

## National

### 1. 6th NSA Level meeting of CSC

The 6th NSA Level meeting of Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) took place in Mauritius. National Security Advisers from countries like India, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Seychelles and Bangladesh participated in the event. CSC promotes regional security and stability.

### 2. 1st Delta Report of Aspirational Blocks Programme

The first delta rankings of the Aspirational Block Programme (ABP) was released by NITI AAYOG. The first position was achieved by Tiryani Block of Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district, Texarkana. The top rankers of Aspirational Block Programme and Aspirational District Programme were showcased on the Wall of Fame.

### 3. 11th Divya Kala Mela 2023

The 11th Divya Kala Mela 2023 is being organised by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) in Patna. The event will showcase the products and craftsmanship of Divyang artisans from across the country.



### 4. The ADAS Show 2023

The International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) along with Ayera organised "The ADAS Show 2023" at Manesar. The event witnessed cutting edge technologies from auto companies. Major auto companies like BMW, MG, HONDA etc showcased the

Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) technology.

### 5. Infinity Forum 2.0

The second edition of Infinity Forum to be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi via video conferencing. It is a global thought leadership forum in Fintech. It is being jointly organised by IFSCA and GIFT city.

### 6. Book Fair at NAI

A book fair was organised recently at National Archives of India (NAI). The fair also consisted of exclusive exhibition-cum-sale of the National Archives of India publications. Records of the government of India and its organisation are conserved by NAI.

### 7. UNEP report in Sustainable Cooling

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) releases a report on Sustainable Cooling namely "The Global Cooling Watch Report". The report stated that greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced by 60 percent by Sustainable practices in the Global cooling sector.

### 8. 1st Indian Art, Architecture and Design Biennale 2023

The first Indian Art, Architecture and Design Biennale (IAADB) 2023 was inaugurated by Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi. It is being held at Red Fort, New Delhi. The initiative is in line to develop flagship global cultural initiatives in the country.

### 9. Build for Bharat

A nationwide program "Build for Bharat" was launched by the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). It aims at addressing challenges in digital commerce and providing solutions across various sectors.

### 10. Inaugural meeting of National Traders Welfare

## Board

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) convened the inaugural meeting of National Traders Welfare Board (NTWB). The meeting took place at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi and was chaired by Sunil J Singh.

### 11. Crime In India Report by NCRB

The Crime In India Report was released by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). The report revealed significant statistics trends for the crimes that took place in 2022. Cybercrimes increased by 24 percent which was highest among all.

### 12. Government of India and ADB sign USD 175 million loan

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) to provide USD 175 million loan to improve connectivity and roads in the state of Madhya Pradesh. The project will upgrade 500 km of state highways and will enhance connectivity in state road networks across 14 districts.

### 13. Garba declared Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO

The United Nations Cultural arm UNESCO has declared "Garba of Gujarat" as an Intangible Cultural Heritage. It becomes the 15th Intangible Cultural Heritage element from India to join the list. The decision was made at the 18th meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Kasane, Botswana.

### 14. 59th Fertiliser Association of India Seminar 2023

Union Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the 59th Fertiliser Association of India Annual Seminar 2023 in New Delhi. The Theme was "Innovations in Fertiliser and Agriculture Sectors". Products and Services provided to Fertiliser and Agriculture sectors were showcased by 56 exhibitors from India and abroad at the exhibition.

### 15. Uttarakhand Global Investors Summit 2023

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Uttarakhand Global Investors Summit 2023. The Summit is being held at Forest Research Institute, Dehradun. The Summit is aimed at establishing Uttarakhand as a new Investment Destination.

### 16. 68th Mahaparinirvana Diwas of Dr BR Ambedkar

The Dr Ambedkar Foundation (DAF) commemorated the 68th Mahaparinirvana Diwas of Dr BR Ambedkar on 6th December 2023 at the Parliament House Lawn, New Delhi. It was on this day in 1956 Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, the person who drafted the Constitution of India passed away.



### 17. Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is launching the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY). The objective of the scheme is to provide assisted living devices to senior citizens suffering from age related disability.

### 18. Gram Manchitra Application

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched the Gram Manchitra Application. It is a Geographical Information System Application aimed to encourage spatial planning by the Gram Panchayat. The app provides help to Gram Panchayat to perform spatial planning at Gram Panchayat Level using Geo-Spatial Technology.

### 19. India Infrastructure Report 2023



The India Infrastructure Report 2023 was released by Former Vice President of India Shri Venkiah Naidu along with G20 sherpa Amitabh Kant. The subject matter of the Report is Urban Planning and Development.

## 20. 40th CISO Deep Dive Training Program

The NeGD and MeitY under the Cyber Surakshit Bharat Initiative conducted 40th Chief Information Security Officers (CISO) Deep Dive Training Program. It is a capacity building program aimed at sensitising and orienting participants on Cyber safety.



## 21. Bhartiya Beej Sahkari Samiti Limited

The Ministry of Cooperation under the Multi State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002 has set up Bhartiya Beej Sahkari Samiti Limited. It is a seed cooperative society with 2 kinds of members including ordinary members and Nominal or associate members.

## 22. PM KISAN mobile app

The PM KISAN Mobile app launched by the Government of India has achieved a new milestone of successfully completing e-KYC of 20 lakh farmers. It is the first mobile app that uses face authentication based e-KYC feature. The PM KISAN scheme was launched by the Government of India in 2019 and it is a Central Sector Scheme.

## 23. Youth Parliament Competition

The Youth Parliament Competitions are organised in schools across the country by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. The competitions are organised

for Kendriya Vidyalayas, Schools under the Directorate of Education, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas.

## 24. India Internet Governance Forum 2023

The India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) 2023 took place on December 5th, 2023 at New Delhi. It is the third edition of IIGF under the theme "Moving Forward-Calibrating Bharat's Digital Agenda". It is an initiative associated with the UN Internet Governance Forum and it aims at building a secure, trusted and resilient cyberspace.

## 25. More than 130 lakh beneficiaries under UDAN scheme

The Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) has achieved a new milestone as more than 130 lakh people have availed the benefits under the scheme. The Scheme seeks to stimulate Regional Connectivity to Masses at affordable rates through Airways.

## 26. Football for Schools

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan attended the kick off programme for distribution of Footballs under the Football for Schools programme run by FIFA. Footballs were distributed at PM Shri Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in Mundali, Cuttack. The Ministry of Education along with SAI and AIFF are implementing this program in the country.

## 27. SARAS Food Festival

SARAS Food Festival, a confluence of Taste and Culture was inaugurated at New Delhi by Union Minister Fagga Singh Kulaste. It was the second edition of the Food festival with the first one being inaugurated in 2022 by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).

## 28. Dynamic GWR Assessment Report 2023

The Dynamic GroundWater Resources Assessment Report was released for the entire country for the year

2023 by Union Jal Shakti Minister, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. There was an increase of 11.48 Billion Cubic Metres compared to 2022 in annual Ground Water Recharge. The report was jointly assessed by CGWB and States/UTs concerned.

### 29. 21st Meeting of Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers (SCILR)

The 37th Annual General Meeting of NWDA and 21st meeting of Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers (SCILR) was chaired by Union Minister Shri Gajendra Singh at Dr Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi. 8th India Water week 2024 was also launched by the Minister.

### 30. DPIIT releases report on Logistics Costs in India

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry launched a report "Logistics Cost in India: Assessment and Long Term Framework " in line with India's National Logistics Policy. The major aim of the policy is to reduce Logistics cost in India.

### 31. ASEAN-India Millet Festival

The ASEAN-India Millet Festival was inaugurated by Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Tribal Affairs, Shri Arjun Munda at New Delhi. The aim of the festival is to raise awareness and establish a large market for millet and millet based products. 2023 has been recognized as the International year of Millets.



### 32. World Record for Largest Reading activity

Pune has entered into Guinness Book of World Records for conducting World's Largest Reading

Activity. The event involved 3066 parents gathered to read aloud to their children. It surpassed China's Record of 2884 participants.

### 33. India's Fastest Solar Electric Boat Barracuda

India's Fastest Solar Electric Boat "Barracuda" was launched at the Navgathi Panavally Yard in Alappuzha, Kerala. It is built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders and Navalt. It is an Eco-friendly vassal to promote eco friendly Marine transportation.

### 34. 3000 crore investment in Gujarat

A MoU was signed between Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages and Government of Gujarat for investment of 3000 crore in Gujarat by Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages. A new facility will be set up at Rajkot using the investment for producing Juice and Aerated drinks.

