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# MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS MARCH – 2023

- Government launches GAC Portal for Social Media Complaints: Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Union Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched the Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC) portal, a dispute resolution mechanism, to ensure accountability of social media platforms to their users. The portal is launched under Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (IT Rules 2021). The GAC platform will automatically segregate the complaints made to the Grievance Appellate Committees and escalate those that require intervention by one of the three Committees constituted by the government. The Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC) is established under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 ["IT Rules"], made under the Information Technology Act, 2000.
- 2. Wildlife Board approves IAF Mountain Radar in Ladakh: The National Board of Wildlife (NBWL) has approved the installation of the Indian Air Force's (IAF)Mountain Radar in Ladakh, close to the proposed new IAF base. A number of new operational tracks have also been approved to ensure better strategic connectivity to the critical boundary trijunction (India, China, and Bhutan) off Dokalam. The Mountain Radar is expected to be located close to the proposed new IAF base which will come up across 500 hectares in the Changsheng sanctuary. The IAF base was approved in 2022. About Indian Air Force: Chief of the Air Staff- Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi Establishment- 1932
- 3. Uttarakhand to set up India's 1st government mother milk bank: The government of Uttarakhand is set to establish India's first government mother milk bank, a facility that can ensure to provide the nutritional elements of mothers' milk to newborns. Note: The infant mortality rate for India in 2022 was 27.695 deaths per 1000 live births, a 3.74% decline from 2021. About Uttarakhand: Chief Minister- Pushkar Singh Dhami Governor- Gurmit Singh National Park- Govind National Park; Jim Corbett National Park Wildlife Sanctuary- Askot wildlife sanctuary; Sonanadi wildlife sanctuary
- 4. UNDP & NITI Aayog hosted LIFEathon hybrid Hackathon to create Pro-Planet Network:

  United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog organized a hybrid hackathon, called 'LIFEathon' to promote sustainable living and climate-positive behavior by creating a pro-planet network. It was inaugurated by UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner and NITI Aayog Vice Chairperson Suman Bery. LIFEathon is a part of the Indian government's Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for the Environment) campaign, which was launched in 2022 by the Prime Minister (PM) of India Narendra Modi and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in Gujarat. The objective of this campaign is to encourage individuals to adopt environmentally

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- sustainable lifestyles through small actions, such as reducing their plastic usage and minimizing food waste, and opting public transportation. About United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):

  Administrator- Achim Steiner Headquarters- New York, United States Establishment- 1966
- Power Minister RK Singh launches SADUN to Modernize Power Distribution Utilities in South Asia: The Union Minister Raj Kumar (RK) Singh, Ministry of Power launched the South Asia Distribution Utility Network (SADUN) to modernize distribution of utilities in South Asia via knowledge sharing among the region's discoms (Distribution Companies), and to enable utility-to-utility (U2U) connect. About SADUN: Conceptualized by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in January 2020, it is a joint initiative of India's Ministry of Power, USAID and Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC).
- 6. President of India Confers 'Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023'; Launches "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch The Rain"- 2023: On March 4, 2023, Droupadi Murmu, President of India, conferred the 'Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023' under several categories of the Swachh Bharat Mission—Grameen (SBM-G), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), and National Water Mission (NWM) in New Delhi, Delhi. The "Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman (SSSS) 2023" was organised by the Ministry of Jal Shakti in preparation of International Women's Day (March 8, 2023) and was attended by Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Ministry of Jal Shakti. About Ministry of Jal Shakti: Union Minister Gajendra Singh
- 7. Anurag Singh Thakur launches Yuva Utsav across India from IIT Ropar, Punjab: Anurag Singh Thakur, Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports and Information & Broadcasting, launched the Yuva Utsava-India@2047 from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar in Punjab. Anurag Thakur also unveiled the Yuva Utsava Dashboard during the event. "Yuva Utsav India @2047" is being held in all Indian districts by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS) through its flagship youth organisation, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS).
- Sonowal, Union Minister of Ayush and Ports, Shipping & Waterways, inaugurated the first of its kind business to business (B2B) Conference and Expo on Traditional Medicine under the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Guwahati, Assam. The 2-day conference (2nd-3rd March 2023) and 4-day Expo (2nd to 5th March 2023) were attended by more than 150 delegates from 17 countries. About Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO): SCO or Shanghai Pact is a Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance of eight member multilateral organisations. Established on 15th June 2001 in Shanghai, China. Members- 8 member states 3 observers and 14 dialogue partner countries. Note: India was granted observer status in 2005 and the status of full member in 2017.
- **9.** Airbus Receives Order from India for Two ACH160 Helicopters: Airbus Corporate Helicopters (Airbus) has received an order for two ACH160 helicopters in India, marking the first sale of any helicopter in the H160 range in the region. In compliance with the terms of the contract, Airbus will

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offer a turnkey solution to enable the seamless entry into service of both helicopters and will play a significant role in the Indian government's "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" mission.

- Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched Swachhotsav, a Women-Led Swachhata Campaign: Hardeep Singh Puri, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched 'Swachhotsav' which is a 3-week women-led swachhata campaign, under the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0. It was launched ahead of International Women's Day on March 8, 2023. The first edition of Women Icons leading Sanitation & Waste Management (WINS) Challenge-2023 was also announced which will recognize high-impact women entrepreneurs or women-led enterprises working to achieve urban swachhata. Aim: To recognize and celebrate the transition from women in sanitation to women-led sanitation
- 11. FRINJEX-23: 1st Indo-France joint Military Exercise held in Thiruvananthapuram: FRINJEX-23, The first edition of the Joint Military Exercise between the Indian and French Armywas conducted at Pangode Military Station in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on March 7-8, 2023. The exercise intends to improve the inter-operability, coordination and cooperation between both forces at the tactical level. The theme for the exercise is "Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Operations in a Contested Environment".
- 12. ILO-UNICEF report: 'PM CARES for Children scheme' Implemented by 31 Indian States: The second ILO-UNICEF (International Labour Organization United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) joint report on social protection for children titled 'More than a billion reasons: The urgent need to build universal social protection for children' was released on March 01, 2023. As per the report, 31 Indian states have implemented the national 'PM CARES (Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations) for Children scheme, which was launched during the COVID-19 pandemic by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 29th May 2021.
- 13. V-Dem's Democracy Report 2023: India Ranks 108th on EDI & 97th on LDI: According to the V-Dem (Varieties of Democracy) Institute's report titled, "Democracy Report 2023: Defiance in the Face of Autocratization," India has been ranked 97th in the Liberal Democracy Index (LDI) (2022) and 108th in the Electoral Democracy Index (EDI) (2022). Change over: In the previous year's report of 'Democracy Report 2022: Autocratisation Changing Nature' India's LDI and EDI rank were about 93 (2021) and 100 (2021) respectively. According to the report, India is falling behind and comes under the category of "Electoral Autocracies." The report listed India as one of the top 10 autocratizing countries in the last 10 years, placing it at Rank 108 and in the bottom 50% of the LDI. iii. The report also noted that autocratization appears to have significantly slowed down or paused in some countries, including India. About the V-Dem Institute: The V-Dem Institute is an independent research institute founded by Professor Staffan I. Lindberg that studies the qualities of government. Founded 2014 Headquarters Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg, Sweden.
- 14. City Index 2023: India Has The 5th-Highest Number of Female Billionaires Globally: India has the fifth-highest number of female billionaires in the world, according to a new International Women's

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Day study report from City Index 2023, which was based on the analysis of Forbes' live billionaire tracker (March 2023). India is tied for 5th position with Australia and Hong Kong, with each country having 9 female billionaires. Savitri Jindal, an Indian politician and businesswoman, is the richest woman in India with a family fortune of USD 16.96 billion.

