

Current Affairs of February 2023

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National

Visakhapatnam will be the new Andhra Pradesh capital: CM Jagan Reddy

- **Visakhapatnam**, a port and industrial city brimming with cosmopolitan culture has been in the news ever since **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's** government announced that it would be the new capital of the state, indicating plans to develop **Amaravati** – on the banks of the **Krishna river** – as the capital city have been scrapped.
- The announcement of **Visakhapatnam**, a new capital for **Andhra** comes nine years after the state of **Telangana** was carved out of its territory and given **Hyderabad** as its capital.
- In **March** last year, the **Andhra Pradesh High Court** had ruled against the proposal to establish three capitals in the state and directed the **YSRC government** to develop **Amaravati** as the state capital as envisaged. The Court had also in its verdict on **March 3, 2022** said the state Legislature lacked competence to make any legislation for shifting, bifurcating or trifurcating the capital.



Union budget 2023 is being presented by FM NirmalaSitharaman

- Union Finance Minister, **NirmalaSitharaman** is presenting the **Union Budget 2023** for the **5th time in a row**. She will be presenting the financial statements and tax proposals for the fiscal year 2023-24 (April 2023 to March 2024). A **Made in India** tablet has replaced the traditional 'BahiKhata' as Union Finance Minister **NirmalaSitharaman** leaves the Finance Ministry's office to go to the Parliament to present the Budget.
- The **Economic Survey 2022-23** was released on **31st January 2023** by the Chief Economic Advisor of India, **VAnanthaNageswaran**. The government sees the



Indian economy growing at 6.5 per cent in the financial year 2023-24 (FY24).

- This is the first budget in 'Amritkal' This Budget hopes to build on the foundations laid in the previous Budget and the blueprint drawn for India@100. Indian economy is on the right track and heading towards a bright future. The Budget 2023 focuses on seven priorities, which the FM called the "Saptrishis guiding us through AmritKaal".

India's 1st Hydrogen train will come by Dec 2023 on Heritage Routes: Railway minister AshwiniVaishnaw

- **The Indian Railways** is introducing a green revolution and will be introducing **hydrogen and electric trains** to the **eight heritage routes** in the country by **December 2023**. The **Union Minister for Railways AshwiniVaishnaw** confirmed this recently.
- Talking about this initiative, Vaishnaw added that the new trains will run on the routes of **Kalka-Shimla Railways, Nilgiri Mountain Railways, Darjeeling Hills, Kangra Railways, BilimoraWaghai, Mhow-Patalpani, Marwar-devgarh-Madriya and MatheranHill Railways in Maharashtra**.
- Hydrogen engines have been developed by a few countries like **Germany, France and China**, and now India will also be a part of this, the minister added.
- As a pilot project, the railways is manufacturing a **prototype of hydrogen fuel-based train** at the Northern Railway workshop. It would be test-run on the **Sonipat-Jind section in Haryana**.



EknathShinde Declares 'Jai Jai Maharashtra Majha' As State Song

- The **Maharashtra government** announced the **Jai Jai Maharashtra Majha** as the **state song**, which is usually performed at school cultural events on **May 1**, second only to the national anthem. The song will now be



played on official occasions.

- On February 19, the anniversary of the birth of Maratha monarch **Chhatrapati Shivaji**, the song will assume its official role.
- At the moment, 12 other states—**Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Odisha, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand**—have an official state song.
- **Raja Badhe**, a poet who worked for **All India Radio from 1956 to 1962**, composed the song, which **Shrinivaskhale** set to music.
- It was performed by well-known folk singer **Shahir Sable** in front of **Yashwantrao Chavan** during a ceremony for the creation of the state on May 1, 1960, at Shivaji Park in Dadar.

India welcomes Congo into International Solar Alliance

- **India** has welcomed **Congo** to **International Solar Alliance**. The External Affairs Ministry said Ambassador of **Republic of Congo, Raymond Serge Bale** signed the **International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement** in the presence of Joint Secretary (Economic Diplomacy).
- The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** is an **action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform** for increased deployment of **solar energy technologies**.
- Its basic motive is to facilitate **energy access, ensure energy security, and drive energy transition** in its member countries. The ISA was conceived as a joint effort by **India and France** to mobilize efforts against **climate change** through deployment of **solar energy solutions**.
- The Headquarters is in India with its Interim Secretariat being set up in **Gurugram**.



PM Modi Emerged as World's Most Popular Leader, with approval rating of 78%

- **PM Narendra Modi** has been pegged as the **world's most popular leader** with an approval rating of **78 per cent** as per a survey by a US-based consulting firm '**Morning Consult**.' As per the rating **PM Modi's ratings** trump those of other leaders including **US President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron** and **UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak**. The poll surveyed 22 global leaders for the ratings. **Neither Vladimir Putin nor Xi Jinping** figured among the 22 popular leaders globally.
- **PM Modi** garnered 78 per cent of approval ratings, way ahead of **US President Joe Biden**, who received 40 per cent ratings. **Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador**, came in second with 68 per cent ratings and **Swiss President Alain Berset** occupied the third position with 62 per cent approval rating.
- The list is updated regularly with **US President Joe Biden** currently ranking number seven. Out of the 22 countries, **Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store**, **South Korean President Yoon Seok-youl** and **Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida** ranked among the last three in the list.



YayaTso to be Ladakh's first biodiversity heritage site

- **YayaTso**, known as birds' paradise for its beautiful lake located at an altitude of 4,820 metres, has been proposed as **Ladakh's first biodiversity heritage site (BHS)**.
- The **Biodiversity Management Committee**, the panchayat of **Chumathang** village, along with **SECURE Himalaya Project** recently resolved to declare **YayaTso** as **Ladakh's first BHS** under the **Biological Diversity Act**.



- The resolution was signed after multiple rounds of consultations between the village stakeholders and SECURE Himalaya project to declare the high-altitude lake and its catchment as a biodiversity heritage site.

Reliance unveiled India's 1st hydrogen-powered tech for heavy-duty trucks

- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Ashok Leyland** unveiled India's first **Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (H2-ICE) technology solution** for heavy duty trucks. This technology was flagged off by PM Modi at the India Energy Week in Bengaluru.
- The Hydrogen tech solution will emit near zero emissions, deliver performance on par with conventional diesel trucks and reduce noise and with projected reductions in operating costs thus redefining the future of green mobility.
- RIL and Ashok Leyland, along with and other technical partners were engaged in developing this technology since the last year with first engines running in early 2022. The company is also simultaneously pursuing the opportunity to create an end-to-end Hydrogen eco system for mobility.



Centre Notifies Appointment Of 5 Judges To Supreme Court of India, Working Strength Rises To 32

- The **Union government** notified the **appointment of five new judges** to the **Supreme Court**. With their appointments, the number of judges in the **Supreme Court will rise to 32**. Currently, the Supreme Court of India has a sanctioned strength of thirty-four Judges and is presently functioning with **twenty-seven Judges**.
- Now there remain only two vacancies at the **Supreme Court**, which could be filled in the coming days if **SC Collegium's January 31 proposal** to



elevate **Allahabad High Court** Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal and **Gujarat High Court** Chief Justice Aravind Kumar as SC judges, is accepted by the president.

The Five Judges are:-

- Justice Pankaj Mithal**, the chief justice of Rajasthan High Court
- Justice Sanjay Karol**, the chief justice of Patna High Court
- Justice PV Sanjay Kumar**, the chief justice of Manipur High Court
- Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah**, a judge of Patna High Court
- Justice Manoj Misra**, a judge of Allahabad High Court

India ranks first, contributes 24 pc of global milk production: Centre to Lower House

- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, **Parshottam Rupala** told Lok Sabha that India is the highest milk producer in the world contributing twenty-four per cent of global milk production in the year 2021-22.
- According to production data of **Food and Agriculture Organization Corporate Statistical Database (FAOSTAT)**, India is the highest milk producer in the world contributing twenty-four per cent of global milk production in the year 2021-22.
- The milk production of India has registered a fifty-one per cent increase during the last eight years- during the year 2014-15 and 2021-22 and increased to twenty-two crore tonne in the year 2021-22.



FORTUNE(R) Magazine: TCS named to World's Most Admired Companies List

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has been named to **FORTUNE®** magazine's list of the **World's Most Admired Companies**.
- Regarded as a barometer of corporate



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

- TCS partners with some of the world's largest corporations in their innovation, growth, and transformation initiatives.
- Its industry-leading growth over the last decade has come from continually looking for new opportunities to add value to clients, proactively investing in newer capabilities, reskilling its workforce, and launching newer services, solutions, products, and platforms.

India Received Highest ever Foreign Inward Remittances in a single year of \$89,127 million in FY 2021-22

- During 2021-22, India received foreign inward remittances of USD 89,127 million which was the highest ever inward remittances received in a single year. This was stated by Union Minister of State for Finance **Pankaj Chaudhary** in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha.

REMITTANCES ARRIVE TO INDIA	
Countries	Remittance Inflow (\$ million)
UAE	12,845
USA	11,193
Saudi Arabia	10,737
Pakistan	4,794
Kuwait	4,665
Qatar	4,072
U.K.	3,693
Oman	3,101
Nepal	2,783



- The **World Bank** defines remittance as the sum of worker's remittances, compensation of employees, and migrants' transfers as recorded in the IMF Balance of Payments.
- Workers remittances are current transfers by migrant who are considered residents in the source.
- Remittances are a vital source of household income for low and middle income countries.

