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2024, March 1-2

Tata Group:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **The Union Cabinet approved the country's first semiconductor fab to be made by the Tata Group in collaboration with Powerchip Taiwan.**
- ➔ The Semiconductor fab will come up in Dholera with a capacity of 50,000 wafers per month.
- ➔ A net investment of Rs 27,000 crore will go into the fab. 48 million chips per day will be produced from the unit, once the full capacity is reached.



150 railway stations:

(Importance level-4/5)

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- Till date, 150 railway stations across the country have been certified as Eat Right Stations. 'Eat Right Station' certification given by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.
- The aim is to encompass all major stations and Metro stations, ensuring every passenger, regardless of their destination can enjoy safe and healthy food options throughout their journey.



International Big Cat Alliance:

(Importance level-4/5)

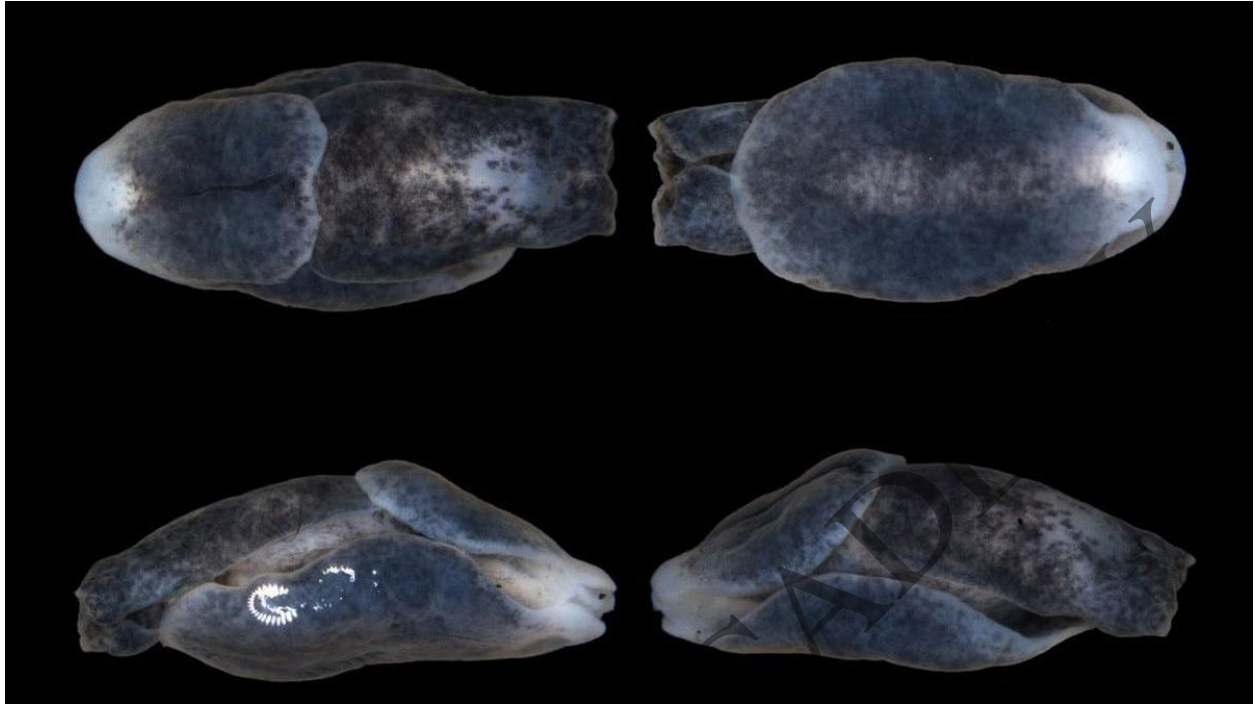
- The Cabinet approved the establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance with headquarters in India with a one-time budgetary support of Rs.150 crore till 2027-28.
- The Alliance ensures sustainable use of natural resources and mitigates challenges emanating from climate change. Seven big cats Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar and Cheetah are found in India.



Zoological Survey of India:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has identified and named a new species of marine head-shield sea slug discovered along the West Bengal and Odisha coasts.**
- Named *Melanochlamys droupadi*, this distinctive species bears a ruby red spot and has unique characteristics that distinguish it from other sea slugs.



Larsen & Toubro:

(Importance level-3/5)

- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has achieved a major milestone in clean energy by commissioning its first domestically manufactured electrolyser at the Green Hydrogen Plant in Hazira, Gujarat.
- This marks the entry of L&T Electrolysers Limited into domestic electrolyser manufacturing, showcasing the company's dedication to advancing sustainable energy solutions.



Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology:

(Importance level-4/5)

- In a groundbreaking initiative, researchers at the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), an autonomous institute affiliated with the Department of Science and Technology, have successfully converted banana pseudo stems—commonly regarded as agricultural waste—into an environmentally friendly wound dressing material.
- The research team, led by Prof. Devasish Chowdhury and Prof. (Retd) Rajlakshmi Devi, combined banana fibers with biopolymers like chitosan and guar gum to create a multifunctional patch with excellent mechanical strength and antioxidant properties.

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Leopard population estimation:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Shri Bhupender Yadav, in collaboration with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and Wildlife Institute of India, unveiled the fifth cycle of leopard population estimation in India.**
- ➔ The report sheds light on the status and trends of leopard populations across various landscapes amidst escalating threats.
- ➔ India's leopard population is estimated at 13,874, showcasing stability compared to the previous estimate. However, this represents only 70% of leopard habitat, with the Himalayas and semi-arid regions not sampled.

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ODISERV:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, inaugurated Project ODISERV in Sambalpur, Odisha, marking a significant step towards preparing young graduates for employment opportunities in the financial services sector.**
- ➔ This initiative is poised to empower the youth, enhance their employability, and fulfill their career aspirations.

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Tawi Festival:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under the umbrella of the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) are poised to make a significant mark at the upcoming 4-day 'Tawi Festival' in Jammu.**
- ➔ This endeavor aims to spotlight the rich tapestry of art forms and cultural heritage of the region while highlighting the skills and creativity of local artisans.

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Telangana state government:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Telangana state government has issued a directive for the adoption of the One Time Scheme (OTS) across all urban local bodies (ULBs), including the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC).**
- ➔ This initiative is geared towards alleviating the financial strain faced by property owners who are grappling with mounting arrears interest on property tax payments.

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DRDO:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has conducted two successful flight tests of the Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile on February 28th and 29th, 2024.**
- ➔ The tests, carried out from a ground-based portable launcher off the coast of Odisha, demonstrated the system's capability to intercept and destroy high-speed unmanned aerial targets under various interception scenarios.

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Centre for Development of Telematics:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ At the Mobile World Congress 2024 in Barcelona, Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), supported by the Government of India, and Qualcomm Technologies have forged a strategic collaboration to advance Atmanirbhar Bharat and drive innovation within India's telecom sector.
- ➔ This partnership aims to empower local developers, startups, academia, and industry partners through technological expertise and support.

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NTPC Green Energy Limited:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) partners with Maharashtra State Power Generation Company Limited (MAHAGENCO) to develop Renewable Energy Parks in Maharashtra.**
- ➔ The agreement underscores commitment to green energy initiatives and supports India's energy transition goals.



India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL):

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) signed an MoU to enhance financial inclusion in rural Rajasthan.**
- ➔ The collaboration aims to bring financial services to 3.5 Lakhs+ beneficiaries including SHG women, farmers, and youth.



Anurag Agarwal:

(Importance level-4/5)

- In a significant move to bolster the security of India's parliamentary complex, IPS officer Anurag Agarwal has been appointed as the new head of Parliament security.
- This decision comes at a crucial juncture, following recent security breaches that have underscored the need for stringent protective measures within one of the nation's most critical infrastructures.

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NSG:

(Importance level-4/5)

- Daljit Singh Chaudhary, a 1990 batch IPS officer, has been appointed as the Director General (DG) of the National Security Guard (NSG), marking a significant development in India's security apparatus.
- Chaudhary, currently serving as the DG of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), will now shoulder the additional responsibility of leading the NSG, commonly referred to as the "black cats".

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NSSO & ISRO:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ In a significant move toward modernization, the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has partnered with the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) under the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) to digitize the Urban Frame Survey (UFS) using advanced Geo ICT tools and techniques through the Bhuvan Platform.
- ➔ Objective: Facilitating the Urban Frame Survey (UFS) in a digital mode to enhance efficiency and accuracy in data collection and maintenance.

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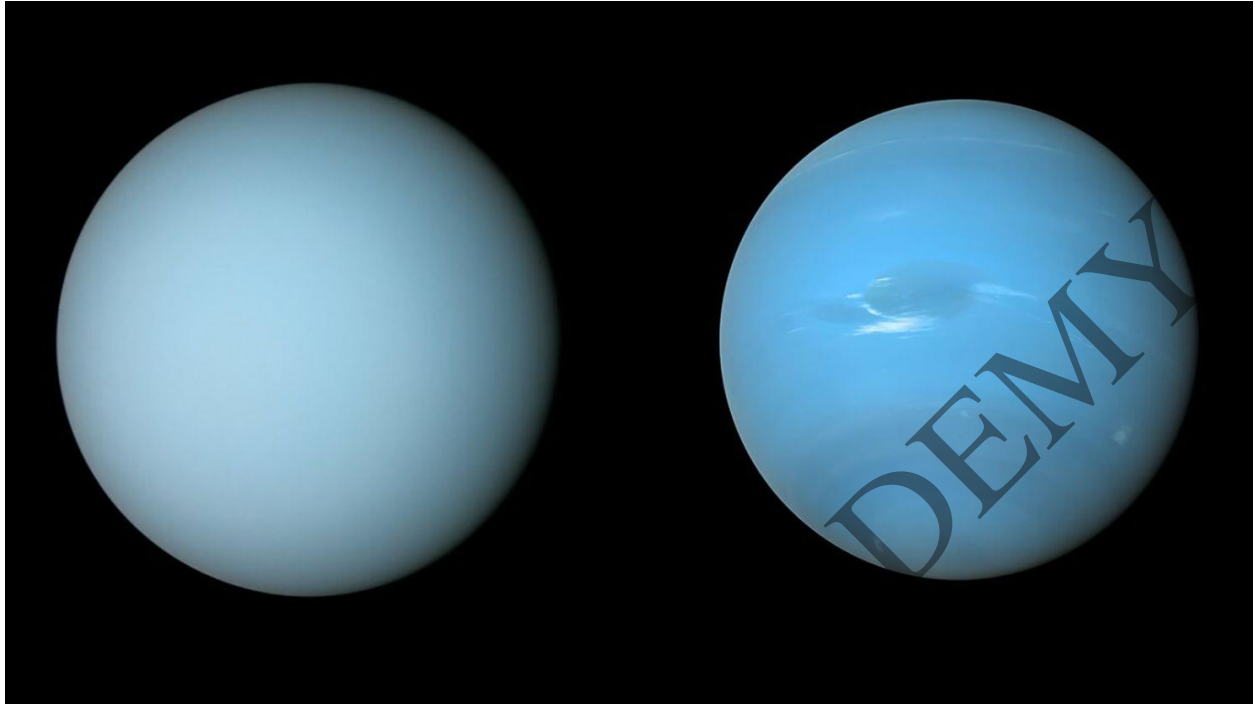
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3 new moons:

(Importance level-4/5)

- The solar system has three new moons, one orbiting Uranus and two orbiting Neptune. These moons were spotted several years ago and recently confirmed by the International Astronomical Union's Minor Planet Center.
- This brings Uranus's total moon count to 28. Neptune now has 16 known moons.



World Civil Defence Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **World Civil Defence Day is observed every year on 1 March. This international event serves as a crucial reminder of the importance of being prepared for emergencies and disasters.**
- World Civil Defence Day was first established in 1990 by the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) to commemorate the anniversary of the adoption of the ICDO's Constitution.

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World Civil Defence Day

Zero Discrimination Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **March 1 marks Zero Discrimination Day, a day dedicated to advocating for the right of every individual to live a life free from discrimination and prejudice.**
- This global observance, initiated by UNAIDS, aims to raise awareness about the detrimental effects of discrimination and the importance of promoting equality, compassion, and respect for all.
- Zero Discrimination Day was first celebrated in 2014 following the launch of the Zero Discrimination Campaign by UNAIDS on World AIDS Day in December 2013.



World Seagrass Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- Celebrated annually on March 1, World Seagrass Day is a vital global observance aimed at highlighting the importance of seagrass in marine ecosystems.
- Established by the United Nations General Assembly on May 22, 2022, following Sri Lanka's resolution, the day underscores the urgent need for seagrass conservation.
- Seagrass originated around 100 million years ago, with its evolution marking a significant adaptation to marine environments.
- This adaptation has allowed seagrass to support a diverse range of marine life, including fish, turtles, manatees, and even sharks, by providing essential nursery habitats and food sources.



Sunil Bharti Mittal:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Sunil Bharti Mittal, Chairman and founder of Bharti Enterprises, has been conferred with an honorary Knighthood by Britain's King Charles III.**
- ➔ He becomes the first Indian citizen to receive this prestigious honour, recognized for his contributions to UK-India business relations.

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India and Nicaragua:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **India and Nicaragua have forged a significant partnership in the field of pharmaceutical regulation through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Pharmacopoeia recognition.**
- ➔ This milestone agreement marks Nicaragua as the first nation in the Spanish-speaking world to recognize the Indian Pharmacopoeia, showcasing the growing global recognition of India's pharmaceutical standards.



Exercise Samudra Laksamana:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Exercise Samudra Laksamana, a significant bilateral maritime exercise between India and Malaysia, is currently underway from February 28 to March 2, 2024, off the coast of Visakhapatnam.
- ➔ This exercise marks the third edition of the collaboration, featuring the Indian Naval Ship Kiltan and the Royal Malaysian Ship KD Lekir. It is designed to foster stronger ties and enhance interoperability between the Indian and Royal Malaysian Navies.

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Exercise 'Samudra Laksamana



China:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **The World Athletics Council has selected Beijing, China to host the 2027 World Athletics Championships.**
- The decision was made at the 234th World Athletics Council Meeting held in Glasgow ahead of the World Athletics Indoor Championships. China will also host next year's World Athletics Indoor Championships in Nanjing.

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2024, March 3-4

BPCL:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL), one of India's leading petroleum companies, has recently announced its partnership with Olympic and World Javelin Champion Neeraj Chopra. Neeraj Chopra will serve as the brand ambassador for BPCL's premium petrol variant, 'Speed.'**
- ➔ This collaboration adds to BPCL's list of esteemed brand ambassadors. Previously, the company had partnered with cricketer Rahul Dravid for its 'Pure for Sure' initiative and range of 'MAK lubricants'.
- ➔ Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) is an Indian state-owned enterprise (PSU) that falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India.



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Indian Navy:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **The Indian Navy is set to inaugurate a new naval base, INS Jatayu, on Minicoy Island, marking a significant step in bolstering security infrastructure in the strategically vital Lakshadweep Islands.**
- ➔ Minicoy Island, situated as the southernmost outpost of the Lakshadweep archipelago, commands a crucial position along the Sea Lines of Communications (SLOCs).
- ➔ Its proximity to major maritime routes underscores its strategic importance in ensuring maritime security and safeguarding India's interests in the region.



MH 60R:

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(Importance level-3/5)

- **The Indian Navy is poised to achieve a significant milestone on March 6, 2024, with the commissioning of the MH 60R Seahawk helicopter at INS Garuda, Kochi.**
- This induction marks a crucial juncture in India's defense modernization efforts, further bolstering its maritime capabilities.
- The Seahawks squadron will be designated as INAS 334, symbolizing a new era in naval aviation for the country. These helicopters are part of a 24-aircraft Foreign Military Sales (FMS) contract inked with the US government in February 2020.



Indiramma Housing scheme:

(Importance level-4/5)

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- **Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has announced the launch of the Indiramma Housing Scheme starting March 11.**
- The scheme aims to provide housing solutions to the economically disadvantaged segments of society. The first phase will witness the approval of 3,500 houses in each Assembly constituency, catering to a significant number of beneficiaries.



Chapchar Kut:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Chapchar Kut, the grandest festival in Mizoram, resonated throughout the state with vibrant traditional customs and jubilant festivities.**
- Thousands of attendees converged upon the Assam Rifles Ground – Lammual – in the heart of Aizawl city, filling it to its capacity.
- The event featured a rich display of Mizo community traditions and culture, highlighted by traditional songs and captivating cultural dance performances, making it a day-long celebration to remember.

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Ministry of Information & Broadcasting:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **On the occasion of the 48th Foundation Day of the Indian Civil Accounts Service, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has been honored with the Award for Best Performance in Accounts during the Financial Year 2023-24.**
- ➔ This prestigious accolade signifies the Ministry's outstanding contribution and commitment to financial excellence.

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National Safety Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **National Safety Day is celebrated each year on March 4. In India, this date also signals the commencement of National Safety Week, extending the focus on safety measures beyond just a day.**
- ➔ In 2024, National Safety Day will be observed on a Monday, marking a week-long endeavor to highlight and improve safety standards in various sectors.

National Safety Day

March 04



American think tank Brookings:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ India has now officially eliminated 'extreme poverty', which can be seen through the sharp decline in headcount poverty ratio and stark increase in household consumption, American think tank Brookings said in a report.
- ➔ The report, authored by Surjit Bhalla and Karan Bhasin, states that this has been a result of the government's strong policy thrust on redistribution, which has led to strong inclusive growth in India over the last decade.
- ➔ According to the data, real per capita consumption growth has been recorded at 2.9 per cent per year since 2011-12. Under this, rural growth at 3.1 per cent was significantly higher than urban growth of 2.6 per cent.

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Press and Registration of Periodicals Act:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The new Press and Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023, has come into force and the old Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, now stands repealed.**
- ➔ The Centre has notified the new law and the associated rules in its official gazette. Accordingly, the Act is effective from March 1.

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NRC:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ The Manipur assembly on Friday reaffirmed its resolution adopted in August 2022 seeking implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the state to ensure security and integrity of the state.
- ➔ The Manipur assembly first adopted a resolution to enforce NRC and adopt a population commission on August 6, 2022, following demand from several students and tribal bodies who wanted NRC to detect Myanmar, Bangladesh and Nepal residents living illegally in the state.

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Bhajanlal Sharma:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma on Saturday asserted that the state will get its share of Yamuna water as per the allocations specified in the 1994 agreement with Haryana.
- ➔ Haryana and Rajasthan recently signed an agreement to jointly prepare a detailed project report for the transfer of Rajasthan's share of Yamuna water from Hathnikund in Haryana through underground pipelines and its subsequent utilisation in areas such as Jhunjhunu and Churu.

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Suman Kumari:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ A sub-inspector named Suman Kumari has become the first woman sniper of the Border Security Force.
- ➔ She recently completed eight-week sniper course at Central School of Weapons and Tactics(CSWT) in Indore and achieved 'instructor grade'.

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Chettimedu Pathur village:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **A groundbreaking archaeological discovery has been made in Chettimedu Pathur village, approximately 77 kilometres from Chennai, Tamil Nadu.**
- ➔ Researchers from the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology at the University of Madras have unearthed a child burial site dating back to the Neolithic period, around 2500 BCE to 3000 BCE, offering new insights into ancient burial rites and cultural practices in the region.



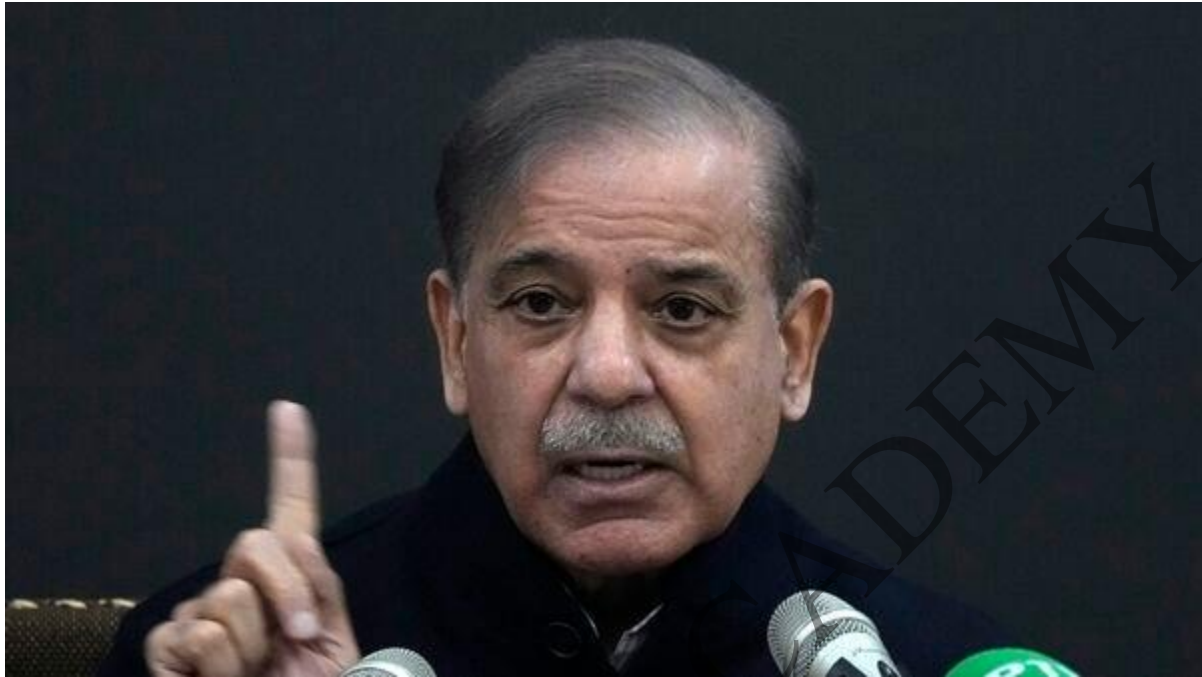
Shehbaz Sharif:

(Importance level-4/5)

- Shehbaz Sharif was recently re-elected as the prime minister of Pakistan. The well-known politician and administrator came back for a second term after his brother Nawaz Sharif's abortive attempt to win a fourth term as the prime minister in the February 8 elections.
- Shehbaz Sharif's family had relocated from Amritsar (India) to Lahore (Pakistan) during the 1947 partition where he completed a Bachelor of Arts degree at Government College University, Lahore.

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World Hearing Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ Observed every year on March 3, World Hearing Day 2024 fall on a Sunday. The theme for this year, as designated by the World Health Organization (WHO), is “Changing mindsets: Let’s make ear and hearing care a reality for all”.
- ➔ This theme underscores the need to combat societal misconceptions and stigmatizing attitudes through heightened awareness and the dissemination of information, targeting both the general public and healthcare providers.

WORLD HEARING DAY MARCH 3



World Wildlife Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **World Wildlife Day, celebrated annually on March 3, serves as a poignant reminder of the urgent need to protect and preserve the world's fauna and flora.**
- ➔ In 2024, this day draws particular attention to the role of digital innovation in wildlife conservation, underlining the theme “Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation.”
- ➔ This occasion is not only a celebration but a global call to action, urging individuals, communities, and governments worldwide to engage in practices that contribute to the sustainability of our planet's biodiversity.

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WORLD WILDLIFE DAY

MARCH 3

Genie:

(Importance level-4/5)

- Google's DeepMind team introduces "Genie," a groundbreaking AI platform poised to transform the gaming industry and creative endeavors.
- This innovative project signifies a fusion of cutting-edge technology and imaginative potential, offering the capability to craft interactive 2D video games from single image prompts or text descriptions.



Pars 1:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Iran's venture into space exploration and satellite deployment continues with the launch of the "Pars 1" satellite, facilitated by Russia from the Vostochny Cosmodrome.**
- ➔ This event underscores the technological collaboration between Iran and Russia, occurring against a backdrop of heightened scrutiny and concern from Western nations.

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2024, March 5-6

Cspace:

-> Kerala to launch India's first government owned OTT Platform. It will be called CSpace.

-> The platform aims to deliver a unique blend of informative and entertaining content tailored for the masses.



Jharkhand government:

-> The Jharkhand government is all set to launch the state Widow Remarriage Promotion scheme. Rs 2 Lakh would be allocated as a promotional amount. Earlier, the first Jharkhand government budget newly sworn in chief minister Champai Soren was tabled.

-> India's 1st Green Hydrogen Plant in stainless Steel at Jindal Stainless Limited, Hisar. The plant will be the world's first off-gird Green Hydrogen Plant for the stainless steel industry and the world's first Green Hydrogen plant with rooftop and floating solar.