- 15. Digital Payments Awareness Week 2023: RBI Launches Mission 'Har Payment Digital': Shaktikanta Das launched the mission 'Har Payment Digital' as part of the Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW). Objective: To reinforce the ease and convenience of digital payments and facilitate the onboarding of new consumers into the digital payment system. 75 Digital Villages: RBI also plans to initiate a programme named '75 Digital Villages' in observance of 75 years of Independence. Under the programme, 75 villages across India will be adopted by Payment System Operators (PSOs) to convert them into digital payment-enabled villages. The DPAW 2023 was being observed by RBI from March 6 to 12, 2023 to further deepen the usage of digital payments across India. The campaign theme of DPAW 2023 is "Digital Payment Apnao, Auron ko bhi Sikhao" (Adopt digital payments and Also teach others).
- Players of the Year: (FIFA announced the winners of the 2022 Best FIFA Football Awards. Argentina and Paris St-Germain forward Lionel Messi was named Best FIFA Men's player and Spains midfielder Alexia Putellas was named Best FIFA Women's player at the 2022 Best FIFA Football Awards ceremony held in Paris, France. Messi wins Best FIFA Men's Player: Lionel Messi won the FIFA Best Men's player for the 2nd time and becomes the third player to receive the award twice, after Cristiano Ronaldo and Robert Lewandowski. He previously won the award in 2019. He was honoured with the award for his contribution in leading Argentina to win the World Cup 2022 in Qatar. He scored 7 goals during the 2022 world cup. Putellas wins Best FIFA Women's player: Alexia Putellas won the award for the 2nd successive year for her exceptional 2021/22 season in which she captained Barcelona to a domestic treble and a place in the UEFA(Union of European Football Associations) Women's Champions League final.
- 17. GSMA's MWC 2023 Barcelona: Indian Govt wins Government Leadership Award 2023: On 1st March 2023, the Government of India was honoured with the "Government Leadership Award 2023" GSMA's 2023 Global Mobile (GLOMO) Awards at the Mobile World Congress(MWC) 2023 held in Barcelona, Spain. India received the "Government Leadership Award 2023" for the implementation of best practices in telecom policy and regulation. India was declared winner in the ceremony held at GSMA Ministerial Programme during Mobile World Congress 2023 (MWC) in Barcelona, Spain.
- 18. India's Health Ministry receives Porter Prize 2023 for Successfully Managing Covid-19: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India was conferred with the Porter Prize 2023 in recognition of its efforts in health sector and especially COVID-19 management. The prize was announced at 'The India Dialog' organized by the Institute for Competitiveness (IFC) and

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US Asia Technology Management Center (USATMC) at Stanford University, California, the United States of America(USA) on February 23 & 24, 2023 on the theme 'The Indian Economy 2023: Innovation, Competitiveness and Social Progress'. It was presented to MoHFW in the virtual presence of Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, MoHFW.

- 19. BBC honoured Indian Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu with BBC ISWOTY 2022 Award: Indian Weightlifter, Padma Shri Saikhom Mirabai Chanu, who became the 1st Indian weightlifter to win the silver medal at Tokyo Olympic Games, has won the 4th edition of the "British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Indian Sportswoman Of The Year (ISWOTY) 2022". Mirabai Chanu, the 28-year-old Commonwealth champion, became the first athlete to win the award twice in a row. Previously, She also won the BBC ISWOTY 2021.
- 20. Union MoS Dr L. Murugan presented the 8th National Photography Awards in Delhi: Dr L. Murugan, Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting (I&B), presented the 8th National Photography awards in New Delhi, Delhi. In total, 13 individuals were recognised in different categories. National Photography Awards are organised by Photo Division under the Ministry of I&B to promote the art and technique of photography. Note: The 7th National Photography Awards ceremony was held on February 19th, 2019. Category Themes: The theme for the Professional category was "Life and Water". The theme for the Amateur category was "Culture Heritage of India".
- 21. Delhi Airport Named One of the Best & Cleanest Airports in Asia Pacific: 2022 ASQ Awards:

  Airports Council International (ACI) announced the winners of this 2022 Airport Service Quality (ASQ)

  Awards recognizing the best airports for customer experience worldwide. Indira Gandhi International

  Airport (IGIA) Delhi Airport, has been adjudged as one of the Best and Cleanest Airports in the Asia

  Pacific region. IGIA operated by Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), a consortium of the GMR

  Group won the 2022 ASQ award under Best Airports by Size and Region Over 40 million

  passengers per year. The airport has also won the 2022 ASQ award under Cleanest Airport (Asia

  Pacific Region) category Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (Mumbai, Maharashtra) has

  also won the award under Best Airports by Size and Region Over 40 million passengers per year.
- 22. Former Bureaucrat Shailesh Pathak appointed as FICCI Secretary General: the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), India's apex business chamber, announced the appointment of Shailesh Pathak as the new Secretary General of FICCI with effect from 1st March 2023. Shailesh Pathak succeeds Dilip Chenoy, who stepped down as Secretary General of FICCI in October 2021. About the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI): President- Subhrakant Panda Director General- Arun Chawla Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi Establishment- 1927
- **23.** Conrad K Sangma Sworn in as CM of Meghalaya for Second Term: On March 7, 2023, Conrad Kongkal Sangma (Conrad K. Sangma), President of the National People's Party (NPP), was sworn in