World Happiness Index 2023 Country Wise List

- The World Happiness Index 2023 Report will mark its tenth anniversary with this year's Globe Happiness Reflect, which uses data from international surveys to show how people

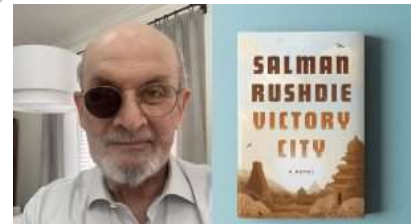


rank their lives in more than 150 countries.

- In these dark times, there is a glimmer of optimism revealed by the World Happiness Index 2023. The pandemic not only caused anguish and suffering, but it also led to a rise in social assistance and charitable giving.
- Finland was named the world's happiest country for the fifth year in a row, according to the World Happiness Report.
- The Sustainable Development Solutions Network of the UN has published a new report, which was made public two days prior to the yearly International Day of Happiness.
- It rates 150 countries (146 in 2023) based on factors such as GDP, life expectancy, and other indicators of quality of life.

Salman Rushdie new novel 'Victory City' released

- **Salman Rushdie** published his new novel "Victory City", an "epic tale" of a 14th-century woman who defies a patriarchal world to rule a city.
- The much-anticipated work tells the tale of young orphan girl Pampa Kampana who is endowed by a goddess with magical powers and founds the city, in modern-day India, of Bisnaga, which translates as Victory City.
- Brilliantly narrated in the style of an ancient epic, Victory City is a saga of love, adventure, and myth that is in itself a testament to the power of storytelling.



Airbus, Boeing and Air India inks agreement for largest purchase in history

- In an effort to rebuild itself with a fleet that can compete with regional low-cost rivals and strong Gulf airlines like Emirates, Air India Ltd. has signed deals with Airbus SE and Boeing Co. for what may end up being the largest acquisition of aircraft in commercial aviation history.



Airbus, Boeing and Air India inks agreement

- According to people involved with the talks, who not to be named because the conversations are private, the airline and the two planemakers have agreed on the broad strokes of the agreement and may publicly announce the contract as early as next week.
- According to the sources, Airbus is in line to get roughly 250 orders and commitments total, made up of 210 aircraft from the A320 single-aisle family and 40 wide-body A350s.
- With 190 737 Max aircraft and the option for 50 more, 20 787 Dreamliners and the same number as a potential top-up, coupled with 10 777x aircraft, Boeing has secured roughly 290 potential acquisitions.

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

- India's first air-conditioned **double-decker electric bus** was inducted into the fleet of BEST- the civic transport public body in Mumbai.
- The wet-leased e-bus will be registered at the **Regional**



Transport Office before it hits the road for the public. This air-conditioned double-decker electric bus is likely to ply on the routes in suburbs where conventional double-decker buses that run on diesel are currently operated.

- Lokesh Chandra, general manager of the **Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST)**
- Undertaking, informed that they are scheduled to receive 4-5 more double-decker air-conditioned e-buses in the next 8-10 days and a total of 20 such buses before March end from Switch Mobility, a subsidiary of automobile manufacture Ashok Leyland. The number of double-decker e-buses will reach 200 by this year-end.

Sarojini Naidu Birth Anniversary: Why is February 13 celebrated as National Women's Day?

- Every year on February 13, the nation commemorates Sarojini Naidu's birth anniversary. The 144th anniversary of Sarojini Naidu's birth is this year.
- She was well-known in



Sarojini Naidu Birth Anniversary: National Women's Day

India as a poet, politician, and administrator. She was one of the well-known female figures of the 20th century and was born on February 13th, 1879 in Hyderabad. Because of her poetry, she was often referred to as the "Nightingale of India." She was a key figure in the Indian National Movement, which fought for the nation's independence.

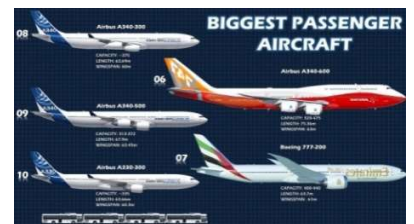
Strict Anti-Copying Law comes into force in Uttarakhand: Know all the details

- The country's strictest **Anti-Copying Law** has come into force in **Uttarakhand**. Governor Lieutenant General Gurmeet Singh has approved the Uttarakhand Competitive Examination (Measures for Prevention and Prevention of Unfair Means in Recruitment) Ordinance 2023.
- In view of this, the Anti-Copying Law is being described as the biggest anti-copying law in the country. This comes after the UKPSC paper leak which led to cancellation of exam for around 1.4 lakh government job aspirants.
- Under this Anti-Copying Law, a provision to impose a fine of **10 crores rupees along** with life imprisonment or **10 years in jail** for the copycat mafia. Apart from this, there is also a provision to attach the property of the copying mafia.



Air India to buy 220 Boeing planes for \$34 billion

- United States President **Joe Biden** hailed Air India's decision to purchase over 220 aircraft from Boeing and called it a "historic agreement between Tata-owned airlines and Boeing."
- This purchase will support over one million American jobs across 44 states, and many will not require a four-year college degree. This announcement also reflects the strength of **US-India economic partnership**," Joe Biden said in an official statement.
- Air India will purchase as many as 220 planes from Boeing for USD 34 billion, with an option to buy 70



more aircraft that could take the total transaction value to USD 45.9 billion.

- The Air India order is Boeing's third biggest sale ever in dollar value and second in terms of number of planes.

12 Cheetahs to be Flown from South Africa Under Cheetah Reintroduction Program

- Union Environment Minister **Bhupender Yadav** announced Twelve cheetahs will be flown in from South Africa on 18th February.
- Under the ambitious Cheetah reintroduction program, **Prime Minister**



Narendra Modi released the first batch of eight spotted felines — five females and three males — from Namibia into a quarantine enclosure at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh on his 72nd birthday on September 17 last year.

- Presently, the eight cheetahs at **Kuno** are killing prey every three-four day and are in good health. One of the cheetahs was unwell as her creatinine levels had shot up. She has recovered after treatment.

IQAir: Mumbai overtakes Delhi as most polluted city in India

- **Mumbai** has been ranked as the most-polluted city in India and second most polluted city globally within a week between January 29 and February 8, according to **Swiss air tracking index IQAir**, a real-time air quality monitor.
- On January 29, Mumbai was ranked 10th in the rankings for the poorest position. Mumbai then clinched the second spot on February 2 before falling in the following days. Then it again rose to take the second place on February 8.
- On February 13, Mumbai took over **Delhi** as the most polluted city in India and was the third most unhealthy city worldwide for air quality worldwide.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates Aero India 2023 with hopes of local production boost

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 14th edition of its flagship aero show in Bengaluru, an event seen to be a great business opportunity when New Delhi is looking to push indigenous products, modernise Soviet-era equipment and as domestic carriers add fleet.
- The theme of Aero India 2023 is “**The Runway to a Billion Opportunities**”.
- Aero India 2023, Asia's largest aero show, will run from February 13 to February 17, displaying locally-produced equipment and technologies to attract partnerships with foreign companies.



Ek Nath Shinde-led Sena Faction Gets 'Bow and Arrow' Symbol

- The **Election Commission** recognized the faction led by **Maharashtra Chief Minister Ek Nath Shinde** as the real Shiv Sena and allocated it the bow and arrow symbol.
- In the order, the Election Commission informed that 40 MLAs backing Shinde got nearly 76% of the votes polled in favor of the 55 Shiv Sena candidates who had won their seats in the 2019 Maharashtra Assembly polls.
- On the other hand, the **Uddhav Thackeray** faction's 15 MLAs got 23.5% of the votes polled, the three-member poll body said in a unanimous order.
- Meanwhile, 13 MPs of the Shinde faction got 73% of the total votes cast in Shiv Sena's favor in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, while only 27% of the votes went to MPs from the Thackeray camp.



Tata Group bags Title sponsorship rights for the Women's Premier League to 2027

- According to the Board of Control for Cricket in India, the **Tata Group** has secured the title sponsorship rights for the **Women's Premier League (WPL)** for five seasons (**BCCI**).

- From February 15, 2023, to July 31, 2027, or up until 30 days after the conclusion of the WPL Season 2027, the salt to software conglomerate will hold the title sponsorship rights.
- On January 28, the BCCI published the tender for the purchase of WPL title rights. The bidding paper could only be purchased until February 9; meanwhile, bids had to be submitted by February 11 to be considered.

Kerala HC publish judgment in regional language, becomes 1st in country to do so

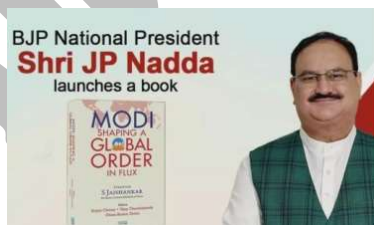
- On February 21, also known as International Mother Language Day, the Kerala High Court published two of its most recent decisions in Malayalam, making it the first high court in the nation to do so.
- On the court's website, the Malayalam decisions were posted right underneath the English version. On the website, two decisions made by the division bench, which included Chief Justice S. Manikumar and Justice Shaji P Chaly.
- The news comes a day after the Supreme Court began testing a live transcription service to record its hearings and then translate them into text using artificial intelligence (AI) and NLP-based technology.
- The facility was used in Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud's courtroom, when he presided over a Constitution bench hearing the Maharashtra constitutional crisis.



Kerala High Court publish Judgement in Regional

JP Nadda launched book 'Modi: Shaping a Global order in flux'

- BJP national president J.P. Nadda has launched a book "Modi: Shaping a Global Order in Flux" in Chanakyaपुरi.
- Book is forwarded by Union External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. Editors are SujanChinoy, Vijay Chauthaiwala, and Uttam Kumar Sinha.
- This book is going to open a debate on how PM Modi has taken a decision which has changed India's image worldwide. It's necessary to understand what was the image of India before Modi came to power.