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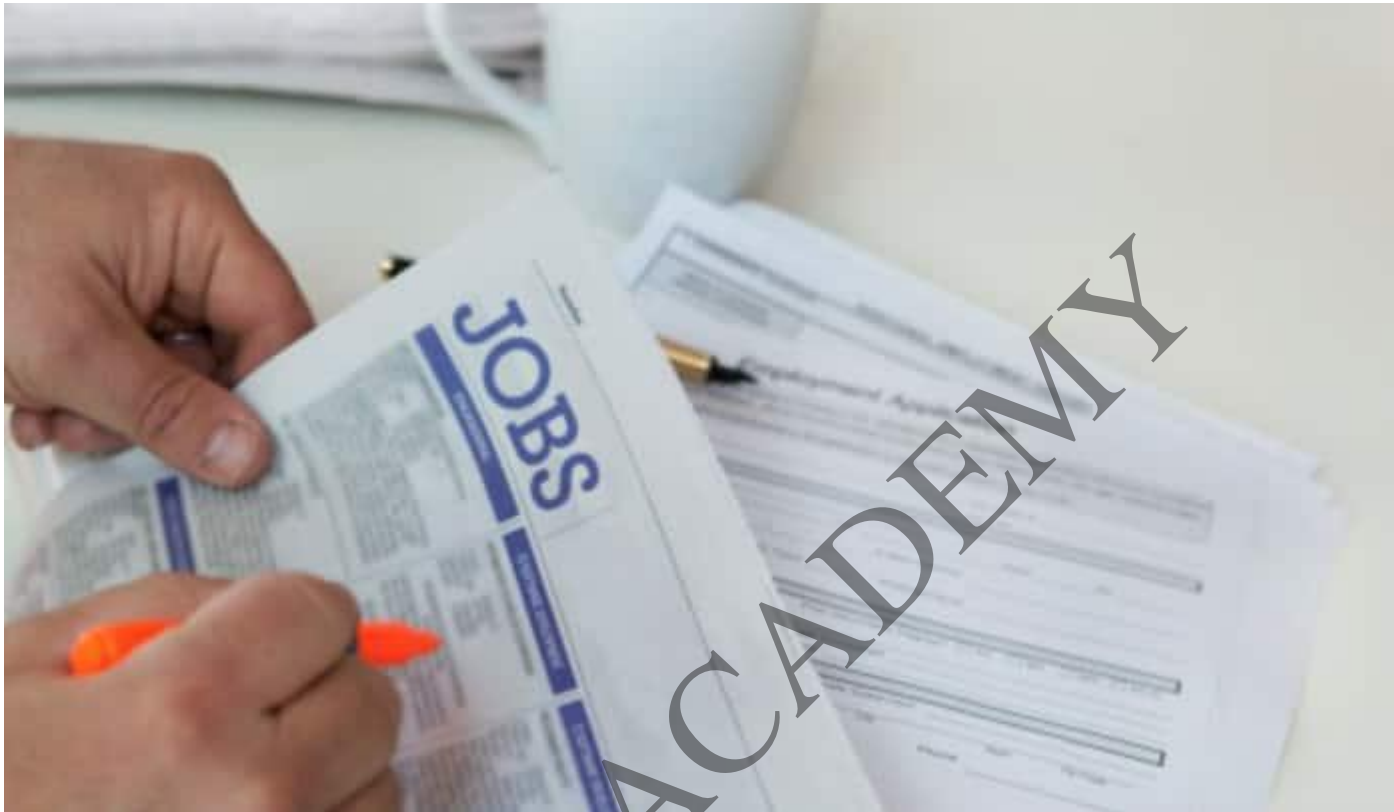
**Jharkhand
Government to
launch Widow
Remarriage
Promotion Scheme**



India's unemployment rate:

-> India's unemployment rate dropped to 3.1 per cent in 2023 from 3.6 per cent in the preceding year, reflecting continued improvement in the labour markets, revealed the latest employment-unemployment indicators report released by the National Statistical Office.

-> During the calendar year 2023, the unemployment rate in both rural and urban areas declined to 2.4 per cent and 5.2 per cent, respectively, from 2.8 per cent and 5.9 per cent in 2022.



Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh:

-> Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh inaugurated a pioneering technical center in Ahmedabad, representing a significant advancement in India's space sector.

-> Established by the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), this center aims to revolutionize private sector involvement in space technology development and testing.

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Chakshu:

-> In a significant stride towards bolstering cyber-security measures and enhancing citizen empowerment, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) recently unveiled the Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP) alongside the 'Chakshu' facility on the Sanchar Saathi portal.

-> This initiative aims to foster collaboration among stakeholders to combat the misuse of telecom resources in cyber-crime and financial frauds.

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IRIS:

-> Kerala school has introduced Iris, a humanoid teacher, marking a significant milestone in the realm of educational technology.

-> Developed in collaboration with Makerlabs Edutech Private Limited, Iris represents a pioneering effort to make learning more interactive, engaging, and accessible.

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India's first National Dolphin Research Cent:

-> India's first National Dolphin Research Center (NDRC) was officially inaugurated by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

-> This landmark facility, built at a cost of Rs 30 crore, is situated on the banks of the Ganges River within the Patna University campus.

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Uttar Pradesh:

-> Uttar Pradesh, under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has achieved a milestone by becoming the first state in the country to issue five crore Ayushman cards.

-> This accomplishment underscores the state government's commitment to ensuring the health and well-being of every citizen.

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MYUVA:

-> In Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched an initiative to support young entrepreneurs called “Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan (MYUVA).”

-> This program offers interest-free loans to help young people kickstart their business ventures with projects valued up to Rs 5 lakh.



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During DefConnect 2024:

-> During DefConnect 2024 in New Delhi on March 4, 2024, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh unveiled the Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme.

-> The scheme aims to promote innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies, providing start-ups with significant grants for research and development.



GI:

-> In a significant nod to India's rich heritage of craftsmanship and artistry, the Cuttack Rupa Tarakasi, more widely known as Silver Filigree, has recently been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai.

-> This recognition, sought by the Odisha State Co-operative Handicrafts Corporation Limited and supported by the Department of Textile and Handicrafts, Government of Odisha, places Cuttack's Silver Filigree on the map as a unique and protected form of art.

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IIT Madras:

-> Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) is hosting the All India Research Scholars' Summit (AIRSS) 2024 from 4th to 7th March 2024.

-> Organized by the Research Affairs Council of IIT Madras, this event promises to be a gathering of minds from diverse disciplines across India, aiming to showcase and explore the latest advancements in various research domains.



Union MoS Rajeev Chandrasekhar, addressing All India Research Scholars' Summit 2024 at IIT Madras on March 4, 2024.

India's first indigenous Prototype Fast Breeder:

-> Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated India's first indigenous Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) (500 MWe) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.

-> In line with the true spirit of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, PFBR has been fully designed and constructed indigenously by BHAVINI with significant contribution from more than 200 Indian industries including MSMEs.

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-> Once commissioned, India will only be the second country after Russia to have commercial operating Fast Breeder Reactor.



MethaneSAT:

-> MethaneSAT satellite was launched from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California.

-> The satellite will provide the public with reliable scientific data about the sources and scale of methane emissions globally.



Iran:

-> Iran executed 834 people in 2023, a 43% increase largely in response to protests over Mahsa Amini's death.

-> Public executions rose to seven times, according to the report, released by Norway based Iran Human Rights and Paris based Together Against the death penalty.

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France:

-> France has become the first country in the world to enshrine abortion rights in its constitution. French lawmakers from both houses of the Parliament, in a special session, voted 780 to 72 in favor of the move to amend the Constitution.

-> The amendment states that there is a guaranteed freedom to abortion in France.

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Dissociative Identity Disorder:

-> Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID), previously named Multiple Personality Disorder, presents a complex mental health challenge for both individuals affected by it and the professionals who aim to diagnose and treat it.

-> This condition involves the existence of two or more distinct personality states, each exhibiting its own thoughts, emotions, and behaviors. This disorder is annually acknowledged on March 5th.

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International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness:

-> Disarmament, as defined by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), involves the elimination of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) alongside a balanced reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments.

-> This aims to enhance stability at a lower military level while ensuring the security of all parties involved. Non-proliferation complements this by restricting the production and spread of nuclear or chemical weapons to non-state actors and rogue states.

-> The inaugural International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness was observed on March 5, 2023, following a UNGA resolution adopted on December 7, 2022. This annual event seeks to promote public awareness, particularly among youth, about the importance of disarmament.

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Spain's women's team:

-> Spain's women's team secured a historic victory over France, winning the first-ever UEFA Women's Nations League with a convincing 2-0 triumph in Seville.

-> The win represents a significant achievement for Spain in the realm of women's football, further solidifying their position as a dominant force in the sport.

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Department of Personnel and Training:

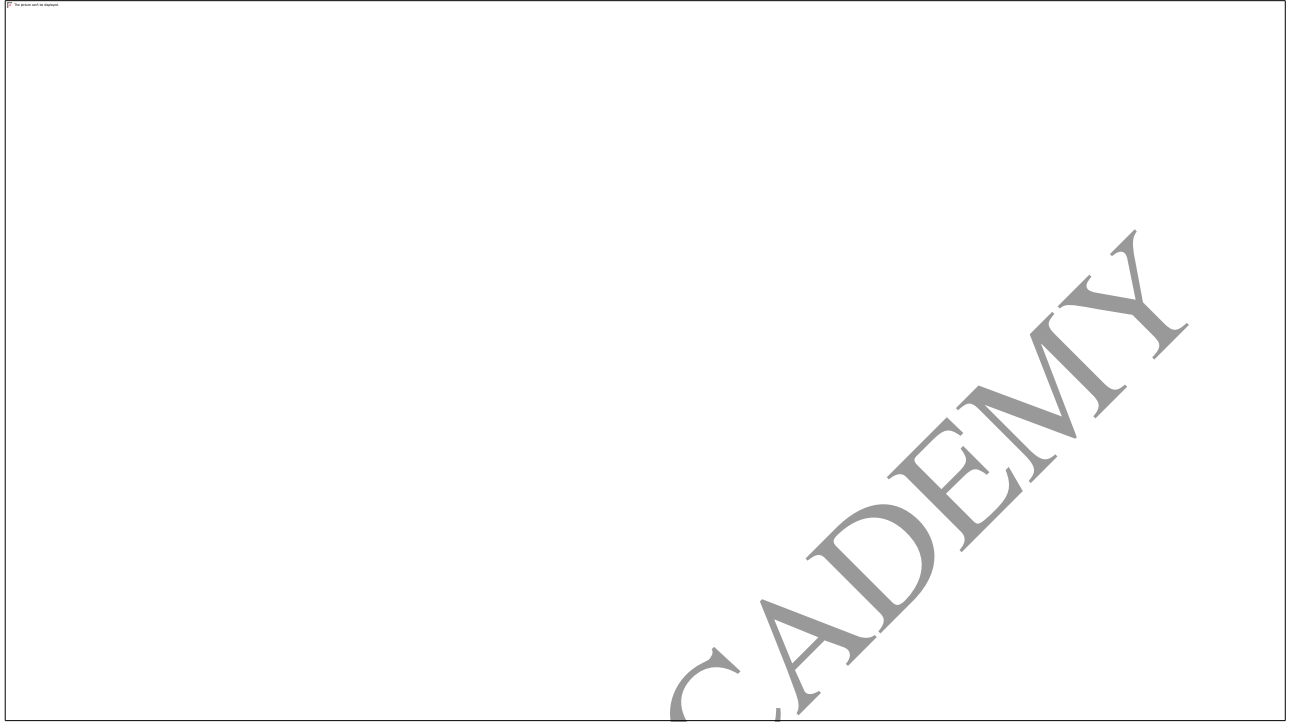
-> Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), in collaboration with the Department of Sports, has introduced significant reforms in the recruitment, promotion, and incentive mechanisms for athletes.

-> This initiative underscores the government's commitment to nurturing sporting talent and turning sports into a lucrative career option. The updated guidelines, effective from a memorandum issued on March 4, are designed to offer enhanced incentives, transparency, and inclusivity.

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2024, March 7

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under NITI Aayog and Meta:

-> Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under NITI Aayog and Meta have joined forces to establish Frontier Technology Labs (FTLs) in strategically important schools.

-> This collaboration aims to democratize access to future technologies and foster innovation among students.



National Payments Corporation of India:

-> National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has forged a strategic partnership with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, to conduct joint research on Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology.

-> This collaboration aims to establish the “NPCI–IISc Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Deep Tech Research & Development” to drive innovation in the fintech sector.

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Karnataka state government:

-> Karnataka state government, in a strategic alliance with the World Economic Forum (WEF), has announced the establishment of a cutting-edge AI centre in the state.

-> This collaboration formalized through a Letter of Intent signed on February 29, aims to position Karnataka as a global hub for artificial intelligence, marking a significant step in integrating the state into the global digital and technological landscape.

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Uttar Pradesh government:

-> Uttar Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has announced a complete waiver of electricity bills for private tube wells owned by farmers, effective from April 1, 2023.

-> This decision, announced, aims to alleviate the financial burden on the state's farmers, enhancing their agricultural productivity and overall well-being.

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Kolkata:

-> Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated India's first under-river metro tunnel in Kolkata. The metro tunnel has been built under Kolkata's Hooghly River that will connect Howrah Maidan to Esplanade.

-> The 4.8 km stretch between Howrah Maidan and Esplanade is the second section of the East-West Metro corridor between Howrah Maidan and the IT hub Salt Lake Sector V.

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Ravichandran Ashwin:

-> Ravichandran Ashwin will be only the 14th cricketer among 313 Indian Test Players ever, to play in 100 tests.

-> He captured his 500th wicket in the third test match of the India-England test series becoming the second Indian and just the ninth bowler to achieve the feat.



Article 371:

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-> The Central government considered giving Special Status to UT of Ladakh, not statehood. Article 371 provides special provisions for certain Indian states, offering autonomy and protecting their unique cultural identity and governance practices.

-> The Ladakh civil societies have for long demanded statehood or 6th Schedule inclusion.



Maldives and China:

-> Maldives and China signed defence agreement to obtain non-lethal weapons. The agreement has aimed to enhance the Maldives' military capacity, focusing on strengthening defense forces and ensuring national autonomy.

-> He has emphasized the long standing military cooperation between China and Maldives.

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National Medicine day:

-> India observes National Medicine day on March 7 every year since 2019. This day is dedicated to raising awareness about generic medicines and how they can be beneficial for millions of people across the country.

-> The pharmaceutical industry of India is third-largest in terms of value in the world.

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2024, March 8-9

NHPC:

-> Rajendra Prasad Goyal, Director (Finance) of NHPC, has recently assumed the additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director of NHPC Limited, a premier hydropower company in India and a Schedule 'A' enterprise under the Government of India.

-> This transition marks a significant moment in the company's leadership, bringing Goyal's extensive experience and expertise to the forefront.



James Anderson:

-> England's James Anderson claimed his 700th Test wicket by dismissing India's Kuldeep Yadav in Dharamsala on the morning of Day 3 of the final Test against India.

-> This historic milestone makes Anderson the third bowler to reach the 700-wicket mark in Test cricket. Anderson is now closing in on surpassing Shane Warne (708 wickets) to become the second-highest wicket-taker in Tests.



Sweden:

-> Sweden formally became the 32nd member of NATO after completing its accession process in Washington. This decision comes two years after Sweden's application, triggered by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, highlighting concerns about regional security.

-> After more than 200 years of neutrality and avoidance of military alliances, Sweden's decision marks a significant departure. This move signifies a shift towards aligning with NATO's collective security framework.

-> The invasion of Ukraine in 2022 prompted Sweden, along with neighboring Finland, to seek NATO membership as a response to heightened concerns about Russian military aggression.



Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Bank Indonesia (BI):

-> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Bank Indonesia (BI) have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at bolstering the utilization of local currencies – the Indian Rupee (INR) and the Indonesian Rupiah (IDR) – for cross-border transactions.

-> The MoU, signed in Mumbai by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das and Bank Indonesia Governor Perry Warjiyo, establishes a framework to foster the use of INR and IDR in cross-border transactions.

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NIPL & Fonepay Payment Service Ltd:

-> NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) has partnered with Nepal's leading payment network, Fonepay Payment Service Ltd, to enable cross-border Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions between India and Nepal.

-> This collaboration aims to enhance convenience and efficiency in transactions for tourists visiting Nepal from India.



'Bharat-Shakti':

-> The three forces of India – Army, Navy, and Air Force – are going to conduct the biggest exercise called 'Bharat-Shakti' at Asia's largest field firing range located in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan.

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-> PM Modi's Likely Visit Prime Minister Narendra Modi may visit Pokhran on March 12, 2024, to witness this show of strength by the Indian Armed Forces.



'Sea Defenders-2024':

-> The arrival of the US Coast Guard Cutter Bertholf at Port Blair signals the commencement of 'Sea Defenders-2024,' a joint exercise between the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).

-> Scheduled for March 9-10, 2024, this drill reflects the deepening strategic ties between the two nations and aims to enhance maritime safety and uphold a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region.



Bengaluru:

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-> Bengaluru to Get India's First Driverless Metro Train. The Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has received the first set of six train coaches for its upcoming driverless metro line, called the Yellow Line.

-> This 18.8 km-long line, connecting RV Road and Bommasandra, will be the first in India to have a driverless train system.



Bichom:

-> Bichom, carved out of West and East Kameng, has been declared the 27th district of Arunachal Pradesh. Chief Minister Pema Khandu led the inauguration ceremony, marking a significant milestone for the region.

-> Chief Minister Pema Khandu inaugurated Bichom district and laid the foundation stone for its headquarters at Napangphung.



IndiaAI mission:

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-> The Indian government, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved a new \$1.24 billion investment for the IndiaAI mission.

-> This initiative aims to create an all-Indian AI ecosystem from scratch, bolstering India's technological prowess and fostering innovation in AI.

-> The IndiaAI Innovation Centre will develop and deploy indigenous Large Multimodal Models (LMMs) and domain-specific foundational models.



'Measles and Rubella Champion' Award:

-> India has been awarded the prestigious 'Measles and Rubella Champion' Award by The Measles and Rubella Partnership. This award recognizes India's exemplary efforts in preventing measles and rubella diseases.

-> The Measles and Rubella Partnership includes agencies like American Red Cross, BMGF, GAVI, US CDC, UNF, UNICEF, and WHO. Their goal is to reduce global measles deaths and prevent rubella illness.



Sudha Murty:

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-> President Droupadi Murmu nominated author and philanthropist Sudha Murty to the Rajya Sabha. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced this and congratulated Sudha Murty, saying her contribution to diverse fields has been “immense and inspiring”.

-> Sudha Murty is an Indian educator, author, philanthropist, and the former chairperson of the Infosys Foundation. She is also a member of the public healthcare initiatives of the Gates Foundation. Murty has established the Murty Classical Library of India at Harvard University.



International Women’s Day:

-> International Women’s Day 2024 falls on March 8th, marking a global celebration of women’s achievements and a call to action for gender equality. It serves as a reminder of the ongoing struggle for women’s rights and empowerment worldwide.

-> This year’s theme, ‘Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress,’ underscores the importance of economic empowerment in achieving gender equality.



I N T E R N A T
W O M E N ' S

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Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana:

-> The Union Cabinet has decided to extend the subsidy of ₹300 per LPG cylinder for up to 12 refills per year till the end of next financial year (March 2025).

-> About 10.27 crore beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) will get the benefit of the scheme with its continuation set to incur ₹12,000 crore.

-> The Centre had started a targeted subsidy of ₹200 per cylinder for up to 12 refills per annum to the PMUY consumers in May 2022. In October 2023, the Centre increased the subsidy to ₹300 per cylinder for up to 12 refills per year.



Panama:

-> Panama has officially become the 97th member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA). This milestone was announced by Randhir Jaiswal, the spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

-> Moreover, on March 5, Malta became the 119th country to join the International Solar Alliance.

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Goa:

-> Goa has been awarded "The Best Destination of the Year" by the Pacific Area Travel Writers Association at the ITB Berlin Convention.

-> The ITB Berlin Convention took place between March 5 and 7 at the Berlin Exhibition Grounds with the motto "Pioneer the Transition in Travel and Tourism Together".



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2024, March 10-11

Sela Tunnel:

-> Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Sela Tunnel in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh. The PM had laid the foundation of the Sela tunnel in 2019.

-> It is the world's longest bi-lane tunnel at 13,000 feet and consists of 2 tunnels and a link road. It is aimed at providing all weather connectivity to the Tawang region.



‘Mahtari Vandan Yojana’:

-> Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches ‘Mahtari Vandan Yojana’ in Chattisgarh.

-> The scheme has been launched to provide financial assistance of Rs 1000 per month to eligible married women of the state who are above 21 years of age as of January 1, 2024. Widows, divorced and deserted women also be eligible for this scheme.

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World's second-largest producer:

-> India now stands as the world's second-largest producer of mobile phones at the end of the decade 2014-2024.

-> The sector has transitioned from being 78% import-dependent in 2014 to 97% self sufficiency. Only 3% of the total mobile phones sold in India are now imported.



Arun Goel:

-> Election Commissioner Arun Goel resigned before 2024 elections. President Murmu officially accepted Mr Goel's resignation.

-> The Election Commission of India, consisting 3 members, already had a vacant position and now, only Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar remains on the poll panel.

-> Under article 324(2) of the constitution of India, the President of India is empowered to appoint the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioners.

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UNNATI:

-> The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) for Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme 2024 (UNNATI 2024).

-> The scheme is for a period of 10 years from the date of its notification along with 8 years for committed liabilities with a financial outlay of ₹10,037 crore. The scheme is proposed to be divided into two parts.

-> Part A caters to the incentives to the eligible units (₹9,737 crore), and Part B is for implementation and institutional arrangements for the scheme (₹300 crore).



CABINET DECISION

International Day of Women Judges:

-> The International Day of Women Judges is celebrated every year on 10 March. This year, it falls on Sunday. The day is dedicated to recognizing the contributions of women judges worldwide and promoting women's participation in decision-making for achieving equality and democracy.

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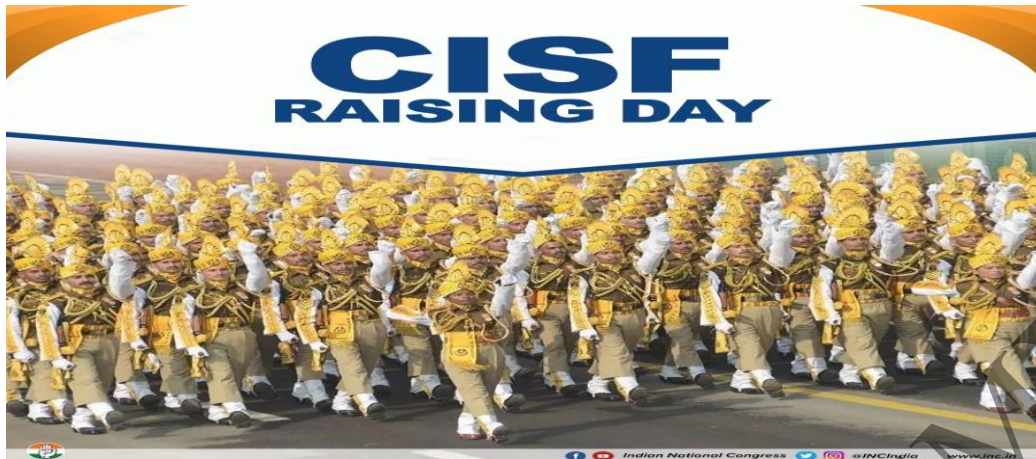
-> Women's representation in the judiciary is crucial for ensuring that courts reflect the citizens they serve. Women judges enhance the legitimacy of courts, sending a message of accessibility and openness to those seeking justice. This day empowers girls and young women to aspire to become judges and community leaders.



CISF Raising Day:

-> CISF Raising Day is celebrated every year on March 10. This day marks the establishment of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in 1969. CISF is an important armed police force in India that provides security to many important places and projects across the country.

-> CISF is under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It protects places like airports, seaports, power plants, and other infrastructure projects. CISF has special skills and training to handle difficult situations like terrorist attacks, hijackings, bomb threats, and hostage situations.



“Operation Kamdhenu”:

-> In Jammu and Kashmir, the police have initiated “Operation Kamdhenu” to curb the rampant issue of cattle smuggling in the Jammu, Samba, and Kathua (JSK) police ranges.

-> This crackdown aims to tackle not only the immediate smuggling activities but also to target the masterminds behind these illicit operations.



Majuli:

-> Majuli, the largest river island in the world, has received two prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tags from the Indian government for its traditional crafts – Majuli mask making and Majuli manuscript painting.

-> Majuli masks and manuscript painting have received GI tags. A GI tag identifies products with unique qualities from a specific geographical region.