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- as the Chief Minister (CM) of Meghalaya, to lead a coalition government for the second consecutive term. Meghalaya Governor Phagu Chauhan administered the oath of office.
- 24. NDPP leader Neiphiu Rio sworn in as Chief Minister of Nagaland for 5th Term: Neiphiu Rio, leader of the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) of Nagaland, was sworn in as Chief Minister (CM) of Nagaland for the 5th time in the presence of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi at the Capital Cultural Hall, Kohima, Nagaland. Taditui Rangkau Zeliang and Yanthungo Patton took oath as Deputy Chief Ministers of Nagaland in Kohima, Nagaland. About Nagaland: Chief Minister-Neiphiu Rio Governor- La Ganesan Wildlife Sanctuary- Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary; Puliebadze Wildlife Sanctuary Airport- Dimapur Airport
- 25. Manik Saha Sworn in for Second Term as CM of Tripura: Dr. Manik Saha, a 70-year-old Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, was sworn in as Chief Minister (CM) of Tripura for the second time and was administered the oath of office by Governor Satyadeo Narain Arya, at a ceremony held at Vivekananda Stadium in Agartala, Tripura. About Tripura: Chief Minister (CM) Dr. Manik Saha Governor Satyadeo Narain Arya National Park Clouded Leopard National Park; Bison National Park
- 26. Researchers Confirmed 5th New Layer of Earth: Innermost Inner Core: In a new study published in Nature Communication on 21st February 2023 by Thanh-Son Phạm and Hrvoje Tkalčić, the researchers have confirmed the existence of a 5th new layer the innermost inner core, which lies at the Earth's centre within the inner core. The 4 known layers of the earth are the crust, mantle, outer liquid core and inner solid core. About innermost inner core: i. The innermost inner core, the 5th layer, is made of iron and nickel, the same materials that comprise the rest of the inner core. ii. The 5th layer is differentiated from the inner core based on how the iron atoms are arranged to form a solid.
- 27. IAF Receives 3rd squadron of the S-400 `Triumf' Surface-to-air Defence Missile System from Russia: Indian Air Force (IAF) received the third squadron of the S-400 `Triumf' Surface-to-air defence missile system from Russia which will be deployed along the western sector, bordering Pakistan. Background: i. India-Russia Agreement on S-400: In October 2018, India and Russia signed a deal of \$5.43 billion for the procurement of 5 units of S-400 air defence systems to India by 2025. India has made the payment of a 15% advance of the \$5.43 billion through the rupee-rouble exchange method. ii. In December 2021, IAF received the first squadron of the S-400 air defence missile system and deployed it in eastern Ladakh along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) to take care of aerial threats from Pakistan and China. The second one has been deployed in the northeastern region. iii. Out of the five S-400 defence missile systems, three have reached India and the balance two are expected to be delivered before the end of 2023.
- 74th International Boxing Tournament "Strandja" 2023 held in Sofia, Bulgaria; India bags 8 Medals: The 74th edition of the International Boxing Tournament "Strandja" 2023 was held in Sofia, Bulgaria from 18th to 27th February 2023. India finished with 8 medals (3 silver and 5 bronze). The International Boxing Tournament "Strandja" 2023 witnessed the participation of 398 pugilists (256

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men and 142 women), which is the highest ever in the competition's history. "Strandja" Tournament has been selected as the 1st tournament to be part of the new Golden Gloves Series from the World Boxing Tour by IBA.

- 29. Australia's Deakin University to set up campus in GIFT city: The first foreign university to establish a campus in India will be Deakin University of Australia. The autonomous campus will be built in Gujarat International Financial Tec-City (GIFT) City. While visiting Ahmedabad, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Norman Albanese is anticipated to make the official announcement.
- 30. Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela Organized by IARI in New Delhi: The Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela is organized every year by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) and this year it will be held in New Delhi from 2nd to 4th March 2023. The Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela will be inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar. This time the theme of the fair is "Nutrition, Food and Environmental Protection with Shree Anna".
- 31. What is POTS, a disease which affected 1 million Americans after Covid: POTS or postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome has affected around three million Americans before Covid-19 and at least one million new patients after the pandemic. Many people are still not familiar with the disease. A study reveals that around 2% to 14% of people with covid develop POTS. The majority of people with POTS are women and people assigned female at birth aged 15 to 50 years. But men and people assigned male at birth can also have POTS.
- **32. PM Modi To Inaugurate 3-Day Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi**: The eighth edition of the annual Raisina Dialogue, the flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-strategy, begins in New Delhi. The annual Raisina Dialogue will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Foreign Ministry is organizing the event in collaboration with the Observer Research Foundation from 2nd March to 4th March 2023. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni will be the chief guest and keynote speaker at its inaugural session.
- **33. IPS officer Rashmi Shukla named Director-General of SSB:** Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, Rashmi Shukla has been appointed as the Director-General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). SSB is the border-guarding force deployed along Nepal and Bhutan border.
- **34. Santosh Trophy 2023**: Karnataka ended their 54-year wait to win the Santosh Trophy national football championship, beating Meghalaya 3-2 in a pulsating final at the King Fahd International Stadium in the Saudi Arabia capital. About the Santosh Trophy The National Football Championship for Hero Santosh Trophy, due to sponsorship ties with Hero MotoCorp also known as the Hero National Football Championship, or simply Santosh Trophy, is a state-level national football competition contested by the state associations and government institutions under the All India Football Federation (AIFF), the sport's governing body in India.
- 35. India's per capita income doubles since 2014-15: NSO: India's per capita income in nominal terms doubled to Rs 1,72,000 since 2014-15 when the Narendra Modi-led NDA came to power but uneven income distribution remains a challenge. As per the National Statistical Office (NSO), the annual per

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capita (net national income) at current prices is estimated at Rs 1,72,000 in 2022-23, up from Rs 86,647 in 2014-15, suggesting an increase of about 99 per cent. In real terms (constant prices), the per capita income has increased by about 35 per cent from Rs 72,805 in 2014-15 to Rs 98,118 in 2022-23.

- 36. Uttarakhand CM Dhami announced the launch of self-employment scheme for single women: Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Pushkar Singh Dhami has announced the launch of Mukhyamantri Ekal Mahila Swarozgar Yojana in the state at the end of Women Empowerment and Safety Week. Women in remote villages of the state are giving impetus to the rural economy through self-help groups.
- 37. Savlon India appoints Sachin Tendulkar as world's first 'Hand Ambassador': Savlon revealed the God of Cricket, Sachin Tendulkar as its world's first 'Hand Ambassador' for its Swasth India Mission. The campaign features a series of films featuring Sachin Tendulkar's Hand as their chief protagonist bringing the importance of hand hygiene to everyone's notice.
- 38. Why is Indonesia moving its capital from Jakarta to Borneo: Indonesia is all set to move its capital from Jakarta to Borneo over environmental issues such as being congested, sinking into seawater, and being prone to earthquakes. Officials said the new metropolis city will be a "sustainable forest city," that puts the environment at the heart of the development and will be carbon neutral by 2045. Indonesian President Joko Widodo envisions the construction of the new capital as a "nostrum for the problems in Jakarta, which will also allow the country to start afresh."
- **39.** Arun Subramanian becomes 1st Indian-American judge at New York Court: Arun Subramanian, an attorney, has been appointed as the first Indian American judge of the Manhattan Federal District Court in New York. The nomination of Mr. Subramanian for the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York was first made public by US President Joe Biden in September 2022.
- **40.** Karnataka reports India's first death from H3N2 influenza virus: India reported its first two deaths due to the Influenza A subtype H3N2 virus, one each from Karnataka and Haryana on 10 March 2023. Ninety cases of H3N2 have been reported over the last three months in India. In Karnataka, 82-year-old Hire Gowda died due to the H3N2 virus. The infection is contracting children more than adults and children below 15 are more prone to the viral infection.
- 41. Know About: Punjab National Bank: It is an Indian public sector bank based in New Delhi. The bank was founded in May 1894 and is the third largest public sector bank in India. It has a banking subsidiary in the UK, as well as branches in Hong Kong, Kowloon, Dubai, and Kabul. Founders: Dyal Singh Majithia, Lala Lajpat Rai, MD & CEO: Atul Kumar Goel., Tagline: "The Name You Can Bank Upon"
- **42.** PNB signs MoU with Central Warehousing Corporation to finance farmers: The Punjab National Bank and the Central Warehousing Corporation on 9 March 2023, signed an MoU to facilitate financing under the e-NWR (Electronic Negotiable Warehousing Receipt). The partnership aims to