- The publisher of the book is Wisdom Tree.

Term of the 22nd Law Commission extended till August, 2024

- The Union cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on February 22 extended the term of the 22nd Law Commission till August 31, 2024.
- The move came as the tenure of the 22nd Law Commission of India ended on February 20, 2023.
- Former chief justice of the Karnataka High Court Ritu Raj Awasthi is the chairperson of the current commission, and its members include KT Sankaran, a retired judge of the Kerala High Court.
- The Law Commission of India is a non-statutory body constituted by the Government of India from time to time.
- The first Law Commission of independent India was established in 1955 for a three-year term.
- The first Law Commission was established during the British Raj era in 1834 by the Charter Act of 1833 and was chaired by Lord Macaulay.



22nd Law Commission

Churchgate Railway Station in Mumbai will now be known as First Indian RBI Governor CD Deshmukh

- The Churchgate railway station in Mumbai will soon be called as 'Chintamanrao Deshmukh station', named after the first governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) CD Deshmukh.
- The first national executive meeting of Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena faction, which was declared the original Shiv Sena by the Election Commission last week.
- The meeting passed a resolution to rename the Churchgate railway station after the former RBI governor and Union Finance Minister CD Deshmukh.



CJI DY Chandrachud Launched “Neutral Citations” For All Supreme Courts

- The Chief Justice of India **DY Chandrachud** announced that the Supreme Court has launched “**neutral citations**” of judgments to ensure a uniform pattern of citing its decisions.
- Earlier, the Supreme court informed that steps had been taken for the introduction and implementation of a **uniform, reliable and secure** methodology for identifying and citing decisions in the apex court, namely the neutral citations system, to ensure a uniform pattern of citing all decisions of the top court.
- The Chief Justice of India informed that they have launched **neutral citations**. All judgments of the court will have neutral citations,” adding that around **30,000 verdicts** of the apex court would have neutral citations.



Union Government Approved Renaming of Aurangabad & Osmanabad in Maharashtra

- **Chief Minister Eknath Shinde** confirmed that Aurangabad city will be renamed Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, and Osmanabad city will be called Dharashiv. After a year the proposal to rename Aurangabad and Osmanabad has been approved by the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- The Ministry stated that it has no objection to renaming cities. The initial proposal was made in a cabinet meeting during the **MahaVikasAghadi** government in June 2022 before Uddhav Thackeray resigned as the then-chief minister.
- After claiming that the decision by the Uddhav government was illegal, On July 16, 2022, a **Government Resolution** was passed by the two-member cabinet, comprising Eknath Shinde and his deputy Devendra Fadnis, for changing the names, and a proposal was then forwarded to the Centre.



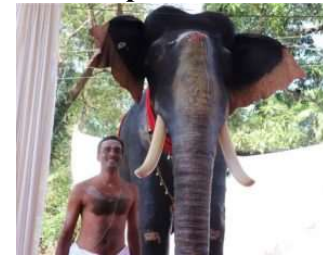
Nokia updates their logo to mark the beginning of a new era

- **Nokia** will no longer use the colour blue and will instead use whatever is more fitting given the circumstances, therefore no particular colour scheme is allocated.
- **Nokia** is now a “**enterprise technology company**,” according to **Lundmark**, rather than just a maker of smartphones.
- **Nokia** will put more of an emphasis on selling equipment to other companies while also expanding its telecom equipment business.
- They include tools for automated manufacturing and private 5G networks, positioning the business as a rival to Microsoft and Amazon in the industry.



Kerala temple become India’s first to induct robotic elephant for ritual duties

- The **Irinjadappilly Sree Krishna Temple** in Kerala’s Thrissur district has become the first in the country to use a mechanical, lifelike **elephant for temple rituals**.
- The temple priests performed ‘Nadayiruthal’ or ceremonial offering to the deity, of Irinjadappilly Raman, a magnificent, lifelike mechanical or “robotic” elephant. Irinjadappilly Raman has been gifted to the temple by animal rights organisation People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India with the support of award-winning Indian film actor Parvathy Thiruvothu.
- ‘Irinjadappilly Raman’ will help conduct ceremonies at the temple in a safe and cruelty-free manner and thereby support real elephants’ rehabilitation and life in forests, ending the horror of captivity for them.



International

Google introduces AI chatbot 'Bard' to compete with Microsoft's ChatGPT

- **Google** has unveiled an experimental conversation AI service called "**Bard**", as it races to catch up with the wildly popular chatbot **ChatGPT** from the Microsoft-backed firm **OpenAI**.
- According to **Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai**, the service will be initially opened up to "trusted testers" before making it more widely available to the public in the coming weeks.
- This announcement comes as the tech giant's flagship search business faces renewed competition from its Big Tech peer Microsoft which recently made a reported \$10 billion investment in the upstart artificial intelligence (AI) research lab OpenAI and plans to add artificial intelligence capabilities across its range of software products including Google rival Bing.



Nasa's all-electric X-57 plane is preparing to fly

- **NASA's "all-electric" plane X-57** is soon set to take off, the US space agency. The plane has 14 propellers along its wings and is powered entirely by electricity. Recently, **NASA's X-57 Maxwell** performed successful thermal testing of its cruise motor controllers.
- Thermal testing is important because it validates the design, operability, and workmanship quality of aircraft controllers. The controllers have temperature-sensitive parts and must be able to withstand extreme conditions during flight.



Key Points

- **NASA Headquarters:** Washington, D.C., United States;
- **NASA Founded:** 29 July 1958, United States;
- **NASA Founder:** Dwight D. Eisenhower.

US Offers Critical Technologies to India under iCET, elevates strategic partnership

- **India and the United States** launched a programme to enhance their strategic partnership with delegations led by the **National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval** and his American counterpart, **Jake Sullivan** at their meeting in Washington for the inaugural dialogue of the **Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET)**.
- The initiative is a particularly significant milestone in the bilateral relationship, having been announced at the highest level — by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **U.S. President Joe Biden** at the **Quad summit in Tokyo** in May, 2022.
- The two sides announced a set of programmes whose aim is to increase the depth and scope of bilateral cooperation in **cutting edge technology**, including in the **defence sector**. The iCET seeks to build supply chains which increase **co-production and co-development** between the countries and increase linkages between the countries' start-up ecosystems, both governments said in their statements describing the dialogue.



Pakistan's Inflation Rises To 48 Year High as IMF Officials Visit For Talk

- **Inflation** has risen to a **48-year high** in crisis-hit **Pakistan**, where the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** is visiting for urgent talks, according to data released on February 1 by the country's statistics bureau.
- Year-on-year inflation in January 2023 was recorded at **27.55 percent**, the **highest since May 1975**, with thousands of containers of imports held up at Karachi port. Pakistan's economy is in dire straits, stricken by a **balance-of-payments crisis** while it attempts to service **high amounts of external debt**.



- **Food prices** rose by a staggering **43 percent** in January year-on-year. The inflation rate in Pakistan averaged **8.05 per cent from 1957 until 2023**, reaching an **all-time high of 37.8 per cent in December 1973** and a record low of minus 10.32 per cent in February 1959.

Adani Group Enters Israel with Haifa Port Acquisition For 1.2 Billion \$

- **The Adani Group** acquired the strategic **Israeli port of Haifa** for **USD 1.2 billion** and vowed to transform the skyline of this **Mediterranean city** as part of its decision to invest more in the Jewish nation, including opening an **artificial intelligence lab in Tel Aviv**.
- Adani Group chairman **Gautam Adani**, whose business empire was rocked by allegations of fraud by US short seller Hindenburg Research, appeared alongside **Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** for signing of the deal to takeover **Haifa Port**, and spoke of investment opportunities.
- In July last year, the group announced the **acquisition of Haifa Port** with a local partner, **Gadot**, for **\$1.15 billion**. Prime Minister Netanyahu described the Haifa port deal with the Adani Group as an “**enormous milestone**”, saying it will significantly improve connectivity between the two countries in many ways.

Australia Announced Decision to Remove British Monarchy from its Banknotes

- **Australia** announced it will erase the British monarch from its banknotes, replacing the late **Queen Elizabeth II's** image on its \$5 note with a design honoring Indigenous culture. The central bank's decision to leave her successor **Charles III** off the \$5 note means no Britain-based monarch will remain on Australia's paper currency.
- The central bank informed that its decision was supported by the center-left Labor government of **Prime Minister Anthony Albanese**, who supports an eventual move to an Australian republic.



Indian-American Ami Bera Appointed to House Intelligence Committee

- Indian-American Congressman **Dr. Ami Bera** has been appointed as a member of a powerful US House Committee handling intelligence-related matters.
- The **House Permanent Selection Committee on Intelligence** is charged with providing oversight of the country's intelligence activities, including the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), office of the **Director of National Intelligence (DNI)**, National Security Agency (NSA) as well as the military intelligence programs.



Earthquake of magnitude 7.8 kills 95, knocks down buildings in Turkey

- A **7.8 magnitude earthquake** shook Turkey followed by another strong quake which was felt in several provinces in the region, knocking down a number of buildings, reports said.
- The **US Geological Survey** said quake was centred about 33 kilometres (20 miles) from **Gaziantep** about 26 kilometres (16 miles) from the **town of Nurdagi**.
- It was centred 18 kilometres (11 miles) deep, according to the US Geological Survey. **Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management agency** was centred in the **town of Pazarcik, in Kahramanmaraş province**.