### 35. Tripartite agreement for development of Sewage Treatment Plant

A tripartite agreement was signed between National Mission for Clean Ganga(NMCG), UP Jal Nigam and EEL Mathura Infra Engineers pvt Ltd for development of Sewage Treatment Plant at Gokul Barrage in Mathura. The agreement is executed under Hybrid Annuity PPP mode.

### 36. Uttarakhand Climate Resilient Power System development project

The Government of India and Asian Development Bank(ADB) signed an agreement for development of the Uttarakhand Climate Resilient Power System project. Under the agreement, the Asian Development Bank is to provide a loan of \$200 million to the Government of India.

### 37. Year in Search 2023 by Google

Chandrayaan 3 along with Karnataka Election results that have dominated the search trends in India in 2023 as per the Year in Search 2023 edition of Google.



The Indian Premier League was the most popular sporting event in the Subcontinent.

### 38. National Conference on Responsible Business Conduct 2023

"National Conference on Responsible Business Conduct 2023: Embracing ESG in India " is being organised by the School of Business Environment at IICA, New Delhi. The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs established in 2012.

### 39. IEPFA and NCAER jointly organise Workshop

A workshop on "Investor Education and Protection Policy in India: Claiming the Unclaimed" was jointly organised by the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) and the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). It was organised for youth, engaging college students.

### 40. Multimedia Logistics Park (MMLP)

NHAI and M/s DC Multi Modal Park (Nagpur) Limited have entered into a partnership for development of Multi Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) in Nagpur. The estimated cost of the project is 673 crore and it aligns with PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.

### 41. SC declared Article 370 a temporary provision

The Supreme Court of India in its Unanimous decision has declared Article 370 a temporary provision of the Indian Constitution. Article 370 gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir. The court in its argument stated that Jammu and Kashmir lost its internal sovereignty upon its accession with India.

### 42. IRSE International Convention 2023

Union Minister Darshana Jardosh inaugurated the IRSE International Convention 2023 at Manekshaw Centre, Delhi. It is a 3 day convention focusing on Digital Transformation of Railways, Train on Track etc. The Convention is jointly organised by IRSE Bharat Section

and IRSTE.

### 43. 58 Airports under Krishi Udan Scheme

Launched in 2020, The Krishi Udan Scheme has covered 58 airports across the country. It was launched on National and international routes to assist farmers transport Agricultural products. The number of airports covered under the North Eastern, hilly and Tribal region are 25.

### 44. Youth for Unnati and Vikas with AI (YUVAi)

A Collaborative initiative of Government of India and Intel India "Youth for Unnati and Vikas with AI (YUVAi)" was launched at Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit. The initiative is aimed at equipping the youth with essential AI skills.



### 45. NAeG 2024 web portal

The National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2024 web portal was launched by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG). NAeG is one of the most prestigious digital Governance Awards in the country.

### 46. 16 nations to participate in VGGS 2024

16 countries along with 14 organisations have confirmed for partnership in the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024. The event is to be held in January 2024 under the theme "Gateway to the Future". The collaborations aim to bolster bilateral relations.

### 47. 27th WAIPA World Investment Conference to be held in India

Invest India under DPIIT is set to host the 27th World Investment Conference (WIC) at India International Convention and Expo Centre- Yashobhoomi, New Delhi. It is said to be the largest World Investment Conference to be held ever. Invest India is the current president of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA).

#### 48. Music Festival Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam at Vijayawada

Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam Music Festival is being organised at Vijayawada on the banks of River Krishna. The event is being organised by the Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Sangeet Natak Akademi and State Government of Andhra Pradesh.



#### 49. One Bharat Sari Walkathon

India's financial capital, Mumbai hosted the country's largest ever "One Bharat Sari Walkathon" organised by the Ministry of Textiles. The event showcased different ways of wearing saree by women from all across the country. It is aimed at promoting the spirit of traditional textile and promoting handloom Sari culture in India.

#### 50. International Workshop on ISAA

A two day International Workshop is being conducted by National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID) on Indian Scale for Assessment of Autism (ISAA). It is being conducted at DAIC, New Delhi. It is aimed at training the ISAA tool

developed by NIEPID for assessment of autism in the country.

#### 51. 4E Wave Launched

A student-led National Movement for Energy Conservation "4E Wave" was launched by Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy Shri RK Singh. The movement aims to promote sustainable practices in the field of Energy conservation. It was launched in the presence of Lieutenant Governor of J&K Shri Manoj Sinha.

#### 52. India-Korea Electronic Origin Data Exchange System (EODES)

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) launched India-Korea Electronic Origin Data Exchange System (EODES) for faster clearance of imported goods. It is being launched by Chairman CBIC, Mr Sanjay Kumar in presence of Mr. KO Kwang Hyo, Commissioner of Korea Customs Service.

#### 53. 3 sub-schemes launched under RAMP programme



Union Minister Narayan Rane launched 3 sub schemes namely MSME GIFT scheme, MSE SPICE scheme and MSE scheme on Online Dispute Resolution for delayed payments scheme. These schemes are a part of the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) programme assisted by the World Bank.

#### 54. CISF to provide Parliament security

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) provides



comprehensive security to the New Parliament Building. The step was taken due to a security breach in the Parliament on December 13, 2023. CISF is a federal police organisation founded on March 10, 1969.

#### 55. Two day Tribal Orientation Programme Adi Vyakhyan

The National Tribal Research Institute (NTRI) organised "Adi Vyakhyan", a two day Tribal Orientation programme. The initiative aims to explore Tribal identity and Tribal contribution to cultural diversity of the nation. The programme was inaugurated by Union Tribal Affairs Minister Shri Arjun Munda.

#### 56. Paat Mitro Application

The Ministry of Textiles launched the Paat Mitro mobile application. The application is developed by The Jute Corporation of India Limited (JCI). The application aims to provide information about MSP and agronomy to Jute Farmers.

#### 57. National Workshop on Cactus for Green Economy in Watershed Projects

Union Minister Giriraj Singh addressed a one day National workshop on "Cactus for Green Economy in Watershed Projects" held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The workshop was organised by the Department of Land Resources (DoLR). The aim of the workshop is to derive ways for Promotion of Cactus cultivation.

#### 58. Indus Food

The Trade Promotion Council of India in collaboration with the Department of commerce is set to organise an Indus Food event from January 8th to 10th 2024. The event will be held at India Expo Centre, Greater Noida, Noida.

#### 59. Redevelopment Plan for Sitamarhi

The Bihar Government announced a 72 crore plan for redevelopment of Punourdhama in Sitamarhi. The place is believed to be the birthplace of Hindu Deity

Sita. Sitamarhi is a part of 15 tourist cum religious places on the Ramayana Circuit under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.

#### 60. Card on File Tokenization

Card on File (CoF) Tokenization Facility has been introduced by The Reserve Bank of India through Banks. It will help cardholders in creating and linking tokens to their existing accounts through e-commerce applications.

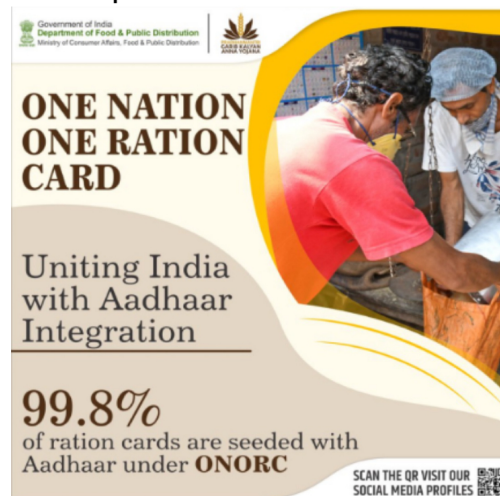
#### 61. Sahitya Akademi Awards 2023 Winners announced

The Sahitya Akademi Awards 2023 were announced by Sahitya Akademi on December 20th 2023. The awards were announced in 24 languages. A total of 9 books of poetry, 3 essays, 5 short stories, 6 novels and 1 literary study have been awarded.

#### 62. Union Minister Bhupender Yadav launched NITI AAYOG report

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav launched a NITI AAYOG report titled "A Green and Sustainable Growth Agenda for the Economy" in New Delhi. Ambassador of Brazil to India Kenneth Felix also participated in the launch event.