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- provide easy access to finance to farmers/processors/traders against the pawning of agricultural products stored in CWC warehouses.
- 43. Saudi Arabia: It is a country in Western Asia. It is the fifth-largest country in Asia and the second-largest in the Arab world. The Gulf of Aqaba in the northwest separates Saudi Arabia from Egypt and Israel. Capital: Riyadh, Currency: Saudi Riyal, Population: 3.6 crores, Official language: Arabic, King: Salman, Crown Prince and Prime Minister: Mohammed bin Salman
- 44. Iran, S. Arabia agree to resume diplomatic relations, reopen embassies: Iran and Saudi Arabia on 10 March 2023, agreed to resume diplomatic relations and reopen embassies in each other's countries. It was announced after China-led negotiations were held in Beijing in March 2023. They also agreed that the foreign ministers of both countries would meet to implement this and improve bilateral relations and that previous cooperation accords.
- 45. Uttar Pradesh cabinet approves New Sports Policy 2023: The Uttar Pradesh cabinet, chaired by CM Yogi Adityanath, on 10 March 2023, approved the New Sports Policy 2023. As part of the new sports policy, special focus is to be laid on a range of aspects from a player's physical fitness to training. Along with this, various provisions have been made to support the development of new institutions while connecting schools, and colleges with sports.
- **46.** Japanese PM Kishida Fumio to visit India on 20-21 March 2023: Prime Minister of Japan Kishida Fumio will arrive on an official visit to India to expand bilateral cooperation with India on March 20-21, 2023. During the visit, he will hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Both sides will discuss bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest. They will also discuss their priorities for their respective Presidencies of the G7 and G20.
- 47. Know About: Karnataka: It is a state in southwest India with Arabian Sea coastlines. It was formed as Mysore State on 1 November 1956, with the passage of the States Reorganisation Act and renamed Karnataka in 1973. It is the sixth-largest Indian state by area. CM: Basavaraj Bommai, Capital: Bengaluru, Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot, Population: 6.41 crores, Literacy (2011): 75.36%, Sex ratio (2011): 973/1000
- 48. Nitin Gadkari unveils first methanol run buses in Bengaluru: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on 12 March 2023, unveiled Bengaluru's first methanol-run buses. The project is aimed at reducing the level of emissions and the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) NITI Aayog, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Ashok Leyland are conducting the project together. As part of the project, the IOC will provide free methanol for three months.
- 49. Ayush Ministry to organize Yoga Mahotsav 2023 in New Delhi on 13 March: Ayush Ministry is going to organize Yoga Mahotsav 2023 at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi from 13-15 March 2023. The Yoga Mahotsav is an event to commemorate 100 days countdown to the 9th edition of International Day of Yoga. During this Mahotsav, mass yoga demonstrations will take place in one hundred places in Delhi National Capital Region (NCR) to celebrate the countdown.

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- 50. SCO Supreme Courts Chief Justices' meet held in New Delhi: Eighteenth meeting of Chief Justices of the Supreme Courts of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States was held in New Delhi from 10-11 March, 2023. It was held under the Presidency of Chief Justice of India, D.Y. Chandrachud with an aim to foster effective judicial cooperation among the Member States. It was a 2-day session wherein all SCO member states had taken part.
- 61. Know About: ISSF: The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) is the governing body of the Olympic shooting events in rifle, pistol, and shotgun disciplines. After the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, the ISSF banned Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials from its competitions. Headquarters: Munich, Germany, President: Vladimir Lisin, Founded: 1907, Secretary-General: Willi Grill
- 52. PM Modi inaugurates 118 Km long Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway project: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 11 March 2023, inaugurated the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway in the Mandya district of Karnataka. The 118 Km long project has been developed at a total cost of around Rs 8480 crores. It will reduce the travel time between Bengaluru and Mysuru from around 3 hours to about 75 minutes. It will act as a catalyst for socioeconomic development in the region.
- 53. The biennial exercise 'La Perouse' begins in Indian Ocean Region: The third edition of the multilateral maritime exercise 'La Perouse' began on 13 March 2023 in Indian Ocean Region. The exercise envolve participation of personnel, ships and integral helicopters of Royal Australian Navy, French Navy, Indian Navy, Japanese Navy and the United States Navy. It is conducted by the French Navy and aims to enhance maritime domain awareness
- 54. Uttarakhand's entire Broad Gauge Network electrified by Indian Railway: Indian Railways on 13 March 2023, announced that it has completed the electrification of Uttarakhand's entire broad gauge network of 347 route km. This will result in a 2.5 times lower line haul cost, heavier haulage capacity, and reduced operating and maintenance costs of the electric loco. Indian Railway is working on a mission mode to become the largest green railway in the world.
- Kotak Mahindra AMC launches Silver ETF Fund of Fund: Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company Ltd on 13 March 2023, announced the launch of Kotak Silver Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) Fund of Fund. It is an open-ended fund of fund scheme that invests in units of the Kotak Silver ETF. The New Fund Offer opens for public subscription on March 13, 2023 and closes on 27 Mar 2023. The scheme offers diversification, easy liquidity and no storage costs.
- **56.** Know About: International Boxing Association (IBA): It is an independent sport organization that sanctions amateur boxing matches and awards world and subordinate championships. In 2019, the the International Olympic Committee (IOC) suspended its recognition of the federation. The association includes 203 national boxing federations. **President:** Umar Kremlev, **Founded:** 1946, **Headquarters:** Lausanne, Switzerland
- 57. International Conference on 'Buddhist Heritage' to begin on 14 March: An international conference on Shared Buddhist Heritage will be held in New Delhi on 14 March 2023 with a focus on

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India's civilisational connect with the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) nations 2023. Organised by the Ministry of Culture, it aims to re-establish trans-cultural links and seek out commonalities between Buddhist art of Central Asia and the SCO countries.

- <u>58.</u> Shreya Ghodawat appointed as India Ambassador of 'She Changes Climate': Climate Entrepreneur Shreya Ghodawat was appointed as the India Ambassador of She Changes Climate on 13 March 2023. The global non-profit organization launched a special initiative for International Women's Day titled 'Embrace Equity' that aims to amplify the voices of women around the impacts of climate change. The campaign supports the role of women in. accelerating climate action.
- **59**. Bird census at Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary identifies 161 new species: As many as 161 bird species, including a new one, were identified by bird watchers during the annual bird census held in March 2023 at the Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary and the Kottiyoor Wildlife Sanctuary in the Aralam Wildlife Division in Kerala. As many as 60 bird watchers participated in the three-day census, which began on March 10 and concluded on 13 March 2023.
- <u>60.</u> First woman loco pilot operates new semi-high-speed Vande Bharat train: Surekha Yadav, Asia's first woman loco pilot has become the first female to operate the newly-introduced semi-highspeed Vande Bharat Express train in March 2023. Ms. Yadav piloted the Vande Bharat Express train between Solapur station and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in Mumbaj on March 13. 2023. In 1988, she became India's first female train driver.
- Bihar has lowest literacy rate followed by Arunachal and Rajasthan: Bihar (61.8 pc) has the <u>61.</u> lowest literacy, followed by Arunachal Pradesh (65.3 pc) and Rajasthan (66.1 pc) according to Ministry of Education. The literacy rate in rural India is 67.77 per cent as compared to 84.11 per cent in urban India. Kerala has the highest literacy rate (94 pc) followed by Lakshadweep (91.85) and Mizoram (91.33 pc).
- <u>62.</u> Know About: SIPRI: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, arms control and disarmament. It provides data, analysis and recommendations for armed conflict, military expenditure and arms trade.