New British stamp with image of King Charles III unveiled

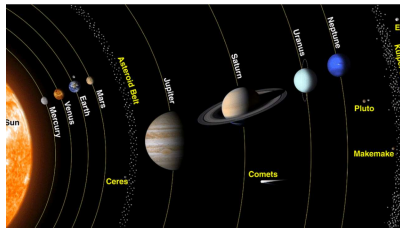
- New 'everyday' stamps featuring the image of **King Charles III** were unveiled for the first time, the latest item in **Britain** to get a makeover following the death of **Queen Elizabeth**.



- From coins and banknotes and to the official royal cypher used by the government, Britain has been slowly introducing replacements featuring the new monarch since his mother's death in September.
- The new stamp, which will go on general sale at the start of April, consists solely of the king's head and its value on a plain coloured background.

Jupiter beats Saturn to become the Planet with most Moons

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



'Operation Dost': India went All Out To Help Quake-Hit Turkey, Syria

- As part of "Operation Dost," India is deploying a field hospital, supplies, and rescue personnel to the earthquake-stricken countries of Turkey and Syria.
- A 7.8-magnitude earthquake that occurred on Monday while people were asleep destroyed thousands of buildings, trapped an undetermined number of people, and may have affected millions of people.
- Time is running out for the thousands of injured people and others who are still believed to be trapped, World Health Organization director Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus cautioned.
- 9,500 people have now died as a result of the earthquake.



- Adana witnessed the landing of a fourth Indian Air Force C17 bearing aid for Turkey's earthquake victims.
- India has received criticism from Turkey for being overly generous in aiding the nation following the devastating earthquake.

Newly launched Google Bard lose \$100bn in one error

- Alphabet Inc. lost \$100 billion in market value shortly after its new chatbot inadvertently disclosed false information in a promotional video. While Microsoft shares jumped almost 3% before losing some of their gains, its shares fell as much as 9% during regular trade.
- Initially, Reuters called attention to a mistake in Google's advertisement for its debuting chatbot Bard.
- The article discussed which satellite was the first to capture images of a planet outside of our solar system.
- After OpenAI, a company Microsoft is investing \$10 billion in, unveiled software in November that amazed users and became a craze in Silicon Valley circles for its shockingly accurate and well-written responses to straightforward questions, Google has been reeling.



UNESCO To Declare the World's First Living Heritage University

- **Visva-Bharati University** was founded by **Rabindranath** in **1921**. It will soon receive the UNESCO 'heritage' tag. This will allow it to be the first university of living heritage.
- Bidyut Chakraborty, Vice-Chancellor of Visva-Bharati University, stated that the university would be designated a heritage university.
- According to **UNESCO**, in 1922, **Visva-Bharati** was inaugurated as a **Centre for Culture with exploration into the arts, language, humanities, music** and these are reflected in diverse institutes that continue in their educational programmes like



including Hindi studies, Sino-Asian studies, humanities, fine arts, and music.

King Charles' coronation emblem by ex Apple chief designer revealed

- Ahead of the scheduled coronation ceremony for Britain's King Charles III on 6 May, 2023, the Buckingham Palace released the newly appointed king's official coronation emblem.
- The coronation emblem features the King's love for nature by joining the flora that symbolize the four nations of the United Kingdom in a single image.
- The logo, to be used for events over the coronation long weekend in May, features a rose, thistle, daffodil and shamrock – emblems from across the United Kingdom.



World Government Summit 2023 Set to Begin in Dubai

- The World Government Summit 2023 is set to begin on 13th February 2023 in Dubai. The World Government Summit will be held under the theme of "Shaping Future Governments".
- It will bring together global thought leaders, global experts, and decision-makers to share and contribute to the development of tools, policies, and models that will be critical in shaping future governments.
- The World Government Summit will feature 20 presidents, including Egyptian President, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi; President of the Republic of Türkiye, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan; President of Senegal and Chairperson of the African Union, Macky Sall, among others.



12th World Hindi Conference Inaugurated at Fiji

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Fiji Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka to inaugurate the three-day event' the 12th World Hindi Conference on 15th February at the Pacific Island nation.
- The 12th World Hindi Conference, scheduled to be held at Nadi from 15th February to 17th February 2023, will be on the theme "Hindi – Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence".
- The conference will be spread over one plenary session and ten parallel sessions on topics such as Hindi in Giritiya countries, Hindi in Fiji and the Pacific, Information Technology, and Hindi in the 21st century.
- It also includes topics such as Media and the global perception of Hindi; global reference to Indian knowledge traditions and Hindi; Linguistic coordination and Hindi translation.
- Parallel sessions on different forms of Hindi cinema and the global scenario, global market and Hindi, Pravasi Hindi literature in the changing scenario, and Hindi teaching in India and abroad, challenges and solutions will also be held.
- Hindi scholars from India and other countries will be awarded the "Vishwa Hindi Samman" for their exceptional contributions to the Hindi language during the conference.



World Bank chief David Malpass to step down early

- World Bank chief David Malpass has announced his resignation nearly a year early. He ending a tenure at the head of the development lender that was clouded by questions over his climate stance.
- The veteran of Republican administrations in the United States was appointed to the role in 2019 when Donald Trump was president and previously served as Under Secretary of the Treasury for international affairs. Malpass's term would have originally ended in 2024.
- The US traditionally nominates the head of the World Bank, with Europe nominating the heads of its twin



Bretton Woods institution, the International Monetary Fund.

Nikki Haley- A Republican & An Indian-American formally launches her 2024 presidential bid

- Indian-origin Republican leader **Nikki Haley** formally launched her 2024 presidential bid, casting herself as a younger, fresher alternative to her one-time boss and former US President Donald Trump.



- Haley, 51, is the two-term Governor of South Carolina and the former US Ambassador to the United Nations.
- Haley was born Nimrata Nikki Randhawa in Bamberg, South Carolina, to Indian immigrants. Her parents hailed from Punjab and worked as teachers while also running a clothing store in rural South Carolina.
- She was raised as a Sikh but converted to Christianity after marriage to Michael Haley in 1996.

Spanish Government Passed Law Providing 'Menstrual Leave' First Time in Europe

- The **Spanish government** approved a historic law granting paid medical leave to women suffering from severe menstrual pain is the first for any **European country**.
- These leave facilities are available in a handful of countries including Japan, Indonesia, and Zambia. Equality Minister **Irene Montero** informed that it is a historic day of progress in feminist rights.
- Equality Minister **Irene Montero** noted that the move would be a step towards addressing a health problem that has been largely swept under the carpet.
- Equality Minister Irene Montero informed that **periods** will no longer be taboo. No more going to work in pain, no more taking pills before arriving at work, and having to hide the fact that they are in pain that makes us unable to work.

Seattle created history becomes first city in US to ban caste discrimination

- The **Seattle City Council** passed an ordinance adding caste to the list of protected classes in the city's municipal code, along with groups like race, religion, and gender identity.

- Seattle** created history by becoming the **first US city** to pass an explicit ban on caste-based discrimination.
- Caste-oppressed people in the city are permitted to file complaints of discrimination under the law, which forbids caste discrimination in employment, housing, public facilities, and other settings.
- Caste prejudice and discrimination** could spread more widely in the US as a result of South Asians being one of the immigrant groups with the fastest rate of growth in the country.

UK surpasses India as the world's sixth-biggest equity market

- The **UK** has surpassed **India** as the **sixth-largest equity market** in the world for the first time since May 2022 as a weaker pound increases the attraction of exporters and concerns over the **Adani-Hindenburg** controversy are being felt throughout Indian markets.
- This hasn't happened since May 29, 2022, when the combined market capitalization of primary listings in the UK, excluding ETFs and ADRs, reached about \$3.11 trillion on Tuesday, according to Bloomberg.
- This is \$5.1 billion more than their Indian counterparts.
- The **UK's FTSE 350 Index**, which consists of firms in the domestically oriented FTSE 250 and FTSE 100, has increased 5.9% so far this year. Nifty 50 has decreased 3.5% thus far in 2023.



Ex-Mastercard CEO Ajay Banga Nominated By US President To Lead World Bank

- From Washington, US President **Joe Biden** is nominating former Mastercard Chief Executive **Ajay Banga** to lead the World Bank, after its current chief **David Malpass** announced plans to step down early.
- Banga's nomination comes amid a push for development lenders to revamp and address global problems like environmental issues more effectively.



- The development lender has just started accepting candidate nominations in a process set to run until March 29, with the bank saying that women candidates would be “strongly” encouraged.
- The president of the World Bank is typically American, while the leader of the International Monetary Fund is customarily European.

7-year-old Prince from Bhutan becomes first digital citizen of the country

- **Bhutan** has taken a step towards modernising its digital infrastructure.
- The Himalayan kingdom has just found its first-ever digital citizen.
- The **Bhutan National Digital Identity (NDI) mobile wallet**, Royal Highness **The Gyalsey (Prince) Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck** has become the first digital citizen of Bhutan.
- The system in question uses cutting-edge technology to provide citizens with safe and verifiable credentials that can prove their identity.



The Gyalsey

(Prince) **Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck** has become the first digital citizen of Bhutan.

Defence

Indian Army carries out military exercise “TrishakriPrahar” in North Bengal

- A joint training exercise “**Exercise TrishakriPrahar**” was conducted in North Bengal from **21 January to 31 January 2023**. The aim of the exercise was to practice battle preparedness of the Security Forces using the latest weapons and equipment in a networked, integrated environment, involving all arms and services of the Army, the Indian Air Force and CAPFs.
- Exercise culminated on 31 January 2023 with an Integrated Fire Power Exercise in Teesta Field Firing Ranges.
- As part of the exercise, swift mobilization and deployment practices were carried out in various locations across North Bengal. Efforts of all agencies including the Civil Administration, Civil Defence Organisations, Police and CAPFs were coordinated to ensure efficient move and quick mobilization.