#### 63. 99.8 percent Ration Cards seeded with AADHAR



Under One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) Scheme

99.8 percent Ration Cards have been seeded with Aadhar Card. The initiative will help in rightful targeting of PDS beneficiaries in the country. The One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) Scheme was launched on 9th August 2019.

#### 64. First Foundational Day of All India Institute of Ayurveda, Goa

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal marked the first foundation day of All India Institute of Ayurveda, Goa. He released a commemorative postal stamp on the occasion. All India Institute of Ayurveda is a premier institution with aim to provide high quality Healthcare services.

#### 65. Late Blight Disease attack on Potato crop

Researchers at Punjab Agricultural University warned the farmers against the attack of Late Blight Disease on potato crops. The disease is caused by the fungus *Phytophthora Infestans*.

#### 66. Centre allows extra borrowing of 60,000 crores to states

The Union Government has allowed 22 states to borrow an additional 60,000 crore in Financial Year 2024 above their net borrowing ceiling. The States are being granted this extra borrowings for their contribution to the National Pension Scheme (NPS).

#### 67. Surat Diamond Bourse World's Largest Corporate Office

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the World's largest meditation centre "The Swarved Mahamandir" in Varanasi's Umara area. It is a seven floor temple with a seating capacity of 20,000 individuals.

#### 68. India top recipient of Global Remittances

The World Bank's latest report titled Migration and Development Brief stated that India will be the top recipient of remittances globally in 2023. The amount of remittances can reach upto USD 125 Billion by the end of 2023. The USA is the largest source of remittances.

#### 69. Alleviating Heat Stress by Enhancing Production of Affordable Cooling Devices (AHEAD)

The Consultation workshop on Alleviating Heat Stress by Enhancing Production of Affordable Cooling Devices (AHEAD) was successfully hosted by DPIIT. The event was conducted by DPIIT in collaboration with the World Bank, MoEFCC and Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE). It was the first ever industry-led workshop focusing on recognizing cooling as a climate adaptation issue.

#### 70. Kakrapar Atomic Power Project Unit-4 achieves first criticality

The Kakrapar Atomic Power Project Unit 4 achieved Criticality for the first time on December 17, 2023. Criticality means the start of controlled fission chain reaction. Kakrapar Atomic Power Project Unit 4 is the second indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR) of 700 MW being set up in the country.

#### 71. Establishment of Manipur State Beverages Corporation Limited

The Manipur State Beverages Corporation Limited (MSBCL) was established after approval by the Manipur Cabinet. Its establishment legalises the production, sale and consumption of alcohol in specific regions of the state. It ends the 30 year long period of prohibition of alcohol in the state.

#### 72. Successful Crash Tests under BHARAT NCAP

Successful completion of the first round of Crash testing of the cars took place under Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (BHARAT NCAP). Cars tested are from Original Equipment manufacturers like Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors and Kia India. BHARAT NCAP is a indigenous star rating system for Crash testing cars. The Control and Command Centre for BHARAT NCAP is located at Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT) in Pune.

#### 73. 68th Railway Week Central Function



The Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar (AVRSP) was conferred to 100 railway employees from all over the country for their outstanding services. The awards was conferred by Union Minister of Railways Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw at the 68th Railway Week Central Function.

#### 74. 2nd phase of Kashi Tamil Samagam



The Prime Minister of India in line with his vision of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat inaugurated Kashi Tamil Samagam 2023 at Namoh Ghat. He also launched Kanyakumari-Varanasi Tamil Sangamam train on the occasion. The event will commence from 17th December 2023 till 30th December 2023 at Kashi(Varanasi).

#### 75. Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2023

Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal launched the 5th edition of Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2023 report. The report provides information into improvement of logistics performance at State/UT level.

#### 76. Swarved Mahamandir

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the World's largest Corporate office hub, The Surat Diamond Bourse at Khajod Village, Surat. The Bourse overtook USAs Pentagon Building who held the record for the last 80 years of the World's Largest building.

#### 77. 4th edition of RATS SCO Practical Seminar organised

The National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS)

under Government of India organised the 4th edition of RATS SCO Practical seminar. It was organised on the theme "Countering the Misuse of Internet and New Information Technologies for Terrorist, separatist and Extremist purposes".

#### 78. Diamond Jubilee celebration of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan attended the Diamond jubilee celebration of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan at New Delhi. The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan was established on 15th December 1963 with 20 regimental schools.

#### 79. MoU between India and Tanzania on Digital Solutions



A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between India and Tanzania on cooperation in the field of Digital Solutions. The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved the MoU. The collaboration in the field of Digital Solutions implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformations will lead to employment opportunities in the IT sector.

#### 80. CRC in Samba Jammu inaugurated

The Lieutenant Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir Shri Manoj Singh inaugurated the Composite Regional Centre(CRC) for Skill Development, Rehabilitation and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities at Samba, Jammu. It is an initiative of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DePWD)

under the Ministry of Social Justice.

#### 81. POWERGRID Vishram Sadan

Union Minister for Power and New&Renewable Energy Shri RK Singh inaugurated POWERGRID Vishram Sadan in Bengaluru. Similar Vishram Sadans have been built by POWERGRID at AIIMS Delhi, IGIMS Patna, DMCH Darbhanga, KGMU lucknow, Guwahati and Vadodara.

#### 82. ICER building at IISc Bengaluru

Union Minister Shri RK Singh laid the foundation stone for Interdisciplinary Centre for Energy Research (ICER) building at IISc Bengaluru. It is a significant step in scientific advancement for shaping the future of energy research and sustainable technologies.

#### 83. Kapil Vatsyayan Memorial Lecture

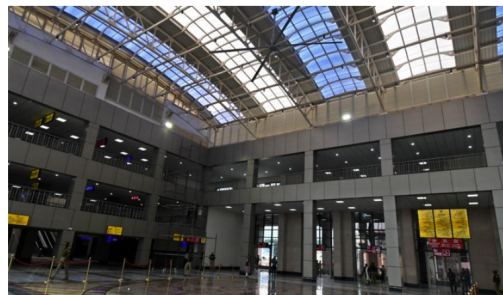
The Kapila Vatsyayan Memorial Lecture was recently hosted by Kala Nidhi division of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA). The event was held on the topic "Understanding India Through Indic Perspective". Dr Ritendra Sharma delivered this insightful Memorial Lecture.

#### 84. Postal Stamp released to mark 50 years of Pandit Jasraj's music festival

Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal released "E-commerce Exports Handbook for MSMEs" in New Delhi. The Handbook is prepared by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). The initiative supports objectives of Foreign Trade Policy 2023 and will act as a guide for MSMEs in expanding their Exports.

#### 85. PM Modi to inaugurate Ayodhya Railway Station

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the State of the art Ayodhya Railway Station. The Railway Station is equipped with Airport style amenities along with a cutting edge three storey complex.



#### 86. RBI released report titled Trend and Progress of Banking in India

The Reserve Bank of India recently released a report titled "Trend and Progress of Banking in India". The report stated that Indian Banks are showing profitable growth along with Falling bad loans and adequate capital buffers. The NPA Ratio of the scheduled commercial banks saw a decline of 3.2%, which is a 10 year low.

#### 87. 99th International Tansen Samaroh in Gwalior

More than 1300 musicians created the Guinness Book of World Record for the "Largest Table Ensemble" at 99th International Tansen Mahotsav in Gwalior. The City of Gwalior was also listed as the Creative City of Music in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN).

#### 88. 6 SAMARTH curated Training Programs launched

Karmayogi Bharat along with NITI Aayog launched 6 SAMARTH Curated training programs on iGOT platforms. The programme has been launched for State Government Officials and it aims to enhance skills and competencies of government officials.

#### 89. Postal Stamp released to mark 50 years of Pandit Jasraj's music festival

Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah released a commemorative postal stamp to mark 50 years of Pandit Jasraj's Music festival- "Pandit Motiram Pandit Maniram Sangeet Samaroh" in New Delhi. The music festival was started by Pandit Jasraj in 1972 in loving memory of his late father Sangeet Ratna Pandit Motiram Ji.



## 90. MoU for Cooperation in Broadcasting between India and Malaysia

The Union Cabinet approved the MoU Agreement signed between Prasar Bharti and Radio Television Malaysia to strengthen cooperation in the field of Broadcasting. With the approval, Prasar Bharati creates a record of signing 46 MoUs with different countries.