Founded: 6 May 1966, Headquarters: Solna, Director: Dan Smith, Chair: Stefan Löfven,

Founders: Tage Erlander, Alva Myrdal

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- India remains world's top arms importer: SIPRI report: India remained the world's top arms importer in 2022, but its imports declined by 11 per cent between 2013-17 and 2018-22, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report 2023. According to report, the US was the world's topmost military exporter in the past five years, accounting for 40% of global exports, followed by Russia (16%), France (11%).
- **64. South Korea:** It is a country in East Asia. It constitutes the southern part of the Korean Peninsula and shares a land border with North Korea. Seoul Capital Area is the fourth most populous metropolitan area in the world. **President:** Yoon Suk Yeol, **Capital:** Seoul, **Currency**: Korean Republic won, **Population:** 5.17 crores, **Official languages:** Korean, **Prime Minister:** Han Duck-soo
- AUKUS Pact: It is a trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, announced on 15 Sept 2021 for the Indo-Pacific region. Under the pact, the US & the UK will assist Australia in acquiring nuclear-powered submarines. The pact will focus on military capability, separating it from the 5-Eyes intelligence-sharing alliance that also includes New Zealand and Canada.
- 66. India to host SCO Tourism Ministers' meet in Varanasi on March 17-18: India will host the Shanghai Cooperation. Organisation (SCO) Tourism Ministers' Meeting on 17-18 March in Kashi (Varanasi), Uttar Pradesh. Varanasi has been designated as the first cultural capital of the SCO. During the Tourism Ministers' (TMM) meeting, a joint action plan on the development of cooperation in tourism among SCO member countries will be adopted.
- **67.** World Consumer Rights Day: 15 March: It is observed on 15 March every year for raising global awareness about consumer rights and needs. The Day was inspired by President John F Kennedy, who sent a special message to the US Congress on 15th March 1962, in which he formally addressed the issue of consumer rights. The theme of the 2023 is "Empowering consumers through clean energy transitions"
- **Shaktikanta Das conferred with 'Governor of the year' Award 2023**: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has received the 'Governor of the Year' 2023 Award by the international publication Central Banking on 17 March 2023. He has been given the award for steering the financial markets through multiple crises including the pandemic and the inflation due to the war in Ukraine.
- **69. FSIB recommends Ashwani Kumar as MD and CEO of UCO Bank:** Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) on 16 March 2023 recommended the name of Indian Bank executive director Ashwani Kumar for the post of managing director of UCO Bank. Prior to joining Indian Bank, Kumar was serving as chief general manager of Mumbai Zone of Punjab National Bank (PNB). FSIB is headed by ex-secretary, Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), Bhanu Pratap Sharma.
- 70. Sampanna Ramesh becomes fastest Indian to swim across Palk Strait: Swimmer Sampanna Ramesh Shelar has become the fastest Indian in under-21 group to swim across the Palk Strait from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka to Dhanuskodi in Tamil Nadu on 17 March 2023. He created this record by

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completing the distance of 29 Kms in 5 hours and 30 minutes. The previous record was 8 hours and 26 minutes.

- 71. BPCL appoints G Krishnakumar as its Chairman and Managing Director: Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) on 17 Mar'23 appointed G. Krishnakumar as its new Chairman & Managing Director. He is currently serving as the Executive Director of the company. Krishnakumar has been associated with BPCL for 36 years, leading the organization's customer-centric ventures into convenience retailing, premium fuels, and new tech & digital initiatives in the company.
- 72. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO): It is an intergovernmental military alliance between 30 member states 28 European & 2 North American. It implemented the North Atlantic Treaty, signed in Washington, D.C., on 4 April 1949. NATO's military headquarters is located in Mons, Belgium. It is also called the North Atlantic Alliance. Founded: 4 April 1949, Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium., Secretary General: Jens Stoltenberg
- 73. Ram Sahay Prasad Yadav elected as the third Vice President of Nepal: Ram Sahay Prasad Yadav on 17 March 2023, elected as the Vice President of Nepal. Ram Sahay of the Janata Samajbadi Party defeated Ashta Laxmi Shakya of CPN-UML and Mamata Jha of the Janamat Party to become the country's third Vice President. Article 67 of the Constitution of Nepal provides a Vice President in the country. The tenure of the Vice President is five years.
- 74. Nagaland all set to host G20 Business Summit 2023 at Kohima on April 5: Nagaland is all set to host the G20 Business Summit 2023 at Kohima on April 5, 2023. About 110 delegates are being expected to visit, of which about 100 will be from 28 G20 countries and the remaining from international organizations that are part of the grouping. Business summit and cultural events, showcasing the strengths of Nagaland will be another highlight of the event.
- 75. Sri Lanka's Bank opens an Indian rupee-denominated Nostro account: Sri Lanka's Seylan Bank has opened an Indian rupee-denominated Nostro account in Indian Bank in Mumbai. The arrangement will help settle cross-border transactions using Indian rupee between the two nations. Sri Lanka's banks have been opening Nostro accounts in India-based banks. Banks from the Indian side have maintained similar accounts in Sri Lanka for a reciprocal arrangement.
- **76.** Two Indian destinations among Time's 'World's Greatest Places Of 2023': The TIME magazine has released its annual list of the 'World's Greatest Places' for the year 2023. Two Indian destinations have made it to the list. Mayurbhanj and Ladakh, that have been selected for their rare tigers and ancient temples, and adventures and eats, respectively. Tampa in Florida is at top followed by Willamette Valley in Oregon.
- 77. Japan PM Kishida Fumio arrives on a 2-day visit to India on 20 March: Prime Minister of Japan Kishida Fumio arrived in New Delhi on 20 March 2023 for a two-day visit to India. He is scheduled to hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. During the meeting, both sides will discuss bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest. The visiting dignitary will give the 41st Sapru House Lecture. Japan is the fifth largest investor in India.