Indian Coast Guard celebrates its 47th Raising Day 2023

- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** is celebrating its **47th Raising Day on 1st February 2023**. From a modest beginning with just seven surface platforms in 1978, the ICG today has 158 ships and 78 aircraft and is likely to achieve the targeted force levels of 200 surface platforms and 80 aircraft by 2025.
- As the fourth largest Coast Guard in the world, the Indian Coast Guard has played a significant role in securing the Indian Coasts and enforcing regulations in the Maritime Zones of India. The ICG was formally established on February 1, 1977, by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 of the Parliament of India. It operates under the Ministry of Defence.



Key Points

- Indian Coast Guard Director-General: Virender Singh Pathania;
- Indian Coast Guard Founded: 1 February 1977;
- Indian Coast Guard Headquarters: New Delhi.

India, US Forces Run Joint Exercise Tarkash

- A joint counter-terrorism exercise **Tarkash** between **National Security Guard (NSG) and US Special Operations Forces (SOF)** culminated in Chennai, after four weeks of intense training and joint anti-terror exercises.
- The main highlight of the exercise was mock drills for the CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) counter terror response by special forces of both countries.
- The training regimen of the exercise included the conduct of urban counter-terrorism drills, combat shooting and practice of long-range marksmanship, to enhance mutual warfare capabilities.
- In the current geopolitical landscape, Exercise Tarkash is a significant one as India is surrounded by two nuclear-armed neighbours, China and Pakistan.



India-Japan kick starts joint training exercise 4th “Dharma Guardian” 2023

- **India and Japan** has kick started an exercise ‘**Ex Dharma Guardian**’ at Camp Imazu in Shiga Province, Japan from February 17 to March 2, 2023.
- The Indian Army contingent arrived at the exercise location on February 12, 2023.
- India and Japan will kick off an exercise ‘**Ex Dharma Guardian**’ at Camp Imazu in Shiga Province, Japan from February 17 to March 2, 2023. The Indian Army contingent arrived at the exercise location on February 12, 2023.



- This will be the 4th edition of the Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' between India and Japan. Exercise Dharma Guardian will strengthen bilateral ties and the level of defence cooperation between the Indian Army and the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force.

Australia to conduct Malabar naval exercise for first time this August

- Malabar multilateral naval exercise will be hosted by Australia for the first time this year, which includes participation from India, Australia, Japan, and the United States.
- With Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Foreign Minister Penny Wong slated to visit India in early March, when new defence plans may be unveiled, the high level of bilateral interaction between the two countries will continue. Australia will host Malabar 2023, which is slated to take place in August, according to official sources. "Maybe Perth will host the exercise.
- But, a final decision has not yet been made because the details are still being worked out, according to two different authorities.



Australia to conduct Malabar Naval Exercise for first time

Appointments or Resign/Retired

Puma India named Indian Captain Harmanpreet Kaur as its brand ambassador

- Sports brand **Puma India** announced roping in women's cricket team captain **Harmanpreet Kaur** as its latest brand ambassador. As part of the partnership terms, Harmanpreet will endorse the brand's footwear, apparel and accessories throughout the year.
- With this, Harmanpreet joins PUMA's roster of brand ambassadors that include **Virat Kohli**, football stars **Neymar Jr** and **Sunil Chhetri**, boxer **MC Mary Kom**, cricketer **Harleen Deol** and Para-Shooter **Avani Lekhara**.



EAC-PM: Shamika Ravi appointed as member in EAC-PM

- Economics professor and researcher **Shamika Ravi** has been appointed as a member of the **Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM)**. She is currently non-resident senior fellow of the governance studies program at the Brookings Institution Washington D.C.
- EAC-PM, chaired by economist **Bibek Debroy**, currently has one member and six part-time members. Member **Sanjeev Sanyal** welcomed Ravi in a social media post. Part-time members of the advisory body include economist **Rakesh Mohan** and **Sajjid Z. Chinoy**, Managing Director and Chief India Economist at J.P. Morgan.



Indian-American Apsara Iyer elected as president of Harvard Law Review

- Indian-American student at Harvard Law School, **Apsara Iyer** has been elected president of the prestigious **Harvard Law Review**, becoming the first woman from the community to be named to the position in the **prestigious publication's 136-year history**.
- She was elected the 137th president of the Harvard Law Review, which was founded in 1887 and is among the oldest student-run legal scholarship publications.
- Apsara Iyer's distinguished predecessors in the role include Supreme Court Justice **Ruth Bader Ginsburg** and former president **Barack Obama**. She aims to include more editors in the process of reviewing and selecting articles and upholding the publication's reputation for "high-quality" work.



Lawyer Victoria Gowri Sworn in as Madras High Court Judge

- Lawyer **Lakshmana Chandra Victoria Gowri** was appointed to the higher judiciary and took an oath of office as the additional judge of **Madras High Court**. Lakshmana Chandra Victoria Gowri faced opposition from a section of the legal fraternity to her following their usual practice.
- It included reading out the **Warrant of Appointment** issued by the President, Gowri was administered the oath of office by Acting Chief Justice of Madras High Court Justice **T. Raja**. Besides Gowri, four others also took oath as additional judges of the High Court.

Supreme Court back to full strength with two more High Court Justices

- India's Supreme Court is now back to its full strength of 34, with the elevation of two **High Court Chief Justices** to the apex court.
- The last time the apex court was at its full strength was in September-November 2019. The Chief Justices of the



Allahabad High Court and the Gujarat High Court are the latest additions to the **34-judge collegium**.

- Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal and Chief Justice Aravind Kumar were recommended to the Supreme Court Collegium last month.
- The appointments of Justices Bindal and Kumar follow closely on the heels of the February 4 appointments of five judges to the apex court, based on recommendations made in December 2022.
- **Justices PankajMithal, Sanjay Karol, PV Sanjay Kumar, AhsanuddinAmanullah and Manoj Misra** took oath on February 6, following the announcement from the Centre.

Ramesh Bais Appointed as the New Governor of Maharashtra, Takes Over Koshyari

- **Ramesh Bais** was appointed as the new **Governor of Maharashtra** after the resignation of Bhagat Singh Koshyari. **Bhagat Singh Koshyari** stepped down after a sour relationship with MahaVikasAghadi (MVA) government led by Uddhav Thackeray.
- Ramesh Bais has earlier served as the Governor of Jharkhand. President DroupadiMurmu accepted the resignation of Bhagat Singh Koshyari.
- Bhagat Singh Koshyari was appointed as the **Governor of Maharashtra** in 2019.
- **Koshyari** has been on sour terms with the MVA government, including Shiv Sena, Congress, and NCP.

President DraupadiMurmu named new governors in 12 states and 1 UT

- President of India **DroupadiMurmu** appointed 13 new Governors while accepting the resignations of Bhagat Singh Koshyari as Governor of Maharashtra and of Radha Krishnan Mathur as Lt. Governor of Ladakh on 12 February. Following is the complete list of new governors who have been appointed. These appointments will take effect from the dates they assume charge of their respective offices



Mohammad Shahabuddin elected as 22nd President of Bangladesh

- A former judge and freedom fighter, **Mohammad ShahabuddinChuppu**, was elected unopposed as **Bangladesh's 22nd President**.
- A gazette was issued on the appointment of the new Bangladesh President by the Chief Election Commissioner. According to the country's Chief Election Commission, 74-year-old Chuppu will replace President Mohammad Abdul Hamid.
- The tenure of incumbent Hamid, the longest-serving president of Bangladesh, will end on April 23, and according to the Constitution, he cannot hold a third term.



Chief Justices Appointed To 4 High Courts; Justice N Kotiswar Singh Made Chief Justice of High Court of J&K and Ladakh

- Four judges, including two who will retire later this month, were appointed as chief justices of high courts. Justice Sonia GiridharGokani, senior-most judge of the Gujarat High Court, was appointed its chief justice. Once she takes oath, she will be the **only woman chief justice** of a high court. India has 25 high courts. Justice Sabina is functioning as the acting chief justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court.
- However, **Justice Gokani** will demit office on February 25 upon attaining the age of 62. Justice Gokani is drawn from the judicial service of Gujarat. "Besides being the senior-most judge, the appointment of Justice Gokani as Chief Justice will bring a sense of inclusion and facilitate a representation for judges drawn from the services in the office of Chief Justice," the **SC Collegium** had said while recommending her name.



Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar to be new Vice Chief of Army

- Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar has been named as the new **Vice Chief of Army Staff**, while incumbent Lt Gen B S Raju will take charge as South Western Army Commander.
- Lt Gen Kumar has been promoted as Army Commander and appointed as the new Vice Chief of Army Staff. He is serving as the Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy) in the Army Headquarters at present.
- Lt Gen Kumar is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla. He was commissioned into 1 Assam Regiment in June 1985. He has commanded the 59 Rashtriya Rifles Battalion, an Infantry Brigade, and an Infantry Division on the Line of Control. Lt Gen Kumar has also commanded the highly active White Knight Corps. He has held the posts of Additional Director General Military Intelligence and Director General Military Intelligence at the Army headquarters.



Neal Mohan, the new Indian American CEO of YouTube

- An Indian-American, **Neal Mohan** will become the next **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of Alphabet-owned **YouTube** following **Susan Wojcicki's** announcement that she will be stepping down from her role as the head of the video-sharing platform.
- With this, Mohan will be joining the elite list of global tech chiefs of Indian origin such as Google parent Alphabet's **Sundar Pichai**, Microsoft's **Satya Nadella**, IBM's **Arvind Krishna**, and Adobe's **Shantanu Narayen**.
- The 49-year-old Neal Mohan holds a bachelors degree in electrical engineering from Stanford University and an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business where he was an Arjay Miller Scholar, an award given to the top 10 percent of the class who have received the highest grade point averages (GPA).