## 91. Amrit Bharat Express

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi is set to launch the Amrit Bharat Express on December 30, 2023. The Amrit Bharat trains aim to enhance the travel experience of Common man and provide them with luxurious facilities. It was previously called as Vande Sadharana and the train has a top speed of 130 kmph.

## 92. e-Svarna

IndusInd bank launched India's first corporate credit card "eSvarna" that allows linking with UPI applications. It is launched on Rupay Network and offers comprehensive facilities to business travellers.

## 93. Free Trade Agreement between India and EaEU

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in the recent visit to Russia had negotiations on Free Trade Agreement with five member Eurasian Economic Union led by Russia. The Eurasian Economic Union is a five member Economic union of States located in Northern Eurasia and formed by a Treaty signed in 2014.



## 94. Tripartite Peace Accord

A Tripartite Peace Accord was signed between United Liberation Front of Asom(ULFA), the Central Government and Assam Government. The Peace Accord aims to bring peace in North Eastern Sister States. The signing ceremony was attended by Home Minister Amit Shah, CM Hemanta Biswa, ULFA members headed by Arabinda Rajkhowa.

## 95. Anganwadi cum Creche National Program

Union Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Irani inaugurated the National Programme on Anganwadi cum Creche under Palna Scheme in New Delhi. Under the programme the Government aims to open 17000 Creche around the country.

## 96. Regulations on Determination of Turnover of Enterprises

Draft Regulations were unveiled by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) that were aimed at determining the "Turnover" of Enterprises. The Regulations will play a major role in calculation of penalties imposed on Enterprises for engaging in anti competitive conduct.

## 97. Decline in Formal Sector Employment

As per the official data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), the formal sector employment has seen a decline in the months of October. The data for employment related statistics is sourced from three major schemes namely Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Scheme, Employees state Insurance (ESIC) scheme and National Pension Scheme (NPS).

## 98. VGF for development of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)

The Government of India has approved the scheme for Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for development of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). Under the scheme 4000 mwh of BESS projects are to be developed by 2030-31.

## 99. 2nd National Stakeholders Workshop on Wildlife Health and One Health

The Central Zoo Authority (CZO) successfully conducted the 2nd National Level Stakeholder Workshop on Wildlife Health and One Health Collaboration. The workshop was chaired by Union Minister Ashwini Chaubey. The workshop is aimed at the development of the National Referral Centre for Wildlife (NRC-W).

## 100. Bangalore's Kempegowda Airport named World's Most Beautiful Airport

The Bangalore Kempegowda International Airport has been named as the World's Most Beautiful Airport in a recent announcement from UNESCO's Prix Versailles 2023. The terminal 2 of the airport has won the World Special Prize for an Interior 2023.



## 101. Indigenous River Model BRAHMA-2D

Researchers at IIT Guwahati have developed an Indigenous River Model BRAHMA-2D that stands for Braided River Aid:Hydro-Morphological Analyser. The BRAHMA-2D is a mathematical tool to measure flow of large braided rivers like Brahmaputra.

## 102. Sant Sammelan 2023

Sant Sammelan 2023 was organised on the occasion of International Geeta Mohotsav 2023 in Kurukshetra, Haryana on December 22, 2023. Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressed the event. The theme of the Mahotsav is "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam:Srimad Bhagavad Gita and Universal Unity".

## 103. USD 100 million loan agreement for infrastructure

## development in Tripura

The Government of India and Asian Development Bank signed a USD 100 Million loan agreement to improve Urban Services and Tourism facilities in the northeastern state of Tripura. Municipal Infrastructure and Public Services in Urban local bodies along with the main national highway in Tripura will be targeted for development under the agreement.

## 104. PPP Beginners e-course

The World Bank along with the Department of Economic Affairs launched the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Beginner's e-course. The initiative will foster collaboration between Public and Private sectors in infrastructure capacity building.

## International

### 1. Oil and Gas Decarbonization Charter (OGDC)

Global Initiative, Oil and Gas Decarbonization Charter (OGDC) was launched by Saudi Arabia along with COP 28 President Dr Sultan AL Jaber. It is a major initiative launched to accelerate Climate Action in the Oil and Gas Sector. OGDC is integral to the Global Decarbonization Accelerator (GDA).



### 2. Italy withdraws from OBOR

South European Nation Italy officially withdraws from China's One Belt One Road Initiative. It was the only G7 nation to sign the OBOR in 2019. China is trying to shape the world order in its favour using Initiatives like OBOR.



### 3. Social Innovators from India won prizes at 4th AIGIF held at Malaysia

Social Innovators from India won prizes at Grassroot Innovation and Student Innovation competitions organised at the 4th edition of ASEAN India Grassroots Innovation Forum (AIGIF). Dipak Bharali and Sunil Shinde won 1st and 3rd prize at grassroots Innovation while Aanchal Agarwal won 3rd prize in student Innovation competition.

### 4. ISSA Vision Zero 2023 Award bagged by ESIC

The Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) was awarded with the ISSA Vision Zero 2023 award by ISSA. The award ceremony took place at the 23rd World Congress on Safety and Health at Work in Sydney, Australia. The approach of "Vision Zero" helps in the prevention of accidents at workplaces.

### 5. 46th Meeting of the Executive Committee of Codex Alimentarius Commission

The 46th Meeting of the Executive Committee of Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) is being held at FAO Headquarters at Rome. India has been unanimously elected as a member in the CAC representing the Asian Region. The Executive Committee is considered as an important arm of the CAC.

### 6. Oldest Record of Humans domesticating Yaks found

The Oldest Record of Domestication of Yaks by Humans was found in the ancient settlement of Bangga in Shannan Prefecture of Tibetan Autonomous Region. Bangladesh is the earliest agro pastoral settlement located at an elevation of 3750 metres above sea level.

### 7. 2023 International Debt Report

The World Bank released the International Debt Report 2023. The report Highlighted that developing countries spent USD 443.5 billion to service their external public

and publicly guaranteed Debt in 2022. The scarce resources were shifted away from critical needs such as health, education, and the environment due to increase in costs.

### 8. IMF release 2nd Tranche of Economic relief for Sri Lanka

The International Monetary Fund has released the second tranche of an economic relief package comprising USD 337 Million for Sri Lanka. China is the biggest official lender of Sri Lanka holding 52% of Islands bilateral debt.

### 9. Africa Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2023

A new report titled "Africa Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2023" was released by combined efforts of various UN agencies. The report stated that 20% of the African Population experienced undernourishment in 2022. The report was jointly released by FAO, AUC, ECA and WFP.



### 10. Biocrust making Great Wall of China stronger

Researchers from China conducted a study stating that a living breathing shield of Biocrust is making the Great wall of China stronger. It was built in 220 BC in Huairou district of China by Qin Shi Huang. Biocrust is a community of Cyanobacteria, Lichen and Moss clinging to Wall's surface.

### 11. Giant Pliosaur Skull discovered

A giant Pliosaur Skull has been discovered in South West England's Dorset Jurassic Coast. It is a 2 metre long fossil with a limb size of 12 metre. It is also described as Underwater T.Rex and inhabited oceans 150 million years ago.

### 12. Sakura Science High School Programme 2023

64 students from India will participate in the Sakura Science High School Programme 2023 in Japan. The students were invited by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). India participated in the program for the first time in 2016.

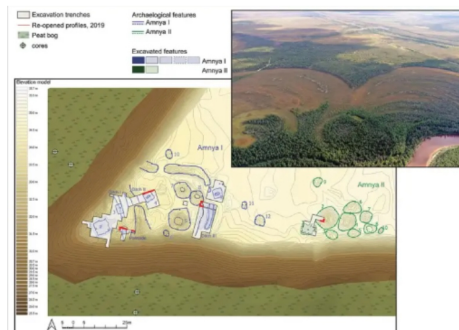
### 13. World's deepest Underground Physics Laboratory unveiled by China

The Deep Underground and Ultra-low Radiation Background Facility for Frontier Physics Experiments (DURF), also the World's Deepest and Largest Underground Physics Laboratory was unveiled by China. The laboratory is located beneath Jinping Mountain in Sichuan Province.

### 14. Indian River Cities Alliance(RCA) goes global

A Memorandum of Common Purpose(MoCP) was signed between the National Mission for Clean Ganga(NMCG) and the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative (MRCTI) for capacity building in integrated River management. The MoCP was signed at the ongoing COP 28 in Dubai. The Global River Cities alliance(GRCA) was also launched during the event.