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- 78. Know About: Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Scheme: It was launched by the PM on Rashtriya Ekta Diwas held on 31st October, 2015, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. It aims to enhance interaction & promote mutual understanding between people of different states/UTS through the concept of state/UT pairing. The Ministry of Education has been designated as the Nodal Ministry for coordination of the programmes.
- 1st Bharat Gaurav tourist train from the Telugu States started journey: The first Bharat Gaurav tourist train originating from the Telugu States commenced its journey from Secunderabad railway station in March 2023. The Punya Kshetra Yatra: Puri Kasi Ayodhya train is being operated by the Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). The tour involves visiting important and historical places in Puri, Konark, Gaya, Varanasi, Ayodhya and Prayagraj
- **80.** Seven PM MITRA (Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel) Park sites announced: Government, Ministry of Textiles, has issued a notification to set up 7 Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks with a total outlay of Rs. 4,445 crore. Seven sites were chosen out of 18 proposals for PM MITRA parks which were received from 13 States. The Parks will come up in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- **81.** Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav becomes Nepal's third Vice President: Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav, a leader of the Janata Samajbadi Party, has won the election to become Nepal's third Vice President. He was able to secure victory over Astalaxmi Shakya of CPN (UML) and Mamata Jha of the Janamat Party with support from Nepali Congress, CPN (Maoist Centre), and the CPN (Unified Socialist) including the ruling alliance.
- **82.** Rajasthan CM announced 19 new districts and three new divisions: On 17 March 2023, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced the creation of 19 new districts and 3 new divisions in the state during his course of the discussion on the Finance and Appropriation Bill in the Legislative Assembly.
- 83. International Day of Happiness 2023 celebrates on 20 March: The theme of International Day of Happiness for this year has been kept as "Be Mindful, Be Grateful, Be Kind." International Day of Happiness Recognizes the importance of happiness: The day emphasizes the significance of happiness as a universal goal and a fundamental human right.
- **84.** World Oral Health Day 2023 observed on 20th March: World Oral Health Day is observed globally every year on March 20, with the primary objective of increasing awareness about the significance of oral health. The Oral Health day aims to encourage individuals to adopt good oral hygiene practices, take care of their teeth, and learn ways to prevent dental problems. According to a report by the WHO Global Oral Health, approximately 75% of the world's population suffer from permanent teeth caries, while 514 million children experience caries in primary teeth. The theme for 2023 is **'Be Proud of Your Mouth,'** which is the same theme used for the past three years. The campaign was launched by the FDI in 2021.

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- 85. International Ayurvet conclave on 'Veterinary and Ayurveda' inaugurated at Haridwar: The Rishikul campus of Ayurvedic University in Haridwar recently hosted the International Ayurvet conclave with a theme on "Veterinary and Ayurveda". The event, which began on March 17, was inaugurated by Sanjiv Baliyan, the Union Minister of State for Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Fisheries.
- **PM Modi inaugurated the Global Millets Conference:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference in New Delhi on 18th March, 2023. He will also address the gathering on the occasion. The conference will be attended by Agriculture Ministers of various countries, international scientists, nutritionists, health experts, start-up leaders and other stakeholders.
- **87.** Sikkim hosts B20 meeting under India's G20 presidency: The B20 Conference, held in Gangtok, Sikkim under India's G20 presidency, focused on exploring business opportunities in tourism, hospitality, pharmaceuticals, and organic farming. The event brought together delegations from 22 countries and over 100 Indian delegations to showcase Sikkim's potential in these sectors. This meeting will provide a unique opportunity to promote startups in North East India. The conference also presented an opportunity for India to address global challenges and showcase its leadership on the international stage.
- **88. G Krishnakumar appoints as Bharat Petroleum Corporation's chairman:** Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), a 'Maharatna' and a Fortune Global 500 Company, announced that G. Krishnakumar has taken over as the Chairman and Managing Director of the company.
- **89.** Lalit Kumar Gupta named as CMD of Cotton Corporation of India (CCI): Lalit Kumar Gupta has been approved as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
- 90. 'Sagar Parikrama Phase IV' concludes in Karnataka: The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying announced that the fourth phase of the Sagar Parikrama program began on March 18 and concluded on March 19. The program covered three coastal districts of Karnataka Uttara Kannada, Udupi, and Dakshina Kannada.
- 91. Global Terrorism Index India ranked 13th, topped by Afghanistan: Afghanistan remains the country most impacted by terrorism for the fourth consecutive year, despite attacks and deaths falling by 75 per cent and 58 per cent, respectively, the tenth Global Terrorism Index (GTI) report showed. India ranked 13th on the index, marking only a marginal decrease from the previous year.
- **92.** Oscars awards 2023: The 95th Academy Awards (Oscars Awards 2023) are finally announced and the fans are excited to know how India fares at Oscars Awards 2023. The Academy Awards, or Oscars Awards 2023, which were originally held in 1929, recently celebrated their 95th anniversary. The Oscars Awards 2023 held on March 13 IST in Los Angeles' Dolby theatre. It was hosted by popular late night show host Jimmy Kimmel.

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- 93. DRDO organises workshop on 'Human Factors Engineering in Military Platforms': A two-day workshop on "Human Factors Engineering in Military Platforms" was inaugurated by the Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan on March 15 in New Delhi. The workshop is being organized by the Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS), which is a Delhi-based laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- 94. International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: On October 26, 1966, the UN General Assembly passed Resolution 2142 (XXI) designating March 21st as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. This day was chosen because, in 1960, 69 peaceful protesters were killed by police in Sharpeville, South Africa, while demonstrating against the apartheid "pass laws".
- **95.** World Poetry Day 2023: History and Significance: 21 March, 2023 is celebrated as World Poetry Day 2023. Every year on March 21, people throughout the world celebrate World Poetry Day to honour an expression of language with which they can all identify.
- **96.** World Down Syndrome Day: 21 March: March 21 is observed as World Down Syndrome Day worldwide, aiming to increase public awareness and show support for individuals living with this genetic condition. The United Nations chose this date to highlight the link between Down syndrome and the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome, which makes it unique. The day serves as an opportunity to educate and raise awareness about Down syndrome. This year's World Down Syndrome Day theme is 'With Us, Not For Us', emphasizing that people with disabilities should be treated equally and have access to the same opportunities as others.
- **97. International Day of Forests: 21 March:** March 21st is observed as International Day of Forests or World Forestry Day worldwide to increase awareness about the importance of forests, woodlands, and trees in our lives. It is important to understand the value, significance, and contributions of the forests to balancing the life cycle on earth. An issue like deforestation is also addressed on this day. he International Day of Forests for 2023 has adopted the theme of "Forests and health" to emphasize the interdependence between the existence of forests and our well-being.
- 98. Indian-American to receive National Humanities medal from Joe Biden: The White House has announced that US President Joe Biden will bestow the 2021 National Humanities Medals upon several recipients, including Indian-American actress, comedian, and writer Mindy Kaling, also known as Vera Mindy Chokalingam. The National Medal of Arts is the most prestigious award granted by the US government to artists, arts advocates, and organizations.
- **99.** India & Sri Lanka inaugurate exhibition 'Geoffrey Bawa' in New Delhi: India's External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar, inaugurated the "Geoffrey Bawa: It is Essential To Be There" exhibition at the National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi.
- 100. Indian Industrialist Shri Ratan Tata appointed in 'Order of Australia' for distinguished service:

  Ratan Tata, an Indian industrialist and philanthropist, has been named an Honorary Officer in the

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General Division of the Order of Australia (AO) for his outstanding contributions to the Australia-India bilateral relationship, specifically in the areas of trade, investment, and philanthropy.

