2016.
- Prize money: £50,000, will be split equally between the author and translator.

2. Who was awarded the title 'Governor of the Year' for 2023 by Central Banking _____ **RBI Governor, Shaktikanta Das.**

Note:

- Reason: For his leadership during difficult periods, such as the failure of a significant non-banking company, COVID-19 pandemic, and the inflationary effects caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine
- The National Bank of Ukraine was also awarded the Central Bank of the Year award.
- Central Banking is an international economic research journal.

3. Name the writer who has been selected for Saraswati Samman for the year 2022 for her book Survyva Vamsam _____ **Tamil writer Sivasankari.**

Note:

- This is a book of memoirs in Tamil language and was published in 2019.
- **Saraswati Samman:**
 - It was instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation in 1991.
 - It is recognized as the most prestigious and the highest literary award in the country.
 - It carries an award money of 15 lakh rupees, a Citation, and a Plaque.

4. Which city won the 'Partnership for Healthy Cities' award and a cash prize of \$ 150,000 for effectively enforcing smoke-free laws at a summit held in London _____ **Bengaluru.**

Note:

- The focused effort from smoke-free Bengaluru resulted in a reduction of public-place smoking from 18.2% (2017) to 13.3% (2021).
- The display of 'no-smoking' signs in the city also increased from 23.1% (2017) to 75%.
- The global summit brought together officials from over 50 cities to discuss public health concerns.

5. Who has been selected for the Sangita Kalanidhi award 2023 of the prestigious Music Academy, Chennai _____ **Carnatic vocalist, Bombay Jayashri.**

Note:

- Initially, she was trained under her parents and later under T R Balamani and violin maestro Lalgudi G Jayaraman.



- She was awarded the Padma Shri in 2021.
- While the Nritya Kalanidhi award 2023 will be conferred to Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi dancer, Vasanthalakshmi Narasimhachari.
- The awards will be conferred to awardees in January 2023.
- 6. Who was declared the winner of the 2022 Christopher Martin-Jenkins Spirit of Cricket Award _____ **Nepalese batsman Aasif Sheikh.**

Note:

- Reason: For his sporting conduct shown in a Men's T20I between Nepal and Ireland in Feb 2022.
- The Award is presented every year by the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), UK in conjunction with the BBC.
- This award was created in 2013 by MCC and the BBC in memory of former MCC President and BBC Test Match Special commentator Christopher Martin-Jenkins (CMJ).
- 7. US President Joe Biden has awarded the prestigious 2021 National Humanities Medal to whom _____ **Mindy Kaling.**

Note:

- Reason: For empowering the new generation to tell their stories with irreverence and sincerity
- The National Medal of Arts is the highest award, given to artists, arts patrons, and groups by the US government.
- Other notable recipients: Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Bruce Springsteen, Vera Wang, Gladys Knight, Judith Francisca Baca
- 8. Who was honored with the 2023 Abel Prize for his seminal contributions to regularity theory for nonlinear partial differential equations including free-boundary problems and the Monge-Ampère equation _____ **Luis Caffarelli.**

Note:

- The prize includes a monetary award of 7.5 million kroner and a glass plaque (designed by Norwegian artist Henrik Haugan).
- It is awarded by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, on behalf of the Ministry of Education.
- 9. Who won the GenNext Entrepreneur Award at the 12th Forbes India Leadership Awards 2023 _____ **Isha Ambani.**

Note:

- She is the head of the \$800 billion Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd and launched the JioMart.
- CEO of the year: CK Venkataraman (MD of Titan)
- Lifetime Achievement Award: AM Naik (Chairman L&T)
- Emerging Innovator: Pawan Chandana and Naga Bharath Daka (founders of Skyroot Aerospace)
- Turnaround Star: Tata Communications
- 10. Which NGO was conferred with the Children's Champion Award 2023 _____ **Assam's Pathsala.**

Note:

- The Mission popularly known as Tapoban has been awarded in the health and nutrition category.
- The founder president of the Mission, Kumud Kalita, received the award that carries Rs 75,000, a certificate and a plaque.
- This award was instituted by the Delhi Commission for the Protection of Child Rights.