### 15. The World's Oldest Known Fort discovered



Archaeologists have discovered The World's Oldest Known Fort along the Amnya River in Western Siberia. The fort dates back to 8000 years indicating that hunter gatherers made complex defence structures. The findings were published in the Journal Antiquity.

### 16. North Korea test fires ICBM powered by Solid fuel

The Republic of North Korea test fired an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) powered by Solid fuel. Solid fuel consists of a mixture of fuel (Metallic powders like Aluminum) and Oxidiser (Salt of Perchloric Acid and Ammonia).

### 17. WHO released Global Safety Report on Road Safety 2023

The Global Safety Report on Road Safety 2023 was released by The Department of Transportation(DOTR), the World Health Organisation and Road Safety partners together. The report was released in the Philippines. The report stated that Road traffic deaths fell slightly to 1.19 million per year.

### 18. Gelephu Smart City Project

The Gelephu Smart City Project was recently announced by Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk. It will be a Mega International City situated near the Indian border. The aim of the city is to act as an economic corridor connecting South Asia with Southeast Asia via Indian Northeastern states.

### 19. 2024 declared as Year of Camelids

2024 has been declared as the Year of Camelids by the United Nations. The Camelids as a group includes



Bactrian Camels, Dromedaries, Guanacos, llamas, Vicunas etc. The Camelids have a significant importance in the lives of people worldwide.

## 20. Ukraine puts Patriarch Kirill on Wanted List

Patriarch Kirill, the Head of the Russian Orthodox Church has been put on the Wanted list by Ukraine. He is a close ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin and has backed the Kremlin's war against Ukraine.

## 21. First People reached North America by sea ice highway

Study conducted by US scientists states that the first people reached North America via "Sea Ice Highway" around 24000 years ago. The study was presented at the American Geophysical Union Annual Meeting (AGU23).

**22. Saint Lucia's TIWB programme launched** Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) programme was launched in partnership with India at Saint Lucia. TIWB is a joint initiative between UNDP and OECD. India will provide Tax experts for the programme as it has been chosen as the Partner Administration.

## 23. Patriot PAC-3 missiles

Russia issued a warning to Japan on the export of Patriot PAC-3 anti-aircraft missiles to the United States. Japan ended a ban on military Exports imposed in 1947 after World War 2 after the export of Missiles to the US. The PATRIOT PAC-3 entered into service with the US army in 2001.

## 24. EBRD to increase Ukraine funding by 4 billion euros

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) approved a 4 billion euro capital increase for reconstruction projects in Ukraine. It is the third big investment in the history of EBRD and will double EBRDs investment in Ukraine. India became the 69th shareholder of EBRD in 2018.

## 25. 6th NSA meeting of CSC

The Sixth NSA meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave(CSC) recently took place in Mauritius. CSC is a regional grouping of 4 countries namely India, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Mauritius established in 2011.

## 26. Migration and Mobility Agreement between India and Italy

The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi gave approval to the External Affairs Ministry to sign and ratify the Migration and Mobility Agreement between India and Italy. The agreement aims to enhance people to people contacts, Mobility of business people, students etc.

## 27. Russia deployed AS-24 KILLJOY Hypersonic missile

Russia recently used its "invincible weapon" also known as AS-24 KILLJOY in an Aerial strike against Ukraine. It is a nuclear capable, air launched Hypersonic Ballistic Missile. Russia launched its missile for the first time targeting a military airfield in Central Ukraine.

## 28. Russia destroy Norwegian NASAMS

The Russian Military has recently announced that it had struck down Norwegian NASAMS (National Advanced Surface to Air Missile System) and French Crotale AD systems at Starokostiantyniv airfield. NASAMS are ground based air defence systems that can defend against Drone, Helicopter and Cruise Missiles attack.

## 29. UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards 2023

Three Heritage Projects from Punjab and Haryana namely the Rambagh Gate, Pinal Haveli and Church of Epiphany have secured prestigious spots among UNESCO Asia Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2023. A total of 12 sites have been recognized including 5 from China, 6 from India and 1 from Nepal.

## Sports

### 1. Anantjeet takes top spot in National Selection Trials

Anantjeet Singh Naruka, Asian Games Silveredallist takes top spot in the National Shooting Selection Trials at Dr Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad. He had beaten Mohd. Sheeraz Sheikh 58-56 for the top spot.

### 2. FIFA suspends Luis Rubiales

Former Spanish football chief Luis Rubiales was officially suspended by the disciplinary committee of the International Football Federation (FIFA). He was suspended from any activity in sport for three years.

### 3. Ravi Bishnoi becomes World Number 1 T20I bowler

The 23 year old youngster from India, Ravi Bishnoi becomes World Number 1 T20I bowler surpassing Rashid Khan of Afghanistan. His rankings increased due to exceptional performance at the recently conducted T20I Series against Australia.



### 4. Project Grand Slam

Lakshya Sports in collaboration with Amalgam Steel launched Project Grand Slam. The project is launched to nurture girls in tennis from Grassroot level to Grand Slam level.

### 5. India wins the T20I series 4-1 against the mighty Australia

With the help of Indian Pacers Arshdeep Singh and Mukesh Kumar India Clinched victory in the last over thriller against Australia, winning the series 4-1. It is the first T20I Series win for India under the captaincy of Suryakumar Yadav

### 6. Pakistan Women won first ever T20I against New Zealand

The Pakistan Women's team have secured their first ever T20 International win against the White Ferns for the first time in history. They defeated the hosts by 7 wickets.

### 7. Vaishali-Praggnanandhaa first ever brother-sister duo to become Grandmasters

Vaishali and Praggnanandhaa created history by becoming the first ever Brother-Sister Duo to become Chess Grandmasters. Vaishali Rameshbaabu is only the third female grandmaster from India after Koneru Humpy and Harika Dronavalli.



### 8. Leander Paes and Vijay Amritraj Inducted into International Tennis Hall of Fame

The Two time Olympic medallist Leander Paes and Two time Davis Cup finalist Vijay Amritraj were inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will take place in Newport, Rhode Island.

### 9. Mohammad Shami nominated for Arjuna Award

Indian Star Bowler who finished as the top wicket taker in the ODI World Cup 2023 has been nominated for the Arjuna Award. Indian Badminton men's Double pair of Satwik Sairaj-Chirag are nominated for India's highest sports prize the Major Dhyan Chand Award.

### 10. IGA Swiatek won WTA Player of the Year 2023

IGA Swiatek becomes first woman since Serena Williams to claim WTA player of the year twice in a row. She ended the season ranking 1. Serena Williams was WTA player of the Year from 2012-15.





### 11. Sicoma Perugia defends FIVB Men's Volleyball Club World Championship title

Sicoma Perugia defeated Itambe Minas at the finals of FIVB Men's Volleyball Club World Championship. They retained the title for the second time. The final was held at Koramangala Indoor Stadium, Bengaluru.

### 12. ICC to start Stop Clock Trial

The International Cricket Council (ICC) to start the Stop Clock Trial from the first West Indies Vs England T20I. The Stop Clock Trial will restrict the amount of time taken by bowlers between overs.

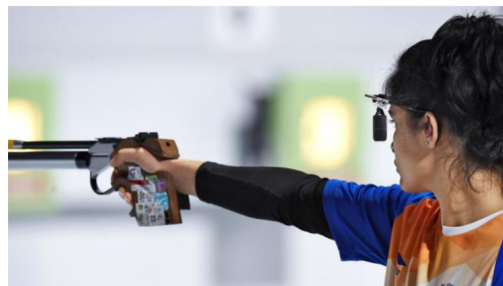
### 13. Defending Champions Gurgaon Sapphires retain Pro Tennis League trophy

Defending Champions Gurgaon Sapphires beat Ichiban Samurai 81-56 in the finals of Pro Tennis League. The Finals was held at RK Khanna Stadium.

### 14. Russian and Belarusian Athletes to participate as Neutral at Paris Olympics

The International Olympic Committee allows Russian and Belarusian athletes to participate in the Paris Olympics 2024 as Neutrals. The athletes will not be allowed to raise flags, emblems or anthems at the event.

### 15. Indian Shooting Team to not compete at Cairo World Cup



India will not compete in the ISSF World Cup 2024 to be held at Cairo. The decision has been taken by the National federation to give rest to Shooters and not exhaust them. The Paris Olympic qualification events will also take place in 2024.

### 16. Bengaluru Mavericks clinch Tennis Premier League Title

The Bengaluru SG Mavericks won the fifth edition of Tennis Premier League beating Bengal Wizards in the final. Bengaluru's Arina Rodionova was declared as the Player of the Match.