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State of Maharashtra:

-> The state of Maharashtra has announced its fourth women's policy, which aims to promote the holistic development of women.

-> Aditi Tatkare, the Women and Child Development Minister, unveiled this policy on the eve of Women's Day during the golden jubilee year of the Women's Economic Development Corporation.



EFTA:

-> India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) comprising Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, and Liechtenstein have signed a Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).

-> This modern and ambitious agreement marks India's first Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with four developed nations in Europe, offering significant economic opportunities and promoting free trade and economic integration.

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First Sikh minister:

-> Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora, a three-time member of the Provincial Assembly (MPA) in Pakistan, has become the first Sikh minister in the Punjab province.

-> He took oath as a minister on Wednesday, representing the minority community in the provincial assembly. The cabinet in Punjab was formed by the newly elected Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) government led by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

-> The inclusion of Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora reflects the government's commitment to representing all communities.



Devendra Jhajharia:

-> Devendra Jhajharia, a two-time Paralympic gold medalist, has been elected as the new President of the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI).

-> He succeeds another renowned para-athlete, Deepa Malik. Devendra Jhajharia, a javelin thrower, won gold medals in the 2004 Athens and 2016 Rio Paralympics in the F46 disability category.

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Oscars 2024:

The Oscars 2024 ceremony took place at the Dolby Theater in Los Angeles, with Jimmy Kimmel hosting for the fourth time.

Winners list:

Category	Winner
Best Supporting Actress	Da'Vine Joy Randolph, "The Holdovers"
Best Animated Short	"War Is Over!"
Best Animated Feature	"The Boy and the Heron"
Best Original Screenplay	"Anatomy of a Fall"
Best Adapted Screenplay	"American Fiction"
Best Makeup and Hairstyling	"Poor Things"
Best Production Design	"Poor Things"
Best Costume Design	"Poor Things"
Best International Feature	"The Zone of Interest"
Best Supporting Actor	Robert Downey Jr., "Oppenheimer"
Best Visual Effects	"Godzilla Minus One"
Best Film Editing	"Oppenheimer"
Best Documentary (Short Subject)	"The Last Repair Shop"
Best Documentary Feature	"20 Days in Mariupol"
Best Cinematography	"Oppenheimer"
Best Short Film (Live Action)	"The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar"
Best Sound	"The Zone of Interest"
Best Score	"Oppenheimer"
Best Song	"What Was I Made For?" from "Barbie"
Best Actor	Cillian Murphy, "Oppenheimer"
Best Director	Christopher Nolan, "Oppenheimer"
Best Actress	Emma Stone, "Poor Things"
Best Picture	"Oppenheimer"

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2024, March 12

AS Rajeev:

-> AS Rajeev was appointed as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission by the Honourable President of India on 9th February 2024.

-> He took the oath as Vigilance Commissioner on 11th March 2024 before the Central Vigilance Commissioner, who was authorized by the President of India under the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003.



Kishor Makwana:

-> Kishor Makwana has assumed the charge of Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) in New Delhi.

-> Shri Luv Kush Kumar has also taken charge as a Member of the NCSC. After assuming his new role, Shri Kishor Makwana addressed the media, expressing his commitment to working tirelessly to safeguard the interests and rights of the Scheduled Castes community.

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DRDO:

-> Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the locally developed Agni-5 missile with multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicle (MIRV) technology.

-> This new capability allows the weapon system to deliver multiple nuclear warheads against different targets spread across hundreds of kilometers, further enhancing India's strategic deterrence capability.



'Neengal Nalama':

-> The Tamil Nadu government has launched the 'Neengal Nalama' (Are you fine?) scheme, a beneficiary outreach program aimed at reviewing the implementation of flagship schemes and addressing the grievances of the public.

->The initiative was kickstarted by Minister of Rural Development I. Periyasamy, with Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, other ministers, senior officials, and district collectors reaching out to beneficiaries across the state.

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Nayab Singh Saini:

-> Nayab Singh Saini, an influential leader from the Other Backward Classes (OBC) community, has been appointed as the new Chief Minister of Haryana.

-> The decision was announced by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday afternoon, shortly after Manohar Lal Khattar, the outgoing Chief Minister and his entire cabinet stepped down.



CAA:

-> Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, announced that the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), whose rules were notified by the Union Home Ministry on March 11, will not be implemented in the state.

-> The decision comes amid growing concerns that the CAA goes against minorities and Sri Lankan Tamils living in camps in Tamil Nadu.

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Justice Satyendra Kumar Singh:

-> Justice Satyendra Kumar Singh was appointed as the new Lokayukta (anti-corruption ombudsman) of Madhya Pradesh. He took the oath of office on Sunday night, with the ceremony being administered by Governor Mangubhai Patel at Raj Bhavan.

-> The Lokayukta is an anti-corruption authority constituted at the state level to probe allegations of corruption against government servants. It plays a crucial role in ensuring transparency and accountability in public administration.



Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela:

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-> For the first time, the district of Simdega in Jharkhand is hosting the Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela, a national-level agricultural science fair.

-> The event, organized by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa (New Delhi), is being held at the Albert Ekka Stadium from March 10th to 12th, marking a significant stride towards realizing the vision of a prosperous farmer community.



Delhi Airport:

-> Delhi Airport has once again asserted its dominance in the aviation sector by securing the prestigious title of 'Best Airport' in the Asia-Pacific region for the sixth consecutive year.

-> This accolade, bestowed by the Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards, reaffirms Delhi Airport's commitment to excellence and leadership in providing top-notch services to passengers.



IP/MPLS (Multiprotocol Label Switching):

-> Union Minister for Communications, Electronics, and Information Technology and Railways, Ashwini Vaishnaw, unveiled India's fastest and indigenously developed IP/MPLS (Multiprotocol Label Switching) router in Bengaluru.

-> The router, boasting a capacity of 2.4 tbps, marks a significant milestone in India's technological advancement. Ashwini Vaishnaw stressed that the router's creation is a significant step in achieving the Prime Minister's Digital India vision.

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World Plumbing Day:

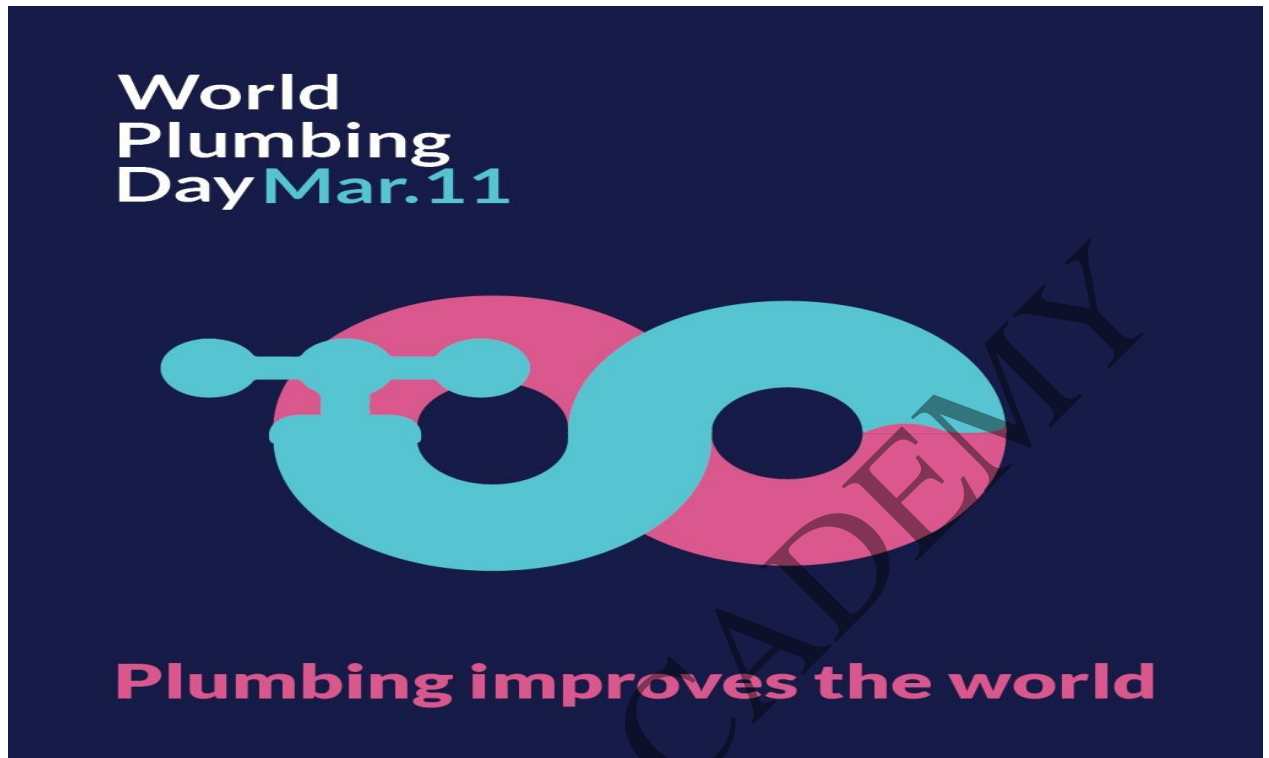
-> World Plumbing Day, held annually on 11 March, is an international event initiated by the World Plumbing Council to recognize the crucial role plumbing plays in societal health and amenity.

-> The WPC works year-round, in partnership with organizations like the World Health Organization, to promote the benefits of safe plumbing. World Plumbing Day recognizes the critical link between health and plumbing facilities.

-> The bathroom plays a significant role in maintaining our health worldwide, as sanitized plumbing solutions cut the spread of harmful bacteria like bacillus, gram-negative rods, cocci, and gram-positive rods, which can cause skin infections, pneumonia, and antibiotic resistance.

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Government Homeopathic College:

-> Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh, announced the establishment of North India's first Government Homeopathic College in the Jasrota area of Kathua district, Jammu and Kashmir.

-> The project, funded centrally at Rs 80 crore, reflects a significant stride in healthcare and education infrastructure development in the region.



Mauritius Day:

-> Mauritius Day is celebrated every year on 12 March. This national holiday is a time to commemorate the country's independence from Britain in 1968 and its transition to a republic in 1992.

-> The history of Mauritius Day dates back to 1959, when British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan gave his famous "Winds of Change" speech, outlining the British government's intention to grant independence to many of its overseas colonies, including Mauritius.

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National Para Badminton Championship:

-> The 6th National Para Badminton Championship 2023-2024 will be held from March 19-23, 2024 at Mohan Ahuja Stadium, Jamshedpur.

-> Over 300 para athletes from across India will compete in the four day National Para Badminton Championship, commencing here on March 19.



SIPRI:

-> India remains the world's top arms importer and its imports increased by 4.7 percent between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 according to the Swedish think tank SIPRI.

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-> Russia continued as India's main arms supplier adding around 55 percent of arms imports by European states in 2019-23 were supplied by the US, up fro 35 percent in 2014-2018.



Samudrayaan:

-> India's Samudrayaan set to explore ocean bed by 2025 end. Samudrayaan, or the deep ocean mission, was initiated in 2021.

-> The mission entails undertaking a crewed expedition to reach a depth of 6,000 metres to the ocean bed in the central Indian Ocean using Matsya6000, designed to accommodate a crew of three members.

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'One Station One Product':

-> Mr. Modi inaugurated 'One Station One Product' stalls in 205 railway stations and a rail coach restaurant at the Central station.

-> The "One Station One Product" initiative by the Indian Railways, which provides uniquely designed sale outlets for locals to sell indigenous products, is now operational at 1,037 stations nationwide.



Home minister Amit Shah:

-> Home minister Amit Shah announced the implementation of Citizenship Amendment Act, allowing non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan to acquire Indian citizenship.

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-> The CAA was passed in December 2019 and subsequently got the president's assent but there were protests in several parts of the country against it. The law could not come into effect as rules had not been notified till now.



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2024, March 13-14

Mr. Deepak Ballani:

- The Indian Sugar & Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) has appointed Mr. Deepak Ballani as its new Director General.
- With over 25 years of extensive experience in public policy, government affairs, and organizational management, Mr. Ballani brings a wealth of expertise to this pivotal role.



ECI & Google:

- Google has partnered with the Election Commission of India (ECI) to provide authoritative information on voting processes for the upcoming general elections.
- Through Google Search and YouTube videos, voters will be able to access critical details on how to register and vote, as well as information about candidates.

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Sanjay Kumar Singh:

- ➔ Sanjay Kumar Singh is poised to step into the role of Director (Projects) at NHPC Limited, following a commendation by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) panel on March 12.
- ➔ Currently serving as Chief General Manager at SJVN Limited, Singh emerges as the recommended candidate from a pool of twelve contenders. Among these, eight hail from NHPC, two from SJVN, and one each from HPSEBL and Patel Engineering Ltd.



Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu:

- ➔ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led three-member committee has appointed Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu as new Election Commissioners.
- ➔ This decision was conveyed to the media by Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury after the committee's meeting on March 14, 2024.

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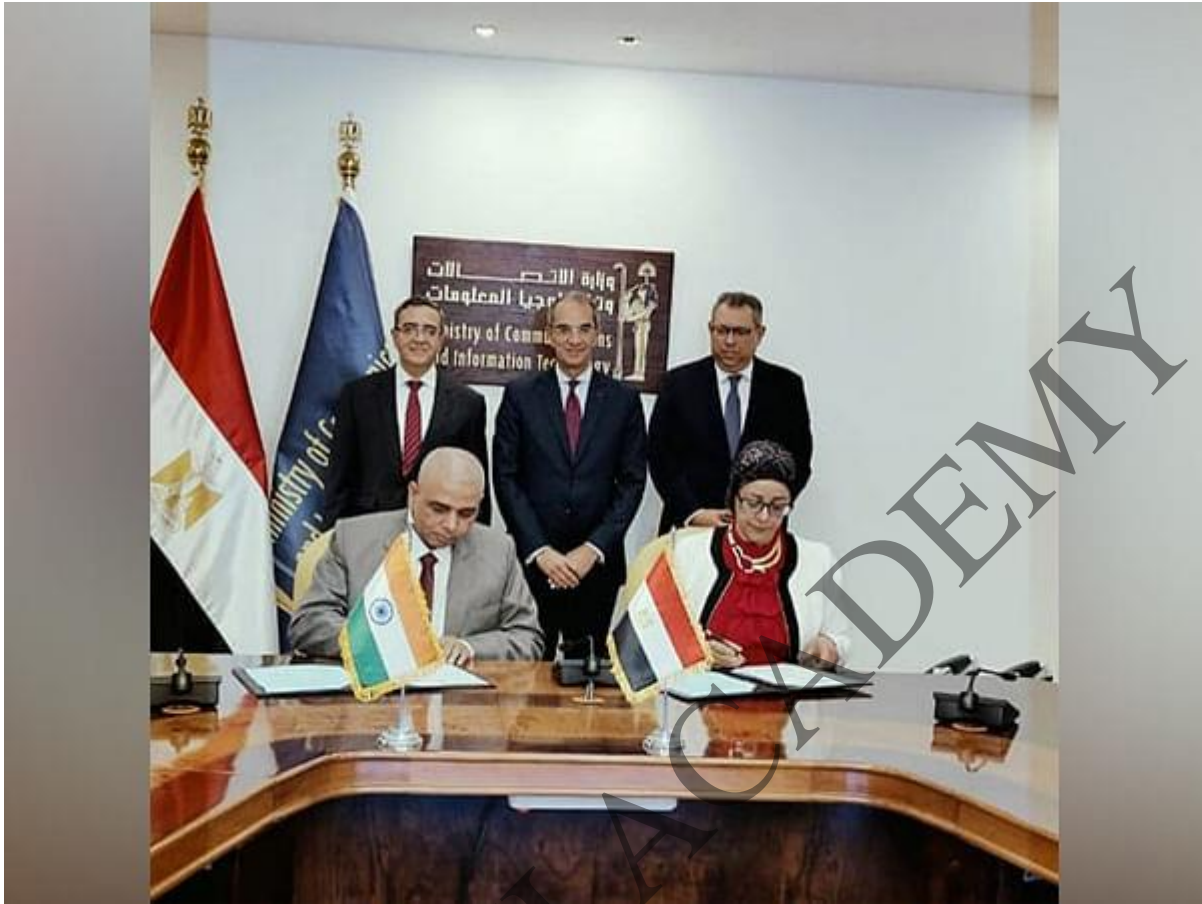
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- ➔ These appointments are the first to be made by the reconstituted selection panel, which now includes the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, and a designated Union Cabinet minister.
- ➔ The Chief Justice of India is no longer part of the panel, following the enactment of the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023.



NIELIT & ITI:

- ➔ On the 12th of March, 2024, an MoU was signed between the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) of India and the Information Technology Institute (ITI) of Egypt. This significant event took place in Cairo, Egypt.
- ➔ This collaboration seeks to bridge the gap in ICT skills, enhancing industry engagement and fostering meaningful international cooperation between India and Egypt.



MoRD (Ministry of Rural Development) and IIT Delhi:

- ➔ MoRD (Ministry of Rural Development) and IIT Delhi have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on geospatial technology and artificial intelligence (AI) for rural development.
- ➔ The partnership aims to leverage technology to enhance the effectiveness and transparency of rural development initiatives. The MoU signifies a collaborative effort to address rural challenges through technological solutions, setting a precedent for effective collaboration between academia and government.



India and the Asian Development Bank:

- ➔ India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have collaboratively signed a \$181 million loan agreement targeting the improvement of infrastructure and services in the peri-urban areas surrounding Ahmedabad city in Gujarat.

Objectives:

- ➔ Improving physical and social infrastructure in peri-urban areas.
- ➔ Fostering economic vibrancy and establishing them as attractive investment destinations.



Exercise Cutlass Express – 24:

- ➔ The Indian Navy recently took part in a major maritime exercise called Exercise Cutlass Express – 24 (CE-24). This exercise was held in Port Victoria, Seychelles from 26 February to 08 March 2024.
- ➔ Exercise Cutlass Express is a multinational maritime exercise sponsored by the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) and led by U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. Sixth Fleet.
- ➔ The main goal of this exercise is to promote maritime security and cooperation in the strategic waters of the East African coast and the Western Indian Ocean.

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‘Agray’ and ‘Akshay’:

- ➔ On 13th March 2024, a significant milestone was achieved in the Indian Navy’s shipbuilding program with the launch of ‘Agray’ and ‘Akshay’, the 5th and 6th ships of the 08 x ASW (Anti-Submarine Warfare) Shallow Water Craft (SWC) Project.
- ➔ These ships are being built by M/S Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata for the Indian Navy.

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RPF:

- ➔ In a significant stride towards gender equality and inclusivity, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) has emerged as a frontrunner among central paramilitary forces in terms of female representation.
- ➔ This achievement marks a notable departure from the traditional male-dominated landscape within such organizations.
- ➔ With women now constituting a remarkable 10 percent of its personnel, the RPF has set a new benchmark in gender diversity within central paramilitary forces.
- ➔ According to RPF Director General Arun Kumar, this milestone reflects the result of strategic recruitment drives and a concerted effort towards fostering inclusivity within the force.



Security Belt-2024:

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- ➔ The naval forces of China, Iran, and Russia launched a joint exercise near the Gulf of Oman, aimed at safeguarding regional maritime security.
- ➔ The “Security Belt-2024” exercise marks the fourth time these countries have conducted such a drill since 2019. Theme: “Jointly Building Peace and Security”.



Odisha government:

- ➔ In a significant move to empower and support women employees in the state, the Odisha government led by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has announced an additional 10 days of casual leave for women working in various government departments.
- ➔ This decision aims to recognize the multitude of responsibilities women shoulder and provide them with greater flexibility to strike a better work-life balance.



India's first FutureLABS center:

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- ➔ Union Minister Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, responsible for Electronics and IT, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship, and Jal Shakti, inaugurated India's first FutureLABS center at C-DAC Thiruvananthapuram.
- ➔ Named the "Centre for Semiconductor Chips & Systems for Strategic Electronics," this pioneering initiative aims to catalyze an ecosystem for next-generation chip design, manufacturing, and research.

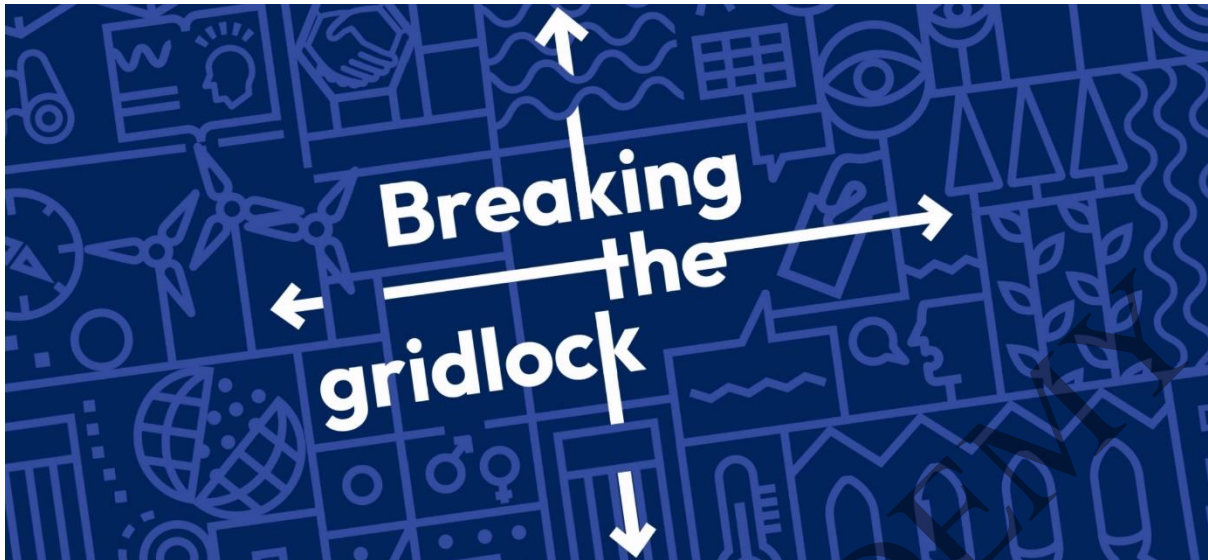


Human Development Report 2023-2024:

- ➔ According to the Human Development Report 2023-2024 released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), India has made significant progress in bridging the gender divide.
- ➔ The country has improved its ranking by 14 positions on the Gender Inequality Index (GII) 2022 compared to the previous year. In the GII 2022, India ranked 108 out of 193 countries, with a score of 0.437.
- ➔ This marks a significant improvement from the 2021 ranking of 122 out of 191 countries, with a score of 0.490. Over the past decade, India's rank in the GII has consistently improved, indicating steady progress towards achieving gender equality.

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NABI (National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute):

- ➔ Dr. Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of Science & Technology, inaugurated the “National Speed Breeding Crop Facility” at NABI (National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute), Mohali.
- ➔ This initiative aligns with PM Modi’s vision of increasing farmers’ income and promoting Agri StartUps.
- ➔ The facility serves all Indian states, with a focus on North Indian states like Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, and Jammu & Kashmir. It speeds up crop improvement programs by developing advanced varieties resilient to climate change.



Unknown scorpion species with 8 eyes and 8 legs:

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- ➔ Researchers have made an exciting discovery – a previously unknown scorpion species with 8 eyes and 8 legs in Thailand’s Kaeng Krachan National Park.
- ➔ During a wildlife expedition in the park, located near the Tenasserim Mountain Range, a team of researchers stumbled upon this new scorpion species hidden under a rock while camping. They studied three adult males and one adult female of this species and published their findings in the journal ZooKeys.



IREDA:

- ➔ On March 11, 2024, the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) celebrated its 38th Foundation Day, marking a significant achievement in its journey towards promoting renewable energy development in India.
- ➔ This special occasion provided an opportunity to reflect on IREDA’s remarkable 37-year journey and its accomplishments in the field of green finance.

