

Current Affairs of January 2023

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National

India's first underwater metro to become operation by December 2023

- India's first underwater metro service, **The Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation (KMRC)** said that the East-West Metro Corridor project, is expected to be completed by **December 2023**. With this, another feather is being added to the crown of Kolkata Metro, the first metro railway in the country.
- Kolkata Metro, which started its journey in 1984, is being expanded to cover the whole city and its outskirts. The underwater metro, which will be running through the Hooglyriver will connect the twin cities of Howrah and Kolkata.



Key Points

- West Bengal Capital: Kolkata;
- West Bengal Chief minister: Mamata Banerjee;
- West Bengal Official animal: Fishing cat.

In 4:1 Majority Verdict, Supreme Court Finds no Flaw in Demonetisation Process

- A five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court upheld the Modi government's 2016 decision to demonetise Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 currency notes, saying the decision was about executive policy and could not be reversed. The court rejected the 58 petitions



challenging **demonetisation** and said the decision-making process of the government was not flawed.

- The judgment, authored by **Justice B R Gavai**, was agreed to by judges **S Abdul Nazeer, A S Bopanna, and V Ramasubramanian**. **Justice B V Nagarathna** faulted demonetisation in her dissenting judgment but did not quash it.
- The judgment said there was consultation between the **Centre and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for

six months, indicating a "reasonable nexus between the measures undertaken and the object sought to be achieved" and, therefore, the demonetisation notification passed the **test or doctrine of "proportionality"**.

Biggest Space Missions in 2023- Chandrayaan-3 to Gaganyaan

- In 2022, the **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** reached new heights as it experimented with new tests to confirm its human spaceflight mission, built new facilities to train its astronauts, and created a new connection with the private sector by putting India's first privately made rocket to the test.
- The year 2023 won't be any different. Instead, since the roster is set, it might be a year of bigger, bolder, and braver expeditions from India to space.
- In 2023, ISRO will also carry out the first test flight of its most ambitious mission, Gaganyaan.
- The crewed launch has been delayed until 2024, although the Indian space agency may launch the unmanned "G1" mission in the final quarter of 2023 and the "G2" mission in the first half of 2024.

Union Cabinet: Mopa Airport to be Named After Late CM of Goa ManoharParrikar

- The Union Cabinet has approved the naming of **Greenfield**

International Airport at Goa's Mopa as Manohar International Airport after former Defence Minister and **Goa Chief Minister**



ManoharParrikar. The

airport was inaugurated by Prime Minister NarendraModi in December 2022 at Mopa Goa. The airport will be named after the late ManoharParrikar to honor his contribution to building modern Goa.

- Prime Minister NarendraModi** inaugurated the Mopa International Airport, at Goa. The foundation stone of the airport was also laid by Prime Minister NarendraModi in November 2016. The **Mopa International Airport** is developed at a cost of around Rs 2,870 crores.
- The airport has been built on the theme of **sustainable infrastructure** and comprises a solar power plant,

green buildings, LED lights on the runway, rainwater harvesting, and a state-of-the-art sewage treatment plant with recycling facilities. Phase I of the airport will cater 4.4 to million passengers per annum (MPPA). It can be expanded up to the capacity of 33 MPPA.

5-time MLA Kuldeep Singh Pathania to be next speaker of Himachal Assembly

- Five-time MLA from Bhattiyat **Kuldeep Singh Pathania** is all set to be the next Speaker of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly. Pathania submitted his nomination



papers to Vidhan Sabha secretary **Yash Pal** in the presence of senior leaders including HPCC president Pratibha Singh. Three sets of nomination papers were filed for him.

- His name was proposed by the Chief Minister **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** and was seconded by the leader of the opposition in the house and BJP leader Jai Ram Thakur. Pathania will be formally elected as Speaker. He was elected to the Assembly in 1985, 1993, 2003, 2007 and 2022.
- He had contested as an Independent in 1993 and 2003. The first session of the 14th Himachal Pradesh legislative Assembly started on 4 January 2023 in the state capital Shimla. It is a three day session. **Jaiwant Ram** was the first speaker of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly.

Key Points

- Himachal Pradesh Chief minister: Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu;
- Himachal Pradesh Official animal: Snow leopard;

World's first Palm-leaf Manuscript Museum in Kerala capital

- Kerala Chief Minister (CM) **Pinarayi Vijayan** has inaugurated the **Palm leaf Manuscript Museum** with modern audio-visual technology at the renovated Central Archives, Fort area in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

- The Museum, promoted as “**World's First Palm-Leaf Manuscript Museum**” was set up by the Archives Department in association with the Kerala Museum of History and Heritage at a cost of Rs 3 crore.
- The museum is a repository of curious nuggets of administrative, socio-cultural and economic facets of the Travancore kingdom which lasted for 650 years till the end of the 19th century. It had been the Central Vernacular Records Office since 1887 before becoming a museum.

Odisha CM Patnaik inaugurates Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday **inaugurated** one of the largest hockey stadiums in India in Rourkela ahead of the Men's Hockey World Cup 2023. Built at an estimated cost of **₹261 crore**, the stadium, located



in **Sundargarh district**, has been christened as **Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium Complex**.

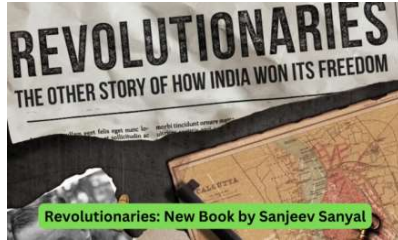
- It has been built in **50 acres** in a **record 15 months-time with a seating capacity of 20,000**. The stadium also has practice centres adjacent to it with certified turfs and lighting. The State has also built a **World Cup village**, which has 225 rooms to house the players and officials, within nine months.

Shashi Tharoor's latest book 'Ambedkar: A Life' launched

- Parliamentarian and author, **Shashi Tharoor's** latest book **Ambedkar: A Life** was recently launched at the Kitaab Kolkata event. In this new biography, Tharoor tells Ambedkar's story with great lucidity, insight, and admiration.
- He traces the arc of the great man's life from his birth into a family of Mahars in the Bombay Presidency on 14 April 1891 to his death in Delhi on 6 December 1956. He describes the many humiliations and hurdles Ambedkar had to overcome in a society that stigmatized the community he was born into, and the single-minded determination with which he overcame every obstacle he encountered.

New Book by SanjeevSanyal 'Revolutionaries' on role in India's Freedom Struggle

- Noted economist and popular historian SanjeevSanyal is set to release his latest book, "Revolutionaries: The Other Story of How India Won Its Freedom,".
- Sanyal tells stories really well. His book highlights the human side of these revolutions through tales and other nuances rather than being merely dry history. They are not merely cardboard cutouts thrown into a rewritten history of our quest for freedom.
- The revolutionary aspect of our freedom movement has been minimized in current history in two ways: first, by making them minor footnotes in a mostly nonviolent mainstream conflict. The alternative is to reduce them to idealistic characters who have no plan other than to engage in occasional acts of bravery.



2022 makes it to the top five: IMD

- The annual mean land surface air temperature averaged over India during 2022 was **+0.51 degree Celsius** above the long-term average (1981-2010 period). The year **2022** was the **fifth warmest year** on record since nationwide records **commenced in 1901**. However, this is lower than the highest warming observed over India during 2016 (anomaly of +0.710C) and higher than the previous year 2021 (anomaly of +0.440C).
- In 2022, there were three cyclones formed over the north Indian Ocean. Of these, two were Severe Cyclonic Storms "ASANI" and "MANDOUS" and one was Cyclonic Storm "SITRANG". All the cyclones formed over the Bay of Bengal.
- Other than Tropical Cyclones, various parts of the country also experienced **Extreme Weather Events** like extremely heavy rainfall, landslide, lightning, thunderstorm, etc. There was also significant flooding in India at various stages during the monsoon season, particularly in the north-east in June 2022.

Kerala Becomes Country's First Fully Digital Banking State

- Chief Minister PinarayiVijayan** declared Kerala as the first state in the country to go **fully digital in its banking service** and said this recognition would **boost the state economy**. Vijayan said this achievement was possible due to social interventions through **local self-government institutions** along with **infrastructure development** and **technological advances** in the banking sector.
- It is a joint venture between the **Kerala State Information Technology Infrastructure Ltd (KSITIL)**, **Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB)** and the state, in which the two companies hold 49% each and the state the remaining 2%. A consortium led by **Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL)** is executing the project and will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the **35,000-km-long** network for the next seven years.
- Funded by the **Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB)**, the project is estimated to cost Rs 1,028.20 crore, which includes capital expenditure, administrative overheads and annual operational expenditure of Rs 104.4 crore.



Cricket legend M S Dhoni Releases Autobiography of Prof. K.K. Abdul Gaffar

- Techno-educationalist, Professor **K.K. Abdul Gaffar's** autobiography, 'NjaanSakshi' (me as the witness), was released by cricket legend **Mahendra Singh Dhoni**. The book was introduced by senior journalist **T.A. Shafi**.
- The first copy was received by **Marwan Al Mulla**, the CEO of Dubai Health Authority (DHA), from **M S Dhoni**. He also presented copies of the book to dignitaries including actor **Tovino Thomas** present at the occasion.



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh Released Theme for National Science Day 2023

- Union Minister of State Science and Technology, **Dr. Jitendra Singh** released the theme for the “**National Science Day 2023**”, titled “Global Science for Global Wellbeing” at National Media Centre.
- At the event, Union Minister of State Science and Technology, Minister of State Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh expressed his deep gratitude to **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** for his meticulous guidance on the theme, subject, and events on the National Science Day.
- **National Science Day** is celebrated in India on 28th February every year to mark the discovery of the Raman Effect by Indian physicist **CV Raman** on 28th February 1928.

BharatPe Gets in-principle nod from RBI to Operate as Online Payment Aggregator

- **Fintech platform BharatPe** said it has received in-principle authorisation from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to operate as an online **payment aggregator (PA)**. The company said that an in-principle nod was awarded to **Resilient Payments Private Ltd**, a 100 percent subsidiary of Resilient Innovations Private Ltd (**BharatPe**).
- RBI’s nod comes amid a slew of high profile exits the **Sequoia Capital and Tiger Global-backed firm**, which has been battling controversies since last year. It is currently fighting a court battle with its former co-founder **Ashneer Grover** alleging financial misappropriation. Grover was ousted last year in March.

Vivek Agnihotri’s ‘The Kashmir Files’ selected for Oscars 2023

- **Vivek Agnihotri’s** film ‘**The Kashmir Files**’ has been shortlisted for **Oscars 2023**. That means now this film has qualified to get an Oscar. Actors **Anupam Kher, Mithun Chakraborty, Darshan Kumar** and **Pallavi Joshi** are also shortlisted for the best actor category.