11. Sacred to the Hopi Native has been awarded a 'Water and Heritage Shield' by the International Committee on Monuments and Sites International Science Committee. This native belongs to which country _____ **American Nation.**

Note:

- The Shield was awarded to the Black Mesa Trust (BMT), a Hopi grassroots organization.
- Purpose of Shield: To aware public of the significance of water and indigenous sacred sites all over the world and the right to cultural and historical memory

12. The Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL) conferred Special Literary Award 2023 to whom in its 63rd Literature Festival _____ **Bangladesh's Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.**

Note:

- He was awarded for his trilogy- The Unfinished Memoirs, The Prison Diaries, and New China 1952.
- In a citation issued by the Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature, he is compared to Mahatma Gandhi.
- SAARC Literary Award is an annual award conferred by the FOSWAL since 2001

13. Who has been honoured with the Wildlife Conservation Award 2023 by the administration for her conservation efforts in the region _____ **Alia Mir.**

Note:

- J-K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha facilitated her with the wildlife honour award.
- She is also the first woman from Kashmir who works for the charity Wildlife SOS organization which is part of the Wildlife Rescue Team.
- She was awarded for her achievements in bear rescue in Kashmir, rescue, and release of wild animals.

14. Who was honored with a lifetime achievement award from the University of Texas at Dallas _____ **Naveen Jindal.**

Note:

- He was conferred in recognition of his accomplishments in industry, politics, and education.
- He was an alumnus of the University of Texas at Dallas' 1992 batch.s
- He is the second person to receive this award from the University of Texas, after Nobel Laureate Aziz Sancar.
- Currently, he is serving as the Chairman of Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.

Sports News

1. Who has won his maiden 2023 Indian Wells title after defeating Russian Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 6-2 in the final _____ **Carlos Alcaraz.**

Note:

- With this feat, he has also dethroned Novak Djokovic to reclaim World No.1 spot.
- He also become the youngest world number one ever after his triumph and claimed his third Masters 1000 title.
- He joined Rafael Nadal as the only player to win at least three as a teenager.
- Nadal won six before turning 20.

2. Who has clinched the gold medal in the men's 10m Air Pistol event at the ISSF Rifle and Pistol World Cup 2023 held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh _____ **Sarabjot Singh.**

Note:

- While Varun Tomar secured bronze in the same event.



- In the women's 10m Air Pistol event, Li Xue from China won the gold and Germany's Doreen Vennekamp settled for silver.
- China's Qian Wei completed the podium with a bronze medal finish.
- 3. Who has become the first woman in the sport to have a stadium named after her, in Rae Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh _____ **Rani Rampal**.

Note:

- The MCF Rae Bareilly has renamed the hockey stadium as 'Rani's Girls Hockey Turf'.
- Earlier this year, she made a successful comeback to the Indian hockey team during the tour of South Africa, where she was selected as one of the 22 players in the squad.
- 4. Which country clinched both men's and women's titles of the Asian Kho Kho Championship 2023 held at Tamulpur in Assam _____ **India**.

Note:

- In the women's category, Indian Eves defeated Nepal by an inning and 33 points.
- On the other hand, the men's team also defeated Nepal by an inning and six points.
- India remained unbeaten in both categories throughout the tournament.
- A total of nine countries participated in the event.
- 5. Which team has secured the bronze in the 10m air rifle mixed team event at the ISSF 2023, held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh _____ **Rudraksh Patil and R. Narmada Nitin**.

Note:

- While Varun Tomar and Rhythm Sangwan won silver in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team Competition.
- With these medals, India's medal tally to three including one gold, one silver, and one bronze.
- China topped the medal tally with three gold and two bronze medals.
- 6. Which woman boxer has clinched Gold in the 48-kg category of the IBA Women's World Boxing Championship 2023 held at the K.D. Jadhav Hall IG Stadium New Delhi _____ **Nitu Ghanghas**.

Note:

- She defeated Altantsetseg Lutsaikhan from Mongolia by 5-0.
- She became the only sixth Indian boxer (male or female) to win a World championship.
- In the semifinals, she defeated Kazakh Alua Balkibekova.
- International Boxing Association (IBA) Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland
- 7. Which India's men's doubles badminton pair won the Swiss Open Super 300 title in 2023, held in Basel, Switzerland _____ **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty**.