ENERGY FOR EVER



**इरेडा
IREDA**

ONCE IREDA ALWAYS IREDA

No Smoking Day:

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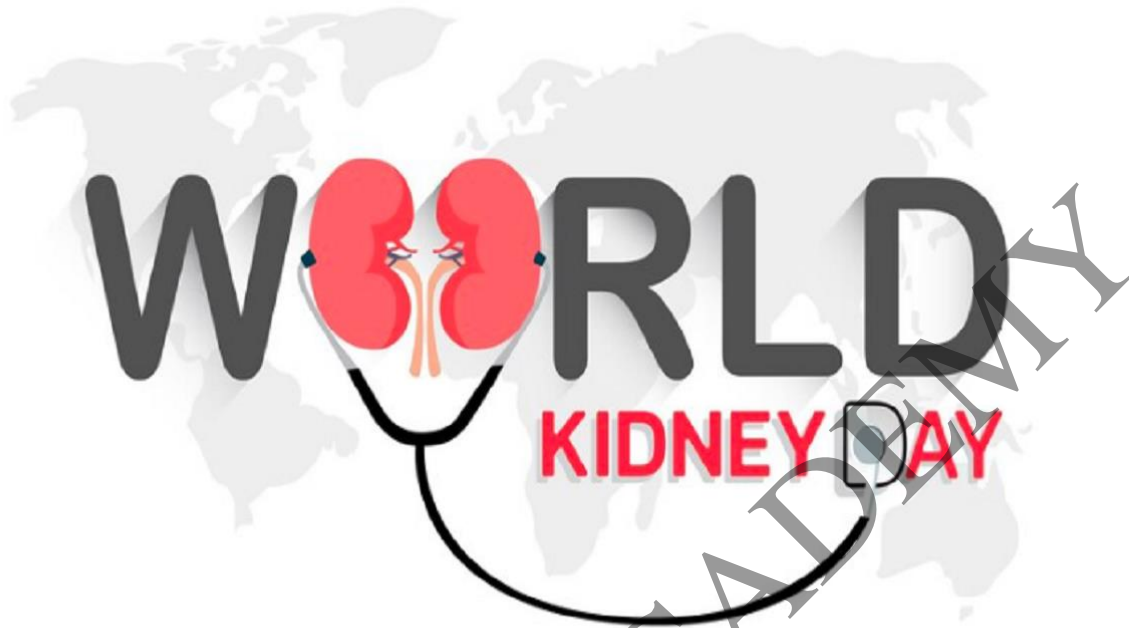
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- Every year, No Smoking Day is celebrated across the world to spread awareness about the harmful effects of smoking. It encourages people to quit smoking and promotes the importance of a smoke-free environment.
- No Smoking Day is observed annually on March 13. The first No Smoking Day was celebrated on Ash Wednesday in 1984 in the United Kingdom.
- It is now observed on the second Wednesday of March every year. This health awareness event was started to help smokers who want to quit smoking but are unable to do so. Since 1984, it has gained importance and is observed yearly in the UK.



World Kidney Day:

- World Kidney Day is an annual global health awareness campaign that aims to raise awareness about the importance of kidney health and the increasing burden of kidney diseases worldwide.
- It is observed on the second Thursday of March every year. This year World Kidney Day is observed on 14th March.
- The 2024 World Kidney Day campaign theme is Kidney Health for All – Advancing Equitable Access to Care and Optimal Medication Practice. The campaign aims to improve access to kidney treatment around the world.



International Day of Action for Rivers:

- ➔ The International Day of Action for Rivers is observed annually on March 14th. This year, on Thursday, March 14, 2024, the theme is “Water for All,” emphasizing the fundamental right of every individual to access clean water.
- ➔ The International Day of Action for Rivers has its roots in the First International Meeting of People Impacted by Dams, held in Curitiba, Brazil, in March 1997.
- ➔ River experts from 20 nations declared March 14th as the “Day of Action for Rivers,” with the aim of forming a coalition against the degradation of ecologically sensitive water bodies, rivers, and watersheds.



Tata Power Solar Systems Limited:

- ➔ Tata Power Solar Systems Limited (TPSSL), a subsidiary of Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL), has completed India’s largest Solar and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) project at Rajnandgaon in Chhattisgarh.

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- ➔ It comprises a 100 MW Solar PV Project and a 120 MWh Utility Scale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).



India and Bhutan:

- ➔ The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the signing of MoU between India and Bhutan on extending co-operation in the field of Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation Measures.
- ➔ The MoU was signed between Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Power, Government of India and Department of Energy, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Royal Government of Bhutan.
- ➔ As part of this MoU, India aims to assist Bhutan to enhance energy efficiency in the household sector by promoting star labeling programme developed by Bureau of Energy Efficiency.

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PM-SURAJ:

- ➔ PM Modi launched Pradhan Mantri Samajik Uththan and Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan (PM-SURAJ) national portal, focusing on credit support for disadvantaged entrepreneurs.
- ➔ The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the pioneer of this portal.



Tata Motors:

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- ➔ Tata Motors will invest Rs.9000 crore in Tamil Nadu for new vehicle manufacturing facility, creating 5000 jobs.
- ➔ Teams from "Guidance", Tamil Nadu's nodal agency for investment promotion and facilitation and Tata Motors Group will work together to make the project successful.



Pi Day:

- ➔ Math lovers celebrate Pi Day on March 14, or 3/14. Around the world, many people even mark the day by eating a tasty piece of pie. For those who do not know, pi is a mathematical constant, a value that never changes.
- ➔ It expresses the ratio of a circle's circumference (the distance around the circle) to its diameter (the distance across the circle, passing through its center.)



Assam government:

- ➔ Assam government to de-notify Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary. It is a prime habitat for one-horned rhinos.
- ➔ Often dubbed as 'Mini Kaziranga', Pobitora reports the highest concentration of one-horned rhinos on earth with a population of 107 recorded in the last census conducted in 2022.



UCC:

- ➔ On 13 March 2024, President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent to the Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code (UCC) bill under Article 201 of the Indian constitution. The Uttarakhand legislative assembly passed the bill on 07 February 2024.
- ➔ With the bill becoming law, Uttarakhand became the first state in India after independence to implement the UCC.
- ➔ The Uttarakhand Governor Lieutenant General (Retd.) Gurmit Singh had referred the bill to the President for consideration under Article 200 of the Indian constitution. The President assented to the bill, exercising her power under Article 201 of the constitution.

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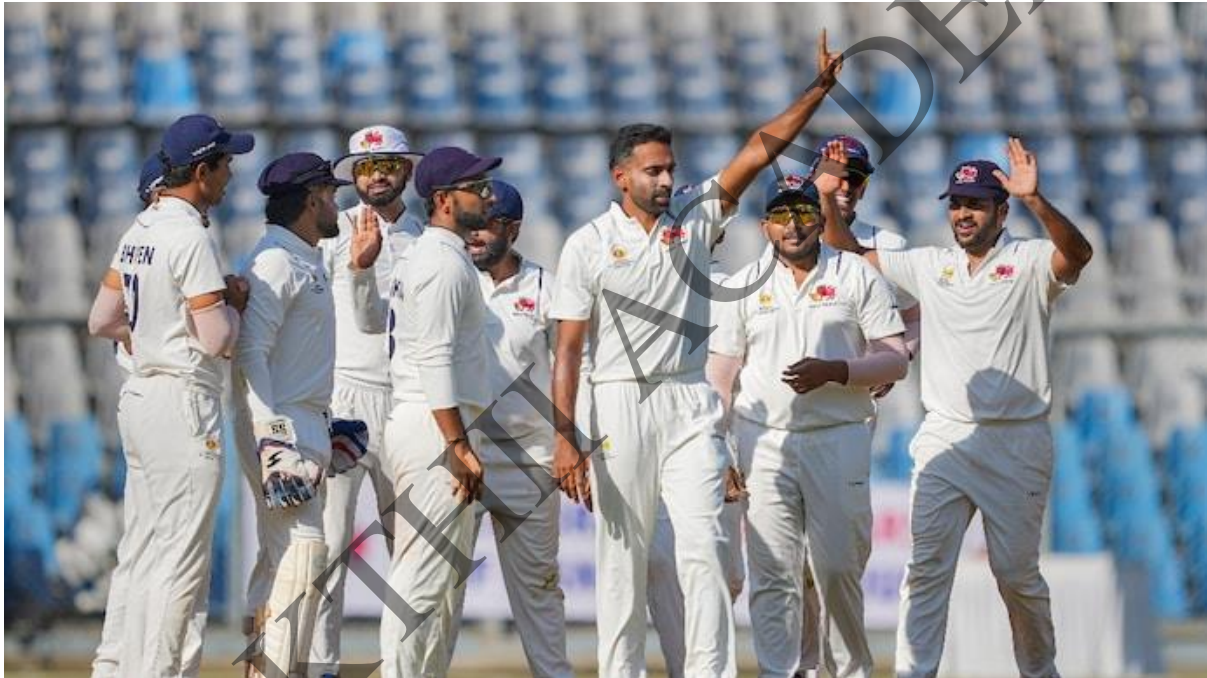
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2024, March 15

Mumbai:

- ➔ Mumbai won the Ranji Trophy 2024 after beating Vidarbha by 169 runs at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.
- ➔ This was their 42nd Ranji Trophy title, showcasing their dominance in Indian domestic cricket. Mumbai ended their 8-year drought by winning the championship after last lifting the title in the 2015-16 season.



MoU:

- ➔ India and Singapore have solidified their cooperation in the realm of law and dispute resolution through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by Singapore's Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, and Second Minister for Law Mr. Edwin Tong SC and India's Minister for Law and Justice Mr. Arjun Ram Meghwal.
- ➔ This agreement aims to bolster collaboration in areas such as international commercial dispute resolution.

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IIT Delhi:

- ➔ IIT Delhi recently announced a collaboration with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), a significant step in applied research.
- ➔ This partnership, emphasized in an official statement from IIT Delhi, reflects IAI's commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR) in India, aiming to promote innovation and technological advancement through joint projects, training initiatives, and research consultancy.

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Ministry of Heavy Industries:

- ➔ In a significant step towards promoting innovation and advancing the automotive and electric vehicle (EV) sector, the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) and the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (IIT Roorkee) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- ➔ The signing ceremony, graced by Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Minister of Heavy Industries, and Shri Pushkar Singh Dhama, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, marks a crucial moment in leveraging academic expertise and industrial experience to shape the future of transportation.

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Maharashtra Bhawan:

- ➔ The Maharashtra government has taken a historic step by securing approval from the Jammu and Kashmir administration to acquire 2.5 acres of land in Ichgam, near Srinagar airport, for the construction of Maharashtra Bhawan.
- ➔ This initiative symbolizes a proactive approach towards fostering cultural and touristic ties between the two regions. The initiative assumes particular significance in the context of the abrogation of Article 370, which previously restricted land ownership in Jammu and Kashmir to its permanent residents.
- ➔ With the altered legal landscape, Maharashtra's investment in the region signals a new era of economic and cultural exchange, transcending previous boundaries.

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Sangeet Natak Akademi:

- ➔ Recently, the President of India conferred the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for the years 2022 and 2023 to 94 eminent artists (including two joint awards) in the field of performing arts.
- ➔ These awards recognize and celebrate the exceptional contributions of these artists in enriching India's cultural heritage through their mastery in various art forms.
- ➔ The Sangeet Natak Akademi is the apex body in the field of performing arts in India. Established in 1953, it plays a crucial role in the preservation and promotion of the country's vast intangible cultural heritage expressed through music, dance, and drama.

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World Consumer Rights Day:

- ➔ World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated annually on March 15 across the globe. This day aims to raise awareness about the rights and responsibilities of consumers in the marketplace.
- ➔ It emphasizes the importance of protecting consumer rights, ensuring fair and ethical business practices, and holding companies accountable.
- ➔ This year, the theme chosen by Consumers International for World Consumer Rights Day 2024 is 'Fair and responsible AI for consumers.' This theme highlights the rapid growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the need to ensure a future where AI respects and upholds consumer rights.



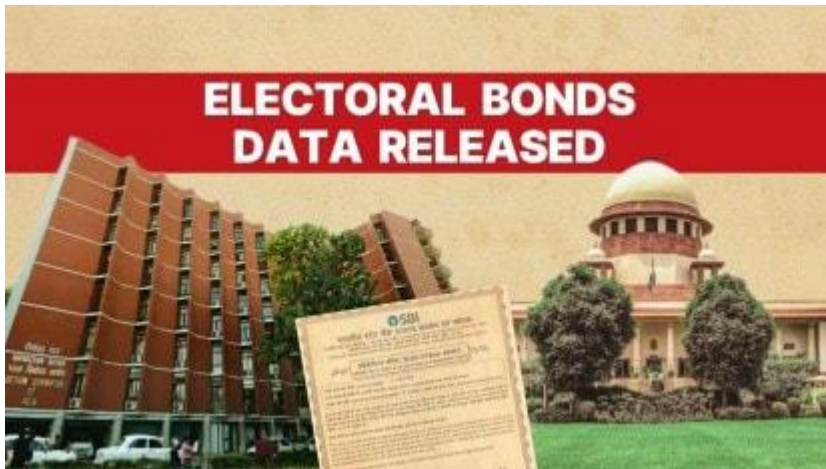
Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024:

- ➔ The Heavy Industries Ministry has announced the Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024 to accelerate the adoption of Electric Vehicles (EVs) in India. A total outlay of 500 crore rupees will be implemented for four months under the scheme.
- ➔ It will run from 1st of the next month until July. Under the scheme, electric 2-wheelers will be provided a financial support measure of ₹10,000 per vehicle to support around 3.3 lakh 2-wheelers.



Election Commission of India:

- ➔ The Election Commission of India on its official website on March 14 published the electoral bonds data as ordered by the Supreme Court of India (SC).
- ➔ The publication of the electoral bond data came almost a month after the Supreme Court struck down the 2018 scheme calling it “unconstitutional.”
- ➔ In the data on electoral bonds, the only information available about donors is the name of their company or individual. The SBI confirmed in an affidavit that 22,217 electoral bonds were purchased and 22,030 redeemed by political parties between April 1, 2019, and February 15, 2024.



UK's Ministry of Defence:

- ➔ The UK's Ministry of Defence (MoD) has conducted successful tests of its first-ever laser weapon, named "DragonFire". The high-powered laser is designed to target and neutralize drones, offering a potentially low-cost alternative to traditional missiles.
- ➔ The DragonFire laser weapon is expected to significantly reduce the reliance on expensive ammunition, offering a cost-effective solution for air defense.



EAEU:

- ➔ India is "seriously considering" starting talks for a free trade agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union. EAEU (Eurasian Economic Union) is an economic union comprising five post-Sovian States located in Eurasia.
- ➔ It was established to promote economic integration. Member states: The EAEU consists of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia.



TRAFFIC and WWF-India:

- ➔ Tamil Nadu has led in the illegal trade of shark body parts, accounting for nearly 65% of seizures between 2010 and 2022, according to TRAFFIC and WWF-India.
- ➔ Approximately 16,000 kg of shark fins, constituting about 80% of the shark derived products seized, have been documented in the analysis.



BJP:

- ➔ The Election Commission has uploaded electoral bond data from SBI, detailing buyers and transactions with Political Parties. Top 5 buyers, from sectors like lottery and construction, have spent over Rs.3,445 crore(April 2019-February 2024).

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- The data has not specified which entity has donated to which political party. The top receiver of the bonds was BJP, followed by Trinamool Congress Party.



Human Development Index:

- India ranks 134 out of 193 countries on the global Human Development Index, according to the United Nations Development Programme's latest report.
- China and Sri Lanka ranked at 75 and 78. India also ranks below Bhutan(125) and Bangladesh(129).

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FSSAI:

- ➔ 100 jails certified as Eat Right Campus by FSSAI across India. According to the Ministry of Health and Family welfare, the highest number of jails certified were from Uttar Pradesh followed by Punjab, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.
- ➔ By extending the Eat Right Campus Certification to prisons and correctional facilities, FSSAI focuses on ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all, including inmates and prison staff.

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2024, March 16-17

Antara Assisted Care Services Limited & IIT Delhi:

- ➔ Max India Ltd announced a strategic partnership between its subsidiary, Antara Assisted Care Services Limited, and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi).
- ➔ This collaboration aims to address the challenges faced by India's aging population by developing tailored solutions to improve their quality of life.



Headquarters:

- ➔ The Indian Navy has finally got its own dedicated headquarters building. The newly constructed Nausena Bhawan located at Delhi Cantonment was formally inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on March 15th, 2024.
- ➔ Previously, the Navy operated from 13 different locations, making it difficult to coordinate.

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Rajasthan:

- ➔ The Rajasthan government has decided to distribute free seeds of millets and coarse grains to the state's farmers. This move aims to boost millet production in the state. Rajasthan has a 26% share in the total millet production of the country.
- ➔ The main millet crops produced in the state are pearl millet and sorghum. Rajasthan accounts for 41% of the country's pearl millet (bajra) production.



V-Dem:

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- ➔ The V-Dem Institute's Democracy Report 2024 highlights India's continued descent into electoral autocracy since its downgrade in 2018.
- ➔ The report underscores the deterioration of democratic principles, particularly in the areas of freedom of expression, media independence, and civil liberties.
- ➔ India's status as one of the top standalone autocracies further accentuates the gravity of its democratic decline.
- ➔ With its substantial population and democratic history, India's descent into electoral autocracy signifies a significant challenge to democratic norms and institutions.
- ➔ The V-Dem Institute focuses on studying the qualities of government, offering high-profile datasets publicly available for free. V-Dem report has ranked India 104th among 179 countries.



Ratan Tata:

- ➔ Ratan Tata, former chairman of Tata Sons, has been bestowed with the prestigious PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award. He received the award for his outstanding philanthropic contributions.
- ➔ The award ceremony took place in Mumbai on March 15, 2024. Ratan Tata has been recognized for his remarkable and relentless efforts in the field of philanthropy.
- ➔ His contributions have positively impacted numerous communities across the country. The PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award is named after the former Prime Minister of India.
- ➔ It is an award of recognition for individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to social welfare and humanitarian causes.



National Vaccination Day:

- ➔ National Vaccination Day is a special day to create awareness about the importance of vaccines. Vaccines help protect us from deadly diseases like polio and smallpox. On this day, people are encouraged to get vaccinated to stay safe and healthy.
- ➔ National Vaccination Day is celebrated every year on March 16th. This year, it falls on a Saturday.
- ➔ In 1995, the government of India began the Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme to eliminate polio from the country. Since then, March 16th has been celebrated as National Vaccination Day.

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Navneet Kumar Sehgal:

- ➔ Former IAS officer Navneet Kumar Sehgal took charge as new Prasar Bharati Chairman. Mr. Sehgal is a 1988 batch retired bureaucrat of UP Cadre.
- ➔ He is the successor of A Surya Prakash who completed his term as Chairman in 2020. President Droupadi Murmu appointed him after the selection committee for chairman of Prasar Bharati headed by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar recommended him.



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Grievance Redressal Assessment Index:

- The Home Ministry ranks in 10 top ministries in Grievance Redressal Assessment Index. The Home Ministry has committed to the prompt resolution of grievances via CPGRAMS, ranking in the top 2023-24 Grievance Redressal Index.
- The Union Ministry of Public Grievances and Pensions has launched the Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index. It is online platform available to citizens 24*7 to lodge their grievances with the public authorities on any subject related to service delivery.



Date of Lok Sabha elections:

- Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar announced the dates for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections today. The polls will be held in 7 phases, beginning from April 19 and ending on June 1. The results will be declared on June 4.
- No simultaneous polls will be held, he said. The assembly polls for Tamil Nadu will be on April 19, Andhra Pradesh May 13, Sikkim on April 19, Arunachal Pradesh on April 19, and Odisha will be held on May 13.



Panduvala Gutta:

- ➔ Panduvala Gutta is older than the Himalayan hills and is identified as the one and only Geo-heritage site at Pandavula Gutta in Telangana.
- ➔ The rock art paintings depict wildlife like Bison, Antelope, Tiger, Leopard etc.



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2024, March 18

Startup Mahakumbh 2024:

- ➔ Startup Mahakumbh 2024, a groundbreaking initiative led by industry giants such as ASSOCHAM, Nasscom, Bootstrap Incubation & Advisory Foundation, TiE, and Indian Venture and Alternate Capital Association, is set to unite over 1,000 startups, 50 unicorns, 500 incubators, and 5,000 delegates from 23 countries.
- ➔ This three-day event, supported by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), aims to foster innovation and collaboration across various sectors, featuring prominent figures like Amitabh Kant, Sivasubramanian Ramann, and Falguni Nayar.



ECI & BCCI:

- ➔ The Election Commission of India (ECI) and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) organized an exhibition cricket match to promote voter education and inclusivity.
- ➔ The match was played between the Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA) Team and the Delhi & District Cricket Association (DDCA) team on March 16, 2024, at Karnail Singh Stadium in New Delhi.
- ➔ During the event, Ms. Sheetal Devi, a renowned Para-archer and Arjuna Awardee, was announced as the National Icon in the PwD category.

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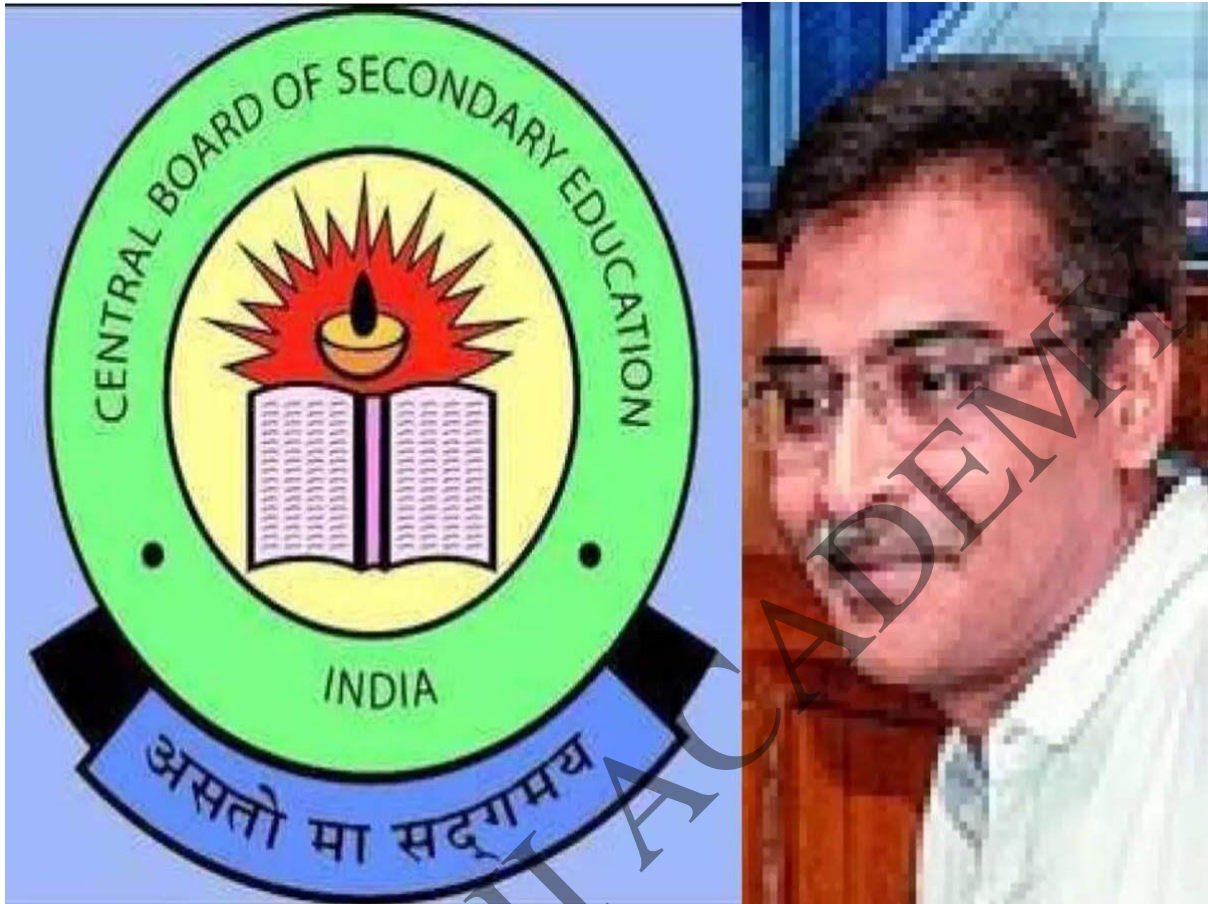


Rahul Singh:

- ➔ Senior bureaucrat Rahul Singh has been appointed as the chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), as part of a senior-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre.
- ➔ Rahul Singh will succeed Nidhi Chhibber, who has been named Advisor in the Niti Aayog. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Singh, a 1996-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Bihar cadre, as chairperson, CBSE.

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PM SHRI Schools:

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu government has agreed to implement the PM SHRI Schools (PM Schools for Rising India) scheme by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Education, Government of India.
- ➔ This initiative aims to enhance the quality of education in the state and align with the objectives of the National Education Policy 2020. Scheme Initiation: Launched by the Government of India after approval from the Union Cabinet on September 7, 2022.

