

TEACHERS' VISION

WAY TO GOVERNMENT JOBS

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS 11TH – 23RD MARCH 2023

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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"
- 3. 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 provide easy access to finance to farmers/processors/traders against the pawning of agricultural products stored in CWC warehouses.
- 4. 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
- 5. 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.
- 6. 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.
- 7. 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.
- 8. 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

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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

- 9. 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 (BMTCL) 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.
- 10. 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.
- 11. 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.
- 12. 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
- 13. 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.
- 14. 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 involve 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
- 15. 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

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mission mode to become the largest green railway in the world.

- 16. 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.
- 17. 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
- 18. 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 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.
- 19. 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.
- 20. 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.
- 21. 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-high-speed 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 Mumbai on March 13, 2023. In 1988, she became India's first female train driver.
- 22. Bihar has lowest literacy rate followed by Arunachal and Rajasthan:** Bihar (61.8 pc) has the 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).

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- 23. 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
- 24. 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%).
- 25. 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
- 26. 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.
- 27. 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.
- 28. 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"
- 29. 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.
- 30. 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.

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- 31. 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 completing the distance of 29 Kms in 5 hours and 30 minutes. The previous record was 8 hours and 26 minutes.
- 32. 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.
- 33. 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
- 34. 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.
- 35. 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.
- 36. 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

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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.

- 37. 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.
- 38. 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.
- 39. 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.
- 40. 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
- 41. 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.
- 42. 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.
- 43. 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.

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- 44. 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.
- 45. 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.
- 46. International Ayurved conclave on 'Veterinary and Ayurveda' inaugurated at Haridwar:** The Rishikul campus of Ayurvedic University in Haridwar recently hosted the International Ayurved 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.
- 47. 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.
- 48. 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.
- 49. 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.
- 50. 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).
- 51. '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.

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- 52. 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.
- 53. 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.
- 54. 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).
- 55. 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".
- 56. 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.
- 57. 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.
- 58. 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. The 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.
- 59. 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

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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.

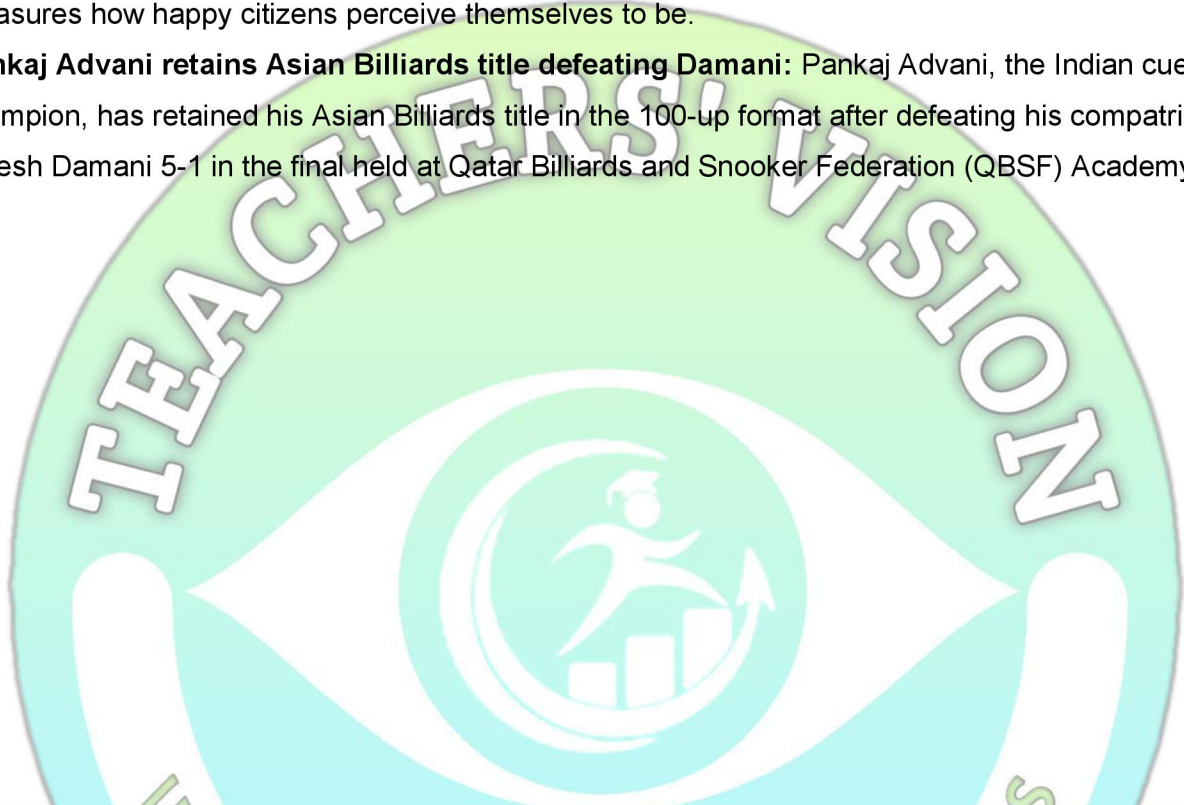
- 60. India & Sri Lanka inaugurate exhibition 'Geoffrey Bawa' in New Delhi:** India's External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar, inaugurated the "Geoffrey Bawa: It is Essential To Be There" exhibition at the National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi.
- 61. Indian Industrialist Shri Ratan Tata appointed in 'Order of Australia' for distinguished service:** Ratan Tata, an Indian industrialist and philanthropist, has been named an Honorary Officer in the 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.
- 62. 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.
- 63. 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.
- 64. 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.
- 65. 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.
- 66. 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.
- 67. 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

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capable of making predictions based on inputs and is primarily used in natural language processing and computer vision technology.

- 68. 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.
- 69. 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.



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