Note:

- They beat Ren Xiang Yu and Tan Qiang from China by 21-19, and 24-22.
- Men's singles: Koki Watanabe (Japan)
- Women's singles: Pornpawee Chochuwong (Thailand)
- Women's doubles: Rena Miyaura and Ayako Sakuramoto (Japan)
- Mixed doubles: Jiang Zhenbang and Wei Yaxin (China)
- 8. Which women cricket team have won the inaugural Women's Premier League final, held at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai from 4-26 March 2023 _____ **Mumbai Indians**.

Note:

- They defeated Delhi Capitals by 7 wickets.
- Mumbai Indians captain: Harmanpreet Kaur



- Most valuable player of the tournament: Hayley Matthews
 - Orange cap: Meg Lanning
 - Purple Cap: Hayley Matthews
 - Emerging Player of the season: Yastika Bhatia
 - Fairplay award: Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals
 - Catch of the season: Harmanpreet Kaur
9. Indian Women Boxer, Nikhat Zareen and Lovlina Borgohain have managed to win a gold medal at the Women's World Championships 2023, was held in which state/UT _____ **New Delhi.**

Note:

- Nikhat Zareen won gold in the 50kg light flyweight division after defeating two-time Asian champion Nguyen Thi Tam of Vietnam by 5-0
 - Lovlina Borgohain has secured her first gold at the competition after settling for bronze in the 2018 and 2019 editions.
 - She defeated Australia's Caitlin Parker in the 75kg middle-weight category.
10. Archana Suseendran has clinched two gold medals in 100m and 200m at the AFI Indian Grand Prix 2, held in Kerala on March 27, 2023, belongs to which state _____ **Tamil Nadu.**

Note:

- In the Women's 100m final, she defeated Assam sprinter Hima Das and completed her 100m race in 11.52 seconds.
- While she completed the 200m race in 23.21 seconds.
- In the Men's 100m race category Sanjeet from Haryana clinched the gold.
- The AFI Indian Grands Prix 3 and 4 will be held in Bengaluru on April 10 and 15.

Books and Authors

1. The book "Snakes In the Ganga: Breaking India 2.0" authored by Rajiv Malhotra and _____ **Vijaya Viswanathan.**

Note:

- It sheds light on the various threats to India's national security from the United States, which is not typically perceived as a major risk by the average Indian.
2. Who has recently written a book called "Bipin: The Man Behind the Uniform" _____ **Rachna Biswat Rawat.**

Note:

- The book was presented to India's Minister of Defence, Rajnath Singh, by the author.
 - The book is published by Penguin Veer, a Penguin Random House imprint.
 - This book focuses on the life, personality, and principles of General Bipin Rawat.
3. The English translation of the Nepali novel "Phoolange" will be released on April 17, 2023. It was written by which author _____ **Lekhnath Chhetri.**

Note:

- Published by: Penguin Random House India (PRHI)
- This book focuses on the failed Gorkha movement for a separate state.
- The original Nepali version of the novel was shortlisted for the Madan Puraskar, which is Nepal's most prestigious literary award, in 2021.



4. A new book titled 'Basu Chatterji: And Middle-of-the-Road Cinema' has been released. Who is the author of this book _____ **Aniruddha Bhattacharjee.**

Note:

- It is a chronicle of the life and times of the veteran Indian filmmaker Basu Chatterjee.
- Published by: Penguin Random House India (PRHI)

5. Ghulam Nabi Azad, a former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Minister, has written an honest and forthright autobiography. What is the title of this book _____ **Azaad.**

Note:

- It will be launched in New Delhi on April 5, 2023.
- This book chronicles Azad's political journey and provides insights into the significant political changes that India has undergone over the past five decades.
- Published by: Rupa Publications India

6. Who has recently released his first English book titled "Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (illustrated)" _____ **Shrimant Kokate.**

Note:

- It was translated by Dilip Chavan.
- The book was released by Amol Kolhe.
- He has written a total of 10 books on various subjects.

7. Who has authored a new travel book titled "A Matter of the Heart: Education in India" _____ **Anurag Behar.**

Note:

- He is the CEO of Azim Premji Foundation and the founding vice-chancellor of Azim Premji University.
- The book has been published by Westland Nonfiction.