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PM SHRI Schools

Centre Clears Rs. 27,360 Crore
For Over 14000 schools

LAMITIYE-2024:

- ➔ An Indian Army contingent has departed for Seychelles today to participate in the Tenth edition of the Joint Military Exercise “LAMITIYE-2024” between the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF). The exercise will be conducted in Seychelles from 18-27 March 2024.
- ➔ ‘LAMITIYE’ means ‘Friendship’ in the Creole language. It is a biennial (happening every two years) training event between the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces. The exercise has been conducted in Seychelles since 2001.



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India's first indoor athletics stadium and indoor aquatic centre:

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated India's first indoor athletics stadium and indoor aquatic centre at the Kalinga stadium in Bhubaneswar.
- The Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for a new indoor diving centre in the stadium complex.
- According to Patnaik, the new indoor facilities will help athletes train throughout the year without fear of weather-related disturbances.



DHL Global Connectedness Index:

- India's position on the DHL Global Connectedness Index has seen a notable rise, reflecting its burgeoning role in the global economy.
- From ranking 67th in 2022, India has advanced to the 62nd position in 2023, underscoring its increasing significance in the realm of globalization.
- India climbed to 62nd place in the DHL Connectedness Index for 2023, a significant improvement from its 67th position in 2022. This upward trajectory underscores India's increasing integration into global trade, capital flows, information exchange, and movement of people.

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Kashmir:

- ➔ Kashmir Hosts First Formula-4 Car Racing Event Along Dal Lake. The beautiful Dal Lake in Kashmir witnessed an exciting event on March 18. Formula-4 car racing was held for the first time in the region.
- ➔ The sleek racing cars raced along the Boulevard road near the lake, creating a thrilling atmosphere. The Zabarwan Hills provided a stunning backdrop for the event.



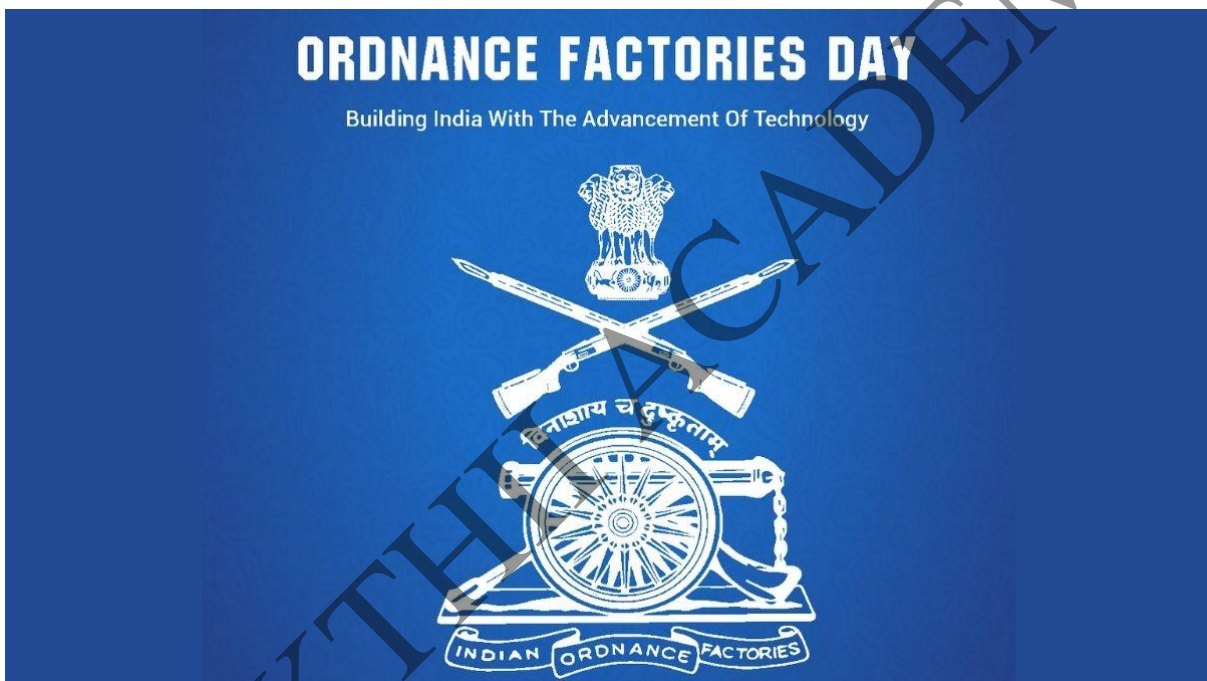
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Ordnance Factories Day:

- Ordnance Factories Day is observed every year on March 18th. This year, it falls on a Monday. Ordnance Factories Day is a special day celebrated in India to honour the Indian Ordnance Factories that provide arms and ammunition to the Indian Armed Forces.
- These factories play a vital role in keeping our country and its people safe. During the British rule in India, the British East India Company realized the growing need for arms and ammunition for the British army.
- In 1775, the Board of Ordnance was formed in Fort William, Kolkata. Later, in 1787, a gunpowder factory was established in Ishapore, and a gun carriage factory was set up in Cossipore, Kolkata (now known as the Gun and Shell Factory).



Ethanol100:

- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri has launched Ethanol100, an alternate auto fuel in New Delhi.
- Ethanol100, a cleaner and greener alternative to gasoline, is a blend of 92 to 94 percent ethanol, 4 to 5 percent motor spirit to provide colour to flame and 1.5 percent Co-solvent higher saturated alcohol.
- The fuel produces lower emissions of greenhouse gases, a reduction by around 63% on well to wheel basis.



India and Singapore:

- ➔ India and Singapore have signed a MoU on cooperation in the sphere of law and dispute resolution. This agreement will further enhance the cooperation between the two countries in areas of common interest such as international commercial dispute resolution.
- ➔ The agreement was signed in a virtual meeting of the Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal and Singapore Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Mr. Edwin Tong.

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Indian Army:

- ➔ The Indian Army has raised its first squadron of Apache attack helicopters in Rajasthan's Jodhpur with the aim of supporting ground operations near the Pakistan border. Developed by the US aviation giant Boeing, Apache choppers are known as the 'tanks in the air'.
- ➔ They are advanced multi-mission helicopters with the latest technology and have come to be known the best attack helicopters in the world.



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Trinetra app 2.0:

- ➔ The Uttar Pradesh Police has integrated Trinetra app 2.0, revolutionizing crime prevention. The advanced platform offers swift suspect identification, voice sample analysis for cybercrime cases and QR code generation for seized goods, enhancing operational efficiency.
- ➔ With over 9.32 lakh criminal records now digitized within Trinetra's database police can swiftly identify suspects during security checks.



"Mission 414":

- ➔ The Election Commission has initiated "Mission 414" in Himachal Pradesh, targeting a higher voter turnout at 414 polling stations that had registered under 60% turnout in the previous Lok Sabha elections.
- ➔ The Campaign efforts have been aimed at enhancing democracy, coinciding with by-polls for 6 assembly seats and 4 Lok sabha seats on June 1.



Vladimir Putin:

- Vladimir Putin claimed landslide victory in Russian Presidential polls. Putin has won Russia's presidential election with a record 87.8% of the vote, the highest in modern Russian history.
- His victory has set him on a path to surpass Stalin as Russia's longest serving leader in over 200 years. Putin is a former KGB lieutenant colonel who first rose to power in 1999.



Oil palm processing unit:

- ➔ India's first oil palm processing unit commenced in Arunachal Pradesh. It is aimed at boosting farmer income in the Northeast.
- ➔ It represents a significant step in achieving Atmanirbharta in edible oils.

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Election Commission:

- ➔ The Election Commission has ordered the removal of 6 Home Secretaries from Gujarat, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand ahead of Lok Sabha polls.
- ➔ The reshuffle is aimed at ensuring fair elections, highlighting EC's proactive measures.



10% reservation:

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- ➔ Jammu and Kashmir LG Manoj Sinha has given green light to amend the Jammu and Kashmir reservation rules, 2005.
- ➔ The amendment includes a provision for 10% reservation for newly included tribes such as Paharis in the Schedule Tribe Category.



Pokhara:

- ➔ Pokhara declared as Nepal's tourism capital. The formal declaration made during a special ceremony organized at the Barahi Ghat, located on the shores of picturesque Phewa Lake.
- ➔ Pokhara as the tourism capital will help establish it as a recognisable 'brand' on the international stage.



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2024, March 19-20

WTSA 2024:

- ➔ India is set to host the prestigious World Telecom Standardization Assembly (WTSA) 2024, organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), along with the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2024.
- ➔ These events aim to foster global collaboration, drive telecom reforms, and showcase India's technological prowess.



CP Radhakrishnan:

- ➔ Jharkhand Governor CP Radhakrishnan has been given the additional responsibility as the in-charge governor of Telangana. This comes after Tamilisai Soundararajan resigned from her constitutional post as the Telangana Governor.
- ➔ A communique from Rashtrapati Bhavan stated that Tamilisai's resignation was accepted with immediate effect, and Radhakrishnan was appointed to take additional charge of Telangana.
- ➔ Radhakrishnan is the third person from Tamil Nadu to occupy the post of governor in Telangana for a consecutive term. The first was ESL Narasimhan, followed by Tamilisai Sounderarajan.

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Reliance Consumer Products:

- ➔ Reliance Consumer Products (RCPL) has solidified a strategic partnership with Elephant House, a prominent Sri Lankan beverage manufacturer.
- ➔ This collaboration aims to introduce, market, distribute, and sell Elephant House brand beverages throughout India, thereby augmenting RCPL's beverage offerings.



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YES Bank & IOA:

- YES Bank has forged a strategic partnership with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to become the Official Banking Partner for Team India at the Paris Olympics 2024.
- This collaboration aims to provide comprehensive support to India's Olympic athletes and their families.



Tiger Triumph-24:

- A joint military exercise called Tiger Triumph-24 between India and the United States started on March 18 and will continue until March 31. This exercise is taking place on the Eastern Seaboard (East Coast) of India.
- The main purpose of this exercise is to improve cooperation between the two countries' armed forces for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

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STEAG:

- ➔ The Indian Army has set up a specialized technology unit called Signals Technology Evaluation and Adaptation Group (STEAG) to research and evaluate next-generation communication technologies.
- ➔ The aim is to develop advanced communication capabilities for defence applications and future warfare.

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Indian Army:

- ➔ The Indian Army has raised its first squadron, the 451 Aviation Squadron, to operate the newly acquired AH-64E Apache attack helicopters. The squadron was formally established on March 15 at Jodhpur.
- ➔ The Indian Army Aviation Corps has so far operated only utility helicopters. With the induction of Apaches and the indigenous Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), the Army is getting its first dedicated attack helicopters.



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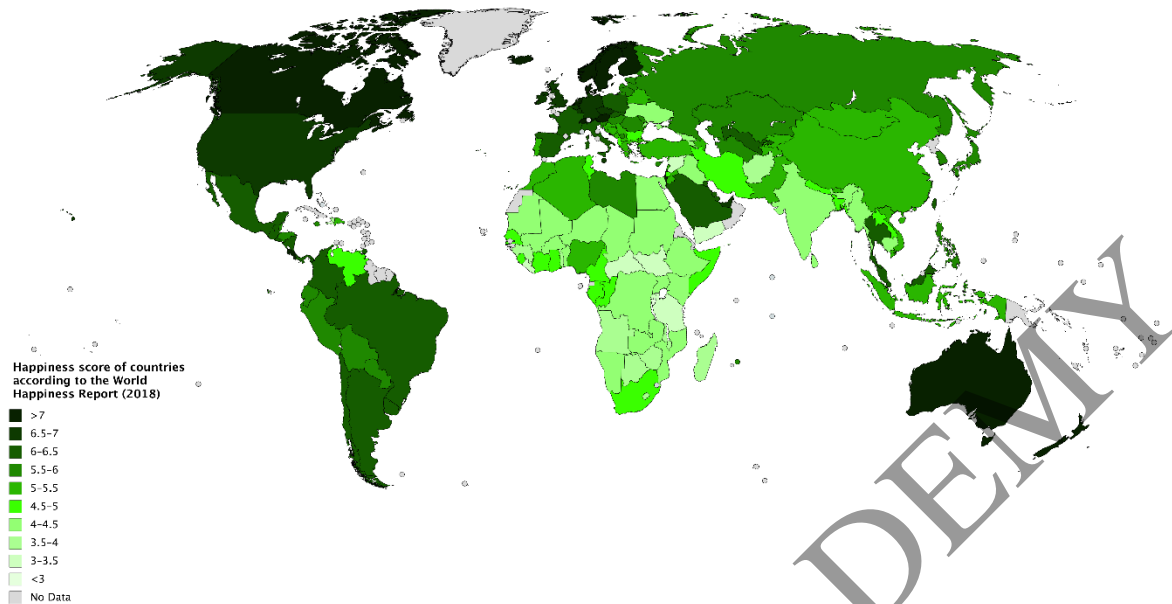
IQAir:

- ➔ The city of Begusarai in Bihar is the most polluted city in the world, according to the World Air Quality Report 2023 released by IQAir, a Switzerland-based organization. The report states that out of the top 100 most polluted places globally, 83 are from India.
- ➔ After Begusarai, Guwahati is the second most polluted, followed by Delhi at third place and Mullanpur (Punjab) at fourth.
- ➔ At a national level, India ranks third behind Bangladesh and Pakistan among the five most polluted countries in the list of 134 nations. In this report, New Delhi is ranked the world's most polluted capital city for the fourth consecutive year since 2018.



World Happiness Report:

- ➔ The World Happiness Report is an annual survey conducted by the United Nations. It ranks countries based on factors like life satisfaction, GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom, generosity, and corruption.
- ➔ For the seventh year in a row, Finland has been named the happiest country in the world. Other Nordic countries like Denmark, Iceland, and Sweden also ranked among the top 10 happiest nations.
- ➔ At the bottom of the list is Afghanistan, which has been plagued by a humanitarian crisis since the Taliban regained control in 2020. India ranked 126 in the happiness index, the same as the previous year.



Noctis Volcano:

- ➔ Researchers have uncovered a monumental discovery on Mars—a colossal volcano named Noctis Volcano. Standing at an impressive 29,600 feet tall and stretching approximately 450 kilometers in width, this massive volcano lies just south of Mars' equator within the Eastern Noctis Labyrinthus region.
- ➔ The finding, made possible by data from a suite of missions including NASA's Mariner 9, Viking Orbiter 1 and 2, Mars Global Surveyor, Mars Odyssey, Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, and the ESA's Mars Express, unveils a hidden geological marvel.



Agnikul Cosmos Private Limited:

- ➔ Tamil Nadu is set to witness a historic event as one of its space startups, Agnikul Cosmos Private Limited, prepares to launch its first rocket, Agnibaan Sub Orbital Technology Demonstrator (SOrTeD), from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- ➔ This launch marks several significant milestones in India's space exploration journey. Agnibaan SOrTeD will mark India's first-ever launch from a private launchpad, signifying a pivotal moment in the country's space industry.



SAKHI:

- ➔ Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) has developed SAKHI, a revolutionary app aimed at aiding astronauts during the Gaganyaan space flight mission.
- ➔ SAKHI, or Space-borne Assistant and Knowledge Hub for Crew Interaction, offers indispensable support across various critical aspects of the mission.
- ➔ SAKHI provides astronauts with digital access to technical documents and training manuals, eliminating the need for cumbersome manual documentation.



Thodur Madabusi Krishna:

- ➔ Thodur Madabusi Krishna, a renowned Carnatic musician, has been chosen as the Sangita Kalanidhi awardee for 2024.
- ➔ This award, considered the Oscar equivalent for Carnatic music, is given away by the Music Academy in Chennai. Krishna, 48, is known for his powerful voice both as a vocalist on stage and as a social activist off stage.



International Day of Happiness:

- ➔ The International Day of Happiness is celebrated every year on March 20th. This special day aims to spread awareness about the importance of happiness in our lives. It is a day to celebrate happiness as a fundamental human goal.
- ➔ The United Nations recognizes happiness and well-being as universal goals. It promotes a balanced approach to economic growth that supports the happiness of all people.



World Sparrow Day:

- World Sparrow Day is an annual observance held every year on March 20th to raise global awareness about the household sparrow and its alarming population decline. This humble little bird was once a common sight everywhere but has now become an uncommon spectacle in many parts of the world.
- The idea of World Sparrow Day was conceived by the Nature Forever Society (NFS) of India and the Eco-Sys Action Foundation based in France.
- The first World Sparrow Day was marked in 2010 with the goal of highlighting the tragic disappearance of the house sparrow and inspire coordinated efforts to protect them.



Navroz 2024:

- ➔ March 20th, 2024, marks the celebration of Navroz 2024, an ancient festival deeply rooted in Persian culture and celebrated by millions worldwide.
- ➔ As the first day of spring and the beginning of the year in the Iranian calendar, Navroz holds significant cultural and spiritual importance for people of Persian or Iranian descent, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil and the renewal of nature.



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KYC:

- The Election Commission of India, headed by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, has launched a new mobile application called Know Your Candidate (KYC).
- This app allows voters to check if any candidate standing for elections in their constituency has a criminal record. The app is available for download on both Android and iOS platforms.



Indian Navy & IIT Kanpur:

- Indian Navy has signed an MoU with Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur to promote technology development, innovative solutions and joint R&D.
- The strategic collaboration focuses on joint research and development initiatives involving teams from Indian Navy and IIT Kharagpur. The MoU will be coordinated by INS Shivaji, Lonavala.

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India's First Ayurvedic Café:

- ➔ India's First Ayurvedic Cafe Opens in Delhi. Maharishi Ayurveda Hospital in Shalimar Bagh, Delhi treats its patients with the utmost care by providing them with panchakarma therapy, a meditation room, yoga training, deluxe room facilities and in-house doctors.
- ➔ The hospital is making the headlines due to its in-house restaurant, Soma-The Ayurvedic Kitchen. Here, the food is given according to the health of the visitor.

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Rajasthan:

- ➔ Rajasthan has launched a dedicated portal for real time information on water levels and availability in dams, reservoirs and canals.
- ➔ The portal aims to enhance water management, predict droughts and floods. It has marked a milestone in water and disaster management, making Rajasthan the first state to implement such a system.



Article 23:

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- ➔ Article 23 legislation passed in Hong Kong, explaining government powers to suppress dissent and imposing life sentences for treason or insurrection.
- ➔ The new law targets disruptive protests, allowing for severe penalties, including jail for possessing seditious materials, espionage and damaging public infrastructure.



World Oral Health Day:

- ➔ World Oral Health Day is celebrated every year on March 20 to spread awareness around oral health and its intricate link with overall health.
- ➔ This was first celebrated on September 12th 2007, on the birthday of FDI World Dental Federation founder Dr Charles Godon.



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2024, March 21-22

SCO:

- ➔ The fourth edition of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Startup Forum convened in New Delhi on March 19, 2024, with a focus on enhancing interactions among SCO Member States' startups, fostering innovation, creating employment opportunities, and nurturing young talent.
- ➔ India will host the 5th SCO Startup Forum in January 2025, continuing its commitment to fostering innovation and collaboration among SCO Member States.



'2+2' defence and foreign ministerial dialogue:

- ➔ India and Brazil recently held their inaugural '2+2' defence and foreign ministerial dialogue, marking a significant milestone in their bilateral relations.
- ➔ The talks aimed to deepen cooperation across various sectors, emphasizing energy, critical minerals, technology, and counter-terrorism.

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- The '2+2' format involved the participation of defence and foreign ministers along with their respective counterparts, highlighting strategic and security-related concerns.



President Droupadi Murmu:

- Pashupati Kumar Paras, former Union minister and president of the Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party (RLJP), resigned from the Union Cabinet following his party's exclusion from the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) seat-sharing arrangement in Bihar for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.
- In response, President Droupadi Murmu accepted his resignation and appointed Kiren Rijju with an additional charge as the Minister of Food Processing Industries.

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M V Rao:

- ➔ The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has elected M V Rao, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Central Bank of India, as its new Chairman. The decision was taken during the IBA's managing committee meeting held on Thursday.
- ➔ The IBA is a representative body of Indian banks, comprising public sector, private sector, foreign, cooperative, and regional rural banks. It plays a crucial role in shaping banking policies and promoting best practices in the Indian banking industry.



Naveen Jindal:

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- Naveen Jindal, Chairman of Jindal Steel and Power, has been unanimously elected as the President of the Indian Steel Association (ISA) by the apex committee, which is the governing body of the ISA.
- He took charge on Thursday, succeeding Dilip Oommen, CEO of ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India.



Ashwani Kumar:

- Ashwani Kumar, Partner at Victor Forgings in Jalandhar, has been unanimously elected as the new President of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO).
- Ashwani Kumar is a well-known business entrepreneur and exporter from Jalandhar, Punjab, representing the engineering sector.

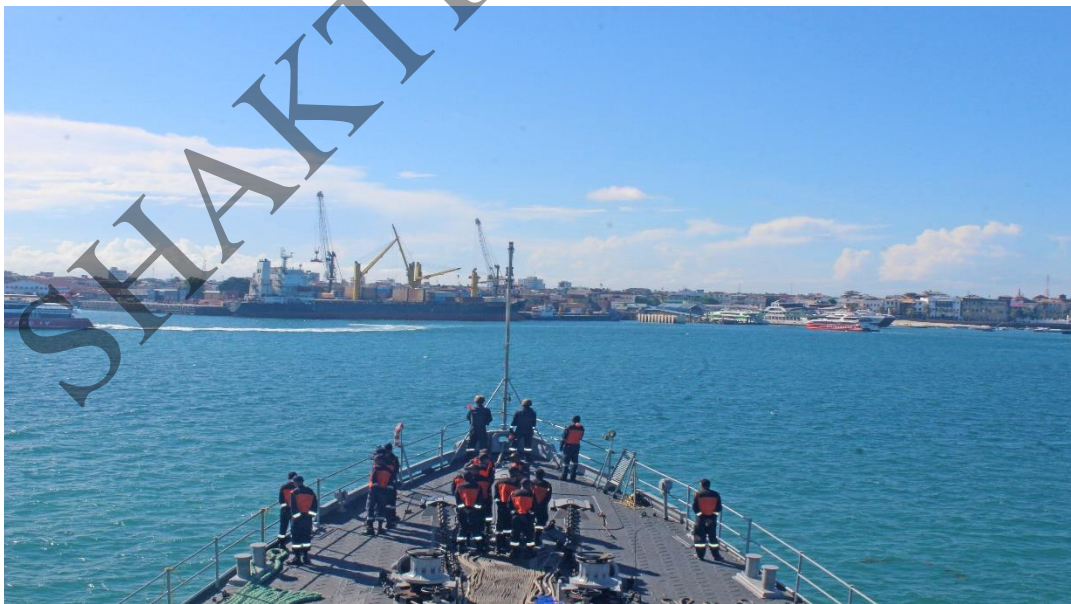
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IMT TRILAT-2024:

- ➔ The Indian Navy is all set to participate in the second edition of the India-Mozambique-Tanzania Trilateral Exercise (IMT TRILAT-2024), a joint maritime exercise scheduled from 21-29 March 2024.
- ➔ The Indian Naval Ships INS Tir and INS Sujata will represent India in this trilateral exercise.
- ➔ The first edition of the IMT TRILAT exercise was conducted in October 2022, where the Indian Naval Ship INS Tarkash participated alongside the Navies of Tanzania and Mozambique.



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Operation Indravati:

- Haiti is facing a severe crisis due to escalating gang violence. Armed gangs have launched attacks in the suburbs of Port-au-Prince, prompting India to launch Operation Indravati to evacuate its nationals to the Dominican Republic.
- Similarly, the US has airlifted more than 15 Americans to Santo Domingo.



NIXI:

- The National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) is gearing up to introduce the BhashaNet portal during the upcoming Universal Acceptance (UA) Day.
- This initiative aims to advance digital inclusion and linguistic diversity in India, showcasing collaborative efforts between NIXI and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).