BCCI's Chief Selector Chetan Sharma Resigned After Sting Operation

- BCCI's Chief selector **Chetan Sharma** has resigned from his post following a sting operation conducted by a TV news channel, where he shared internal information about the team and selection process. Chetan Sharma sent his resignation to **BCCI Secretary Jay Shah** who accepted it.
- Earlier, in a sting operation, the 57-year-old was heard saying that **Indian players** have their own doctors outside of cricket, who are always available for them.
- The chief selector revealed that there was a huge clash of ego between former **Indian skipper Virat Kohli** and former **BCCI President Sourav Ganguly**, which eventually led to the right-hander batter's ouster as the captain.
- Chetan Sharma's second stint as chairman of the **national selection committee** has ended in around 40 days.

Former IAS BVR Subrahmanyam appointed new NITI Aayog CEO

- Former IAS officer **BVR Subrahmanyam** was appointed as the new **Chief Executive Officer of Niti Aayog**.
- The former Commerce Secretary takes over from **Parameswaran Iyer**, who has been named as the Executive Director of World Bank.
- Subrahmanyam will take over from current CEO **Parameswaran Iyer** who will join World Bank as executive director in Washington DC.
- Subrahmanyam's appointment as NITI Aayog CEO was announced by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. Mr. Subrahmanyam's appointment is for two years from the date of assumption of the charge of the post.



Rajeev Raghuvanshi Appointed as New Drug Controller General of India

- **Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi** has been appointed as the new **Drug Controller General of India (DCGI)**, Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).
- **Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi** is a former Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission secretary-cum-scientific director.
- Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi will supersede **Dr. PBN Prasad** who is holding the position till 28th February 2023. The order which was released stated that Raghuvanshi will continue to be the DCGI till February 28, 2025.



Honours/ Awards

Former PM Manmohan Singh conferred Lifetime Achievement Honour by UK

- Former prime minister **Dr Manmohan Singh** was recently conferred a **Lifetime Achievement Honour by the India-UK Achievers Honours** in London for his contribution to economic and political life.
- The India-UK Achievers Honours by NISAU UK, in partnership with the British Council in India and the UK's Department for International Trade (DIT), celebrate the achievements of Indian students who studied at British universities and the Lifetime Achievement Honour is a nod to Dr Singh's academic achievements at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.
- To mark 75 years of India's independence, the first-ever India UK Achievers Honours covered 75 high achievers and some key Outstanding Achievers who bolster the India-UK diaspora living bridge.



BBC ISWOTY Award: Wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Sakshi Malik nominated

- Five athletes were nominated for the **BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award**, including wrestlers **Vinesh Phogat and Sakshi Malik**, who recently protested WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and accused him of sexual abuse and intimidation.
- Weightlifter **Mirabai Chanu**, who won silver at the Tokyo Olympics, as well as renowned shuttler PV Sindhu and boxer Nikhat Zareen also made the cut.
- A public poll that started on Monday and will last until midnight on February 20 will determine the winner. The winner will be declared on March 5.



Grammy Awards 2023 Winners List: All you need to Know 65th Grammy Awards

- The **Crypto.com Arena** in Los Angeles played host to the **65th Annual Grammy Awards ceremony on February 5, 2023**. It honoured the top performers, songs, and recordings from the eligibility year, which spanned October 1, 2021, to September 30, 2022.
- November 15, 2022 saw the announcement of the nominations. The 63rd and 64th ceremonies were presented by South African comedian Trevor Noah, who served as host once more this year.

Angela Merkel awarded UNESCO Peace Prize in Ivory Coast

- For her assistance to refugees in Germany, former German chancellor **Angela Merkel** was awarded the UNESCO peace prize. According to Politico, the former German leader received the UN prize for her choice to accept the refugees into German territory back in 2015.
- The occasion took place in Yamoussoukro, the capital of the Ivory Coast, where the chancellor received the "Felix Houphout-Boigny UNESCO Peace Prize." Merkel thanked the jurors and spoke about the fate of Ukrainian refugees in her acceptance speech.
- The 68-year-old lawmaker was complimented for her work by the award jury's president, Denis Mukwege, a year prior to receiving the honour.
- Her selfless choice in 2015 to accept more than 1.2 million refugees, particularly those from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Eritrea, moved every jury member.



Kollam district won Swaraj Trophy 2021-22 for Best District Panchayat

- The **Kollam district panchayat** has won the **Swaraj Trophy** for the best district panchayat in the State for the **2021-22 financial year**.
- The **Kannur district panchayat** stood second in the rankings. **Kollam district**, is one of 14 districts of the state of Kerala, India.



- The district has a cross-section of Kerala's natural attributes; it is endowed with a long coastline, a major Laccadive Sea seaport and an inland lake. The district has many water bodies.
- The Thiruvananthapuram Corporation bagged the trophy for the best corporation.
- The Mulanthuruthygramapanchayat won the award for the best gramapanchayat in the State and Pappinissery and Marangattupillygramapanchayats won the second and third places.
- The award for the best block panchayat went to Perumpadappu, while Kodakara and Nedumangad won the second and third places.
- Tirurangadi won the award for the best municipality, while Wadakkanchery and SulthanBathery won the second and third places.

76th BAFTA Awards 2023

- At the Royal Festival Hall in London, England, the **76th British Academy Film Awards**, also referred to as the BAFTAs, were presented.
- The award was hosted by actor **Richard E Grant**, the star-studded ceremony saw the German anti-war film *All Quiet on the Western Front* winning seven awards, including the two big wins awards, Best Film and Best Director.
- Shaunak Sen's documentary *All That Breathes from India* was a nominee for the Best Documentary award, which went to Daniel Roher's *Navalny*.



Sansad Ratna award 2023

- 13 members of Parliament (MP) have been nominated for the **Sansad Ratna Awards 2023**.
- The Jury Committee of eminent Parliamentarians and civil society, chaired by **Arjun Ram Meghwal** (State Minister of Parliamentary Affairs) and Co-Chaired by **T S Krishnamurthy** (Former Chief Election Commissioner of India) has nominated eight MPs from Lok Sabha and five from Rajya Sabha for the Sansad Ratna Awards 2023.



- These nominations are based on cumulative performance in questions, private members' bills and members' debates from the beginning of the 17th Lok Sabha till the end of the Winter Session 2022.

JSW chairman Sajjan Jindal bags 'Entrepreneur of the Year 2022' title

- **Sajjan Jindal**, the chairman and managing director of **JSW Group**, was awarded as the **EY Entrepreneur of the Year (EOY) 2022**.
- The seven-member jury led by former ICICI Bank chairman **K V Kamath** selected Jindal as the EOY 2022 winner for his "exceptional entrepreneurial journey in scaling the global conglomerate with presence in steel, cement, infrastructure, energy, and paints to revenues of US\$22 billion."
- Jindal has created a track record of executing large capital-intensive, technically complex, and state-of-the-art steel manufacturing facilities on principles of cost efficiency and operational excellence.



SS Rajamouli's RRR wins 'Best International Film' award at HCA

- **SS Rajamouli's** directorial, '**RRR**' has bagged the '**Best International Film**' award at the **Hollywood Critics Association Film Awards**.
- The film director **Rajamouli** and actor **Ram Charan** accepted the award with joy and pride. It has also won three more awards at the HCA film awards.
- Before bagging the 'Best International Film' award, '**RRR**' won three awards at HCA – '**Best Action Film**', '**Best Stunts**', and '**Best Original Song**'.



J&K won best adventure tourism destination award

- The India Today Tourism Survey has chosen Jammu & Kashmir Tourism for best adventure tourism award. The awards were given away at New Delhi by Union Minister of State for Culture & Parliamentary Affairs, Arjun Ram Meghwal.
- The award has been given to the J&K Tourism Department in recognition of its efforts in promoting 'Gulmarg' as an adventure destination of international order.
- The award was received by Deputy Director, Tourism, Alyas Ahmad on behalf of the Department.



Sports

Babita Phogat joins Oversight Committee panel formed against WFI

- **Babita Phogat**, a former wrestler, joined the oversight committee established to look into the claims made against the **Wrestling Federation of India (WFI)**. The Oversight Committee is also looking into claims of sexual misbehaviour, harassment, and/or intimidation, as well as financial and organisational irregularities made by well-known athletes.



Babita Phogat joins Oversight Committee panel

- The committee was established during the IOA's emergency Executive Council meeting earlier this month, which was also attended by IOA President PT Usha, joint secretary Kalyan Chaubey, and people like Yogeshwar and Abhinav Bindra.

Saudi Arabia to Host Football's 2027 Asian Cup

- The **Asian Football Confederation (AFC)** announced that the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)** won the hosting of the **2027 Asian Nations Cup**, for the **first time in its history**, since its inception in 1956.
- This came during the work of the **33rd Congress of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC)**, February 1, in the **Bahraini capital, Manama**. Saudi Arabia was the only bid presented at the Congress in Manama after **India's withdrawal** in December 2022.
- It is noteworthy that **Qatar** will host the next edition of the Asian Football Cup, from June 26 to July 16, 2023.



Australia's, Aaron Finch retires from International cricket

- Australia's longest-serving captain in the shortest format of the game, veteran batter **Aaron Finch** called time on his international career. Finch, who retired as the One Day International (ODI) captain of the Australian team last year, has confirmed his retirement

from T20Is. Finch guided Australia to its maiden ICC World T20 title in 2021.