- The story of Kashmir Files revolves around the mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandits in the year 1990 following systematic killings of people from the community by Pakistan-backed terrorists. The film was released in theatres in March 2022.
- The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has announced its list of films that are eligible for a nomination at the Oscars 2023.
- After RRR, there are three major entries from the Hindi film industry on the list namely **The Kashmir Films, Gangubai Kathiawadi, and Rocketry**. The films that impressed moviegoers with their storylines are expected to compete in their respective categories with some of the finest movies is shortlisted for the 95th Academy Awards.

Delhi Most Polluted City in India in 2022, Report says

- **Delhi** was the **most polluted city** in India in 2022 with **PM 2.5** levels more than double the safe limit and the **third highest average PM10** concentration, according to an analysis



of Central Pollution Control Board data.

- **PM2.5** pollution in the national capital has reduced by over 7 per cent in four years, from 108 micrograms per cubic metre in 2019 to 99.71 micrograms per cubic metre in 2022.
- Among the most polluted cities with respect to **PM2.5** levels, **Delhi (99.71 micrograms per cubic metre) ranked first**, Haryana’s Faridabad (95.64 micrograms per cubic metre) ranked second and Uttar Pradesh’s Ghaziabad (91.25 micrograms per cubic metre) third.

A book on “Jadunama” written on veteran writer-lyricist Javed Akhtar by Arvind Mandloi

- **Jadunama**, a book written on veteran writer-lyricist **Javed Akhtar** by **Arvind Mandloi**, was released. Javed’s wife, actor **Shabana Azmi** and children **Zoya** and **Farhan Akhtar** were present at the



book launch. Farhan's wife, actor Shibani Dandekar also attended the event.

- Jadunama is about a writer, poet, lyricist, and political activist. It is also about this one man's struggle since childhood to become what he is today and to create a hallmark of success in everything he does.

A new book titled "Irrfan Khan: A Life in Movies" shows Irrfan Khan's iconic life

- A new book "Irrfan Khan: A Life in Movies" will offer a compelling account of iconic actor Irrfan Khan's life and achievements, starting from his days at the prestigious National School of Drama (NSD) to his nearly a decade-long stint in television and his gradual ascent in the film industry.
- In the book, film critic Shubhra Gupta engages key people, including director Mira Nair, Vishal Bharadwaj, and Anurag Basu in conversation on the actor's art, craft and legacy.
- Drawing from interviews with key people Irrfan was close to, worked with, was influenced by – including Irrfan's wife Sutapa Sikdar, Tillotama Shome, Irrfan's best friend from the NSD Timangshu, Shoojit Sircar, Tabu, Anurag Kashyap, among many others – this book will be a collection of scintillating new interviews, with commentary from Shubhra herself, that will together offer a complex portrait of Irrfan the actor and the man," publisher **Pan Macmillan**.

Former cricketer MS Dhoni, Garuda Aerospace launch surveillance drone named Droni

- Former India cricket team captain **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** and drone market **Garuda Aerospace** have launched a surveillance drone named 'Droni.'



Dhoni is an ambassador-cum-investor in the low-cost drone manufacturer.

- Dhoni had unveiled the camera drone called Droni at The Global Drone Expo in Chennai last year. Droni is a battery-operated quadcopter surveillance drone. At the launch, MS Dhoni has said that he got interested about drones during the COVID-19 lockdown and

learned about the important role drones can play for farmers and agriculturalists.

- Garuda Aerospace recently became the first-ever drone company in India to get dual DGCA approvals for both drone manufacturing type certificate and RTPO.

NCLT gives Approval for Merger of Multiplex Operators PVR and Inox

- In a major boost to the film and entertainment industry, **PVR-Inox**



merger has been approved by the **National Company Law Tribunal**. The NCLT judge has approved the scheme of merger in a verbal order. A written order is likely to be passed in the next 15-20 days. On March 27, **PVR and Inox Leisure** announced their merger, which has already been approved by their respective shareholders, creditors as well as leading bourses **NSE and BSE**.

- The merger of **PVR-INOX** has been much talked about since 2022. It must be noted that being the country's top multiplexes, both INOX and PVR were also front-running competitors. The two companies' boards — the country's largest multiplex chain operators — approved an all-stock merger to create a film exhibition entity with a network of more than **1,500 screens**.

India's Richest 1% Own More Than 40% of Total Wealth: Oxfam

- The richest one per cent of Indians own over 13 times more wealth than the bottom 50 per cent, according to a report by **Oxfam India**. The top five per cent own 61.7 per cent of the total wealth, nearly 20 times more than the 3 per cent owned by the bottom half.
- According to the "Survival of the Richest: The India Supplement", released by the non-government organisation (NGO), wealth inequality gets denser on



the top. More than half of the wealth of the top 10 per cent of richest Indians is owned by the top 1 per cent.

- The combined wealth of **India's 100 richest persons** reached Rs 54.12 lakh crore in 2022. The total wealth of the 10 richest Indian stood at Rs 27.52 lakh crore in 2022, a 32.8% rise from 2021.

Republic Day Celebrations 2023 begins in New Delhi

- As part of the **Republic Day celebrations 2023** and to mark the **126th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** (celebrated as Parakram Diwas), the **Military Tattoo & Tribal Dance performances** are being showcased under the banner **Adi- Shaurya: Parv Parakram ka** in Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi on 23-24 January 2023.
- Themed as Military Tattoo & Tribal Dance, this event is aimed at throwing light on the contribution of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose to our freedom struggle. The Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Tribal Affairs are jointly organising the event, with Indian Coast Guard being the coordinating agency.
- **India** has invited Egyptian President **Abdel Fattah el-Sisi** as the chief guest for the **Republic Day in 2023**, reflecting New Delhi's continuing focus on the Arab world as it prepares for a year of high-profile diplomatic engagements.

World's richest actor list, Shah Rukh Khan beats Tom Cruise

- Bollywood actor **Shah Rukh Khan** with his more than three decades of work in the film industry has garnered millions of fans all over the world and an estimated net worth of ₹627 million (\$770 million), making him the richest actor in Asia and fourth richest actor all over the world.
- Beating fellow immensely famous and cult actors like **Tom Cruise, Jackie Chan, and George Clooney, Shah Rukh Khan** took the fourth position in the list of eight richest actors of the world released by **World of Statistics**.



Richest actors in the world:

- Jerry Seinfeld (US): \$1 Billion
- Tyler Perry (US): \$1 Billion
- Dwayne Johnson (US): \$800 million
- Shah Rukh Khan (Indian): \$770 million
- Tom Cruise (US): \$620 million

Kollam becomes first constitution literate district in India

- The Indian district of **Kollam** has become the country's first constitution literate district. The announcement was made by **Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan**.
- The district's success is the result of a seven-month campaign launched by the Kollam district panchayat, District Planning Committee, and the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) to educate citizens about the country's laws and their rights.
- The campaign aimed to provide constitutional literacy to 23 lakh citizens belonging to 7 lakh families in the district. To achieve this goal, awareness classes were organized for around 90% of the people in Kollam.
- Around 16.3 lakh people above the age of 10 were educated by 2,200 trainers called "senators," who visited schools, offices, auto stands, and tribal councils to create awareness.
- The Constitution literacy campaign in Kollam district is expected to help in a number of ways. By providing education about the country's laws and citizens' rights, the campaign aims to create a more informed and aware citizenry.

ASI Patna Circle Discovered Two 1200-Year-Old Miniature Stupas at Nalanda

- The **Archeological Survey of India (ASI)** of the Patna circle has unearthed 1200 years old two miniature votive stupas near the Sarai Tila mound on the "**Nalanda Mahavihara**" grounds in the Nalanda district. The stupas found in Nalanda are carved from stones and depict Buddha figures.
- The Superintendent Archeologist, ASI Patna circle, Goutami Bhattacharya informed that at the beginning of the **7th century CE**, small miniature terracotta



stupas became popular as votive offerings. Devout pilgrims visiting various holy sites and temples throughout Asia would either purchase small votive offerings or make their own.

IOA sets up Seven-member Committee to Probe Allegations against WFI chief

- The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** formed a **seven-member committee**, including **M C Mary Kom and Yogeshwar Dutt**, to probe the allegations of sexual harassment against **Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh** by top grapplers.
- Besides legendary boxer **Mary Kom** and wrestler **Yogeshwar**, the panel also includes archer **Dola Banerjee** and **Indian Weightlifting Federation of India (IWLF) president Sahdev Yadav**.
- The decision was taken during IOA's emergency Executive Council meeting which was attended by the likes of **Abhinav Bindra, Yogeshwar** along with **IOA president PT Usha** and **joint secretary Kalyan Chaubey**.

Jio is India's Strongest Brand, Ranked Ninth Globally

- **Reliance Jio** has been ranked as the **strongest brand in India** and placed **ninth among the world's strongest brands**, according to the latest report '**Global 500 – 2023**' published by **Brand Finance**.
- Jio' was placed ninth among the world's strongest brands ahead of brands like **EY, Coca Cola, Accenture and Porsche**, and behind the likes of **Google, YouTube, Deloitte and Instagram**.
- With a **Brand Strength Index of 90.2**, Jio is the only brand of India among the **world's strongest 25 brands**, according to the Brand Finance listing.
- Brand Finance is **headquartered in London**.
- Brand Finance defines a '**Brand Strength Index**' as essentially a modified **Balanced Scorecard** split between the **three core pillars** of the '**Brand Value Chain**' viz. **Brand Inputs, Brand Equity and Brand Performance**.

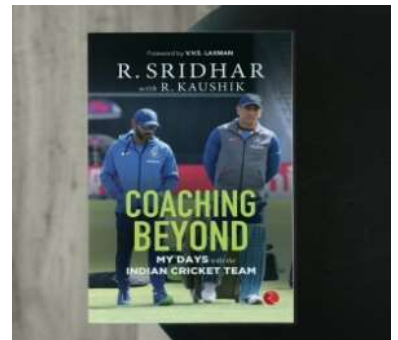
PM Modi Pays Tribute Netaji, to Name 21 Andaman Islands After Param Vir Chakra Awardees

- On **Parakram Diwas**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** participate in a ceremony to name 21 largest unnamed islands of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The islands would be named after the **21 Param Vir Chakra awardees**.
- The historic significance of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and to honour the memory of **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**, Ross Islands was renamed as **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Dweep** by the Prime Minister during his visit to the Island in 2018.

A book title 'COACHING BEYOND: My Days with the Indian Cricket Team' by R. Kaushik, R. Sridhar

A book titled '**COACHING BEYOND: My Days with the Indian Cricket Team**' authored by **R. Kaushik & R. Sridhar**.