Pushpak:

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has achieved a significant milestone with the successful landing of Pushpak, India's first Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV), during the RLV-

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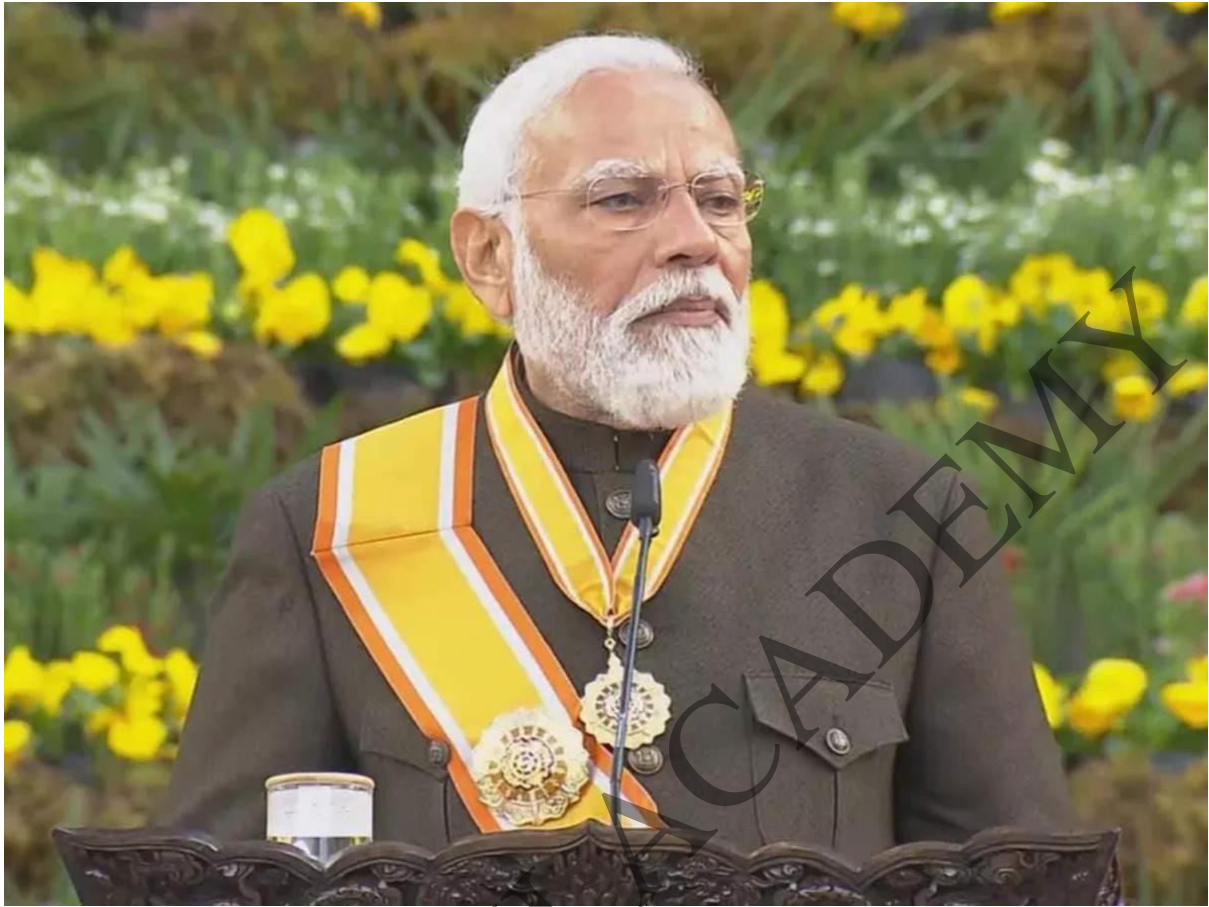
LEX-02 landing experiment at the Aeronautical Test Range in Chitradurga on March 22, 2024.

- ➔ This accomplishment marks a continuation of ISRO's success in space exploration and technology advancement.



‘Order of the Druk Gyalpo’:

- ➔ Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has created history by becoming the first non-Bhutanese to receive the ‘Order of the Druk Gyalpo’, Bhutan’s highest civilian award. He received this prestigious honour from Bhutan’s King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck during his two-day state visit to Thimphu.
- ➔ The ‘Order of the Druk Gyalpo’ is a lifetime achievement award and is considered the pinnacle of Bhutan’s honour system. Only four eminent personalities have received this award since its institution.



World Down Syndrome Day:

- ➔ Every year, World Down Syndrome Day is observed on March 21. In 2024, it falls on Thursday, March 21. Down Syndrome is a condition that can affect a person physically and mentally.
- ➔ It makes communication and social interactions challenging. In Down Syndrome, a person has an extra chromosome which affects how their body and brain develop.

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WORLD
DOWN
SYNDROME
DAY | MARCH 21



World Forestry Day:

- ➔ Every year, we celebrate World Forestry Day on March 21st. In 2024, it falls on a Thursday. The United Nations General Assembly established World Forestry Day in 2012 to raise awareness about the vital role of forests and encourage efforts for their conservation and sustainable management.
- ➔ Forests are not just trees; they are crucial for our everyday life. They hold the soil in place, help retain water, and keep our environment balanced. Forests also provide us with the air we breathe and give us medicine from plants. Without forests and trees, we could not survive.

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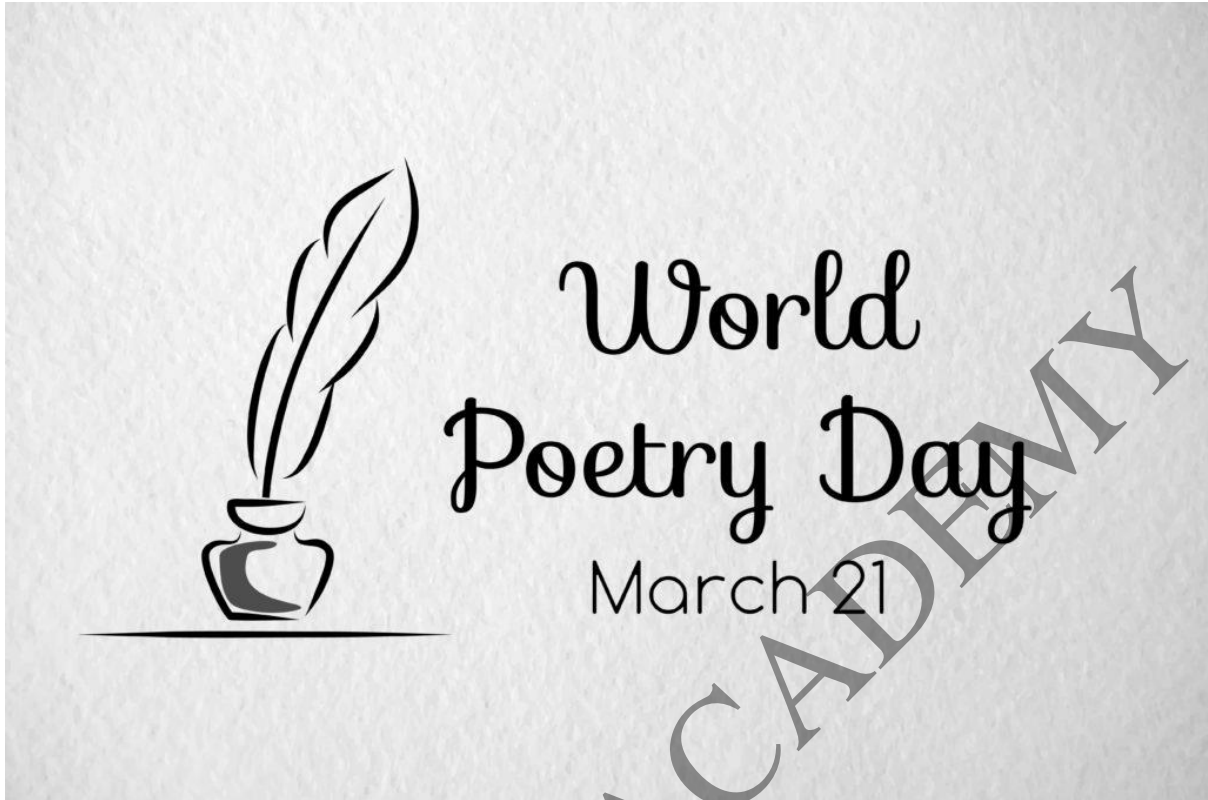
International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination:

- ➔ On 21st March every year, we observe the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. This day reminds us about the negative consequences of racial discrimination.
- ➔ The theme for 2024 is "A Decade of Recognition, Justice, and Development: Implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent".



World Poetry Day:

- ➔ On March 21, people throughout the world celebrate World Poetry Day to honour an expression of language with which they can all identify. Every country's past contains poetry, which unites people through shared humanity and values.
- ➔ Even the most simple poems can spark conversation. "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants" is the celebratory theme for World Poetry Day 2024, marked annually on March 21st.



World Water Day:

- Every year on March 22, we celebrate World Water Day to recognize the importance of freshwater. This year, the occasion holds extra significance amid the ongoing Bengaluru water crisis.
- The tech hub is facing severe water shortage due to failed monsoons and drying groundwater resources.
- The idea of World Water Day was first proposed in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. Later that year, the United Nations General Assembly declared March 22 as World Water Day.



Bihar Diwas 2024:

- Bihar Diwas 2024, celebrated on 22nd March 2024 in India, holds immense historical and cultural significance for the state of Bihar. It commemorates the founding of Bihar as a separate state in 1912, marking its separation from the Bengal Presidency.
- The inception of Bihar Diwas dates back to 2010, when the state government initiated the celebrations to honor Bihar's 112th statehood anniversary. Since then, Bihar Diwas has evolved into a vibrant occasion, reflecting the essence of Bihar's rich heritage and traditions.



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GoodEnough Energy:

- ➔ GoodEnough Energy will start operations at India's first battery energy storage gigafactory in the northern region of Jammu and Kashmir by October.
- ➔ The facility will help industry in cutting more than 5 million tons of carbon emissions in a year. India has set a 2070 goal for becoming net zero.



IIT Madras:

- ➔ IIT Madras has developed an indigenous electric standing wheelchair called 'NeoStand,' claimed to be India's most customizable wheelchair for the benefit of wheelchair users.
- ➔ The NeoStand is a compact standing wheelchair equipped with navigation for its motorized standing mechanism. Users can easily switch from sitting to standing at the touch of a button.

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International Olympic Committee:

- ➔ The International Olympic Committee suspended Russia from the 2024 Games but gave the green light for Russian and Belarusian athletes to compete as neutrals.
- ➔ The Russian and Belarusian athletes will represent a neutral flag not their individual country's. International Olympic Committee- Lausanne, Switzerland.



India's fertility rate:

26, G3, Paris Ganga Apartments, Gangai
Amman Koil St, Alagiri Nagar, Vadapalani,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600026 | Contact:
[98842 22249](tel:9884222249)

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- India's fertility rate dropped from nearly 6.2 in 1950 to just under 2 in 2021 and is projected to fall further to 1.29 and 1.04 in 2050 and 2100, respectively, according to Lancet Study.
- The global total fertility rate was over 4.8 children per woman in 1950 and fell to 2.2 children per woman in 2021.



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2024, March 23

Simon Harris:

- ➔ Simon Harris, a prominent figure in Irish politics, has emerged as the sole candidate in the race to become Ireland's next prime minister following the unexpected departure of Leo Varadkar.
- ➔ At 37 years old, Harris is poised to become the youngest prime minister in Ireland's history. His candidacy comes at a critical juncture for the governing Fine Gael party, as it faces the looming threat of defeat in the upcoming general elections, with Sinn Féin positioning itself as a formidable contender for government leadership.



Govind Dholakia:

- ➔ The Surat Diamond Bourse (SDB) has appointed Govind Dholakia, a Rajya Sabha MP from Gujarat, as its new chairman. This appointment comes a day after the previous chairman, Vallabhbai Patel (Lakhani), resigned from his position.
- ➔ On Thursday, the SDB core committee members held a meeting to discuss the next steps following Lakhani's resignation.
- ➔ After considering various diamond merchants, the committee unanimously decided to nominate Dholakia, the owner of SRK Diamonds and a member of the SDB advisory committee, as the new chairman.



Sharath Kamal:

- ➔ Ace table tennis player Sharath Kamal will be the Indian team's flagbearer for the upcoming Paris 2024 Olympics. The announcement was made by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Thursday.
- ➔ Ranked World No. 88, Kamal has won the national table tennis championship a record 10 times.
- ➔ He has also claimed 13 medals at the Commonwealth Games (CWG), including seven golds, and has earned two medals at the Asian Games. The legendary player is a three-time bronze medalist at the World Championships.

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AUKUS:

- ➔ The United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia have forged the AUKUS partnership to bolster trilateral security and construct nuclear-powered submarines for the Royal Australian Navy.
- ➔ This landmark agreement signifies a significant advancement in defense collaboration among the three nations.



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Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Europol:

- ➔ The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Europol have entered into a significant Working Arrangement aimed at combating crime and fostering cooperation between the two agencies.
- ➔ This collaborative effort underscores the necessity of global partnerships in addressing modern-day challenges posed by transnational crime networks.



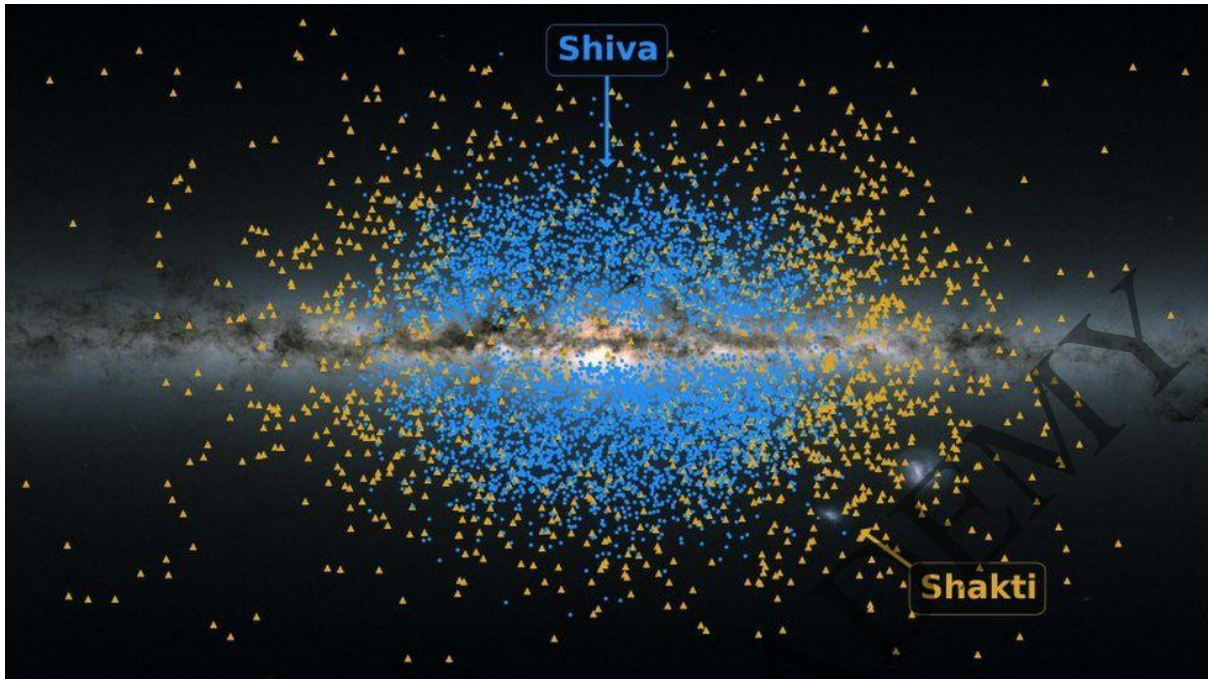
UNCTAD:

- ➔ The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has released its Global Trade Update report, outlining the state of global trade in 2023 and projections for 2024.
- ➔ Despite a 3% dip in global trade to \$31 trillion in 2023, a rebound is expected in 2024 amid geopolitical uncertainties and logistical challenges.



European Space Agency's Gaia space telescope:

- ➔ The European Space Agency's Gaia space telescope has made a groundbreaking discovery, uncovering two ancient streams of stars named Shiva and Shakti.
- ➔ Led by Khyati Malhan of the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy (MPIA) in Germany, this revelation significantly enhances our understanding of the Milky Way's origins.



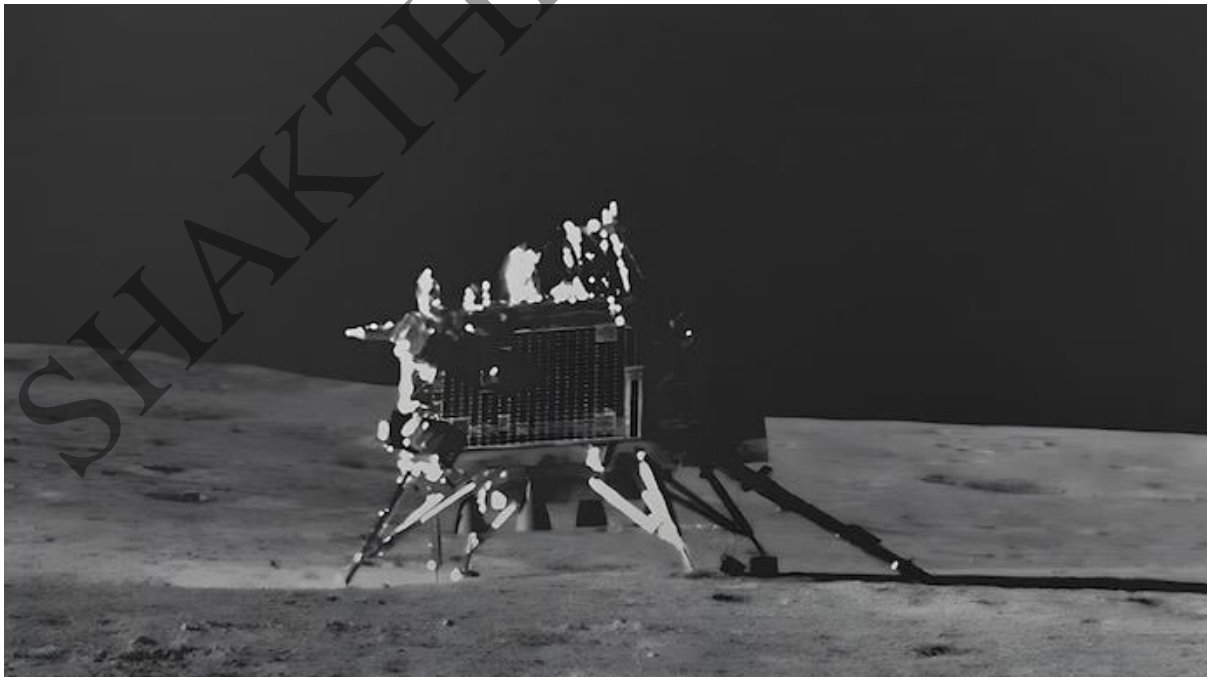
First pig-to-human kidney transplant:

- ➔ In a groundbreaking medical achievement, surgeons from Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston have performed the first pig-to-human kidney transplant.
- ➔ A 62-year-old man with end-stage renal disease received a new kidney from a genetically modified pig. Experts are keenly interested in the long-term results of this pioneering animal-to-human transplant.
- ➔ Dr. Jim Kim, director of kidney and pancreas transplantation at the USC Transplant Institute in Los Angeles, highlighted the importance of this milestone.



ISRO:

- ➔ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has been honored with the prestigious Aviation Week Laureates Award for its remarkable achievements in the Chandrayaan-3 mission.
- ➔ Sripriya Ranganathan, Deputy Ambassador at the Indian Embassy in the US, accepted the award on behalf of ISRO.



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World Meteorological Day:

- Every year on March 23rd, the World Meteorological Day is celebrated. This day marks the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1950.
- The WMO is a specialized agency of the United Nations. The theme for World Meteorological Day 2024 is “At the Frontline of Climate Action“. This theme highlights the urgent need for action against climate change and its potentially catastrophic consequences.



Shaheed Diwas:

- Shaheed Diwas, or Martyr’s Day, is a solemn occasion observed in India to pay homage to the brave souls who laid down their lives for the nation’s freedom struggle. Among the various dates commemorating sacrifices, March 23 holds a significant place in history.
- This date marks the execution of three iconic freedom fighters – Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar – by the British colonial government.
- As the nation prepares to observe Shaheed Diwas on March 23, it’s essential to reflect on the significance of this day and honor the legacy of these martyrs.



Earth Hour:

- ➔ Earth Hour 2024 is scheduled to take place on Saturday, March 23rd. The event will start at 8.30PM and end at 9.30PM in your local time 1234.
- ➔ During this hour, individuals, communities and businesses worldwide are encouraged to turn off non-essential electric lights. The aim is to create the "Biggest Hour for Earth" and make a positive impact on our planet.

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2024, March 24-25

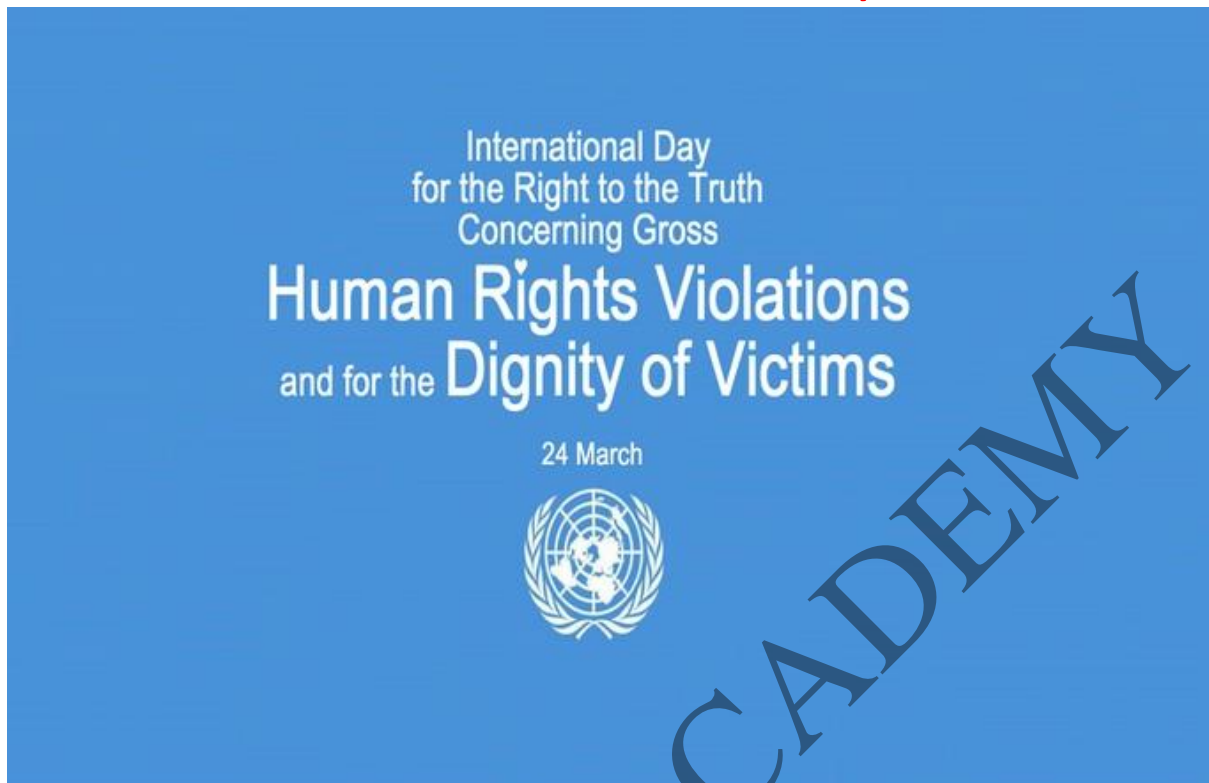
World Tuberculosis (TB) Day:

- ➔ World Tuberculosis (TB) Day is an annual observation celebrated on March 24th. In 2024, it falls on Sunday, March 24th. Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease that mainly affects the lungs.
- ➔ It is caused by a type of bacteria called Mycobacterium tuberculosis. TB bacteria can spread through the air when infected people cough, sneeze, or spit. The theme for World TB Day 2024 is “Yes! We can end TB”.
- ➔ This theme highlights the continued efforts and awareness campaigns aimed at eradicating this deadly disease.



International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims:

- ➔ Every year, on March 24, the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims is observed.
- ➔ This annual observance honours the memory of victims of severe human rights violations and promotes the importance of the right to truth and justice. The right to the truth is an important concept in cases of gross human rights violations.



Holi 2024:

- ➔ Holi 2024, celebrated on March 25th, marks the victory of good over evil and the arrival of spring.
- ➔ As the vibrant festival of colors, Holi, approaches in 2024, excitement fills the air as people eagerly anticipate celebrating this joyous occasion with family and friends.
- ➔ Rooted in Hindu tradition, Holi is one of India's most cherished festivals, celebrated with exuberance and enthusiasm across the country.
- ➔ Holi, also known as the Festival of Colors, falls on Monday, March 25, 2024. The preceding day, March 24, marks Holika Dahan.