- Australia's most successful captain in the history of T20I cricket, Finch will continue to play for Melbourne Renegades in the Big Bash League (BBL). Finch's position in the Australian squad came under the scanner after the Men from Down failed to defend its T20 World Cup crown at home in 2022. Hosts Australia failed to make the knockout stage of the T20 World Cup last year.

ICC T-20 Women's World Cup Begins in South Africa

- The **ICC T-20 Women's World Cup** is to begin in South Africa on 10th February 2023, with the opening match between the host team, South Africa and Sri Lanka.



- This is the first time that the ICC T-20 Women's World Cup tournament is taking place in an African nation. The Indian team led by **Harmanpreet Kaur** will play their first match against Pakistan on 12th February 2023.
- After the Indian team won the inaugural **Women's Under-19 T20 World Cup** the women's team is in high spirits.
- The launch of the **Women's Premier League (WPL)**, which saw huge valuations in both the media rights auction and the bidding for the ownership of the teams has also lifted the spirit of the Indian team.
- A total of 10 teams will fight for the Women's T20 World Cup 2023 trophy and a total of **33 matches** will be played during the mega event.

Gymnast Dipa Karmakar Handed 21-Month Ban After Failing Dope Test

- Gymnast **Dipa Karmakar** has been handed a 21-month ban for failing a dope test conducted by the **International Testing Agency**.
- Dipa Karmakar's dope sample collected out-of-competition by the ITA, which is an independent organization that manages the anti-doping program of the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) was

found to contain Higenamine which is a prohibited substance under **World Anti-doping Agency Code**.

- The **ITA** confirms that DipaKarmakar has been suspended for **21 months**, effective until 10th July 2023 after testing positive for higenamine.
- The positive sample was collected on behalf of the **FIG** in the scope of an out-of-competition control on 11th October 2021.
- The Switzerland-based non-profit organization works under the supervision of **WADA** and the International Olympics Committee to implement Anti-doping programs for various international federations.
- The ITA further informed Karmakar's dope issue was resolved under a case resolution agreement under article 10.8.2 of the **FIG Anti-Doping Rules** and an equivalent provision in the WADA.

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

- **Gary Ballance**, who represented **England** 42 times across all three formats, scored a superb century for **Zimbabwe** on the fourth day of the first Test against West Indies in Bulawayo.
- The 33-year-old's outstanding 137 means he is just the second player in the history of the game to have scored Test centuries for two different countries, following in the footsteps of former Australia and South Africa international **KeplerWessels**. He hit four Test hundreds for Australia and two for South Africa.
- He was the third fastest batter in England men's history to reach 1000 Test runs, but he was dropped in 2017 after a dip in his form.



Indian Golfer Aditi Ashok Won Kenya Ladies Open Title 2023

- Indian Olympian **Aditi Ashok** won the 2023 Magical Kenya Ladies Open Title with a final-round score of 74. This is the fourth **Ladies'**



European championship of Aditi Ashok overall.

- Her first LET title comes after winning the Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies Open in Abu Dhabi in 2017. She finished with a score of 12-under 280 at the Vipingo Ridges after shooting a final round of 67-70-69-74.
- The golf player, **Aditi Ashok**, played one of the most dominant matches of her career.
- She was competing in her first event in over two months, took a **three-shot** lead in the first round, increased it to five after two rounds, and increased it to six after the third.
- At the end of every round, **Aditi** kept adding the points on the table that showed a clear lead at the end of the final round.

Cristiano Ronaldo scores four for Al Nassr to cross 500 league goals

- **Cristiano Ronaldo** scored all of Al Nassr's goals in a 4-0 rout of Al Wehda in the Saudi league as he passed the 500 league goal mark in his club career.
- The 38-year-old Portuguese star now has **503 goals** scored for five different teams stretched across five leagues.
- The Portuguese superstar scored 103 goals for Manchester United, 311 for Real Madrid, 81 for Juventus, three for Sporting Lisbon. Now, he has five for Al Nassr as well.



RavichandranAshwin becomes the fastest Indian to pick 450 Test wickets

- **RavichandranAshwin** picked up his **450th Test wicket** during the first Border-Gavaskar Trophy game between India and Australia at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur.
- He achieved the feat when he bowled Alex Carey in the 54th over. He also became the fastest Indian to scale the landmark, going past former leg-spinner Anil Kumble. Ashwin took 89 Tests to reach the milestone as compared to Kumble's 93.



- Overall, he is the second-fastest to reach the milestone. Former Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan is only ahead of him, having reached the landmark in 80 matches.
- The Australian duo of Glenn McGrath (100) and Shane Warne (101) complete the list of the five fastest bowlers to pick up 450 Test wickets.

Rohit Sharma Becomes 1st Indian skipper to Record Hundreds in All 3 Formats

- Rohit Sharma led from the front as he scored his ninth Test century to become the first Indian captain to score hundreds in all formats.
- This was Rohit's first three-digit score in the longest format of the game against Australia in the 1st Test of the four-match series for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium, Jamtha in Nagpur.
- Rohit is the fourth overall to have scored centuries in all three formats as captain after Sri Lanka's Tillakaratne Dilshan, South Africa's Faf du Plessis and Pakistan's Babar Azam.



FIFA Club World Cup Final: Real Madrid beat Al Hilal to win record fifth Club World Cup

- Real Madrid has won the Club World Cup for a record-extending fifth time after beating Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal 5-3 in the final in Rabat, Morocco.
- Vinícius Júnior scored twice and assisted Karim Benzema to lead Real Madrid to its record-extending eighth Club World Cup title by beating Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal 5-3. Madrid last won the tournament in 2018.
- It also lifted the trophy in 2014, 2016 and 2017. Madrid also won three Intercontinental Cups in 1960, 1998 and 2002 — a match between European and



South American champions, which merged with the Club World Cup in 2005.

Shubman Gill and Grace Scrivens named ICC Men's and Women's Player of January

- India batter Shubman Gill was named ICC Men's Player of the Month for January following a series of impressive innings in the ODI format, while England U-19 skipper Grace Scrivens became the youngest player to be named for the women's honour.
- The awards were decided in a global vote conducted among media representatives, ICC Hall of Famers, former international players, and fans registered at the ICC website.
- India's Shubman Gill wins his first ICC Men's Player of the Month award following another fine series of performances in ODI cricket. With 567 runs during January, which included three century-plus scores, the 23-year-old batter wowed fans with a lethal combination of graceful and attacking strokeplay.



5th Khelo India Youth Games 2022: Maharashtra topped the medal tally

- The fifth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games conclude on February 11.
- In the Khelo India Youth Games –



2022, Maharashtra was the overall champion by securing a total of 161 medals including 56 gold, 55 silver and 50 bronze medals.

- On the other hand, Haryana has been at the second position by getting a total of 128 medals including 41 gold, 32 silver and 55 bronze. Host Madhya Pradesh finished third with 96 medals including 39 gold.
- The Games were hosted in Madhya Pradesh from 31 January 2023 to 11 February 2023. For the first time

water sports namely Kayaking Canoeing, Canoe Salam and Fencing were part of this edition of Khelo India Games. It was organized in eight different cities of the state.

- These eight host cities are Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Gwalior, Ujjain, Maheshwar, Mandla and Balaghat.

SmritiMandhana Becomes Most Expensive Player in WPL with ₹3.4 crore Bid by RCB

- Indian batter **SmritiMandhana** was the most expensive buy at the inaugural Women's Premier League auction in Mumbai. **Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB)** snapped her up for **INR 3.4 crore** deal.
- After bagging a whopping amount paid by the RCB in the WPL auction, Mandhana is set to earn double the Pakistan Super League (PSL) highest-paid players.
- Babar, who played for the **Peshawar Zalmi** side, under the Platinum category, was traded at the season salary of \$1,50,000 or PKR 3,60,00000 (3 Crore 60 lakh).
- Mandhana was also the first player to come up for bidding at the auction, having a base price of **INR 50 lakh**.
- **RCB and Mumbai Indians** were locked in an intense battle for her services, before the former managed to acquire her services, offering an opening as well as a captaincy option.

England's World Cup-winning captain, Eoin Morgan announces retirement from Cricket

- **Eoin Morgan**, who led England to their first-ever ICC Men's Cricket World Cup title in 2019, has announced his retirement from professional cricket with immediate effect.
- Morgan's last appearance came for the Paarl Royals in the semi-final of the recently concluded SA20 League. Following a 16-year-long career that had begun with Ireland, before he moved to England. He continued to play in various global franchise leagues across the world thereafter.
- Morgan aggregated 5,042 runs in first-class cricket, 11,654 in List A and 7,780 in T20s in a professional



career that had started back in 2006. One of England's white-ball greats, Morgan remains England's leading run-scorer – 6957 runs in 225 ODIs with 13 hundreds – and the most successful captain in ODIs, with 76 wins from 126 matches he led in.

Women's Premier League: SaniaMirza joins Royal Challengers Bangalore as team mentor

- **SaniaMirza** has been roped in as mentor of **Royal Challengers Bangalore** for the inaugural **Women's Premier League (WPL)**, to be played in Mumbai from March 4 to 26.
- The franchise also announced the signing of Australian Ben Sawyer as head coach. Sawyer is the head coach of New Zealand Women and was part of the Women's World Cup-winning side with Australia last year as the assistant coach.
- Royal Challengers put together a star-studded line-up at the inaugural auction, headlined by SmritiMandhana, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Sophie Devine, Dane van Niekerk and RichaGhosh. The team will open its WPL campaign on March 5, the second day of the tournament, against Delhi Capitals at Brabourne Stadium.