Science and Defence

1. An apex body of the defense ministry for clearing weapons procurement, DAC met under the chairmanship of DM Rajnath Singh. What is the full form of DAC _____ **Defence Acquisition Council.**

Note:

- The DAC has accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for capital acquisitions worth Rs 70,500 crore under Buy Indian-IDDM (Indigenously Designed, Developed, and Manufactured) — a new procurement category.
- It includes 307 Advanced Towed Artillery Gun Systems and 60 indigenous marine utility helicopters.

2. The Technology Innovation Institute in Abu Dhabi (UAE) has launched a large language model (LLM) with 40 billion parameters. What is the name of this LLM _____ **Falcon LLM.**

Note:

- It was trained on one trillion tokens and built by the AI and Digital Science Research Center's AI Cross-Centre Unit.
- The model outperforms GPT-3 and requires only 75% of its training compute, as well as lower percentages of other large language models' training compute.
- LLMs have a wide range of applications, including chatbots.

3. The artificial intelligence research company, OpenAI has unveiled its new and more advanced model. What is the name of this advance version _____ **GPT-4.**

Note:

- The latest version is more creative and accurate in its response.
- It has better problem-solving capabilities than ChatGPT (developed by OpenAI).



- GPT-4 is a large multimodal model, which cannot outperform humans in real-world scenarios but can exhibit “human-level performance on various professional and academic benchmarks.
- 4. Which space agency unveiled a new generation of spacesuit for humanity's return trip to the Moon _____ **NASA**.

Note:

- This spacesuit comes with specialist features to support astronauts as they conduct scientific experiments on the lunar surface.
- The prototype is said to be a better fit for female space travelers.
- NASA hopes to have the updated suit ready for the Artemis III mission to the Moon in 2025.
- A well-fitting suit is crucial to prevent excessive fatigue and at worst, physical harm.
- 5. The government has allocated a budget of _____ towards achieving the objectives of Gaganyaan mission _____ **Rs. 9023 Crore**.

Note:

- Scope of Gaganyaan program: To demonstrate human spaceflight capability to Low Earth Orbit and safe return
- ISRO is also developing indigenous technologies for Human rated launch vehicle, Life Support System, Crew Escape System, Ground Station Network, Crew Training and Recovery.
- The Union MoS, S&T, Dr. Jitendra Singh informed in Lok Sabha.
- 6. Which organization has conducted a young scientist program named Yuva Vigyani Karyakram (YUVIKA) _____ **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**.

Note:

- Aim: To impart basic knowledge on space technology, space science, and space applications to students of Class IX.
- Registration for the program has been started on March 20, 2023.
- The YUVIKA program will be conducted between May 15 and 26 at seven centers.
- Interested students studying in Class 9 as on 1 January 2023 within India are eligible to apply.
- 7. DRDO has successfully conducted a flight test of the PTO Shaft on Light Combat Aircraft (LCA Tejas) Limited Series Production (LSP)-3 aircraft in Bengaluru. What is the full form of PTO _____ **Power Take Off**.

Note:

- The PTO shaft is indigenously designed and developed by the Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (CVRDE), Chennai.
- The PTO shaft is a critical component in the aircraft.
- It supports the requirements of future fighter aircraft and their variants and offers competitive costs.
- 8. Which edition of a bilateral armour exercise, EX Bold Kurukshetra, between India and Singapore was concluded on March 13, 2023, at Jodhpur Military Station, India _____ **13th edition**.

Note:

- The ten-day-long joint training that commenced on March 5, fostered a common understanding of mechanized warfare in emerging threats and evolving technologies.
- It involved soldiers from the 42nd Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment and Armoured Brigade of the Indian Army.
- 9. Which edition of the Sea Dragon exercises is being started in the USA (host) from March 15-30, 2023 _____ **Third**.