Saksham App:

- ➔ The Election Commission has launched the Saksham App to facilitate easier voting for Persons with Disabilities and to avail facilities at Polling Stations.
- ➔ The Election Commission has always focused on Accessible Voting every time as it has the motto of no voter is left behind.
- ➔ The Election Commission has announced that voters above 85 years of age and Persons with Disabilities with 40 percent benchmark disability can vote from home. Volunteers and wheelchairs will be available at every polling station.

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International Day of the Unborn Child:

- ➔ On March 25th, International Day of the Unborn Child 2024 is celebrated all over the world.
- ➔ International Day of the Unborn Child was established by Pope John Paul II to coincide with the Feast of the Annunciation and is officially recognized in several predominantly Catholic countries.

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United Nations General Assembly:

- ➔ On March 24, 2024, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the first global resolution on Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- ➔ The resolution, sponsored by the United States and co-sponsored by 123 countries, including Russia, China, and Cuba, aims to ensure that the powerful new technology benefits all nations, respects human rights, and is safe, secure, and trustworthy.



“Witches’ Broom”:

26, G3, PARIS GANGA APARTMENT, GANGAI AMMAN
KOVIL STREET, VADAPALANI, CHENNAI-26 | PHONE-
9884222249/9176448448

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- The Scientists from Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University of Hisar have identified a new and potentially devastating disease affecting pea crops.
- Named “Witches’ Broom,” the disease is associated with the pathogen ‘Candidatus Phytoplasma asteris’ (16SrI).
- The American Phytopathological Society (APS), USA, which recognizes new diseases in plants, has accepted and published the report of this new disease by the scientists in its prestigious journal ‘Plant Disease’ as the first research report.



Arvind Kejriwal:

- Arvind Kejriwal has been arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the Delhi excise policy case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act of 2002.
- His arrest days before the Lok Sabha elections has been condemned by the opposition parties including those from INDIA alliance of which AAP is a member. Kejriwal is the first sitting chief minister to be arrested by a law enforcement agency.

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HAPS:

- ➔ UAE-based Mira Aerospace and Indian start-up VEDA Aeronautics have come together to offer High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (HAPS) solutions designed for the Indian market, both in the military and the civilian space.
- ➔ The project is being handheld by the Indian military and the HAPS has successfully carried out flights over the Pokhran Test Range at 12 km above the ground. Conducted in March last year, the test marked the only flight of an HAPS in the Indian stratosphere.



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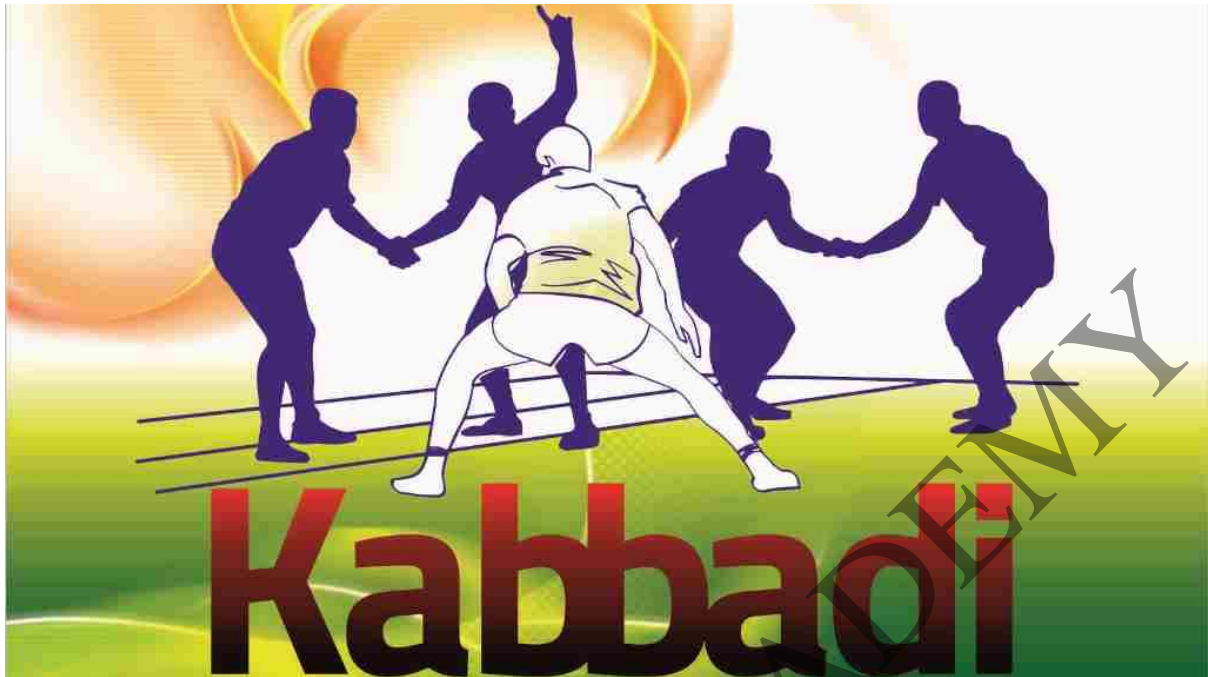
Sathiyam Gnanasekaran:

- Sathiyam Gnanasekaran, a renowned Indian table tennis player, has made history by becoming the first Indian to win the men's singles title at a WTT Feeder Series event in Beirut. Utpalbhai Shah and Diya Parag Chitale (India) won the mixed doubles title.
- Sathiyam Gnanasekaran's victory is notable because it's his first international singles title since 2021.



World Kabaddi Day:

- World Kabaddi Day is annually observed on March 24. The day celebrates the founders, the players, the coaches, the administrators, the technical officials and each and every one, smitten by the game.
- This year World Kabaddi Day was celebrated in India at Tau Devi Lal Indoor Stadium, Panchkula, Haryana. The Day coincides with the formation of World Kabaddi on March 24, 2018. Theme – "Kabaddi: Created by Men, Perfected by Women".



Portable Multi Target Detonation Device:

- ➔ The Indian Army achieved another milestone with the patenting of the Portable Multi Target Detonation Device (WEDC), a groundbreaking innovation developed by Major Rajprasad RS of the Corps of Engineers.
- ➔ The device was developed by Major Rajprasad RS of the Corps of Engineers and patented. It is a microprocessor-based electronic system that functions using both wired and wireless modes of firing.



Driven device and fragment

Multi-zone fragment velocity measurement system

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2024, March 26

Great Indian Bustard:

- In response to the urgent need to protect the endangered Great Indian Bustard (GIB) population from extinction caused by collisions with high-powered power cables in Gujarat and Rajasthan, the Supreme Court of India has taken decisive action.
- A bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, JB Pardiwala, and Manoj Misra has appointed an expert committee to address this critical issue while balancing conservation efforts with renewable energy goals.



Virat Kohli:

- Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli has etched his name in history by becoming the first Indian cricketer to score 12,000 runs in the T20 format.
- Kohli accomplished this remarkable feat during the opening match of the 2024 Indian Premier League (IPL) between Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) at the MA Chidambaram Stadium.



Indian Army:

- ➔ In response to escalating tensions along the northern borders with China, the Indian Army has initiated significant enhancements to its air defence capabilities.
- ➔ Central to this strategic maneuver is the deployment of cutting-edge Integrated Drone Detection and Interdiction Systems (IDD&IS), developed domestically in collaboration between the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Bharat Electronics.



Allahabad High Court's Lucknow bench:

- ➔ The Allahabad High Court's Lucknow bench has declared the UP Board of Madarsa Education Act of 2004 as unconstitutional.
- ➔ The court ruled that the act violated the principle of secularism, as well as several articles of the Constitution, including Articles 14, 21, and 21-A.
- ➔ Additionally, the court found that the act also contravened Section 22 of the University Grants Commission Act of 1956.
- ➔ The court found the law to be unconstitutional as it violated the principle of secularism, which is a part of the basic structure of the Constitution as well as Articles 14, 15, and 21-A.



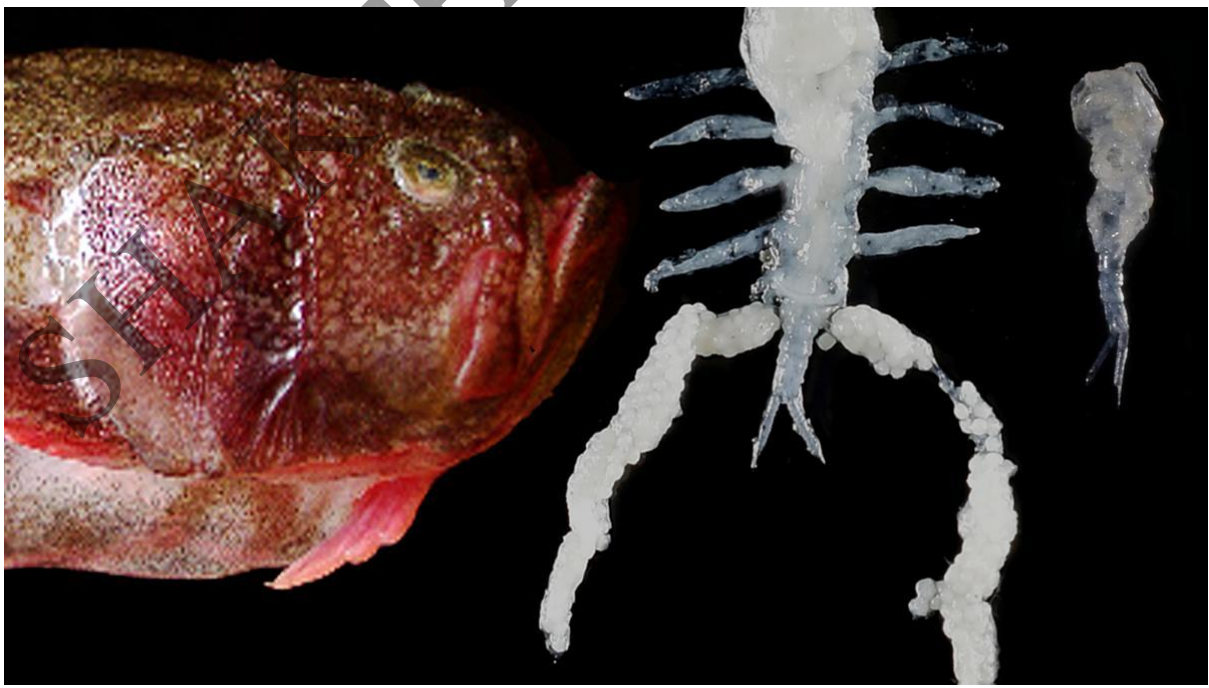
Beijing:

- ➔ In a landmark shift, Mumbai has overtaken Beijing as Asia's billionaire capital, according to the latest report from the Shanghai-based Hurun Research Institute.
- ➔ This monumental achievement reflects Mumbai's burgeoning economic landscape and underscores India's rising prominence in global wealth distribution.



Deep-sea isopod:

- ➔ Researchers have made an exciting discovery off the coast of Kollam in Kerala. They have found a new species of deep-sea isopod, which is a tiny crustacean that feeds on fish.
- ➔ This new species belongs to the genus *Brucethoa* and was found living inside the gill cavity of a fish called the Spinyjaw greeneye. This new species of isopod has been given a special name – *Brucethoa isro*.
- ➔ The name is a tribute to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), which has achieved remarkable success in space missions. *Brucethoa isro* is only the second species within the *Brucethoa* genus to be discovered in India.



Archaeological Survey of India:

- ➔ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is conducting excavations at two mounds in Nachne village, located in the Panna district of Madhya Pradesh.
- ➔ The goal of these excavations is to uncover what could potentially be the oldest temple in India.
- ➔ The excavation sites are situated just 30 meters away from two ancient temples – a Gupta-era Parvati temple and the Chaumukh Nath temple built by the Kalachuri dynasty.
- ➔ These temples, known as the Nachna Hindu temples, are among the earliest surviving stone temples in central India, alongside those found in Bhumara and Deogarh.



New Zealand government:

- ➔ The New Zealand government will ban the sale of disposable e-cigarettes, increase fines on retailers that sell to those younger than 18 years old and better regulate retailers.
- ➔ The New Zealand government has received significant criticism for rolling back a world-first law banning tobacco sales for future generations.
- ➔ It is committed to reducing smoking but is just taking a different approach, including further regulations around vaping.



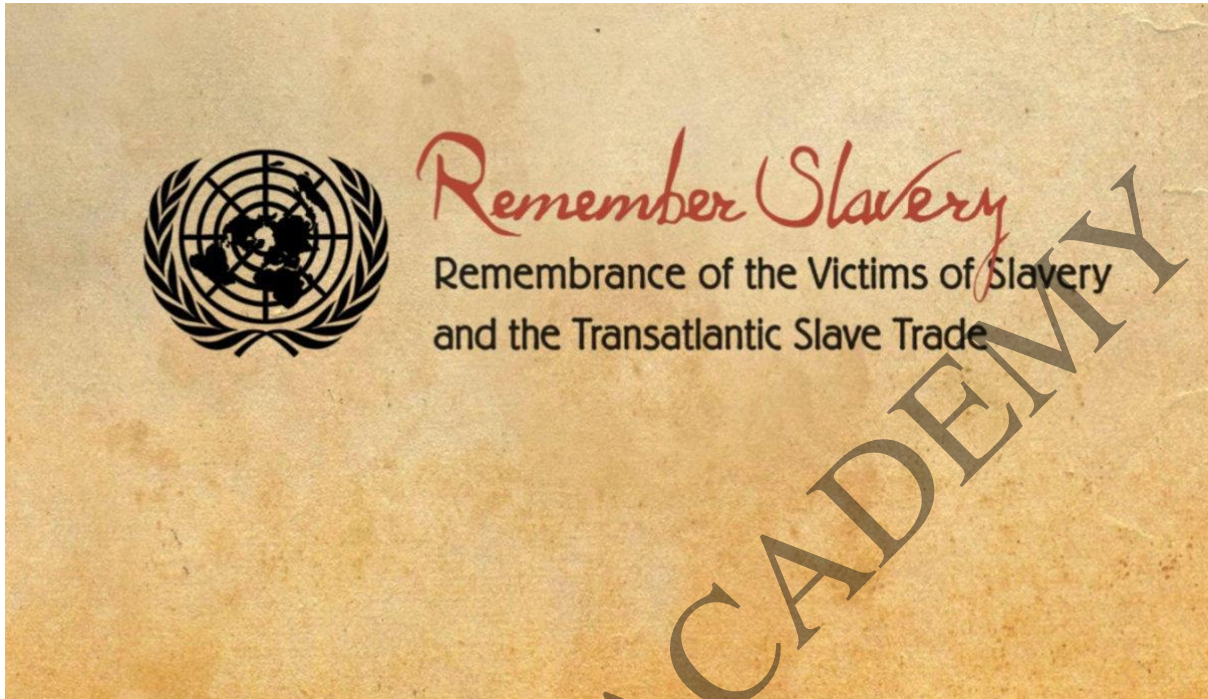
North East Games 2024:

- ➔ In Nagaland, the 3rd edition of North East Games 2024 kick-started with a glittering opening ceremony at Regional Centre for Sporting Excellence, Sovima. Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio officially declared open the 3rd North East Games 2024.
- ➔ More than 3000 athletes from eight North Eastern states are competing in 15 disciplines being held in 12 venues across three districts Chumoukedima, Dimapur and Kohima.



International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade:

- International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is observed every year on 25 March.
- The day honours and remembers those who suffered and died as a consequence of the transatlantic slave trade. The day was first observed in 2007 by the United Nations.



Praful Pansheriya:

- In a significant move towards modernizing education, Gujarat's Minister of State for Education, Praful Pansheriya launched the online learning platform Shiksha Reform.
- Shiksha Reform is a collaborative effort with Microsoft and a leading Finnish university and is poised to deliver high-quality courses.



International Astronomical Union:

- ➔ The International Astronomical Union has bestowed a rare honour upon Indian Scientist Professor Jayant Murthy by naming an asteroid after him.
- ➔ The International Astronomical Union is responsible for naming small objects in the Solar System. The asteroid was previously catalogued as 2005 EX296. It was discovered in 2005.



Canada:

- ➔ Canada is the only country in the world that officially recognizes March 26th as Purple Day of Epilepsy through the Purple Day Act implemented on June 28, 2012.
- ➔ Purple Day is an international grassroots effort dedicated to increasing awareness about epilepsy worldwide. The first Purple Day event was held on March 26, 2008. Epilepsy is a disorder of the brain characterized by repeated seizures.



'Op Sankalp':

- ➔ In response to the Israeli-Hamas conflict, the Indian Navy's 'Op Sankalp' has been vital in the Indian Ocean.
- ➔ The navy has been at the forefront addressing 18 incidents including the action against the hijacking of MV Ruen.



'Statio Shiv Shakti':

- ➔ International Astronomical Union approved the name 'Statio Shiv Shakti' for the landing site of Chandrayaan's Vikram Lander.
- ➔ Chandrayaan 3, India's third lunar mission, took off from the Indian Space Research Organisation Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on July 14 and successfully landed on the Moon's surface on August 23, 2023 near the lunar south pole.



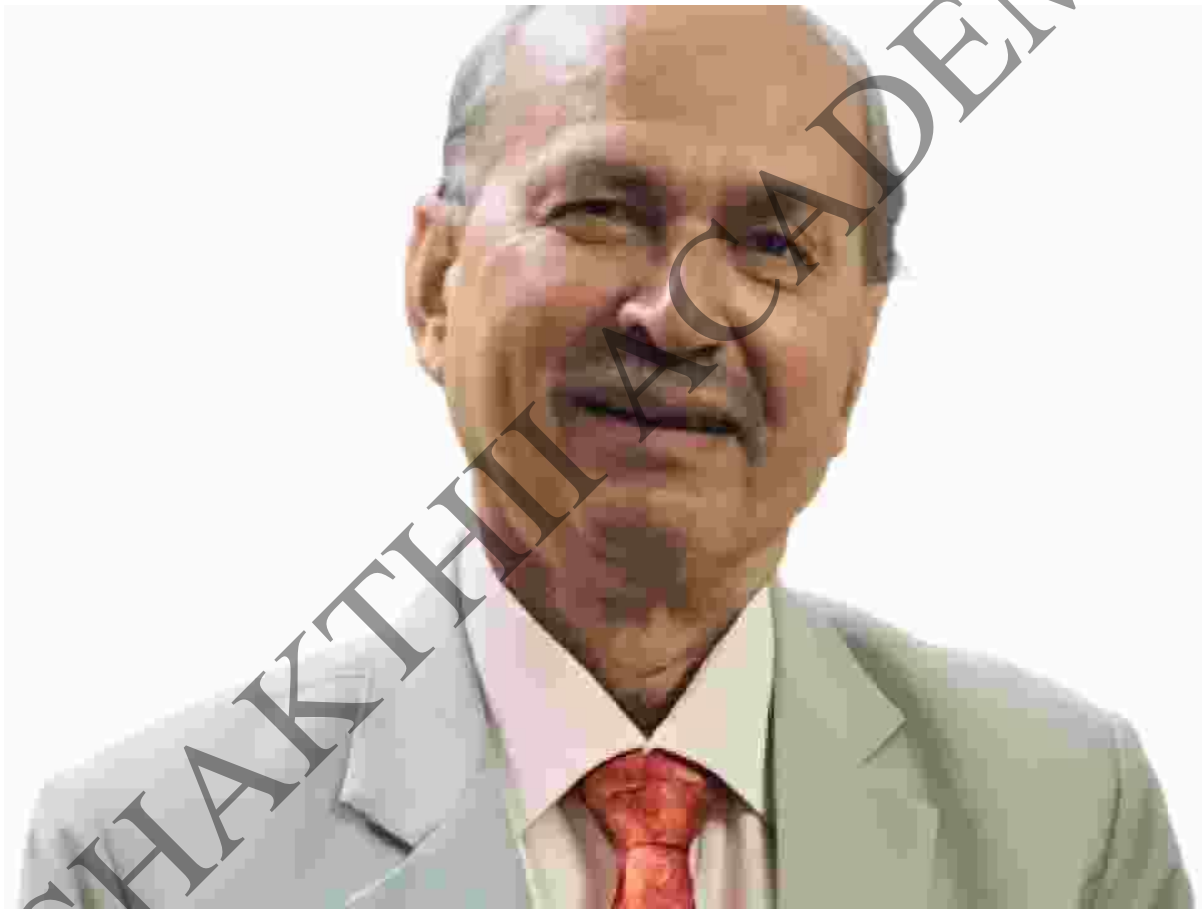
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2024, March 27-28

Hansha Mishra:

- Hansha Mishra, an officer of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IA&AS) from the 2010 batch, has been appointed as Director in the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Delhi.
- Her appointment comes after she was recommended for central deputation by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.



Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi:

- Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi has taken oath as the new judicial member of the Lokpal (ombudsman) on 27 March 2024.
- The oath was administered by Justice AM Khanwilkar, the Chairman of the Lokpal of India. Central Vigilance Commissioner Praveen Kumar Srivastava and senior officers from CBI and Enforcement Directorate were present.

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- ➔ In India, the idea of a constitutional ombudsman was first proposed in Parliament in the early 1960s by Law Minister Ashok Kumar Sen.
- ➔ After several failed attempts, the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013 was passed due to pressure from the India Against Corruption Movement led by Anna Hazare.



International Labour Organization:

- ➔ The International Labour Organization (ILO) in collaboration with the Institute of Human Development (IHD) has released the 'India Employment Report 2024,' shedding light on the challenges faced by the Indian job market as the financial year comes to a close.
- ➔ Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran unveiled the report, which outlines significant shifts in employment patterns and trends in education levels among the unemployed, spanning two decades up to 2022.



Indian Institute of Technology-Guwahati:

- ➔ The Indian Institute of Technology-Guwahati (IIT-G) has transferred a first-of-its-kind vaccine technology to BioMed Pvt. Ltd., a company specializing in vaccine manufacturing.
- ➔ This revolutionary technology involves a recombinant vector vaccine specifically designed to combat the classical swine fever virus in pigs and wild boars. It fills a significant gap in India's vaccine landscape.



World Piano Day:

- ➔ World Piano Day, celebrated annually on the 88th day of the year, pays homage to one of the most beloved and versatile musical instruments – the piano.
- ➔ This day serves as a global platform to recognize the beauty, cultural significance, and enduring appeal of the piano, fostering appreciation for its rich legacy across generations and cultures.
- ➔ This year, World Piano Day 2024 has celebrated on Thursday, March 28th, 2024. Marking the 88th day of the year, this date symbolizes the 88 keys on a standard piano keyboard, a fitting tribute to the instrument's unique characteristics.

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Indian Institute of Technology Madras:

- ➔ French aerospace and defence firm, Starburst Accelerator SARL has partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) to set up an innovative hub for start-ups with €100 million in funding support.
- ➔ Through this collaboration, IIT Madras will enable Starburst to set up accelerator programs to boost the Aviation, Space, and Defence (ASD) ecosystem in India.
- ➔ The aim is to create innovative startups and help them grow rapidly to work in tandem with future aerospace and New Space worldwide programs.

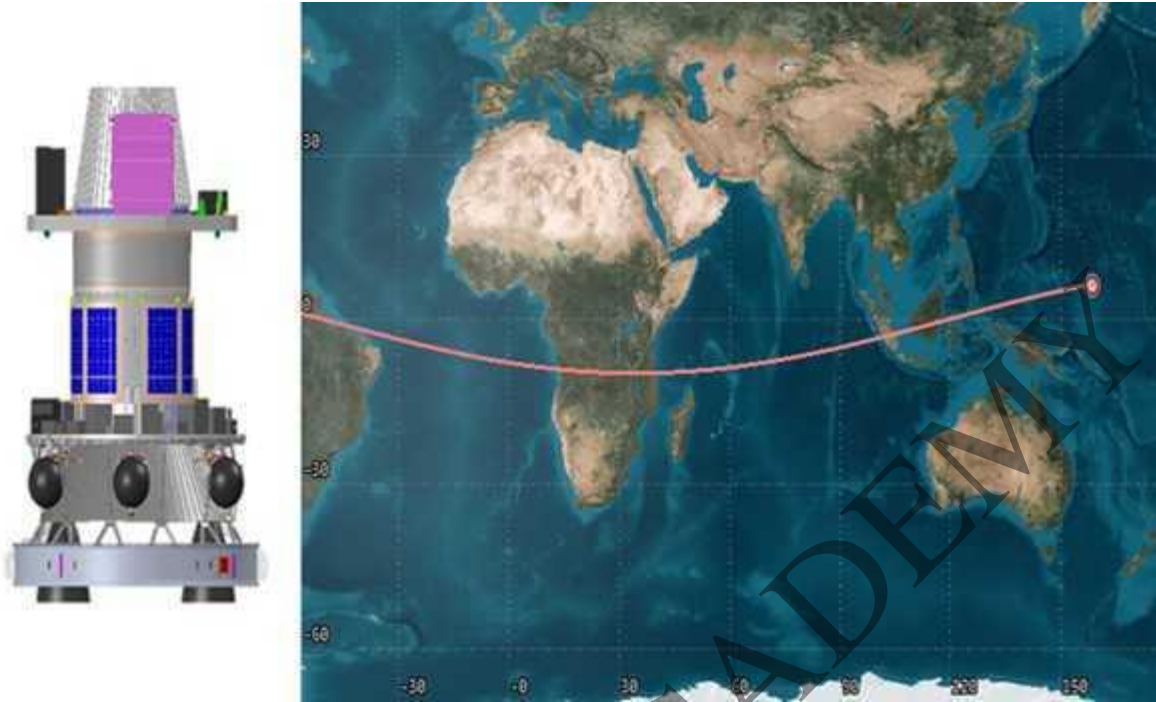
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ISRO:

- ➔ ISRO successfully re-entered POEM-3 into Earth's atmosphere without debris in orbit, after PSLV-C58/XPoSat mission.
- ➔ The PSLC Orbital Experimental Module is an initiative by ISRO aimed at repurposing spend stages of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, specifically the 4th stage, PS4. To keep POEM alive and stable in orbit, ISRO relies on its Navigation Guidance and Control System.