- 101. Japanese PM Kishida invites PM Modi to G7 Hiroshima summit: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has formally invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the G7 Summit after both had a delegation-level talk at Delhi's Hyderabad House. PM Modi said that PM Kishida's visit will be helpful to maintain a momentum of mutual cooperation between India and Japan. He pointed out the importance of leading two significant summits, G20 and G7, by respective countries.
- 102. Bangladesh commissions its first submarine base: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the first submarine base of Bangladesh 'BNS Sheikh Hasina' at Pekua in Cox's Bazar. Hailing the newly inaugurated naval base as an 'ultra modern submarine base', Prime Minister called the event a proud chapter in the history of Bangladesh navy. This is the first ever full-fledged submarine base of Bangladesh Navy.
- 103. Asia's largest 4-metre liquid mirror telescope inaugurated in Uttarakhand: Dr. Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, inaugurated Asia's largest 4-metre International Liquid Mirror Telescope at Devasthal, Uttarakhand, in the presence of Lt. Gen (Retd.) Gurmeet Singh, the Governor of Uttarakhand.
- 104. Africa-India field training exercise AFINDEX-23 to be held in Pune: The Africa-India Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX-2023) has begun with the participation of 100 participants from 23 African countries, including Botswana, Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Zambia, among others.
- World Water Day 2023 observed on 22nd March: World Water Day is observed on March 22 each year to emphasize the significance of water and to create awareness about the global water crisis. The primary purpose of celebrating this day is to promote the achievement of SDG 6, which aims to provide access to clean water and sanitation for everyone by 2030. The day is dedicated to raising awareness about water-related issues, such as water pollution, water scarcity, insufficient water supply, and inadequate sanitation.
- **106.** Google Bard: Everything you should know about: It is built on Transformer technology, which is also the backbone of ChatGPT and other AI bots. Transformer technology was pioneered by Google and made open source in 2017. Transformer technology is a Neural Network Architecture, which is capable of making predictions based on inputs and is primarily used in natural language processing and computer vision technology.
- 107. The World Happiness Report 2023: India ranked 126: The 2023 World Happiness Report has been released, and it shows that Finland remains the happiest country in the world for the sixth year in a row. Denmark, Iceland, Israel, and the Netherlands are the next happiest countries, with other European countries such as Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, and Luxembourg also making the top 10. The rankings are based on data from the main life evaluation question in the Gallup World Poll, which measures how happy citizens perceive themselves to be.

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- 108. Pankaj Advani retains Asian Billiards title defeating Damani: Pankaj Advani, the Indian cue sports champion, has retained his Asian Billiards title in the 100-up format after defeating his compatriot Brijesh Damani 5-1 in the final held at Qatar Billiards and Snooker Federation (QBSF) Academy.
- 109. Gol Launches NRCP for Prevention and Control of Rabies: The Government of India (Gol) launched the National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP) for rabies prevention and control, and the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), released the NRCP strategies, which are as follows: Provision of rabies vaccine & rabies immunoglobulin through national free drug initiatives Training on appropriate animal bite management, prevention and control of rabies, surveillance and intersectoral coordination Strengthening surveillance of animal bites and rabies deaths reporting Creating awareness about rabies prevention
- 110. PM Modi addressed 'One World TB Summit' at Varanasi During the One World TB Summit arranged by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) on World Tuberculosis Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted India's powerful pharmaceutical industry as a significant advantage in the global battle against TB. He also mentioned that India has set a goal of eradicating TB by the year 2025.
- 111. Rajasthan became India's 1st state to Guarantee Right to Health: Prasadi Lal Meena, Minister of Medical & Health, announced that the Rajasthan Assembly had cleared a bill named 'Right to Health' (which was passed in September 2022), becoming the first state in India to do so. i. The 'Right to Health', gives every resident of the state the right to avail free Out Patient Department (OPD) services and In Patient Department (IPD) services at all public health facilities. ii. It also provides similar healthcare services (free of cost) at select private facilities.
- 112. PM Inaugurated new ITU Area Office & Innovation Centre in New Delhi; Launched 6G R&D Test Bed, CBuD App: Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated India's new International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Area office and Innovation Centre at a programme in Vigyan Bhawan, in New Delhi, Delhi, i. The PM unveiled the Bharat 6G (6th Generation) Vision Document and launched the 6G Research and development (R&D) Test Bed. Bharat 6G vision document is prepared by the Technology Innovation Group on 6G (TIG-6G) that was constituted in November 2021. ii. PM also launched the 'Call before u Dig' App, which will reduce the instances of unnecessary digging and damage. The Call Before You Dig (CBuD) app is a tool created to prevent the damage to underlying assets like optical fiber cables.
- 113. Union Minister Giriraj Singh initiates 'Captive Employment' Scheme: Union Minister for Rural Development Giriraj Singh initiated Captive Employers, a unique initiative under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) in New Delhi on 28 March 2023. Captive employers will train Rural Poor Youth and employ trained youth in their companies. In the first phase, 19 Captive Employers are being engaged to provide jobs to over 31,000 rural youth.

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- 114. Himachal Pradesh's Kangra tea gets European GI tag: Himachal Pradesh's Kangra tea awarded the European Geographical Indicator (GI) tag on 29 March 2023. The tag will help Kangra tea to get an opportunity to enter the European market. Kangra tea received the Indian GI tag in 2005. Since 1999, the cultivation and development of tea have improved constantly in the Kangra region of Himachal Pradesh.
- 115. SCO National Security Advisors' meet begins in New Delhi on 29 March: The meeting of the National Security Advisers (NSAs) of member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was hosted by India in New Delhi on 29 March 2023. India is the current chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) 2023. The group denounced terrorism in all forms and agreed that its financing is amongst the most serious threats to global peace.
- 116. Amit Shah inaugurated Vedic Heritage portal in New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Vedic Heritage portal in New Delhi. The primary aim of the portal is to communicate the messages enshrined in the Vedas and make it more accessible to the common people. According to Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy, the Vedic Heritage portal now has audio-visual recordings of the four Vedas.
- 117. QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023: IIT Bombay & IIT Delhi Among Top 50 Engineering institutes: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, (Mumbai, Maharashtra) and IIT-Delhi(New Delhi, Delhi) are featured among the top 50 in the subject of Engineering and Technology in the QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) World University Rankings by Subject 2023. IIT Bombay is ranked 47th and IIT Delhi is ranked 48th. i. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)(Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States of America(USA)) topped the Engineering and Technology ranking followed by Stanford University in 2nd and the University of Cambridge(Cambridge, England) in 3rd rank. ii. QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023 is the 13th edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject.
- 118. Global Terrorism Index 2023 By IEP: Afghanistan Most Impacted by Terrorism for Fourth Straight Year, India Ranks 13th: According to the Global Terrorism Index 2023, the 10th edition of the Global Terrorism Index (GTI) by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), Afghanistan remained the nation, most affected by terrorism for the fourth consecutive year, despite assaults and fatalities declining by 75% and 58%, respectively. i. India was ranked 13th and was listed among nations with a "high" impact of terrorism. ii. According to the report, the Communist Party of India (Maoist) [CPI-M] is ranked as the 12th deadliest terrorist organisation in 2022. iii. The deadliest terrorist groups in the world in 2022 were Islamic State (IS) and its affiliates, followed by al-Shabaab, Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and Jamaat Nusrat Al-Islam wal Muslimeen (JNIM). Note The GTI 2023 is based on data from Dragonfly's TerrorismTracker database and uses 31 December, 2022 as the cut-off date.
- 119. Egypt joins BRICS bank as new member weeks after President Sisi's India visit: After President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi visited India as a chief guest for the Republic Day celebrations, Egypt has become a member of the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB). According to sources familiar with

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the matter, Egypt officially joined the NDB on February 20, with a formal notification issued on March 22. The African-Arab nation intends to enhance its infrastructure, and NDB funding can make a significant contribution toward achieving this goal.