Note:

- It is a coordinated multilateral anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercise for long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft.
 - In this exercise, Indian Navy participated with its P8I aircraft, which arrived at Guam, USA on 14 March 2023.
 - Apart from India, US Navy with P8A, Japan with P1, Canada with CP 140, and South Korea with P3C participated.
10. Which bill has been introduced in Lok Sabha to empower designated military commanders to take charge of soldiers and enforce discipline, regardless of the service they belong to _____ **Inter-Services Organization (Command, Control and Discipline) Bill, 2023.**

Note:

- It came ahead of the impending move to establish integrated or joint commands, where all the manpower and assets will be under the operational control of a single three-star general of the Indian Army, Navy and IAF.
11. The 10-day AFINDEX 2023 will be organized in Pune, India from March 21-30, 2023 to strengthen the military ties between the countries. It is a Joint exercise between India and which country _____ **Africa.**

Note:

- The India-Africa Army Chiefs Conclave will be held in Pune from March 28-29, 2023.
 - The exercise will promote the idea of Africa-India Militaries for Regional Unity (AMRUT).
 - A comprehensive validation exercise on the theme "Humanitarian Mine Actions and Peace Keeping Operations".
12. Indian Navy launched INS Androth, the second in a series of eight indigenous ships built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), is located in which city _____ **Kolkata.**

Note:

- It is an Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASWSWC).
 - It is a 77.6-meter-long and 10.5-meter-wide vessel, propelled by three diesel-driven water jets that will pack a punch.
 - The ship is capable of a maximum 25 knots speed and will carry lightweight torpedoes, ASW rockets, and mines.
13. A joint maritime exercise, Konkan 2023 was conducted between the Royal Navy of Britain and the Indian Navy from 20-22 March has concluded in which location _____ **Arabian Sea.**

Note:

- It is a joint drill by the two navies to demonstrate operational readiness, enhancing interoperability and improving the ability to conduct joint operations.
 - INS Trishul, a guided missile frigate, and HMS Lancaster participated.
 - It covered all domains of maritime operations, air, surface, and subsurface.
14. The Defence Ministry signed two separate contracts with which organization at a total cost of over Rs 3,700 crore _____ **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).**

Note:

- Reason: To enhance the operational capabilities of the Indian Air Force (IAF)
- First contract: Worth over Rs 2,800 crore, pertains to the supply of Medium Power Radars (MPR) 'Arudhra' for the IAF.
- Second contract: Worth over Rs 950 crore, relates to 129 DR-118 Radar Warning Receivers (RWR)



- Both projects are under Buy Indian- IDMM category.

15. The Indian Army and which armed force have conducted a 96-hour multi-domain air and land exercise named 'Vayu Prahar' in the eastern sector _____ **Indian Air Force**.

Note:

- The exercise was conducted in the second week of March 2023 to formulate plans that can lead to synergy in multi-domain operations.
- The scope of the joint exercise included the rapid mobilisation of a rapid reaction force from the hinterland.

16. Which armed force has conducted Regional Search and Rescue (SAR) exercise from 28 -29 March 2023 at Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh _____ **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**.

Note:

- Aim: To simulate a real-time maritime distress scenario and highlight the functioning of the SAR organization for a mass rescue operation
- It involved all stakeholders with the effective use of available resources towards M-SAR (Maritime Search and Rescue) contingency efficiently.
- ICG founded: 1 February 1977

17. The Defence Ministry has signed three contracts worth of _____ with BEL and New Space India Limited to boost the defence capabilities _____ **5400 crore rupees**.

Note:

- Two contracts were signed with Bharat Electronics Ltd for the procurement of Automated Air Defence Control and Reporting System Project Akashteer and the acquisition of Sarang Electronic Support Measure systems
- The third was with New Space India Limited for the procurement of an advanced Communication Satellite, GSAT 7B for the Indian Army.

18. Union MoS (Independent Charge) Science & Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh has inaugurated Asia's largest 4-meter International Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT) in which city _____ **Devasthal, Uttarakhand**.

Note:

- It is situated at an altitude of 2450 meters at the observatory, which lies at the campus of Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences.
- The ILMT employs a 4-meter-diameter rotating mirror, which was made up of a thin layer of liquid mercury, to collect and focus light.

19. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched India's Launch Vehicle Mark (LVM) 3 -M3 satellite with 36 satellites of the One Web India-2 mission from the second launch pad from which city _____ **Sriharikota**.