India Employment Report 2024:

- ➔ India's youth account for almost 83% of the unemployed workforce and the share of youngsters with secondary or higher education in the total unemployed youth has almost doubled 35.2% in 2000 to 65.7% in 2022.
- ➔ The India Employment Report 2024, released by the International Labour Organisation and the Institute of Human Development remarked this.



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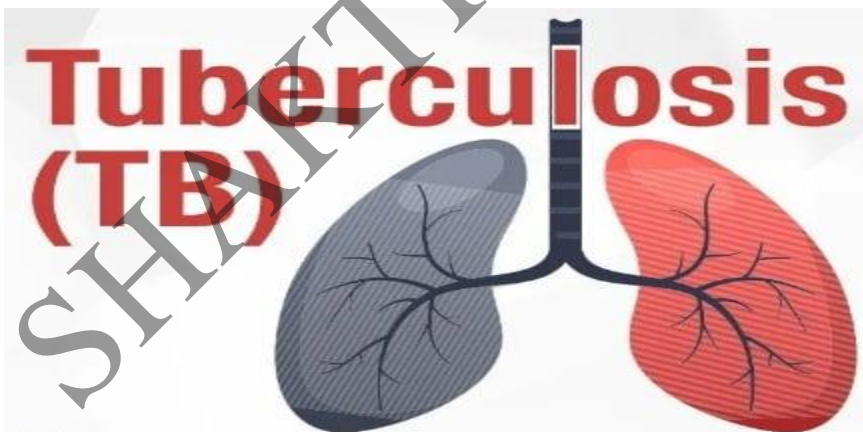
Tiger Triumph:

- ➔ Exercise Tiger Triumph 2024, a bilateral tri-service exercise between India and the US, began its sea phase in Visakhapatnam. It focusses on amphibious operations, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and MEDEVAC.
- ➔ In 2019, the first Tiger Triumph exercise took place. The name "Tiger Triumph" is derived from national animals: Royal Bengal Tiger of India and Bald Eagle of US.



India TB report:

- ➔ India has seen a decline of 16% in tuberculosis incidence from 2015 to 2022, higher than the global decline of 9%, as per the Annual India TB report.
- ➔ The incidence rate in India had fallen from 237 per lakh population in 2015 to 199 in 2022. Most TB cases were from Uttar Pradesh followed by Bihar.



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2024, March 29

Kamal Kishore:

- The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed Kamal Kishore of India as the new Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- He will lead the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). Kamal Kishore has nearly 30 years of experience in disaster risk reduction, climate action, and sustainable development at global, regional, national, and local levels.
- He has worked in government, the United Nations, and civil society organizations.



Tata Passenger Electric Mobility:

- Tata Passenger Electric Mobility (TPEM), a unit of Tata Motors, has announced a strategic partnership with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) to establish a nationwide network of 5,000 public charging stations for electric vehicles (EVs) by the end of 2024.
- The collaboration will leverage HPCL's extensive network of over 21,500 fuel stations across the country.

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Kannada inscription dating back to the Kalyana Chalukya dynasty:

- ➔ A 900-year-old Kannada inscription dating back to the Kalyana Chalukya dynasty has been discovered in a state of utter neglect at Gangapuram, a temple town in Jadcherla mandal, Mahabubnagar district.
- ➔ The rare inscription was found lying uncared for on a tank bund near the Chowdamma temple.
- ➔ The inscription was issued on June 8, 1134 CE (Friday) by the Customs Officers of Tailapa-III, son of the Kalyana Chalukya Emperor 'Bhulokamalla' Someswara-III.



World's first-ever temple designed in the iconic Om shape:

- ➔ The world's first-ever temple designed in the iconic Om shape has been inaugurated in the village of Jadan, Pali district of Rajasthan.
- ➔ This architectural masterpiece, spanning across 250 acres, is not only expected to attract tourists but will also boast an impressive visual presence visible from space.
- ➔ This groundbreaking endeavor marks a significant milestone as it pioneers the creation of such a distinctive temple globally.
- ➔ The 'Om Aakar' temple, following the Nagara style commonly seen in North India, pays tribute to the region's rich cultural and architectural heritage.

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Good Friday:

- ➔ On March 29th, 2024, Christians around the globe will solemnly observe Good Friday 2024, a pivotal day in the Christian calendar.
- ➔ Good Friday, also known as Holy Friday or Great Friday, commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, believed by Christians to be the Son of God, and his ultimate sacrifice for the redemption of humanity's sins.
- ➔ Good Friday, a solemn day in the Christian calendar, is observed on the Friday before Easter Sunday. In 2024, Good Friday falls on March 29th. Christians commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, reflecting on his sacrifice for humanity's redemption.



Women's Asia Cup 2024:

- ➔ The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) has announced the upcoming Women's Asia Cup 2024, scheduled to take place in Dambulla, Sri Lanka, from July 19th to July 28th 2024.
- ➔ The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) announced the upcoming Women's Asia Cup 2024, scheduled to take place in Dambulla, Sri Lanka, from July 19th to July 28th, 2024.



MGNREGA:

- ➔ The central government 3-10% wage hike for MGNREGA workers for Fiscal Year 2024-25. effective April 1, with Goa and Karnataka seeing highest increases.

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- ➔ New average MGNREGA wage set at Rs 289/day, up from Rs 261 reflecting CPI-AL adjustments and inflation in rural areas. Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development previously highlighted that the wages were inadequate due to the rising cost of living.



International Court of Justice:

- ➔ Judges at the International Court of Justice have unanimously ordered Israel to take all the necessary and effective action to ensure basic food supplies arrive without delay to the Palestinian population in Gaza.
- ➔ International Court of Justice is the only international court that adjudicates disputes between nations and gives opinions on international legal issues. Established: 1945. Headquarters: Hague, Netherlands.



Yunhai-3(02):

- ➔ China added to its fleet of secretive meteorological satellites with the launch of Yunhai-3(02). China successfully launched a satellite for environmental monitoring from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in north China's Shanxi Province.
- ➔ It will be used for tasks such as atmospheric and marine environment detection, space environment monitoring, disaster prevention and reduction.



Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid:

- ➔ Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid has become the first Bangladeshi umpire on ICC Elite Panel after the ICC's annual review.
- ➔ International Cricket Council is the global cricket administrative body. Headquarters: Dubai, UAE. It is founded in 1909.

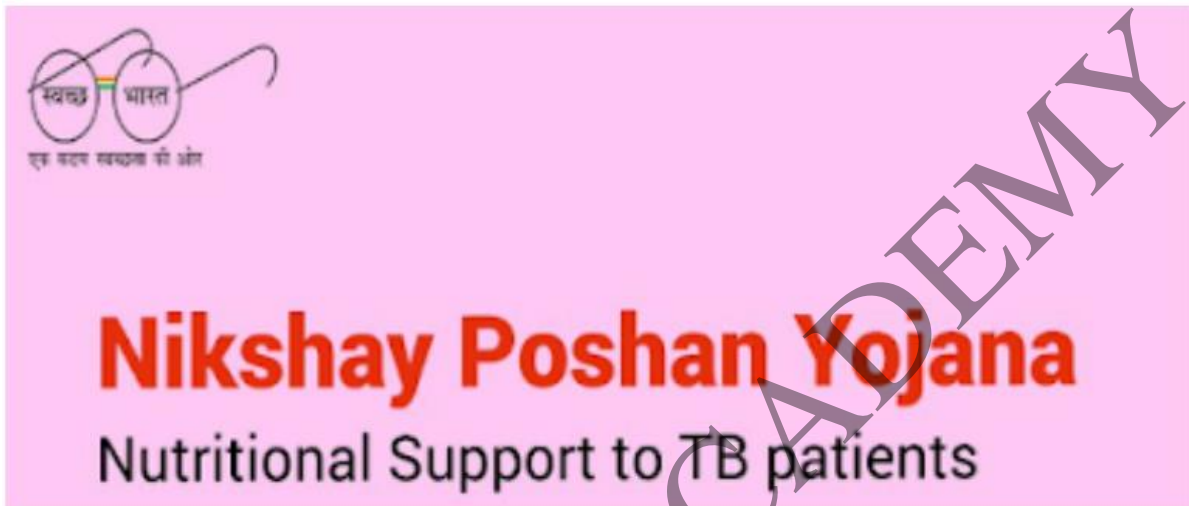


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Nikshay Poshan Yojana:

- ➔ The Nikshay Poshan Yojana is a program by the Indian government that provides financial assistance to tuberculosis patients for their nutritional needs during treatment.
- ➔ The scheme is a part of the National Health Mission by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.



Armed Forces (Special Forces) Act:

- ➔ The Central government has extended Armed Forces (Special Forces) Act, 1958 in 8 districts of Nagaland, declaring them as "disturbed areas".
- ➔ The Armed Forces (Special Forces) Act empowers security forces to arrest a person without a warrant and enter or search premises without a warrant with some other actions.
- ➔ The Armed Forces (Special Forces) Act has been applicable in the entire state of Nagaland since 1995.

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Thailand:

- ➔ Thailand has taken a historic step closer to marriage equality after the lower house passed a bill giving legal recognition to same-sex marriage.
- ➔ It still needs approval from the Senate and royal endorsement to become law. Thailand will become the only South East Asian country to recognize same-sex unions.



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"IRAH":

- ➔ India's first Artificial Intelligence based Film "IRAH". The trailer and song of the launch of the first Bollywood Hindi film on this subject, "IRAH", took place in Mumbai.
- ➔ Monica: An AI story is a film that is said to be the first of its kind in India, made by Malayalam Film Industry.



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2024, March 30-31

IIT Madras:

- ➔ IIT Madras is set to host the prestigious '6th Shaastra Rapid FIDE Rated Chess Tournament' on March 30 and 31, 2024.
- ➔ The tournament, sanctioned by the International Chess Federation (FIDE), will draw the participation of esteemed players from across the globe, including Grandmasters, International Masters, and Women Grandmasters.



'Meghayan-24':

- ➔ The METOC seminar 'Meghayan-24' was conducted by the School of Naval Oceanology & Meteorology (SNOM) and the Indian Naval Meteorological Analysis Centre (INMAC) at the Southern Naval Command on March 28, 2024.
- ➔ It was organized in commemoration of World Meteorological Day, with the theme 'At the Frontline of Climate Action' set by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for 2024.

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SatCom Industry Association of India (SIA-India) and ABRASAT:

- ➔ The SatCom Industry Association of India (SIA-India) and ABRASAT, the Brazilian Satellite Communications Association, have joined forces to propel advancements in the space sector.
- ➔ This strategic partnership aims to foster collaboration and drive innovative ventures and technological cooperation between India and Brazil.
- ➔ The MoU facilitates collaboration in satellite communication, rocket and satellite launches, payload development, satellite platforms, and ground instrumentation.
- ➔ It aims to strengthen business expansion and cooperation between India and Brazil in various sectors, enabling seamless regional and global connectivity.

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IIM Mumbai:

- ➔ In a significant move poised to reshape India's Aerospace, New Space, and Defence (ASD) industry, the Indian Institute of Management Mumbai (IIM Mumbai) partners with Starburst, a prominent European Aerospace, New Space, and Defence (ASD) accelerator.
- ➔ This collaboration aims to bolster the ASD startup ecosystem in India, leveraging the resources and expertise of both entities.



International Day of Zero Waste:

- ➔ On December 14, 2022, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution to have an International Day of Zero Waste celebrated every year on March 30th.
- ➔ This day aims to raise awareness about reducing waste and promoting zero-waste initiatives to achieve sustainable development.



Sadanand Vasant Date:

- ➔ Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad chief Sadanand Vasant Date has been appointed as the Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA). He will succeed Dinkar Gupta, who is due to superannuate on March 31.
- ➔ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Date as the Director General (DG) of the NIA for a tenure up to his superannuation on December 31, 2026.



World's largest single-location copper manufacturing plant:

- ➔ Billionaire Gautam Adani-led group has started of the first phase of the world's largest single-location copper manufacturing plant at Mundra in Gujarat, which will help cut India's dependence on imports and aid energy transition.
- ➔ The 1st phase of the facility will produce 0.5 million tonnes a year of refined copper. India joins China and other nations that are rapidly expanding production of copper. India's per capita copper consumption is around 0.6 kg and the global average is 3.2 kg.



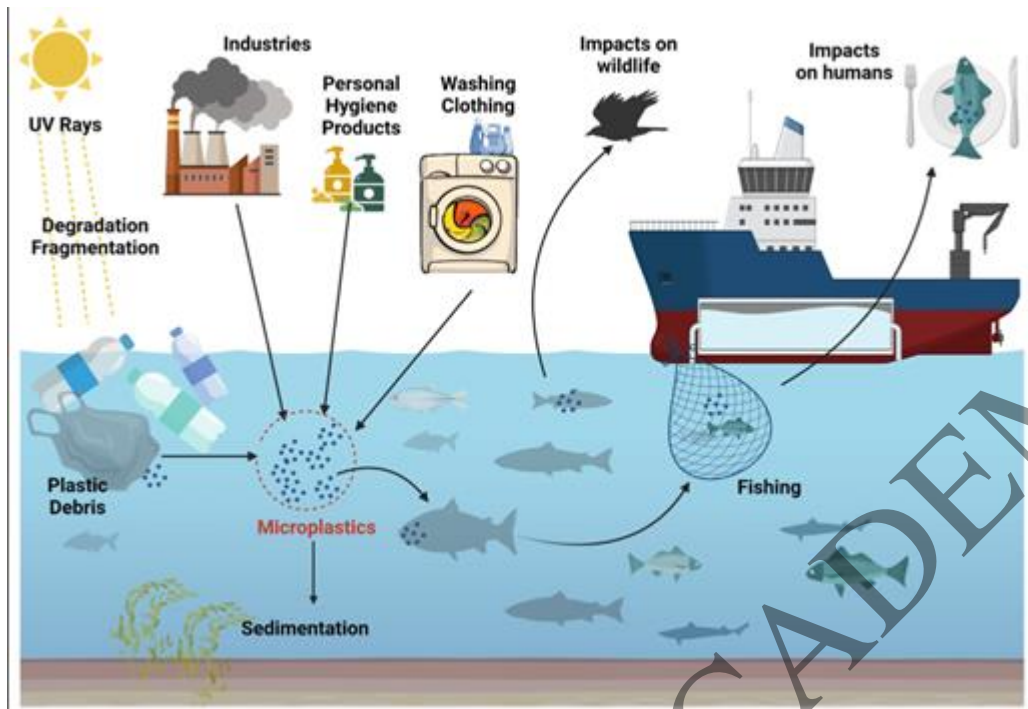
Rajasthan Diwas:

- ➔ Rajasthan Diwas is celebrated every year on 30 March. This year Rajasthan celebrates its 75th anniversary. On this day in 1949, 19 princely states and 3 states were merged to form the state of Rajasthan after a process that took eight and a half years.
- ➔ On January 14, 1949, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel announced the merger of the princely states of Jaipur, Bikaner, Jodhpur, and Jaisalmer in a public meeting in Udaipur.
- ➔ To implement this announcement, Patel inaugurated Greater Rajasthan in a ceremony in Jaipur on March 30, 1949. Before independence, the region was known as 'Rajputana'.
- ➔ After the integration of the princely states was completed in seven phases, the name of the region was changed to 'Rajasthan'. Today, Rajasthan is the largest state in India in terms of area and is known for its rich history.



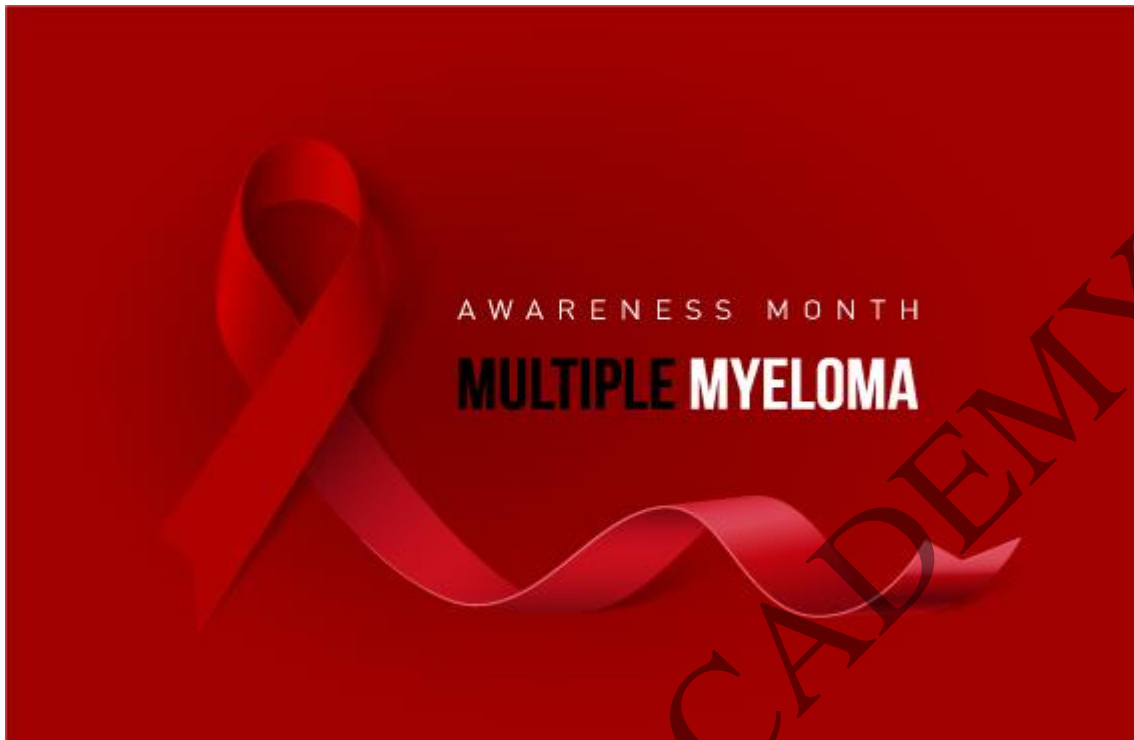
India's plastic Waste Management(Amendment) Rules, 2024:

- ➔ The recent amendments to India's plastic Waste Management(Amendment) Rules, 2024 have introduced stricter criteria for labelling plastic products as "biodegradable".
- ➔ The rules now require that biodegradable plastics must not leave any microplastics behind during the degradation process. Microplastics are tiny plastic particles that have a diameter of less than 5 millimetres(0.2 inches).



"Multiple Myeloma Awareness":

- ➔ March is "Multiple Myeloma Awareness" month. Multiple myeloma is a type of cancer that begins in plasma cells.
- ➔ There are white blood cells that are important to a healthy immune system. Multiple Myeloma is one of the specific cancer types that show the largest racial disparities in incidence and mortality.



New satellite-based toll collection system:

- ➔ Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari announced the end of tolls, introducing a new satellite-based toll collection system.
- ➔ Money will be deducted directly from bank accounts based on road usage, saving time and money for travellers.
- ➔ He emphasized the Bharatmala Pariyojana's importance in enhancing freight traffic handling and its aim to elevate India's road network to US standards.



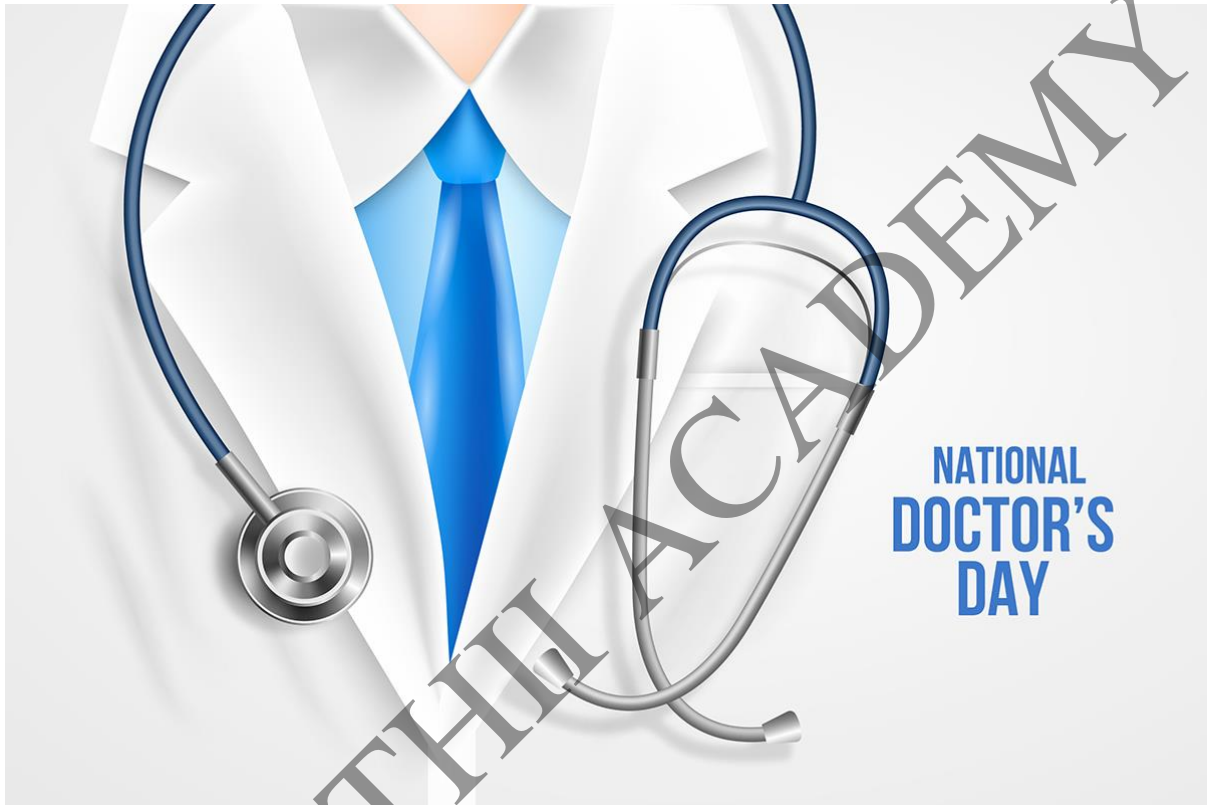
UNESCO Global Geoparks;

- ➔ UNESCO's Executive Board has endorsed the addition of 18 sites to the UNESCO Global Geoparks network.
- ➔ This brings the total number of geoparks to 213 in 48 countries. The new geoparks are situated in Brazil, China, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Portugal and Spain. India does not have single geopark registered under UNESCO.



National Doctors day;

- ➔ National Doctors day is observed on 30th March. This day is celebrated to recognize the contributions of physicians to individual lives and communities.
- ➔ The first doctors Day observance was on March 30, 1933 in the United States. The red carnation is commonly used as the symbolic flower for National Doctors Day.



Sunil Chhetri:

- ➔ Sunil Chhetri became the 8th player in the world and the first Indian football player to play 150+ international matches.
- ➔ He is the only third among active players behind Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi. He became captain of the Indian Team in 2011.

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IIT Guwahati:

- ➔ First ever India-made swine fever vaccine by IIT Guwahati. This vaccine marks the 1st recombinant virus-based solution for classical swine fever developed in India, offering a swift and cost effective method for pig vaccination.
- ➔ States like Punjab, Haryana, Bihar, Gujarat and Kerala are among the states with frequently observed instances of swine fever.



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