- The book reflects primarily on **R. Sridhar's seven-year coaching tenure** with the Indian cricket team as its fielding coach.
- **R. Sridhar**, a left-arm spinner who played for Hyderabad in the late 1990s, discovered his love for coaching when still an active player.
- Armed with the requisite knowledge and degrees, he took the National Cricket Academy route to the senior Indian team, where he served as fielding coach for seven eventful years, from 2014 to 2021, and formed an integral back-room coaching troika alongside head coach **Ravi Shastri** and assistant coach **Bharat Arun**. Sridhar is now co-founder of **Coaching Beyond**, an institute that intends to produce not just high-quality players but also coaches.



PhonePe Raises \$350 Mn From General Atlantic, Joins India's Decacorn Club

- **Payments and financial services unicorn PhonePe** has raised **\$350 million** in funding from **General Atlantic**, a leading global growth equity firm, at a **pre-money valuation of \$12 billion**, making the **Walmart-owned start-up** the most-valued **financial technology (fintech) player** in India.

- The investment is the first tranche of the company's latest fundraise that could see marquee global and Indian investors put in up to \$1 billion in the fintech firm. With this funding round, the home-grown digital payments start-up has more than doubled its valuation — from **\$5.5 billion in 2020**. With a **\$12-billion valuation**, it has joined the **decacorn club**.

Republic Day 2023: First time events in Republic Day Parade

- The 74th Republic Day Parade begins at **10:30 AM** from Vijay Chowk and head towards Lal Quila. The Parade ceremony commence with the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the National War Memorial. He lead the nation in paying solemn tributes to the brave hearts by laying a wreath. After that, the national flag unfurled followed by the national anthem with a 21-gun salute using 105-mm Indian Field Guns.
- The parade this year is to be extra special with many first-time events scheduled. As the participants prepare to showcase India's growing prowess and cultural diversity during the parade on the Kartavya path (formerly known as Rajpath).

There are various events held for the first time in Republic day parade 2023:

- For the first time in India's independent history, the iconic 21-Guns Salute to the President during the parade will use 105 mm Indian Field Guns replacing the British-made 25-Pounder guns. This year, only Made-in-India weapon systems, showcased at the Republic Day parade, keeping with the theme of "Atmanirbhar Bharat".
- For the first time, 12 women riders are participate of the Camel Contingent of the Border Security Force (BSF) and among the 16 marching contingents from the armed forces, Central Para Military Forces, Delhi Police, National Cadet Corps (NCC), NSS along with 19 military pipes and drums bands in the Republic Day parade this year.
- A team of "Daredevils" motor cycle riders from Corps of Signals co-led by a woman officer is the part of the parade. Lieutenant Dimple Bhati from the Corps of Signals, part of the Indian Army's Daredevils motorcycle team at the Republic Day parade this year. The women officer had been training with the team for the last one year.

- The newly-recruited **Agniveers** also be a part of the parade for the first time.
- In a first, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) will display a tableau during the Republic Day parade. 'Nasha Mukta Bharat', and a group of people standing in front of it, wearing different costumes of India and holding their arms out, with a banner placed below bearing a line Together We Can Do It,.
- Marching down the Kartavya Path for the first time, the combined Band and Marching contingent of the Egyptian Armed Forces, led by Colonel Mahmoud Mohamed Abdel Fattah El Kharasawy. The contingent consist of 144 soldiers, representing the main branches of the Egyptian Armed Forces.
- The Indian Navy's IL-38, showcased during the parade for the first and last time, IL-38 has served Indian Navy for 42 years.
- The biggest drone show in India, comprising 3,500 indigenous drones, light up the evening sky over the Raisina hills during Beating the Retreat ceremony on January 29th.
- Garud Special Forces of the Indian Air Force are participating for the first time in the Republic Day parade. Squadron Leader Pritam Singh Jaitawat leading the Garud team as part of the IAF contingent.

iNNOVACC – India's first intranasal Covid vaccine launched

- **The first nasal vaccination** produced in India against Covid-19, the **iNOVACC**, was introduced by Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh and Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya. Bharat Biotech has created the vaccine. At Mandaviya's house, the first intranasal vaccine produced in India was introduced to the world.
- Bharat Biotech has previously declared that it will offer the intranasal vaccine for 325 for government purchases and 800 for private immunisation facilities.
- Bharat Biotech recently declared iNOVACC® (BBV154) to be a booster dose throughout the nation.
- The effectiveness of iNOVACC as a primary dosage schedule and a heterologous booster dose for patients who have already received two doses of either Covishield or Covaxin were assessed in clinical trials.



Hindenburg Report Drags Gautam Adani down from 3rd to 7th position on Forbes' rich list

- The **Hindenburg report** has named **Gautam Adani** along with his family members in what it has called the biggest fraud in corporate history. The report triggered off strongly worded responses from the **Adani Group**, where it called **Hindenburg's findings** stale and its claims malicious.
- But that hasn't helped market sentiment around **Adani's stock**, as it has crashed by 20 per cent so far, and has also wiped off more than Rs 80,000 crore from the firm's market cap.
- After his meteoric rise to the position of the **world's third wealthiest man**, **Gautam Adani** has been dragged down to the seventh position on **Forbes' rich list** by **Hindenburg's damning report**. The serious claims have triggered off a storm as **Indian index Sensex** opened **1,000 points lower**, and market regulator **SEBI** increased scrutiny against the **Adani Group**.
- As of now **Bernard Arnault** of **Louis Vuitton** is the **world's richest man**, pushing **Elon Musk** to the second position, followed by **Jeff Bezos** and **Oracle founder Larry Ellison**. Adani on the other hand was surpassed by **Microsoft founder Bill Gates** and **Warren Buffet**, on the list.



Udyan Utsav 2023 – Rashtrapati Bhavan's Amrit Udyan open from January 31

- The **Mughal Garden of Rashtrapati Bhavan** has been called **Amrit Udyan**. As President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated Udyan Utsav-2023, the opening of the Rashtrapati Bhavan grounds, the renowned park is expected to open to the public on January 31.



Udyan Utsav 2023

- Once a year, the gardens are made available to the public.
- It will be accessible to tourists this year from January 31 to March 26 between the hours of 10 am and 4 pm.
- However, it will be closed every Monday, March 1 and 2, the G20 summit, and March 8. (Holi).
- Visitors will be able to view 12 different species of carefully cultivated tulips that are anticipated to bloom in stages, among other things.

Ministry of Culture to Hand Over 1,000 Sites to Private Sector Under Monument Scheme

- The Secretary of the **Ministry of Culture** Govind Mohan announced that the government is to hand over around 1,000 monuments under the control of the **Archaeological Survey of India** to the private sector for their upkeep under the **Monument Mitra Scheme**.
- Corporate entities will take over the monuments as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility. Under the scheme, monument amenities will be revamped by the private sector.
- The government has set the target to hand over 500 sites under the revamped **Monument Mitra Scheme** by the end of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav on 15 August 2023.
- The Monument Mitra Scheme had been started a few years back under the **Ministry of Tourism**. The Ministry of Tourism has transferred the scheme to the Ministry of Culture in respect of the monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India.
- He also stated that the government will offer around **1,000 monuments** across the country to the private sector for their upkeep and maintenance.

Republic Day 2023: Uttarakhand tableau wins first prize

- **Uttarakhand tableau** which showcased the state's wildlife and religious sites at the **74th Republic Day parade** has won the top prize. Uttarakhand's tableau



showcased the state's wildlife and religious sites during the ceremonial parade at Kartavya Path on January 26.

- In the foreground of the **tableau, reindeer, deer and various birds** were shown roaming in the **world-famous Corbett National Park**. The central part of the tableau depicted the state animal of Uttarakhand, musk deer, national bird peacock and ghoral. Jageshwar Dham, a group of 125 small and big ancient temples in Manaskhand's Almora district, and popular deodar trees were shown in the rear part of the tableau.
- Uttarakhand won the first prize for its tableau, followed by **Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh** in the second and third positions respectively.

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

- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** presented the economy survey to Parliament. According to the economic survey, India's economy will expand by **6.5 percent** in 2023–2024 as opposed to 7 percent in the current fiscal year and 8.7 percent in 2021–2022.
- The Economic Survey 2022-23 is primarily the government's assessment of the economy's performance over the previous year.
- The government stated in its Economic Survey 2022-23 report that their baseline scenario for growth for 2023–2024 was 6.5%, with nominal growth—which takes inflation into account—predicted at 11%.



India's G-20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant Inaugurated India's First Model G-20 Summit

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

International

Inacio Lula da Silva Sworn in As the President of Brazil for the 3rd Time

- **Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva** took office for a third term as **Brazil's**

president, vowing to fight for the poor and the environment and “rebuild the country” after far-right



leader **Jair Bolsonaro's** divisive administration.

- The 77-year-old veteran leftist, who previously led Brazil from 2003 to 2010, took the oath of office before Congress, capping a remarkable political comeback for the metalworker-turned-president less than five years after he was jailed on controversial, since-quashed corruption charges.

Croatia Adopts Euro and Entered Europe's Borderless Zone

- **Croatia** has switched to the euro and entered **Europe's passport-free zone** – two important milestones for the country after joining the **European Union**

(EU) nearly a decade ago. At midnight, the Balkan nation bid farewell to its **kuna** currency and became the **20th member of the eurozone**.



- It is now the **27th nation in the Schengen zone**, the world's largest passport-free travel area, which enables more than 400 million people to move freely around its members. **Croatia, a former Yugoslav republic** of 3.9 million people that fought a war of independence in the 1990s, joined the EU in 2013.

Start Me Up UK Space Mission That Failed

- The mission had been dubbed “**Start Me Up**,” channeling the **Rolling Stones** to herald a new era of British space travel. The rocket was set to make history, carrying satellites on what would be the **first-ever orbital launch from the U.K.**

- But Virgin Orbit says its **Launcher One** rocket “**experienced an anomaly**” just before it could deliver its payload, and the craft was lost. Now, officials say, they'll start again, noting that the mission set a new precedent for the U.K. and proved the viability of their long-term plans.

What is U.S. ‘Title 42’ Immigration Policy?

- The **United States** announced that it will extend **COVID-19**

pandemic-era restrictions, known as **Title 42**, to expel migrants from **Nicaragua, Cuba** and **Haiti** caught



crossing the **U.S.-Mexico border back to Mexico**.

- The move would block more nationalities from seeking **asylum in the United States**, and raises questions about the implications of this policy expansion and its legality. At the same time, the **White House** said it would open more legal pathways for **migrants** from those nations to apply to enter the country from abroad.
- Title 42 is an **immigration policy** that was implemented by the **U.S. health authorities** in March 2020, during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The policy was implemented to allow border agents to **rapidly send migrants** crossing the U.S.-Mexico border back to Mexico or other countries. The **U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** said at the time it was needed to stem the spread of COVID-19 in crowded detention settings.
- The policy was implemented under **Republican former President Donald Trump**.