- 120. NPCI recommends up to 1.1% interchange fee on UPI: National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has notified that an interchange fee of up to 1.1% will be applicable on merchant UPI (Unified Payments Interface) transactions with effect from April 1, 2023. The charge will be levied on UPI payments of over 2,000. The charges are only applicable for prepaid payment instruments (PPI) transactions and there is no charge to customers.
- 121. Indian economy to grow at 6.5% in next decade: Chief Economic Advisor: Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran on 29 March 2023 announced that the Indian Economy is likely to grow at the rate of 6.5 percent in the coming decade. The Finance Ministry's Economic Survey has projected the economic growth to be 6.5 percent in 2023-24. While the RBI has projected India's economic growth to slow down to 6.4 percent in Financial Year 2024.
- 122. YES Bank issues first electronic bank guarantee with NeSL: YES Bank has collaborated with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) to issue its first electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG). The integration of their digital document execution (DDE) platform has made it possible to completely digitize the previous paper-based process of issuing and maintaining Bank Guarantees.
- 123. India's overall exports cross all time high of USD 750 billion: Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, on 28 March 2023, announced that India's overall exports crossed US\$ 750 billion. This is an all time high and this achievement of 750 billion comes in the 75th year of independence. India's strong macroeconomy, robust foreign exchange reserves, relatively low inflation and entrepreneurial spirit have immensely contributed to the export.
- 124. India bagged 4 Gold at 13th IBA World Women's Boxing Championship in New Delhi: India topped the medal tally of the 2023 Mahindra International Boxing Association (IBA) Women's World Boxing Championships (WWBC), the 13th edition of the championships, with 4 gold medals. The 13th edition of the WWBC was hosted by India from 15th to 26th March 2023 at K.D. Jadhav Indoor Hall in New Delhi, Delhi. China secured the 2nd position in the medal tally with 7 medals (3 gold, 1 silver and 3 bronze) and Russia secured the 3rd position with 3 medals (1 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze). Indian boxers were awarded the Best Team of the tournament for being the most successful team with 4 gold medals. i. Nitu Ghanghas and Lovlina Borgohain won Minimumweight (48Kg) and Middleweight (75Kg) respectively.
- Mumbai Indians beats Delhi Capital to Become Inaugural Champions of TATA WPL 2023:

  Mumbai Indians(MI) team captained by Harmanpreet Kaur(India) defeated the Delhi Capitals(DC) led by Meghann(Meg) Lanning (Australia) to win the inaugural TATA Women's Premier League(WPL) 2023 championship. MI defeated DC by wickets in the finals held in Brabourne Stadium at Churchgate, Mumbai, Maharastra on 26th March 2023. i. Hayley matthews won the Most Valuable Player and Purple cap (Highest Wicket Taker) awards. ii. Meg Lanning won the Orange cap for being

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the season's Top Run Scorer and Harmanpreet Kaur won Catch of the season award. iii. The sponsors for the Women's IPL rights for 5 years are awarded to the TATA group. Tata Capital, the financial services arm of the Tata Group, was the title sponsor of the WPL 2023.

- 126. 2023 Swiss Open Super 300: India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty wins doubles title in Basel: The Yonex Swiss Open 2023, a BWF World Tour Super 300, was held from 21st to 26th March 2023 in St. Jakobshalle, Basel, Switzerland. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, world no. 6 Men's doubles badminton players, won the Men's doubles title defeating China's Ren Xiang Yu and Tan Qiang, World's No 21 doubles pair, at Yonex Swiss Open 20230.
- 127. M T Vasudevan Nair awarded Kerala's highest civilian honour: The highest civilian honor in Kerala, the "Kerala Jyothi," was awarded to the writer M T Vasudevan Nair. The second-highest award, "Kerala Prabha," was shared by actor Mammootty, former civil service officer T Madhava Menon, and writer Omchery NN Pillai. Arif Muhammad Khan, the Governor of Kerala, has presented the inaugural edition of the "Kerala Puraskarngal" awards, which recognize individuals who have made notable contributions to various aspects of social life.
- 128. Salima Tete appointed as the AHF Athletes Ambassador: National women's hockey team midfielder Salima Tete has appointed the AHF Athletes Ambassador from India for a term of two years. Tete accepted the certificate and the position during the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) Congress in Mungyeong, Korea.
- **129.** Luis Caffarelli won the 2023 Abel Prize: Luis Caffarelli, 74, has won the 2023 Abel Prize "for his seminal contributions to regularity theory for nonlinear partial differential equations including free-boundary problems and the Monge-Ampère equation". The prize includes a monetary award of 7.5 million kroner (roughly \$ 720,000) and a glass plaque designed by Norwegian artist Henrik Haugan.
- 130. Former Brazilian President Dilma Vana Rousseff elected as President of NDB: On 24th March 2023, the Board of Governors of the New Development Bank (NBD), formerly referred to as the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Development Bank, unanimously elected former President of Brazil Dilma Vana Rousseff as the President of the NDB with an immediate effect. Dilma Rousseff will be president of the BRICS's New Development Bank until 2025. Dilma Rousseff(75 years old), succeeds Marcos Troyjo, who stepped down as the President of NDB on 24th March 2023.
- **131. GRSE launched the 'Most Silent Ship' INS Androth:** Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), a shipbuilding company in India, has launched INS Androth, a vessel claimed to be the "most silent ship in the country" for the Indian Navy. The vessel is the first in a series of eight antisubmarine warfare shallow-watercraft to be delivered to the navy.
- **132.** World Tuberculosis Day 2023 observed on 24 March: World Tuberculosis Day is observed on March 24th every year to raise awareness about the global epidemic of tuberculosis (TB) and efforts to eliminate the disease. The World Health Organization (WHO) aims to end the TB epidemic by 2030. The organization works with governments, non-governmental organizations, and other partners

### **WAY TO GOVERNMENT JOBS**

to increase access to TB prevention, diagnosis, and treatment, and to develop new tools and strategies for TB control.

- 133. International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members 2023: 25 March: The United Nations observes the International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members on March 25 every year to honor the memory of Alec Collett, a journalist who died while on a UN mission after being kidnapped. The purpose of this day is to acknowledge the contributions of UN personnel and the risks they take to carry out humanitarian work, as well as to remember those who have lost their lives in service to the UN.
- 134. Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination: 21-27 March: The Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling Against Racism and Racial Discrimination is an annual event that is observed from March 21 to 27. The purpose of this week is to oppose human rights violations, injustices, and racial discrimination that people face around the world.
- 135. Purple Day of Epilepsy 2023 is observed on March 26th: Purple Day of Epilepsy is an international day of awareness dedicated to raising understanding and reducing the social stigma associated with epilepsy, a neurological condition. It is celebrated annually on March 26 with the goal of educating people about epilepsy, recognizing the signs of a seizure, and offering support to those who are impacted by it. World Theatre Day 2023 is celebrated on 27th March Every year on March 27, World Theatre Day is celebrated worldwide to promote the significance of theatrical forms. Theatre not only provides entertainment but also serves as an art form that educates and inspires individuals. Many plays are performed on a variety of topics, including social issues, entertainment, and comedy.

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