### 17. Mitchell Starc becomes costliest buy in IPL history

England's women Football Team Goalkeeper Mary Earps has been crowned as the BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2023. Mary helped England to the World Cup Final in Australia.

### 18. Australian Pacer Mitchell Starc becomes the most costliest buy in the IPL Auction history

He was bought by Kolkata Knight Riders for a whopping 24.75 crores. Australia's World Cup winning captain Pat Cummins also made history by becoming the second costliest buy in IPL History for 20.50 crores by Sunrisers Hyderabad.

### 19. Australian Spinner Nathan Lyon achieved 500 wicket landmark

Australian Off Spinner Nathan Lyon achieved the milestone of 500 Test Wickets during Australia's 360 run victory over Pakistan. Faheem Ashraf was Lyons'

500th wicket.

## 20. Bangladesh won U-19 Asia Cup



Bangladesh crushed UAE by 195 runs to win the Under 19 Asia Cup, Dubai. UAE won the toss and chose to field and let Bangladesh score a massive 282 runs in first innings.

## 21. India breaks record with 347 run win against England

Indian Women's Cricket Team breaks record with 347 run win against England in a test match held at DY Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai. India won within 3 days and seven sessions.

## 22. Nepal Cricketer Sandeep Lamichane convicted for Rape

Nepal's star Cricketer Sandeep Lamichhane has been recently convicted for rape of a 17 year old girl in Kathmandu hotel. He has also represented teams in International franchise Tournaments like BBL, IPL etc.

## 23. Uday Kumar becomes first International Arbiter in Chess

Uday Kumar became the first International Arbiter in Chess from Rayalaseema region. He is the fourth Arbiter from Andhra Pradesh. He also became the youngest Arbiter from Andhra Pradesh.

## 24. 19th edition of the Tata Mumbai Marathon

Olympic Gold Medallist and two time Pole Vault World

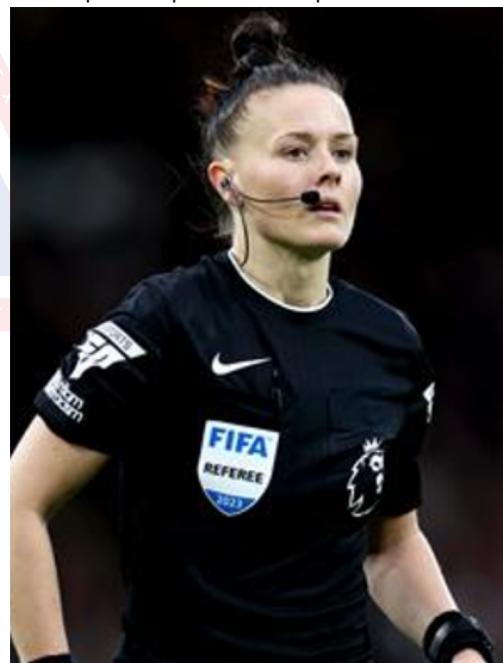
Champion Katie Moon to be event ambassador for 19th edition of the Tata Mumbai Marathon. The Mumbai Marathon is a World Athletics Gold Label Race and is promoted by Procams International.

## 25. Haryana won Vijay Hazare Trophy 2023

Haryana clinched their maiden title after winning Vijay Hazare Trophy 2023 beating Rajasthan by a margin of 30 runs. Vijay Hazare Trophy is a limited over domestic cricket competition organised by BCCI annually.

## 26. First Premier League female Referee Rebecca Welch

Rebecca Welch became the first female referee of the Premier League in the match between Fulham and Burnley. She has handled matches in the second tier Championship and FA cup.



## 27. AITA loses appeal in ITF Tribunal

For the first time in 60 years, the Indian Tennis team is to visit Pakistan to play World Group 1 Play off tie in Islamabad. The International Tennis Federation (ITF) Tribunal rejected AITAs plea for a neutral venue



## Person In News

### 1. First Female SC Justice Sandra Day O'Connor passed away

The first woman to be appointed as US Supreme Court Judge Justice Sandra Day O'Connor passed away due to respiratory illness and dementia. She was a fiercely independent champion of rule of Law and was praised as a Patriot by Justice John Roberts.

### 2. First Woman Director General of ICFRE - Kachina Devi

The 1991 batch IFS Officer of Madhya Pradesh Cadre Shri Kanchana Devi has created a new milestone by being appointed as the first woman Director General of Indian Council of Forestry Research Education (ICFRE). ICFRE is a prestigious Council under MoEFCC. The Headquarters of ICFRE is located in Dehradun.



### 3. Mohan Yadav sworns in as Madhya Pradesh CM

In a major turn of events in Madhya Pradesh Politics BJP named Mohan Yadav as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh replacing Shivraj Singh Chouhan of BJP. BJP won 163 seats in Madhya Pradesh State Assembly Elections.

### 4. Iranian Activist Narges Mohammadi gets Nobel Peace Prize

The children of the Iranian Activist Narges Mohammadi accepted the Nobel Peace prize 2023 on behalf of their mother. The activist couldn't accept her prize as she was jailed in Iran. She worked for a long

time advocating for women's rights and democracy in Iran.



### 5. Abdul Fattah El Sisi won Egypt Presidential Elections



Abdul Fattah El Sisi wins the third term as Egypt's President after amending the constitution. He won the elections with a staggering 89.6% of the vote, facing no serious challengers. The announcement was made by the National Election Authority on December 18.

### 6. Shaikh Hassan Khan climbed Mount Vinson

Kerala Government Employee Shaikh Hassan Khan has created history by climbing the highest peak in Antarctica, The Mount Vinson. The aim of the summit was to spread awareness about climate change taking place in Antarctica. It is his fifth summit.

### 7. Abdoulaye Diabate awarded 2023 Falling Walls Prize

African Scientist from Burkina Faso Abdoulaye Diabate was conferred with the 2023 Falling Walls Prize for

Science and Innovation Management. The Scientist has been given the award for his groundbreaking research on gene drive technology that can eradicate Malaria and its carriers.

## 8. Professor Savita Ladage received Nyholm Prize



Professor Savita Ladage received the Royal Society of Chemistry's Nyholm Prize for education. She is a professor at Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai. She won the award for her contribution to chemistry education.

## 9. Uma Sekhar elected to governing council of UNIDROIT

India's Uma Shekhar was elected to the governing council of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) in the first round of elections held at Rome. It is an independent Intergovernmental organisation established in 1926.

## 10. Justice Sanjiv Khanna nominated as Executive Chairperson of NALSA

The President of India Shri Droupadi Murmu recently nominated Justice Sanjiv Khanna as the Executive Director of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). He is the second most senior judge after Chief Justice of India Shri DY Chandrachud. Justice Sanjeev Khanna will replace Justice SK Kaul.

## 11. Dr P Indira Devi conferred ISAE Fellow 2023 Title

Agricultural Economist from Kerala Dr P Indira Devi has been conferred with ISAE Fellow 2023 Title for her considerable work in the field of Agriculture. The

award was given by the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics (ISAE).

## 12. Sheiks Mishal takes oath as New amir of Kuwait

Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad al-Sabah has sworn in as the new Emir of Kuwait before the Parliament of Kuwait. He took over the position after his half brother Sheikh Nawaf AL Ahmad al-Sabah passed away.



## 13. French President to be Chief Guest at 75th Republic Day Celebrations

The French President Emmanuel Macron to attend the 75th Republic Day Celebrations of India on 26th January 2024 as the Chief Guest. It will be the 6th time after Independence that a French Leader will be the Chief guest at Republic Day Celebrations.

### Science and Tech/Space/Defence

#### 1. Successful training launch of AGNI-1

India had successfully carried out the training launch of Short range Ballistic missile "AGNI-1". The launch was carried out from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha under the aegis of Strategic Forces Command. It is a very high precision missile system.

#### 2. AI system Gemini unveiled by Google

Google CEO Sundar Pichai launched Google's latest Artificial Intelligence system named GEMINI. It is being



described as the biggest science and engineering effort by Google. Gemini consists of 3 modes namely Ultra, Pro and Nano.

### 3. INNO YODHA 2023

The Indian Army held Inno Yodha 2023 at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi. It was an Idea and Innovation Competition and Seminar. The event showcased the usage of technological Innovations within the organisation by users.