Prince Harry released his Memoir titled “Spare”

- **Prince Harry**, Duke of Sussex, a member of the British royal family, has released his memoir titled “**Spare**”. The book was written with the assistance of American novelist **J. R. Moehringer**. The book is published by

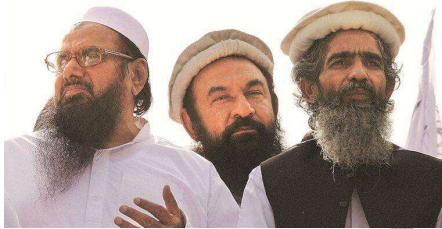


Transworld Publishers Ltd, a division of Penguin Random House.

- The book reveals the details of Harry's relationship with his father, King Charles, his elder brother, Prince William, and other members of the royal family.
- Prince Harry announced that the proceeds from his memoir will be used to support British charities with donations including USD 1.5 million to Sentebale, an organization Prince Harry founded with Prince Seeiso in their mothers' legacies, which supports vulnerable children and young people in Lesotho and Botswana.

UN Declares Pakistan Based Abdul Rehman Makki a Global Terrorist

- The **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** has listed **Pakistan-based terrorist Abdul Rehman Makki as a global terrorist.** Makki is the brother-in-law of **Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) chief** and 26/11 mastermind **Hafiz Saeed.**



- The development comes after India last year slammed China after it blocked the proposal to list Makki under the Sanctions Committee. Makki, who has been involved in **raising funds, recruiting, and radicalizing the youth** to plan attacks in India, especially in **Jammu and Kashmir**, has already been listed as a terrorist by **India and the United States.** Makki has been in various leadership roles within the terrorist organisation.
- The **UN Security Council's 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee** added 68-year-old Makki, the brother-in-law of JUD/LeT Chief Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, to its list of designated terrorists after China withdrew its hold on a joint proposal by India and the US.

China's Population Shrinks for the First Time Since 1961

- **China's population** fell last year for the first time in six decades, a **historic turn** that is expected to mark the start of a long period of decline in its citizen numbers with **profound implications for its economy.**

- The drop, the worst since the **Great Famine of 1961**, also lends weight to predictions that **India** will become the **world's most populous nation** in this year. The population dropped by roughly 850,000 to 1.41175 billion at the end of 2022.
- Long-term, UN experts see **China's population shrinking by 109 million by 2050**, more than triple the decline of their previous forecast in 2019. **Last year's birth rate was 6.77 births per 1000 people**, down from a rate of **7.52 births in 2021** and marking the lowest birth rate on record. The figures also logged the **highest death rate since 1974**, registering 7.37 deaths per 1000 people compared with a rate of 7.18 deaths in 2021.

Pakistan is South Asia's Weakest Economy, World Bank report

- **World Bank** forecast **Pakistan's economic growth** to slow further to two percent during the current year. This will mark a drop of two percentage points from its June 2022 estimates, according to the **World Bank's Global Economic Prospects report.**
- The report said that Pakistan's economic output was not only declining itself but also bringing down the regional growth rate as well. Forecasting **Pakistan's GDP growth rate** to improve to 3.2 per cent in 2024, the report said, "Policy uncertainty further complicates the economic outlook" of Pakistan.
- This pace reflects still robust growth in **India, Maldives, and Nepal**, offsetting the effects of the **floods in Pakistan** and the economic and political crises in Afghanistan and Sri Lanka. The deteriorating global environment, however, will weigh on investment in the region," the report said pointing to a "**sharp, long-lasting slowdown**" with the global growth expected at 1.7 per cent this year.



Hyderabad chosen as host of WEF Center for Fourth Industrial Revolution

- The sole centre in India with a focus on healthcare and life sciences will be created in Hyderabad as the **World Economic Forum Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR Telangana).**

- One of Asia's major centres for the biological sciences is Telangana.
- Telangana is known as the vaccine centre of the world and produces one-third of all vaccines produced globally.
- The 18th centre of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Network, which spans four continents, is now C4IR Telangana.
- With the opening of this facility, Telangana will strengthen its position as a global leader and establish itself as a key node in the network of 4IR centres.

TCS, Infosys among top three global IT brands as per Brand Finance

- **Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys** grew their brand value to retain their positions as the second and third most valuable IT services brands, according to the 'IT Services 25' list prepared by UK-based consultancy **Brand Finance** for the year 2023.
- **Accenture** retained the top slot for the **fifth year straight**, with a brand valued at \$39.8 billion. It is the strongest IT services brand in the ranking with a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 87.8 out of 100 and a corresponding AAA brand rating.
- **TCS's** brand value was up 2 per cent at \$17.2 billion. TCS has delivered many **tailored transformation programmes** as clients migrated to various hybrid working methods, said the Brand Finance report.



Global Fire Power Index, No Change In Top 4 Military Rankings

- The **Global Firepower Index** ranks the countries based on their potential **military strength**. **India** is ranked **fourth** in the index. The Global Firepower Index ranked **145 countries**. The countries were evaluated based on prolonged offensive and defensive



- military campaigns.
- The Global Firepower Index is calculated using **fifty individual factors** from geography to logistical capability.
- It also includes **manpower, land forces, airpower, natural resources, naval forces, logistics and financials**.
- Under manpower, the factors considered are total population, paramilitary, reaching military age annually, active reserves and active services.
- Under equipment, the factors considered are trainer fleet, aircraft fleet strength, helicopter fleet, attack fleets, rocket projectors, tank strength, towed artillery, aircraft carriers, naval fleet strength, destroyers, submarines, coastal patrol craft, frigates, mine warfare craft, coastal patrol craft and tanker fleets.

Amazon back as World's Most Valued Brand, Apple down to No 2

- Billionaire **Jeff Bezos's** e-commerce company **Amazon** has become the **most valued brand, overtaking Apple**, last year's topper. **Amazon** has reclaimed the top spot as the **world's most valuable brand** despite its brand value falling **15 per cent** this year from **\$350.3 billion to \$299.3 billion**.
- According to brand valuation consultancy **Brand Finance's** report, "**Global 500 2023**", while Amazon is back at No 1, its brand value has fallen by over **\$50 billion** this year, with its rating slipping from **AAA+ to AAA**. This is as consumers evaluate it more harshly in the post-pandemic world.



Top 10 most valuable brands according to the report:

1. Amazon- Worth \$299.3 billion
2. Apple- Worth \$297.5 billion
3. Google-Worth \$281.4 billion
4. Microsoft-Worth \$191.6 billion
5. Walmart-Worth \$113.8 billion

Brazil and Argentina to Begin Preparations for Common Currency

- Brazil and Argentina aim for greater economic integration, including the development of a common currency, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Argentine leader Alberto Fernandez said in a joint article they penned.
- They also decided to advance discussions on a common South American currency that can be used for both financial and commercial flows, reducing costs of operations and external vulnerability.
- The plan, set to be discussed at a summit in Buenos Aires, will focus on how a new currency which Brazil suggests calling the “sur” (south) could boost regional trade and reduce reliance on the U.S. dollar.



China building dam on Mabja Zangbo river near Indian border

- Satellite images show that China is constructing a new dam on the Mabja Zangbo river, geospatial intelligence researcher Damien Symon has claimed. The dam will be sitting just a few kilometres north of the Indian-Nepali-Chinese border trijunction.
- Satellite images show work is being done on the Mabja Zangbo river in Tibet's Burang County since 2021. While the construction of the dam is not complete, it does pose questions regarding China's hegemony on water supplies downstream in the future.



Defence

DRDO's celebrated its 65th foundation day

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Headquarters in New Delhi has marked the 65th

Foundation

Day of the Organisation, which is celebrated on 1st January every year.



- DRDO Chairman Dr S V Kamat addressed the DRDO fraternity on the occasion. He reaffirmed DRDO's commitment towards R&D excellence and briefed about the development of cutting edge technologies for self-reliance in defence.
- On the occasion of the day, a DRDO monograph 'Infrared Signatures, Sensors and Technologies' authored by Dr Kamal Nain Chopra, a former DRDO Scientist, was also released by the Chairman DRDO. DRDO calendar 2023 was also released. In addition, Secretary DD R&D and Chairman DRDO felicitated all the employees who have completed 25 years of their service in DRDO.

Key Points

- DRDO Date founded: 1958;
- DRDO Agency executive: Dr Sameer V Kamath, Chairman, DRDO;

Under SPRINT Scheme Indian Navy to Get Autonomous Weaponised Boat Swarms

- iDEX has signed its 50th SPRINT contract with Sagar Defence for Autonomous Weaponised Boat

Swarms for the Indian Navy.

Autonomous Weaponised Boat is one of



the technologies introduced out of the 75 challenges by the Indian Navy under the AzadiKaAmritMahotsav in 2022.

- Sagar Defence has developed the country's first Autonomous Weaponised unmanned boat with the capability for swarming. The contract was signed under an Indian Navy project of the Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC 7) SPRINT initiative.
- DRDO has tested 3 remote unmanned weaponized boats in Pune ahead of Defence Expo.
- The Autonomous Weaponised Boats were developed in collaboration with Sagar Defence Engineering, a private start-up.
- The vessel is capable of relying on the video feed to the ground control station and can be very useful for surveillance and patrolling.

Captain Shiva Chauhan becomes the 1st women officer to be operationally deployed in Siachen

- Captain Shiva Chauhan from the Corps of Engineers has been posted at a frontline post in Siachen Glacier, in first such operational deployment of an woman



Army officer at the world's highest battlefield.

- The officer was posted at the Kumar post, located at an altitude of around 15,600 feet in Siachen, for a three-month stint after she underwent rigorous training. The training included endurance training, ice wall climbing, avalanche and crevasse rescue and survival drills.
- Capt Shiva Chouhan, who hails from Rajasthan, is a Bengal Sapper Officer. Chouhan lost her father at the age of 11 and her mother, a housewife, took care of her studies. She did her schooling from Udaipur and graduated from NJR Institute of Technology, Udaipur, in civil engineering.

India and Japan to conduct joint exercise to strengthen cooperation in air defence

- The Japan Air Self Defense Force (JASDF) and the Indian Air Force will participate in the joint air exercise "Veer Guardian-2023" starting on January 12 at Hyakuri Air Base in Japan.

- The joint exercise, which will go through January 26th, intends to encourage international collaboration in air defence.
- Four Su-30 MKI, two C-17, and one IL-78 aircraft from the Indian contingent will take part in the air exercise, while four F-2 and four F-15 aircraft from the JASDF will take part.