FIFA World Cup 2026: FIFA confirms US, Canada, Mexico automatically in 2026 World Cup

- The U.S. men's national team, along with Mexico and Canada, will automatically qualify for the **2026 FIFA World Cup**.
- The three countries won the right to host the World Cup in a united North American bid. FIFA historically has given host nations the right to play in the World Cup without going through the usual qualification tournaments, though this is the first time FIFA had to set aside three host bids.



- The tournament is set to expand from 32 teams to 48 in 2026. Another three berths will be awarded to CONCACAF nations via qualifying.
- While the U.S. and Mexico tend to qualify for most World Cups, it was good news for Canada, whose men's national team broke a 36-year drought between World Cup appearances when it qualified for Qatar in 2022. Canada lost all three of its group-stage matches.
- The FIFA Council also determined its timetable for bidding for the right to host the 2030 World Cup. That meeting will be separate from FIFA's meeting to select a host for the 2027 Women's World Cup, which will be held first, earlier in 2024.

ICC Women T20 World Cup Points Table 2023

- **The ICC T-20 Women's World Cup** has began in South Africa from 10th February 2023, with the opening match between the host team, South Africa and Sri Lanka.
- This is the first time that the ICC T-20 Women's World Cup tournament is taking place in an African nation. The Indian team led by Harmanpreet Kaur.
- As the Cup progresses, all the **Women's World Cup T20** teams are eyeing to take the trophy home. There are 5 teams in group 1—Australia, Sri Lanka, South Africa, New Zealand and Bangladesh.
- While Australia is on the top by winning 2 of 2 matches, New Zealand is languishing. Similar to Group 1, there are 5 teams in group 2— England, India, Pakistan, Ireland and West Indies. England tops the table, followed by India.

Adidas will sponsor the India cricket team kit as part of a Rs 350 billion deal

- **The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** is close to agreeing to a deal with German sporting goods giant **Adidas** to pay **Rs 350 crore** as the team's uniform sponsor.
- Adidas will take the place of Killer Jeans manufacturer KewalKiran Clothing Ltd, which stepped in as a temporary sponsor last month after the original



sponsor Mobile Premier League Sports (MPL Sports) backed out of the agreement in the middle of it.

- The previous sponsor MPL Sports is an athleisure wear and sports merchandise brand from GalactusFunware Technology Pvt. Ltd. The BCCI-MPL Sports kit deal was to last for three years from November 2020 to December 2023.

Rudranksh Patil Won gold in 10m Air Rifle at ISSF World Cup 2023

- India's **Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil** won the men's 10m air rifle event at the ISSF World Cup 2023 in Cairo. He defeated Germany's Maximilian Ullbrich by 16-8 in the gold medal match to clinch the top prize.
- Rudranksh Patil finished seventh in the qualification round with **629.3 points** to make the ranking round, which he topped with 262.0 points to set up a final clash against Ullbrich.
- Croatia's Miran Maricic, who topped qualification, won the bronze medal. **Divyansh Singh Panwar** and Hriday Hazarika narrowly missed out on the cut for the ranking rounds and finished 11th and 12th, respectively.

ICC Women's T20 World Cup: Australia clinch 6th Women's T20 World Cup title

- ICC Women's T20 World Cup Final: **Australia** won the **Women's T20 World Cup** for the sixth time when they beat **South Africa** by 19 runs in the final at Newlands. Opening batter Beth Mooney anchored the Australian innings, scoring an unbeaten 74 in a total of 156 for six.
- Victory for the Aussies is their sixth in Women's T20 World Cup history and completes a hat-trick of tournament wins under captain Meg Lanning after their triumphs in 2018 and 2020. Australia's previous victories came in 2010, 2012, 2014, 2018 and 2020.
- Australia's **Ashleigh Gardner** is the winner of the **ICC Player of the Tournament** award.



FIFA awards 2022: Lionel Messi wins 'Best FIFA player of 2022'

- Argentina's **Lionel Messi** has bagged the **Best**



FIFA men's player prize for 2022.

- Messi outclassed his Paris Saint Germain (PSG) teammate Kylian Mbappe and Real Madrid captain Karim Benzema to lift the famous trophy at Salle Pleyel in Paris.
- In the FIFA Awards vote, Messi had 52 points, Mbappé 44, and Benzema 34. It is the second time that Messi has won the honour inaugurated by FIFA in 2016.
- Messi was named the winner of the Best FIFA Men's Player award for his outstanding performances in men's football from the period of 8 August 2021 to 18 December 2022. Equalling Cristiano Ronaldo and Robert Lewandowski's massive feat at the FIFA awards.

Lionel Messi scores 700th career club goal

- The all-time great **Lionel Messi** has scored his 700th career club goal in Paris St. Germain's 3-0 win over Marseille.
- With the goal, Messi became just the second player in history to score 700 career club goals, according to IFFHS (International Federation of Football History and Statistics).
- The other player to do so is Messi's longtime rival **Cristiano Ronaldo**. Meanwhile Messi's rival Ronaldo has scored 709 goals in club level across competitions, including his hat-trick for Al-Nassr in the Saudi Pro League match against Damac.



Obituaries

Former Law Minister Shanti Bhushan passes away at 97

- Former Union law minister and eminent jurist **Shanti Bhushan**, passed away at the age of 97. He served as the law minister in the Morarji Desai-led Janata Party government from 1977 to 1979, which came to power after Emergency.
- Bhushan was among the founding members of the AamAadmi Party which was formed in 2012. He had also actively participated in the agitation led by social activist Anna Hazare.



Pervez Musharraf, Former Pakistani General & President, Dies in Dubai at 79

- Pakistan's former president **Pervez Musharraf** passed away in **Dubai** at the age of 79 due to a prolonged illness. **Musharraf**, who was admitted to a hospital in Dubai, was shifted to the **Armed Forces Institute of Cardiology (AFIC)** in Rawalpindi earlier.
- **Pervez Musharraf**, who was in Dubai since March 2016, was undergoing **treatment for amyloidosis**. It is a rare disease that occurs when an abnormal protein, called **amyloid**, builds up in your organs and interferes with their normal function.
- **Pervez Musharraf** was the **tenth president** of the South Asian nation after the successful **military coup** in 1999 and **7th top general** from 1998 to 2007.



Important Days with theme

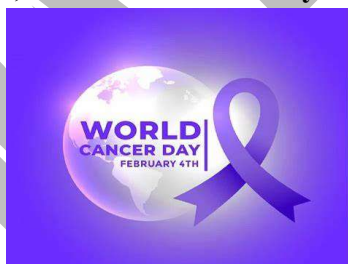
World Wetlands Day observed on 2nd February

- **World Wetlands Day** is celebrated annually on **2nd February**. The day is observed to create awareness among people about the importance of wetlands and different ways to restore their rapid loss and degradation. The day is aimed at highlighting the vital role wetlands play in maintaining biodiversity and supporting human well-being.
- The theme for this year's World Wetlands Day is **'It's Time for Wetlands Restoration'**. The theme highlights the urgency to prioritize wetland restoration.
- **On 2 February 1971**, Convention on Wetlands was accepted as an International Treaty in Ramsar, Iran. On 30 August 2021, UN General Assembly adopted resolution 75/317 for World Wetlands Day.



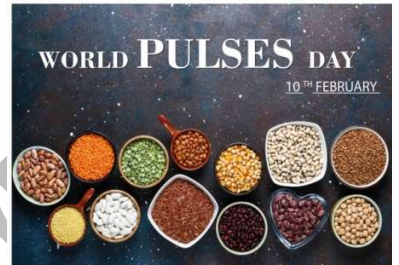
World Cancer Day 2023: 4th February, Know History, Significance and Theme

- Each year on **February 4**, **World Cancer Day** is celebrated worldwide. It is believed to have brought everyone together in the fight against cancer.
- World Cancer Day seeks to save millions of lives by educating the public, promoting awareness, and pressuring individuals and governments around the world to take action every year.
- **"Close The Care Gap"** has been the theme for World Cancer Day for the past three years (2022, 2023, and 2024).



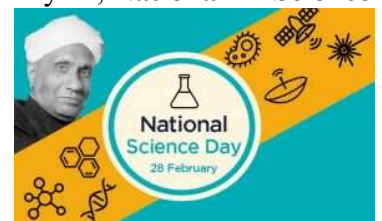
World Pulses Day 2023 is Observed On 10 February

- Every year **World Pulses Day** is celebrated on **February 10** with an aim to spread awareness about the nutritional and environmental benefits of pulses as part of sustainable food production.
- In 2019, the UN General Assembly dedicated a day to Pulses to increase awareness and access to pulses globally. Pulses also known as legumes, are considered as global foods, and are produced in almost every country.
- **'Pulses for a Sustainable Future'** as the theme for the 2023 celebration.
- This year's celebration will highlight the contribution of pulses towards improving soil productivity, increasing the resilience of farming systems, providing a better life for farmers in water-scarce environments, and more. Since pulses have a low water footprint and can better tolerate drought and climate-related disasters, they are imperative to sustainable food production.



National Science Day 2023 celebrated on 28th February

- On **February 28** each year, **National Science Day** honours Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman as **C.V. Raman**, an Indian scientist and physician, for discovering the **"Raman Effect."**
- Every year, it is celebrated to honour the value of science and to serve as a reminder of the influence it has had on humankind's way of life. In honour of India's G20 leadership, the event this year has the theme **"Global Science for Global Wellness."**
- **Notably:** In 1986, the Government of India, under then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, designated February 28 as National Science Day to commemorate



the announcement of the discovery of the “Raman Effect”.

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