### 4. INS SUMEDHA deployed at Madagascar

INS SUMDEHA has been deployed at Antsiranana, Madagascar as part of the Indian Navy's Long Range Mission based deployment. The deployment aims at providing Maritime Security and strengthening Maritime cooperation with Madagascar.

### 5. Survey Vessel SANDHAYAK delivered to Indian Navy

The first Survey Vessel Ship built by GRSE kolkata namely SANDHAYAK had been delivered to the Indian Navy. It is the first of the four ships to be developed and delivered by GRSE, kolkata. The ship is powered by two Diesel engines and is capable of achieving speeds more than 18 knots.

### 6. UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting in Ghana

The UN along with the Republic of Ghana and The Department of Peace Operations is hosting the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting in Accra, Ghana. Raksha Rajya Mantri Ajay Bhatt will be attending the Meeting at Accra. Bilateral Meetings will be held with Participants of member countries to strengthen defence cooperation and engagements.

### 7. Tele MANAS Cell at AFMC Pune

A Tele-Mental Health Assistance and Networking across States (Tele MANAS) Cell was inaugurated at Armed Forces Medical College Pune by the Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan. Tele MANAS is an initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It

will serve as a central Psychological helpline for all armed forces beneficiaries.



### 8. iDEX-DIO sign 300th contract for Defence Innovation

Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) under Defence Innovation Organization (DIO) reached a milestone by signing the 300th contract in the field of design and development of Advanced Gallium Nitride Semiconductors with Agnit Semiconductors Pvt. Limited. The Gallium Nitride Semiconductors are essential for next generation wireless transmitters like Radars to EW Jammers.

### 9. INS Kadmat

The Indian Naval Ship (INS) KADMAT arrived at Manila, Philippines as part of the ongoing Long Range Op Deployment. INS KADMAT is an indigenously designed Anti Submarine Warfare Corvette. It is equipped with an anti-submarine weapon suite

### 10. Mission Antarctica

Mission Antarctica carried out by a team of Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling was flagged in by Raskha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt. The team entered the Asia Book of Records for carrying out Mission Antarctica. Under the Mission a 7500 Sq ft and 75 kg National flag was hoisted atop Mt Rhenock in Sikkim Himalayas.

### 11. INS TARMUGLI

The Indian Navy inducted INS Tarmugli at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam. It is a fast attack Craft that served under the flag of two nations with three names.

The ship was repaired and upgraded at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam by the Indian Navy.

#### 12. 4th edition of Exercise VINBAX-2023

The 4th edition of Joint Military Exercise VINBAX-2023 is taking place in Hanoi, Vietnam between India and Vietnam. It was inaugurated in 2018 and aims to strengthen collaborative partnerships and promote interoperability between Indian and Vietnam.

#### 13. Swimmer Delivery Vehicles for special undersea operations

Indian Navy to acquire indigenously made underwater chariots/midget submarines or Swimmer delivery vehicles. It will enhance the capabilities of its Marine Commandos (MARCOS) for special undersea operations.



#### 14. HONOUR RUN

The Indian Army conducted "Honour Run- Indian Army Veteran's Half Marathon" in Delhi. It is being conducted in commemoration of the historic military victory in the Indo-Pak war of 1999 also known as Kargil War. The theme of the event was "Honour Run".

#### 15. Ocean Sailing Expedition from Goa to Kochi

To mark 75 years of celebrations of National Defence Academy (NDA), the first leg of an Ocean Sailing expedition from Goa to Kochi and back, culminated in Kochi. The NDA completes 75 years of its establishment on January 16, 2024.

#### 16. Italy won Admiral's Cup 2023

Team Italy represented by Midshipman Avallone Antonio won the 12th edition of "Admiral's Cup" Sailing Regatta 2023 held at Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala. Team India won the second and third position, shared by Team UK and Team Germany.

#### 17. Rotating Detonation Rocket Engine (RDRE)



The American Space AGENCY NASA has achieved a new milestone by developing an innovative propulsion system called Rotating Detonation Rocket Engine (RDRE). It was successfully tested by engineers at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama for 251 seconds.

#### 18. Volcanic Activity spotted on Mars

Scientists spotted signs of Volcanic activity on a plain of Mars called Elysium Planitia. The estimated time of the occurrence of the Volcanic activity is 120 million years. Elysium Planitia is the youngest Volcanic terrain on the planet.

#### 19. The First Marshal of Air Force Arjan Singh Annual Lecture conducted

The Indian Air Force in collaboration with the United Services Institution of India (USI) jointly conducted the First Marshal of Air Force Arjan Singh Annual Lecture. The event was conducted AT USI, Shankar Vihar. Arjan Singh is the first and only five star rank officer with Indian Air Force.

#### 20. INS Kochi evacuates sailor aboard hijacked Vessel MV Ruen



The INS Kochi has evacuated one of the 18 sailors who was injured in firing by pirates. He was evacuated from the hijacked Commercial Vessel MV Ruen for urgent medical attention. He was evacuated off the coast of Somalia.

#### 21. Successful trial of SAMAR



The Indian Air Force has successfully test fired the Surface to Air Missile for Assured Retaliation (SAMAR) air defence missile system. The trials took place during Exercise Astrashakti. It is an indigenous air defence missile system.

#### 22. Scientist have found Hydrogen Cyanide on Enceladus

Data from the NASAs Cassini Spacecraft reveals the presence of Hydrogen Cyanide on Saturn's icy moon Enceladus. The Spacecraft reveals the icy moon has more chemical energy and could support complex organic compounds. The study was published in the weekly journal Nature Astronomy.

#### 23. India's Akash Missile System creates history



India has become the first country in the world to

showcase capability of engaging 4 Aerial targets simultaneously with Akash Surface-to-air weapon system. The demonstration took place at Suryalanka Air Force Station during Exercise AstraShakti 2023.

#### 24. Indian Navy received 6th MH-60R "ROMEO" helicopter

The Indian Navy received the 6th MH-60R "ROMEO" helicopter from US based Defence organisation Lockheed Martin. The first two MH60R were received in 2021 at a ceremony held at US Naval airbase in San Diego.

#### 25. Successful flight trial of autonomous Flying Wing UAV

Successful flight trial of autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator was carried out by DRDO at Aeronautical Test Range, Chitradurga in Karnataka. It is an indigenous high speed flying wing Unmanned Aerial Vehicle.

#### 26.. Induction of MCA Barge, LSAM 10(Yard 78)

The Fourth Barge of 08× Missile Cum Ammunition Barge project namely MCA LSAM 10 was inducted at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai for NAD(karanja). The Induction ceremony for the LSAM 10 was presided over by Cmde MV Raj Krishna.

#### 27. Asteroid God of Chaos

NASA recently launched a Spacecraft OSIRIS-APEX to explore an asteroid Apophis also known as God of Chaos. The asteroid will make an extremely close flyby of Earth in the year 2029. The Asteroid is named after the Egyptian God of Chaos.

#### 28. Japan's SLIM Spacecraft enters Moon Orbit

The Japanese Space Agency (JAXA) announced that its Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) Spacecraft entered into Moon's Lunar Orbit. The SLIM Mission was launched by JAXA on September 7, 2023 from Tanegashima Spacecraft. The aim of the mission

is to study the lunar surface.

### 29. INS Imphal commissioned into Indian Navy

Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh commissioned stealth guided missile destroyer INS Imphal at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai. It is the third in the series of four Visakhapatnam class destroyers. The development of the Ships is being done under Project 15B of the Indian Navy.



### 30. AI tool Watsonx.ai

NASA and IBM on the sidelines of COP28, Dubai launched an Artificial Intelligence tool called Watsonx.ai. The tool will be available on the open source platform Hugging Space. The tool will help predicting Hurricanes, Droughts and other catastrophic weather events.

### 31. Indian Ocean Naval Symposium 2023

The Royal Thai Navy conducted the 8th edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) 2023 Conclave of Chiefs at Bangkok, Thailand. The Indian Naval delegation attended the Symposium with Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral R Hari Kumar. 27 member countries participated in the Symposium.

### Miscellaneous

#### 1. Navy Day Celebrations at Sindhudurg

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi attended the Navy Day 2023 celebration on 4th December 2023 at Sindhudurg, Maharashtra. The PM witnessed the Operational Demonstrations by Navy Personnels and Navy Ships. It is celebrated every year

at Sindhudurg to pay Homage to the rich Maritime heritage of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

### 2. 59th BSF Raising Day

The 59th Border Security Force (BSF) Raising Day was observed across the Nation on December 1st, 2023. Union Home Minister attended the event in Jharkhand's Hazaribagh. The function is being held at the oldest training centre of BSF, the Rani Jhansi Parade Ground Training Center located at Meru, Hazaribagh.