21st VARUNA Naval Exercise between India and France begins

- According to the Ministry of Defence, the 21st edition of “Varuna” the bilateral naval exercise between India and France commenced on the western seaboard.
- This edition of the exercise will witness participation of indigenous guided missile stealth destroyer INS Chennai, guided missile frigate INS Teg, maritime patrol aircraft P-8I and Dornier, integral helicopters and MiG29K fighter aircraft.
- The French Navy will be represented by the aircraft carrier Charles De Gaulle, frigates FS Forbin and Provence, support vessel FS Marne and maritime patrol aircraft Atlantique. The exercise will be conducted over five days from 16 to 20 January 2023 and will witness advanced air defence exercises, tactical manoeuvres, surface firings, underway replenishment and other maritime operations.



Key Points

- France Capital: Paris;
- France President: Emmanuel Macron;
- France Prime minister: Élisabeth Borne.

Fifth Kalvari Class Submarine “Vagir” to be Commissioned into Indian Navy

- Indian Navy is set to commission the fifth Kalvari class submarine Vagir on 23 Jan 2023. The Chief of the Naval Staff



Adm R Hari Kumar will be the Chief Guest for the ceremony.

- These submarines are being built in India by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, under collaboration with M/s Naval Group, France. Four of the Kalvari class of submarines have already been commissioned into the Indian Navy.
- The Sand Shark represents ‘Stealth and Fearlessness’, two qualities that are synonymous with the ethos of a submariner.

Indian Navy conducts “AMPHEX 2023” mega exercise in Andhra

- Indian Navy has carried out a six-day-long mega military exercise along with the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force near Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh. The “largest” biennial tri-services amphibious exercise AMPHEX 2023 was conducted from January 17 to 22.
- The exercise is to review the preparedness of the Indian Navy and the Army during the war, national calamities and coastal security enforcement. The exercise is being conducted near the Naval Enclave at Suryaraopeta village in Kakinada rural Mandal off Kakinada coast.



India & Japan concludes “Veer Guardian 2023” Air exercise

- The inaugural edition of the 16-day bilateral air exercise between the Indian Air Force and the Japan Air Self-Defence Force has concluded in Japan. The exercise, ‘Veer Guardian 2023’, involved precise planning and skilful execution by both the air forces.
- The JASDF participated in the exercise with its F-2 and F-15 aircraft, while the IAF contingent



participated with the Su-30 MKI aircraft. The IAF fighter contingent was complemented by one IL-78 flight refuelling aircraft and two C-17 Globemaster strategic airlift transport aircraft.

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Appointments or Resign/Retired

Kevin McCarthy named as new speaker of the US House of Representation

- The United States Parliament has elected **Kevin McCarthy** of the Republican Party as the speaker of the House of Representatives after 15 rounds of voting. He is the **55th speaker** of the US House of Representatives.



He was serving as the House Minority Leader in the House. He has replaced **Nancy Pelosi**, the leader of the Democratic Party in the House of Representatives.

- Kevin McCarthy is a member of the Republican Party. He was elected as the House Minority Leader from 2019 to 2023. He previously served as the House Majority Leader from 2014 to 2019 under Speakers John Boehner and Paul Ryan. McCarthy has been elected as a member of the US Parliament 9 times. He was born in Bakersfield, California.

Indian-origin Manpreet Monica Singh sworn in as 1st female Sikh judge of USA

- Indian-origin Sikh woman, **Manpreet Monica Singh** became the **first ever female Sikh judge** in the US after she was sworn in as a **Harris county judge**.



- Born and brought up in Houston, after her father immigrated to the US early in the 1970s, Singh currently lives in Bellaire with her husband and two children. In her career expanding over two decades, the newly appointed judge has been involved in numerous civil rights organizations at the local, state, and national levels.

Chetan Sharma reappointed as Chairman of BCCI's selection committee

- Chetan Sharma** was reappointed as the chairman of the senior selection committee, exactly two months after his entire panel was disbanded by the BCCI for the Indian team's semifinal exit in the T20 World Cup.
- Salil Ankola, Shiv Sunar Das, Subroto Banerjee and Sridharan Sharath** are new members of the selection committee. The new committee has been picked by the Cricket Advisory Committee comprising **Ashok Malhotra, Jatin Paranjape and Sulakshana Naik**.
- The committee further recommended Chetan Sharma for the role of Chairman of the senior men's selection committee.



Key Points

- BCCI President: Roger Binny;
- BCCI Headquarters: Mumbai;
- BCCI Founded: December 1928.

Vikas Purohit the new global business head of Meta in India

- Meta announced the appointment of former **Tata CLiQ CEO Vikas Purohit** as the **director of global business** group in India. In his new role, Purohit will lead Meta's strategic relationship with various brands and agencies to boost the adoption of digital tools for revenue growth of India's business.
- At Meta, apart from engaging brands and agencies, Purohit will also lead partnership initiatives with the **media and creative ecosystems** to increase adoption of Meta's digital tools. He will head the company's key business vertical teams, agency teams, and business solutions teams.
- Purohit will **report to Arun Srinivas**, director and head of Ads Business for Meta in India.

NASA named Indian-American space expert AC Charania as chief technologist

- An Indian-American aerospace industry expert has been appointed as NASA's new chief technologist to serve as principal advisor to Administrator Bill Nelson on technology policy and programmes at the space agency's headquarters. **A.C. Charania** joined the space agency in his new role on January 3.
- He replaces another Indian-American scientist Bhavya Lal, who served as acting chief technologist prior to the former's appointment.



Key Points

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

Cognizant Appoints Ravi Kumar S as Chief Executive Officer

- IT giant **Cognizant** has announced **Ravi Kumar** as its new Chief Executive Officer, replacing the outgoing **Brian Humphries**, effective immediately. He was the president and COO of Infosys until October 2022, before leaving the company to join Cognizant the following week as President of Cognizant Americas.
- Mr. Humphries had resigned from the post that he held for four years, a move that has been linked to Cognizant's recent underperformance, including revenue decline in the third quarter of 2022.



Key Points

- Cognizant Founders: Kumar Mahadeva, Francisco D'Souza;
- Cognizant Founded: 26 January 1994, Chennai.

UK Treasury Adviser Clare Lombardelli appoints as OECD Chief Economist

- Chief Economic Adviser to the Treasury, **Clare Lombardelli**, has been appointed as the new **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Chief Economist**. She will lead the OECD's economic work, replacing



France's **Laurence Boone**, who has held the post since 2018.

- A British national, Clare holds a Master's Degree in Economics from London School of Economics and Political Science and Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Oxford University.

Key Points

- OECD Headquarters: Paris, France;
- OECD Founded: 30 September 196.

Retired DG of BSF Pankaj Kumar Singh appointed Deputy NSA

- Retired director general of the Border Security Force (BSF), **Pankaj Kumar Singh** was appointed as the **Deputy National Security Adviser in National Security Council Secretariat** for a period of two years. Singh, a 1988-batch IPS officer of the Rajasthan cadre, has been appointed on a re-employment contract.
- Singh had retired as the BSF chief on December 31, 2022. When Singh took charge of the BSF on August 31, 2021, he had created history of a son and a father holding the top post of a paramilitary force during their services. His father and retired IPS officer of the 1959-batch, Prakash Singh, had also headed the BSF from June, 1993 to January, 1994. Singh holds LLB and MPhil degrees, besides MBA from the IIM, Ahmedabad.



Key Points

- 5th and current National Security Advisor (NSA): Ajit Kumar Doval.

New Zealand's PM Jacinda Ardern announces resignation

- **New Zealand** Prime Minister **Jacinda Ardern**, a global figurehead of progressive politics, shocked the country. She was re-elected for a second term in 2020, the victory buoyed by her government's "go hard and go early" approach to the Covid-19 pandemic, which saw New Zealand impose some of the world's strictest border rules, separating families and shutting out almost all foreigners for almost two years.
- Ardern won international acclaim for her empathetic handling of the 2019 Christchurch mosque massacre, in which 51 Muslim worshippers were killed and another 40 wounded.



Key Points

- New Zealand Capital: Wellington;
- New Zealand Currency : New Zealand dollar.

Aruna Miller becomes Maryland's first Indian-American Lieutenant Governor

- **Aruna Miller** has scripted history by becoming the **first Indian-American politician** to be sworn in as the **Lieutenant Governor** in the state of **Maryland**, adjoining the US capital. Aruna, 58, a former delegate to the Maryland House, made history when the Democrat became the **10th Lieutenant Governor of the state**.
- The Lieutenant Governor is the **state's highest official** following the Governor and assumes the role when the Governor is out of state or incapacitated. Moore became **Maryland's 63rd governor**, the state's first and the country's only current Black chief executive. The newly sworn-in Lt Governor took her oath on the **Bhagwat Gita**.
- Miller's swearing-in will break a barrier that no other immigrant or woman of colour has breached before her. She was part of a **historic Democratic ticket** that sailed to victory in November and also

gives **Maryland its first Black governor**, its **first Black attorney general** and its **first female comptroller**.

Praveen Sharma appointed as Director of National Health Authority

- **Praveen Sharma** has been selected for appointment as **Director** in the National Health Authority (**Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission**) under the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**.
- Sharma has been appointed to the post under the **Central Staffing Scheme** for a period of five years with effect from the date of taking over charge of the post or until further orders, whichever event takes place earlier.
- Sharma is an **Indian Defence Service of Engineers (IDSE)** officer of 2005 batch. National Health Authority (NHA) is the apex body responsible for implementing India's flagship public health insurance/assurance scheme called "**Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana**" & has been entrusted with the role of designing strategy, building technological infrastructure and implementation of "**National Digital Health Mission**" to create a National Digital Health Ecosystem.

Vikram Dev Dutt named as next DGCA director general

- The appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of **Vikram Dev Dutt** as the next **director general** in the **Directorate of General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**. He will take over as the head of the aviation regulator on February 28, 2023.
- He will be succeeding the incumbent DGCA chief **Arun Kumar**. Earlier, Dutt had also served as the CMD of Air India. He had taken charge in January last year.
- In 2022, Dutt was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Air India Ltd as part of a senior-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre. Dutt is a 1993-batch IAS officer of AGMUT



(Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territory) cadre. Kumar, a 1989-batch IAS officer, was leading the DGCA as its director general since July 2019.

Chris Hipkins will replace Jacinda Ardern as prime minister of New Zealand

- New Zealand's former COVID-19 response minister, **Chris Hipkins** will replace **Jacinda Ardern** as prime minister.
- The 44-year-old senior politician must be formally backed by Labour members of parliament to take over as the country's 41st prime minister, following Ardern's shock resignation.
- Besides holding the education portfolio, Hipkins is also minister for police and the public service, and leader of the House.