Note:

- With this launch, OneWeb will have 616 of its satellites in orbit.
- The 43m-tall launch vehicle has successfully completed the three stages in the prescribed time limit including the involvement of the ignition of the cryogenic engine.

20. Which institution Researchers have developed a three-dimensional (3D) paper-based portable device _____ **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)**.

Note:

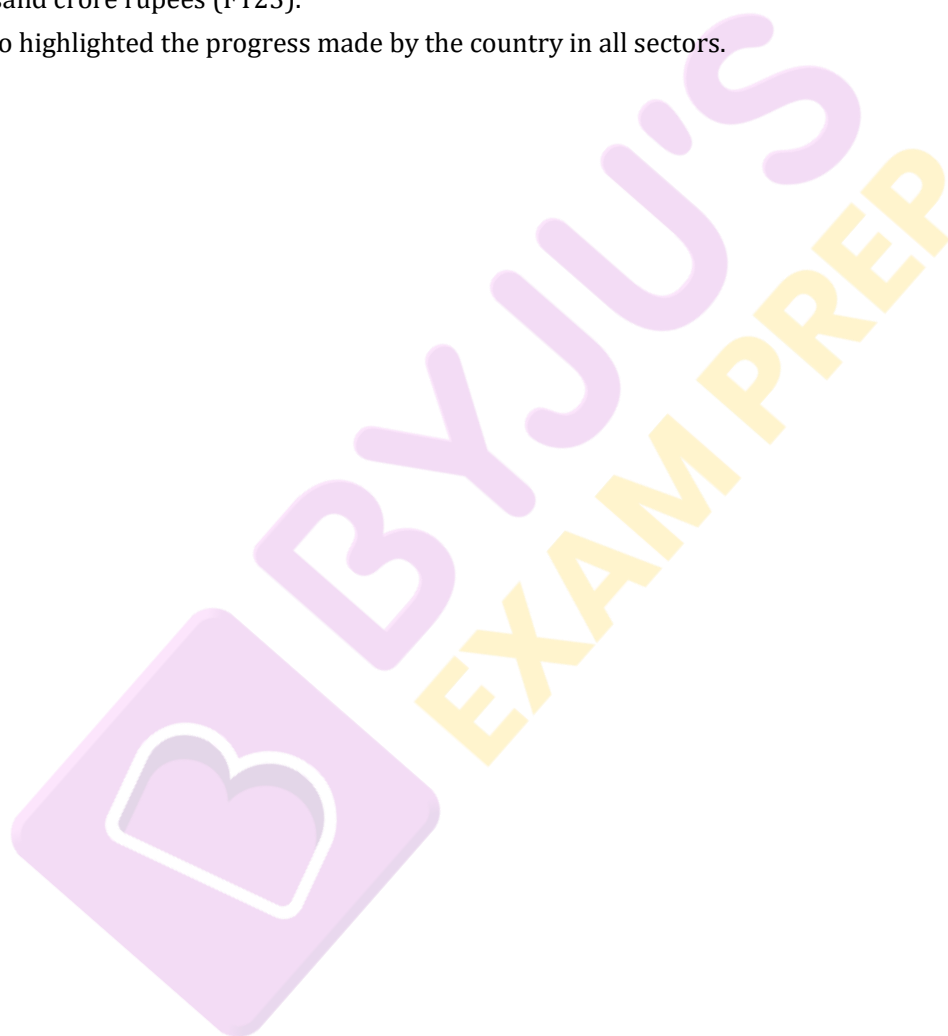
- This device can detect adulteration in milk within 30 seconds.
- The test could be even performed at home.



- It can detect multiple substances commonly used as adulterating agents including Urea, detergents, soap, starch, hydrogen peroxide, sodium-hydrogen-carbonate, and salt, among others.
21. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addressed the 'Rising India Conclave', which is held in which city on March 30, 2023 _____ **New Delhi**.

Note:

- During the event, he informed that India aims to achieve defence equipment exports target worth 40 thousand crore rupees by 2026.
- In the last few years, defence exports have witnessed a quantum jump from 900 crore rupees to 14 thousand crore rupees (FY23).
- He also highlighted the progress made by the country in all sectors.



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