Tata Trusts names Siddharth Sharma CEO

- The philanthropic arm of the Tata group and largest shareholder in the group holding company, **Tata Trusts** named **Siddharth Sharma**, as its CEO and **Aparna Uppaluri**, as chief operating officer.
- The appointments of the new CEO and COO will come into "effect from April 1, 2023". Sharma, a former civil servant, will succeed N Srinath, who stepped down as the CEO of Tata Trusts last year following his retirement.
- Uppaluri will be switching from Ford Foundation to Tata Trusts. The 48-year-old is currently serving as programme director for India, Nepal and Sri Lanka at the Ford Foundation. The COO post has been created by Tata Trusts to accommodate her.



Petr Pavel, Former Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, Became the President of the Czech Republic

- **Petr Pavel**, a former chairman of the **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)** military committee, has become the new president of the **Czech Republic**. Pavel, 61, defeated billionaire **Andrej Babis** in a run-off vote to replace controversial **President Milos**

Zeman as he emerged as the new Czech President. A former military general, Pavel got more than 58 per cent of the vote, according to the **Czech Statistics Office**.

- As none of the eight initial candidates received an absolute majority in the first round of voting two weeks ago, the election was decided in a **second-round run-off** between **Pavel and Babis**. **Pavel**, a former paratrooper, **won 58.3 percent** of votes while **Andrej Babis scored 41.7 percent**.
- The 61-year-old Pavel will in March replace President **Milos Zeman**, an outspoken and divisive politician who fostered close ties with Moscow before making a U-turn when Russia invaded Ukraine last year.

Air Marshal A.P. Singh to be new Vice Chief of Indian Air Force

- **Air Marshal A P Singh** has been appointed as the new Vice Chief of the **Indian Air Force**. He will succeed **Air Marshal Sandeep Singh**, who will retire from service.
- Air Marshal A P Singh is currently serving as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Central Air Command. He will take charge as the Vice Chief on 01st Feb 2023. He was commissioned into the fighter stream of the IAF on December 21, 1984.
- Air Marshal A P Singh is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Defence Services Staff College and National Defence College. He is a Qualified Flying Instructor and an Experimental Test Pilot with more than 4,900 hours of service flying on a variety of fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft.



Key Points

- Indian Air Force Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Indian Air Force Founded: 8 October 1932, India;
- Indian Air Force Air chief Marshall: Vivek Ram Chaudhari.

Honours/ Awards

Golden Globes Winners 2023 announced, check the complete list

- The 80th edition of 2023 Golden Globes show, hosted by Jerrod Carmichael, airs live on NBC and Peacock. The 80th Golden Globe Awards is the first edition of the annual spectacle to be on TV since an ethics, finance and diversity scandal involving the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, the group behind the awards, led NBC to decide not to air the 2022 ceremony. As in years past, the show will hand out honors in both film and TV categories.



Follow below for updates as winners are announced:

Category	Winners
Best TV Series, Musical or Comedy	"Abbott Elementary"
Best Performance by an Actor in a TV Series, Drama	Kevin Costner, "Yellowstone"
Best Director, Motion Picture	Steven Spielberg, "The Fabelmans"
Best Screenplay, Motion Picture	Martin McDonagh, "The Banshees of Inisherin"
Best Motion Picture, Non-English Language	"Argentina, 1985"
Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture, Drama	Cate Blanchett, "Tár"
Best Performance by an Actress in a TV Series, Drama	Zendaya, "Euphoria"
Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture, Drama	Austin Butler, "Elvis"
Best Motion Picture, Animated	"Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio"
Best Original Song, Motion Picture	"Naatu Naatu," "RRR"

United States R'Bonney Gabriel crowned 71st Miss Universe 2022

- The United States candidate R'Bonney Gabriel has crowned Miss Universe 2022 at a ceremony held in New Orleans, Mexico. The crown was presented to her by India's Harnaaz Kaur Sandhu who had won the 2021 title.
- She was handed a bouquet of flowers, draped in the winner's sash and crowned with a tiara onstage at the 71st Miss Universe Competition. The second runner-up was Miss Dominican Republic, Andreina Martinez. Miss Curacao, Gabriela Dos Santos, and Miss Puerto Rico, Ashley Carino, rounded out the top five finalists.
- Divita Rai of India reached the top 16, but she was unable to advance further. India's participation in the 71st Miss Universe was restricted to the top 16 since she was unable to make it into the top 5.



Gallantry Awards: President Droupadi Murmu approves 412 Gallantry Awards

- President of India, Droupadi Murmu has approved 412 Gallantry awards and other Defence decorations to Armed Forces personnel and others.
- These include six Kirti Chakras, including four posthumous, and 15 Shaurya Chakras including two posthumous. These include one Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry), 92 Sena Medals, including four posthumous, one Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry), seven Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry) and 29 Param Vishisht Seva Medals.



Critics Choice Awards 2023 full winners list: RRR bags two more awards

- The 28th Critics Choice Awards were held, and once again, SS Rajamouli's RRR has made India proud, as

the film scored two awards. **RRR** won Best Song award for **Naatu Naatu**, as well as Best Foreign Language film. RRR was also nominated for Best Director, Best Picture and Best Visual Effects.

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ICC annual awards 2022 announced: Check the complete list of Winners

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has announced its first individual award winners in the **ICC Awards 2022**, naming the stars honoured in the Associate, Emerging and T20I categories following a global vote conducted among the specialist panel of media representatives, the ICC Voting Academy and global fans who voted for their favourite stars.
- Winners in the 13 individual categories were based on overall performances and achievements throughout the calendar year, with winners announced across ICC digital channels.

ICC awards winners for 2022

- **Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy:** Babar Azam (Pakistan)
- **Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy:** Nat Sciver (England)
- **Men's Test Cricketer of the Year:** Ben Stokes (England)
- **Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year:** Babar Azam
- **Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year:** Nat Sciver
- **Men's T20 International Cricketer of the Year:** Suryakumar Yadav (India)
- **Women's T20 International Cricketer of the Year:** Tahlia McGrath (Australia)
- **Men's Emerging Cricketer of the Year:** Marco Jansen (South Africa)
- **Women's Emerging Cricketer of the Year:** Renuka Singh (India)
- **Men's Associate Cricketer of the Year:** Gerhard Erasmus (Namibia)
- **Women's Associate Cricketer of the Year:** Esha Oza (India)
- **David Shepherd Trophy:** Richard Illingworth (England)
- **Spirit of Cricket Award:** Aasif Sheikh (Nepal)

Padma Awards 2023 Winners List Announced: Check All Padma Winners

- For the year 2023, the President has approved conferment of 106 Padma Awards including 3 duo cases (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one) as per list below. The list comprises 6



Padma

Vibhushan, 9 Padma Bhushan and 91 Padma Shri Awards. 19 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 2 persons from the category of Foreigners/Non Resident India (NRI)/Person of Indian Origin (PIO)/Overseas Citizen Of India (OCI) and 7 Posthumous awardees.

- **ORS icon Dilip Mahalanabis** (Medicine), Samajwadi Party founder and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Mulayam Singh Yadav (Public Affairs)**, and architect **Balakrishna Doshi (Others-Architecture)** have been picked to be awarded Padma Vibhushan posthumously.

Dr. Prabha Atre honoured with Pt Hariprasad Chaurasia Lifetime Achievement Award

- Hindustani vocalist Padma Vibhushan, **Dr. Prabha Atre** was conferred with the the **Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia Lifetime Achievement Award** at the hands of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.
- The award was presented to her by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde at Thane near Mumbai. The Chief Minister felicitated Dr Atre at a function at Ram Ganesh Gadkari Rangayatan. Shinde presented Dr Atre with a citation and Rs 1 lakh at the program, during which a symphony of 90 flutists was performed to mark her 90th birthday.



Song ‘Naatu Naatu’ and two documentaries from India nominated for this year’s Oscar

- The Song ‘Naatu Naatu’ from India’s blockbuster film **RRR** and two documentaries from the country ‘**All That Breathes**’ and ‘**The Elephant**’



‘**Whisperers**’ have made it to the final nominations list at the **95th edition of the Academy Awards**.

- However, India’s official entry **Chhello Show (Last Film Show)**, Gujarati language coming-of-age drama did not score a nomination in the Best International Feature category at the 95th Academy Awards.
- The Academy Awards ceremony will be held 13th of March at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles with American TV host and comedian **Jimmy Kimmel** as the host. Nominations in all 23 categories were announced in a global livestream by Hollywood actors Riz Ahmed and Allison Williams hosted the announcement from the Academy’s Samuel Goldwyn Theater at Beverly Hills in California.

Sports

Indian Tennis star Sania Mirza announced her retirement

- Indian Tennis Player **Sania Mirza** (36-year-old), the former doubles World No. 1, has confirmed her retirement from professional Tennis. She announced that the **Dubai Tennis Championships**, a Women's Tennis Association (WTA) 1000 event in Dubai in February 2023 will be her last match.
- Prior to her last appearance, she is going to play in women's doubles at the Australian Open in 16 to 29 January 2023 alongside Kazakhstan's Anna Danilina.



Gareth Bale announces retirement from professional football

- Gareth Bale** has announced his retirement from professional football at the age of 33. It brings an end to a career that saw Bale excel for **Southampton, Tottenham Hotspur, Real Madrid and LAFC**, while also establishing himself as one of the greatest players in Welsh football history.
- Bale, who made his Wales debut in May 2006 in a friendly against Trinidad and Tobago, broke the previous Wales record of 28 goals set by Ian Rush. He has won Wales' player of the year award six times.
- Bale played a Wales record of 111 games for his country and was a five-time Champions League winner with Real Madrid. He helped the Welsh reach the 2016 and 2020 Euros before leading them in their first World Cup since 1958 at Qatar 2022.



Surya Kumar Yadav becomes fastest player to reach 1,500 runs in T20I

- Suryakumar Yadav** has become the fastest player to reach **1,500 runs** in T20 International cricket in terms of **balls faced**. He took only 843 balls to reach this landmark.
- In 45 matches and 43 innings, Suryakumar has scored 1,578 runs at an average of 46.41. He has three centuries and 13 half-centuries in the format, with the best individual score of 117.
- However, he is the third-fastest batter to reach the 1,500-run mark in terms of innings. The fastest batters to reach this landmark are Indian batter **Virat Kohli**, **KL Rahul**, **Australian veteran Aaron Finch** and **Pakistan skipper Babar Azam**, who all took 39 innings to score 1,500 runs in T20 International cricket. **Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter Mohammed Rizwan** reached the milestone in 42 innings and Suryakumar did so in 43 innings.

KKL replaces MPL as Indian cricket team's official sponsor

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has found a replacement for one of the two jersey sponsors of **Team India**.
- The cricket body has signed **Kewal Kiran Clothing**, the maker of Killer Jeans, as the official partner of the Indian cricket team for five months (until May 31, 2023).
- Kewal Kiran Clothing, which also owns brands such as Lawman and Integrity, replaces gaming firm MPL. Under this deal, the flagship brand (Killer) is on display on the right upper chest of the Team India jersey.

Key Points

- BCCI President: Roger Binny;
- BCCI Headquarters: Mumbai;
- BCCI Founded: December 1928.

Kerala breaks Guinness record for goals scored

- Kerala** has kicked itself into the **Guinness Book of World Records** by taking **4,500 penalty kicks**



in 12 hours. The **Department of Sports and Youth Affairs** made it possible for the football-crazy State to set the Guinness record at a Dream Goal penalty shootout organised at **Payyanad Football Stadium at Manjeri.**

- The excitement was palpable at the stadium throughout the day as hundreds of footballers, students, teachers and football lovers queued up to take the penalty kicks. Many missed, but some netted with impeccable perfection. The zest of Malappuram was evident throughout.
- **Mappila songs** (or **Mappila Paattu**) are a folklore Muslim song genre rendered to lyrics, within a melodic framework (Ishal), in Arabi Malayalam by the Mappilas of the Malabar region in Kerala, India. Mappila songs have a distinct cultural identity, while at the same time remain closely linked to the cultural practices of Kerala.

France captain Hugo Lloris announces retirement from international football

- France team captain **Hugo Lloris** has announced his decision to retire from international football at the age of 36. Lloris represented France in four World Cups and three Euros and captained Les Blues to the World Cup trophy in 2018.
- The Tottenham Hotspur shotstopper led his team to the World Cup final in Qatar, where they were beaten by Argentina on penalties.

India claimed victory over Sri Lanka by a record 317 runs in 3rd ODI

- In Cricket, **India** scripted history by defeating **Sri Lanka** by the largest ever margin of 317 runs in the third and final ODI in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.** With this, India also clean swept the series by 3-0.
- Previous record of a win by a largest ever margin was with the **New Zealand, for 290-run win over Ireland in 2008.** Virat Kohli and **Shubman Gill** scored



sublime centuries to help the hosts post an imposing 390 for five.

- Virat Kohli produced an incredible performance in the third and final ODI of the series, as he smashed an unbeaten 166 off just 110 deliveries, hitting 13 fours and eight sixes.

Here's the list of highest victories by runs in ODIs:

- 317 – India vs Sri Lanka, 2023
- 290 – New Zealand vs Ireland, 2008
- 275 – Australia vs Afghanistan, 2015
- 272 – South Africa vs Zimbabwe, 2010
- 257 – India vs Bermuda, 2007

Virat Kohli becomes fifth highest run scorer in ODI cricket

- Star cricketer **Virat Kohli** became the fifth-highest run-scorer in history of ODI cricket, overtaking Sri Lankan legend **Mahela Jayawardene** to enter into top-five. At the time of becoming the fifth-highest run-scorer, Virat had 12,652 runs in 268 ODIs at an average of 57.78, with 45 tons and 65 half-century.
- His best score in the format is 183. As per records, the highest run-scorer in ODI history is Indian legend **Sachin Tendulkar**, who has scored 18,426 runs at an average of 44.83. He has 49 centuries and 96 fifties in this format, with the best of 200*.
- Followed by Sachin, Sri Lankan great **Kumar Sangakkara** (14,234 runs in 404 matches), Australian great **Ricky Ponting** (13,704), Sri Lankan all-rounder **Sanath Jayasuriya** (13,430 in 445 matches) and Virat.

Barcelona beats Real Madrid in Spanish Super Cup final 2023

- **Barcelona** have won the **Spanish Super Cup** for the first time since the competition was revamped and moved to Saudi Arabia with a 3-1 victory over **Real Madrid.**
- Robert Lewandowski, Gavi and Pedri scored a goal each at King Fahd Stadium in Riyadh to give Barcelona its first Super



Cup trophy since 2018, and the first since the tournament's Final-Four format began in 2020 in a lucrative deal for the Spanish football federation.

- It was also Barcelona's first title since former player Xavi took over as the team's coach in 2021, and since Lionel Messi left for Paris Saint-Germain. Barcelona have now won the Super Cup a record 14 times. Madrid have 12 to their name.

Viacom18 bagged Women's IPL media rights for Rs 951 cr for next 5 years

- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has announced that **Viacom 18** have grabbed the media rights for the upcoming **Women's IPL** for a whopping **Rs 951 crore** for

five years, pipping other bidders, including Disney Star and Sony, in the auction. The auction for the T20 League was conducted by the cricket board in Mumbai.



- The global rights comprise three categories linear (TV), digital and combined (TV and digital). In the men's IPL, separate rights are sold across regions. The inaugural Women's IPL is likely to begin in the first week of March. Five teams will compete and all the matches will be held in Mumbai.
- Viacom18 had won the IPL digital rights for Rs 23,758 crore while Disney Star had retained the TV rights for **Rs 23,575 crore** for a five-year period starting 2023 during a three-day auction held in June, 2022.

MEDIA RIGHTS PITCH: Women's versus Men's IPL

- WIPL media rights for 2023-27: **Rs 951 crore**; Per-match value: Rs 7.09 crore
- Men's IPL media rights for 2023-27: **Rs 48,390 crore** (Disney Star/Viacom18); per-match value: Rs 118 crore

Key Points

- BCCI President: Roger Binny;
- BCCI Headquarters: Mumbai;
- BCCI Founded: December 1928.

Indian Opener Shubman Gill hits double century off 149 balls

- India Vs New Zealand:** Indian batter **Shubman Gill** has smashed three sixes on the trot to reach his double hundred (208 off 149 with 4s-19 and 6s-



- 9) and become only the eighth and the youngest player (23 years) in ODI history.
- Gill also broke the record for the highest score at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium set by Sachin Tendulkar (175) against Australia in 2009.
- He also became the fastest Indian to complete **1000 runs in ODIs as he reached the mark in 19 innings**, surpassing the likes of Virat Kohli and Shikhar Dhawan.

South Africa's Hashim Amla ended his 22-year cricket playing career

- Hashim Amla** ended his 22-year playing career, with his legacy secure as one of **South Africa's all-time cricketing greats**. Amla was a key member of one of South Africa's most powerful teams when they clinched the Test championship mace with a series win in England in 2012.
- Amla made a South African record **311 not out** in the first Test at The Oval in London. He made his first-class debut for a Kwa-Zulu-Natal team, against the touring England team, as a 16-year-old in December 1999 and made his Test debut against India in Kolkata five years later.

Rohit Sharma shattered MS Dhoni's record of most sixes in ODIs in India

- Indian captain **Rohit Sharma** has shattered a long-standing record held by **MS Dhoni** to become India's most prolific six-hitter in the history of ODI cricket. At the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Hyderabad, Rohit achieved this remarkable feat during the first ODI between India and New Zealand.
- The Indian captain's knock included two maximums, breaking MS Dhoni's long-standing record. Rohit is

now India's leading six-getter in the history of ODI cricket, with a total of **125 sixes to his name.**

Most sixes in ODI in India:

S. No	Players	SIXES
1.	Rohit Sharma	125 Sixes
2.	MS. Dhoni	123 Sixes
3.	Yuvraj Singh	71 Sixes

International Cricket Council's most followed international sports federation on social media

- The **International Cricket Council's (ICC) 92.2 million** followers across Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, TikTok and YouTube makes it the most followed international sports federation on social media, according to a study from BCW Sports.
- The ICC's dominance can be attributed to having a huge fanbase in markets that are highly active on social media. The ICC will hope this study supports its case to be included at the **2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games**. It has reportedly recommended six-team Twenty20 events for men and women to the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- The ICC increased its following by 16 per cent, putting it a massive 40.8 million followers ahead of second-placed **Fifa (51.4 million)**.

Australian Open 2023: Check the complete list of winners

- Novak Djokovic** defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas in the final of men's singles match of the **Australian Open 2023**. Djokovic wins 10th Australian Open and 22nd grand slam. He levels Rafael Nadal with his 22nd Grand Slam title.
- In the Women's Singles category, **Aryna Sabalenka** defeated **Elena Rybakina** in the final, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 to win the women's singles tennis title at the 2023 Australian Open.



Table showing Winners in all categories:

Category	Winner	Runner-Up
Men's Singles	N. Djokovic (Serbia)	Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece)
Women's Singles	A. Sabalenka (Belarus)	E. Rybakina (Kazakhstan)
Men's Doubles	J. Kubler & R. Hijikata (Australia)	H. Nys (Monaco) & J. Zieliński (Poland)
Women's Doubles	B. Krejčíková & K. Siniaková (Czechia)	S. Aoyama & E. Shibahara (Japan)
Mixed Doubles	L. Stefani & R. Matos (Brazil)	R. Bopanna & S. Mirza (India)

ICC Women's U19 T20 World Cup: India beat England to win the inaugural Women's U19 T20 World Cup

- India beat England** in the first-ever **ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup final in Potchefstroom, South Africa**. India bowled out England for a paltry 68 and won by 7 wks. This is the first ICC trophy India has won in women's cricket.
- The Indian women's cricket team has never won a World Cup at any level. The seniors reached the World Cup final on three occasions across formats but failed to go the distance. Bowling first, India cleaned up the English side for mere 68 runs in 17.1 overs.
- England captain and stellar all-rounder **Grace Scrivens** has been named Player of the Tournament after a run of outstanding performances with bat and ball.
- Titas Sadhu** of India poses after being named Player of the Match following the ICC Women's U19 T20 World Cup 2023 Final match.

Hockey World Cup 2023: Germany beat Belgium 5-4 in the finals

- Germany beat Belgium 5-4** in the penalty shootout to win the **FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023** at the **Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, India**. The



scores were level at the end of regulation time at 3-3.

- This is Germany's third Hockey World Cup title after they won it in 2002 and 2006. With this, they draw level with Netherlands and Australia. Germany also became the fourth team to register a come-from-behind win in a World Cup final. From a 2-0 deficit to a 3-2 to lead and ultimately a shootout, they eventually became champions.

Obituaries

Former Pope Benedict XVI passes away at the age of 95

- Statement released by the Vatican, the former **Pope Benedict**

XVI has passed away in the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery in the Vatican. He was 95 years old. The head of the



Catholic Church, former Pope Benedict, was the first pope in 600 years to resign. He resigned in 2013 and was replaced by the present pope Francis.

- Pope Benedict was the first German to become pope in 1000 years. He was the head of the Vatican City from 19 April 2005 until his resignation on 28 February 2013. He was born as Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger on April 16, 1927, in the southern German village of Marktl, close to Austria.

Apollo 7's last surviving astronaut, Walter Cunningham passes away

- On October 11, 1968, three men boarded NASA's **Saturn IB** and had what the agency described as a "perfect



launch" into space in the first crewed Apollo mission. On Tuesday, **Walter**

Cunningham— the last surviving astronaut on that mission who helped pave the way for humans to walk on the moon – died in Houston. Walter was a fighter pilot, physicist and entrepreneur, above all, "he was an explorer."

- One of his first encounters, however, ended in tragedy. He, along with **Walter Schirra** and **DonnEisele**, were backup crew members on the Apollo 1 mission in 1967 when a flash fire occurred during a launch pad test. The incident resulted in the deaths of three other astronauts.

Key Points

- NASA Founded:- 29 July, 1958
- NASA HQ'S:- Washington, D.C.
- Administrator:- Bill Nelson

Greece's former and last king Constantine II passes away

- **Constantine II**, the former and last King of Greece who ruled Greece before the country became a republic in 1974 passed away in Athens, Greece, at 82.
- He was born of King Paul I, younger brother to King George II, of Greece and German aristocrat Princess Frederica of Hannover, Germany, on 2nd June 1940 in Psikhikó near Athens, Greece.

Fighting Emergency to championing Mandal, Sharad Yadav passes away

- **Socialist** stalwart and former JD(U) chief **Sharad Yadav** passed away. He was 75. He is survived by his wife, daughter and son. A 7-term **Lok Sabha** and 4-term **Rajya Sabha** member, Yadav, a former Union Minister, had not been keeping well for some time.
- Born on July 1, 1947 at Babai in Hoshangabad district of **Madhya Pradesh**, Yadav was a gold medallist in engineering from the Jabalpur Engineering College. He soon became active in youth politics, greatly influenced by socialist leader **Ram Manohar Lohia**.
- He participated in a number of mass movements and was detained under MISA during the turbulent 1970s. Much later, he was among the leaders who played a significant role in the implementation of the **Mandal Commission** recommendations.



Italian film legend Gina Lollobrigida passes away at age 95

- Italian film legend **Gina Lollobrigida**, the diva who came to represent Italy's vibrant rebirth after World War Two during the 1950s has



passed away at the age of 95. She was dubbed as "the most beautiful woman in the world" after the title of one of her movies.

- Born to a working class family in a poor mountainous area east of Rome, she studied sculpture then got her break in the film world after finishing third in the 1947 Miss Italia beauty contest. (The winner that year was Lucia Bose.)

Mukarram Jah Bahadur, Hyderabad's Last Nizam passes away

- The last Nizam of Hyderabad, **Mukarram Jah Bahadur**, who passed away on Saturday night in Turkey, will be buried in the family vault in the Mecca Masjid courtyard. The preparation of the vault where other members of the Nizam's family who governed Hyderabad starting in 1724 are buried was overseen by representatives of the Nizam Trust.
- Two of the most renowned dynasties in the Muslim world were connected to Mukarram Jah, also known by his title Nawab Mir Barkat Ali Khan Walashan Mukarram Jah Bahadur.
- Durrushehvar, his mother, was the lone child of Abdul Majid, the final Caliph of Islam who was exiled by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk when the Caliphate was abolished.



Sabir Ali, Iron Man of India, passes away at the age of 67

- 'Ironman of India' **Sabir Ali**, who won the decathlon gold at the **1981 Asian Athletics Championships** in Tokyo, passed away. He was 67.
- Ali, who retired from Railways, won the title in the Japanese capital with a tally of 7,253 points beating Japan's Nobuya Saito (7,078) and China's Zu Qilin (7,074). He also won two silver medals at the South Asian Federation Games held in Kathmandu and Dhaka.
- Ali won eight consecutive Open National titles in the gruelling event between 1979 and 1985. The Railways

star was unbeatable at the Inter-State meets too – he represented Haryana — which he won twice in 1979 and 1981. His pet event was the javelin throw. Ali won a bronze and silver at the World Railway meets in 1981 and '85 and was honoured with the Arjuna Award in 1981. Ali, who grew up in Delhi, is survived by his wife, son and daughter.

TARA INSTITUTE

Important Days with theme

Nation celebrates 17th PravasiBhartiya Divas on 9th January 2023

- **PravasiBharatiya Divas or NRI Day** is formally observed on **9 January** to celebrate the day when **Mahatma Gandhi** returned from South Africa to Mumbai, India. The day is celebrated to acknowledge the contribution of the non-resident Indian community in helping in the development of the country.
- PravasiBharatiya Divas 2023 has conducted in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, from 8–10 January, 2023. It is important to note that this is the 17th PravasiBharatiya Divas, or NRI Day.
- According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the official theme of the PravasiBharatiya Divas 2023 is **“Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India’s Progress in AmritKaal.”** The theme focuses on the importance of the Indian diaspora in the development of the country. It is important to note that every year a new theme is chosen to celebrate the day.



PravasiBharatiya Divas 2023 convention inaugurated by PM Modi in Indore

- **The PravasiBharatiya Divas 2023** convention in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, was formally opened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The Prime Minister urged PravasiBhartiya to support India’s distinctive global perspective and its significant position within the international system on PravasiBharatiya Divas.
- According to Prime Minister Modi, the Indian diaspora can play a significant role as the nation’s brand



ambassador at a time when the world is looking to India with hope and faith on PravasiBharatiya Divas.

- They are brand ambassadors for Make in India, yoga, ayurveda, India’s cottage industries, handicrafts, and millets, according to Mr. Modi.
- Speaking about the diversification of India’s economy, PM Modi claimed that the country has the capacity to develop into a knowledge hub with a capital for skills.
- Chandrika Prasad Santokhi, president of Suriname, spoke at the event and suggested that the NRI be incorporated in AmritKaal’s framework for India’s 25 years of growth.

World Hindi Day 2023 observed on 10th January

- **World Hindi Day** or **Vishwa Hindi Diwas** is celebrated on **10th January** every year to promote awareness about the language across the world. It is also the day when Hindi, India’s national language, was spoken for the first time in the United Nations General Assembly.
- It was on this day in 1975 that the first World Hindi Conference was held in Nagpur. Since then, such conferences are organised in different parts of the world every year.
- The theme this year is **“Hindi – Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence”**. This year, the 12th World Hindi Conference will be organised in Fiji by the Foreign Ministry in collaboration with the **Fiji government** from February 15 to 17. The location for the 2023 event was decided during the 11th World Hindi Conference held in Mauritius last year.



Nation celebrates National Youth Day On January 12

- **National Youth Day** is celebrated every year on **January 12** to mark the birth anniversary of **Swami Vivekananda**. Every year on this occasion, the government organises National Youth Festival in collaboration with one state willing to host from **January 12 to January 16**. This year Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurate the festival on **January 12 in Hubballi, Karnataka**.
- The Centre said the festival is held to provide exposure to youths at a national level and this year's theme for the four-day programme is "**Viksit Yuva – Viksit Bharat (Developed Youth – Developed India)**".
- This year the festival is being organized by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports in collaboration with the **Karnataka**. The event will be held from January 12 to January 16, 2023, at Hubballi- Dharwad, Karnataka.



75th Indian Army Day observed on 15 January 2023

- **Indian army day 2023** is celebrated on **15th January 2023** and it mark the **75th anniversary** of the Indian army day. Every year on January 15, India celebrates its Army Day. It is the day on which Field



Marshal **Kodandera M. Cariappa** (then a **Lieutenant General**) took over as the first Commander in Chief of the Indian Army from the last British Commander in Chief of India, General **Fransis Bucher** in the year 1949.

- Parades, medal presenting and other ceremonies are organized to celebrate the Army Day. With "Service before self" as its motto, the Indian Army is the largest component of the Indian Armed Forces.

National Startup Day 2023: Significance and History

- 16th January, the founding day of Startup India is commemorated as the **National Startup Day**. The event is being celebrated since 2022. Prime Minister Narendra Modi made the announcement last year by calling startups as backbone of new India.
- The Central government has planned several events this year to celebrate the National startup day across the country as the part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. To celebrate the spirit of Indian startup ecosystem and mark this momentous day, DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) is organising **Startup India Innovation Week from 10th – 16th January 2023**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the adoption of National Startup Day on January 16 last year. The same year India celebrated the first National Startup Day. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade had also planned to organise a felicitation ceremony for the winners of the National Startup Awards 2022.

Parakram Diwas 2023 celebrates as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Birth Anniversary

- **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti** or **Netaji Jayanti** is a national event celebrated in India as **Parakram Diwas** on **January 23** to mark the birth of prominent Indian freedom fighter Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
- This year nation celebrates **126th birth anniversary** of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. For the first time, Netaji Jayanti was celebrated as Parakram Divas in 2021 on the occasion of his 124th birthday. In West Bengal, Jharkhand, Tripura, and Assam, it is a recognised holiday. On this day, the Indian government honours Netaji.



13th National Voters Day celebrates on 25th January 2023

- Election Commission of India is celebrating **13th National Voters' Day** on **25th January 2023**. This day is celebrated on 25 January to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India.
- Voters' day is dedicated to raising young people's awareness of the importance of voting in their country. It is celebrated every year with a particular theme. It not only encourages the youth to participate in the electoral process but also focuses that the Right to vote as the basic right.
- The theme for this year's NVD, '**Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure**' is dedicated to voters which conveys individual's feeling and aspiration towards participation in the electoral process through power of their vote.
- Since **2011**, **National Voters' Day** has been celebrated on **January 25** every year, all across the country to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India, i.e. 25th January 1950. The main purpose of the NVD celebration is to create electoral awareness amongst citizens and encourage them to participate in the electoral process.

Key Points

- Election Commission of India Formed: 25 January 1950;
- Election Commission of India Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Election Commission of India First Chief Election Commissioner: Sukumar Sen;
- Election Commission of India Current Chief Election Commissioner: Rajiv Kumar.



Martyr's Day (Shaheed Diwas) 2023: Mahatma Gandhi death Anniversary

- On January 30, 2023, India observed **Martyrs' Day or Shaheed Diwas** to pay tribute to all the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the country. The day is also marked as the death anniversary of the nation's '**Bapu**', **Mahatma Gandhi**.
- On this day in 1948, Gandhi was assassinated by **Nathuram Godse** in the compound of Birla House after one of his routine multi-faith prayer meetings. Godse, a member of Hindu Mahasabha, blamed Gandhi for favouring the Muslim community during the partition of India in 1947. It is said that the last words Gandhi uttered were "**Hey Ram**".