### 3. 61st Nagaland Statehood Day observed

The 61st Nagaland Statehood Day was observed on December 1st 2023. Nagaland became the 16th state of India on December 1st, 1963. Nagaland got special provisions towards protecting social practices, ownership of land etc under Article 371A of the Constitution of India.

### 4. National Energy Conservation Day 2023

The National Energy Conservation Day is celebrated annually on December 14. The day aims to showcase the importance of Conserving energy and the achievements of Nation in energy efficiency and conservation. The President of India Shri Droupadi Murmu is the chief guest at the National Energy Conservation Day 2023 function being held in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.





## 5. Quad Climate Working Group (QCWG)

A Side event on "Localised Climate Action" was organised by MoEFCC at the Indian Pavilion of UNFCCC COP28 at Dubai. It was organised under the Climate Ambition Pillar of Quad Climate Working Group (QCWG). The event was based on G20s High Level Principle 7 on Lifestyles for Sustainable Development.

## 6. International Monitoring Station Day 2023



The International Monitoring Station Day 2023 was observed on December 19 by the Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing (WPC) and Wireless Monitoring Organisation (WMO). The day is dedicated to all personnel involved in ensuring interference free spectrum for Public telecom services and Wireless users in India.

## 7. 52nd Vijay Diwas commemorated

52nd Vijay Diwas was commemorated by PM Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah honouring the Jawans. Vijay Diwas is observed every year on December 16 to honour the victory of the Indian Armed Forces over Pakistan in the 1971 war.

## 8. Veer Baal Diwas to be observed on December 26

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi participated in the event marking Veer Baal Diwas at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The Day commemorates the martyrdom of two sons of Guru

Gobind Singh. PM Modi announced 26th December to be observed as Veer Baal Diwas on the day of Prakash Purab of Shri Guru Gobind Singh ji dated 9th January 2022.

## 9. Good Governance day observed on December 25

The Good Governance Day is observed on December 25th annually to mark the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The day aims to educate citizens about the responsibilities and duties of the Government.



Health/agriculture/Environment

## 1. New Hedgehog Specie Mesechinus Orientalis discovered

A new Species of Hedgehog, "Mesechinus Orientalis" has been discovered in Eastern China by scientists from Anhui Normal University. The genus Mesechinus was previously thought to be limited to Northern China.

## 2. New Plant species Impatiens Karuppusamy discovered

The researchers from the Botanical Survey of India discovered a new Plant species named "Impatiens Karuppusamy" from Tamil Nadu. The species were found in Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu.

## 3. Pregnant Megamouth Shark Discovered in Philippines

A pregnant Megamouth Shark washes up in the

Philippines. For the first time in mankind's history a female super rare, Deepwater species was seen pregnant. The discovery showcased that Megamouths are Ovoviviparous.



#### 4. Lakadong Turmeric gets GI Tag

Meghalaya's Lakadong Turmeric, considered as World's best variety of Turmeric has recently been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. It has a curcumin content of 6.8 to 7.5 percent. Lakadong Turmeric is grown organically without the use of fertilisers.

#### 5. Roadmap to reduce Plastic Waste

The "National Circular Economy Roadmap for reduction of Plastic Waste in India" was unveiled by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh. Leading research institutes from India and Australia collaborated to create the roadmap.

#### 6. Carbon Emissions to increase by 8.2 percent in 2023

An International Research team cites that Carbon Emission in India is to increase by 8.2 percent in 2023. China on the other hand will see an increase of 4 percent only. The findings were reported in the Global Carbon Budget Report produced by more than 120 scientists.

#### 7. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Awareness program

A National level Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

Awareness program was launched by Union Health Minister Dr Mandukh Mandaviya across the nation. It is the first ever national level CPR awareness program and more than 20 lakh people participated in the CPR training. The program is being implemented by NBEMS.

#### 8. Miyawaki plantation method to enhance Green Cover

Coal India Limited Subsidiary, Southern Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) to use Miyawaki plantation method for the first time in its operational areas to enhance Green Cover. Miyawaki Plantation technique is a popular Japanese technique to grow forest Cover in small areas.

#### 9. Green Credits Initiative at COP 28

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi launched the Green Credits Initiative at COP28 in Dubai. The initiative aims at generating Green Credits by plantation at Degraded wastelands. It was initiated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoefCC).

#### 10. LeadIT 2.0 launched at COP 28

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi unveiled LeadIT 2.0 at the COP 28 World Climate Action summit held at Dubai.

The initiative focuses on transfer of low carbon technology to emerging economies along with financial assistance. LeadIT stands for Leadership Group for Industry Transition.

#### 11. World Malaria Report 2023 by WHO

The World Health Organisation recently released the World Malaria Report 2023. The report has been titled as Tracking Progress and Gaps in the Global Response to Malaria. The report for the first time includes a dedicated chapter on intersection between Climate Change and Malaria. According to the report India accounted for 66 percent of Malaria cases in WHO



South-East Asia Region in 2022.



## 12. White Lung Syndrome

New Strain of Bacterial Pneumonia also known as White Lung Syndrome is emerging as a new health concern among children. The countries affected by it currently are China, Denmark, US and Netherlands. The disease is widespread among children of age group between three to eight years.

## 13. Global Drought Snapshot Report

The Global Drought Snapshot Report was recently launched by the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. The report stated alarming impacts of Drought worldwide and its consequences on lives, economies and various sectors. The report was released at the beginning of the 28th COP to UNFCCC in Dubai.

## 14. Training Programme on Latent Tuberculosis Infections

A comprehensive training program was organised by the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) on Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI). Ayurvedic medical officers from Delhi and Haryana will participate in the event. The event also has footfall through live platforms of social media.



## 15. National Conference in Energy Transition in India

A two day National Conference on "Energy Transition in India- Road Travel and Opportunity Ahead" was conducted in Gandhinagar. The Conference was inaugurated by Union Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy Shri RK Singh. The Objective of the conference is to promote clean energy and facilitate transition to cleaner energy.

## 16. Cyclone Michaug

National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) meets to discuss the State Government and Central Government preparedness towards the upcoming Cyclone Michaug in Bay of Bengal. The depression is to turn into a cyclonic storm over Southwest Bay of Bengal. Fishermen have been asked to restrict movement in the sea.

## 17. Freshwater Fish Species risk extinction due to Climate Change

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List Assessment states that a quarter of world's freshwater fish species are at risk of extinction due to climate change. 3086 species out of 14,898 species identified by IUCN are at risk of Extinction.

## 18. AKTOCYTE tablets

Scientists from Department of Atomic Energy and IDSR labs, Bengaluru are collaborating to develop AKTOCYTE tablets. These tablets will enhance the quality of life for cancer patients undergoing Radiotherapy. The patients that were treated with AKTOCYTE tablets demonstrated extraordinary

recovery.

#### 19. Himalayas get cooler despite Global Climate Crisis

A Study was published in Journal Nature Geoscience which stated that a surprising phenomenon has emerged in the Himalayas that might slow down the effects of the Global Climate crisis. The Katabatic winds are triggered when high temperatures hit high altitude ice masses, that blow cold air to lower altitude areas.

#### 20. New Marine Amphipod discovered in Chilika Lake

The New Species of Marine Amphipod was discovered in Chilika Lake by researchers at Berhampur University, Odisha. The species have been named as DemaOrchestia Alanensis after Global expert Alan Myers.

#### 21. Blue Drop Report 2023

The South African Department of Water and Sanitation released a Report titled "Blue Drop National Report 2023". The report stated that almost half of the drinking water was deemed microbiologically unsafe for consumption. The decline in drinking water quality has been experienced in South Africa since 2014.

#### 22. Emissions Divide Report 2023

The Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) released a report titled The Emissions Divide Report 2023. The report highlights the differences in Carbon emissions between Developing and Developed nations.

#### 23. Oldest Disease Causing Fungus *Potteromyces Asteroxylicola*

The scientists at Natural History Museum of London have discovered the oldest disease causing bacteria called *Potteromyces Asteroxylicola*. The fungus dates back to 407 million years ago and is found on Fossil samples from Rhynie Chert in Scotland.

#### 24. Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme

The Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme was launched by the Environment Ministry. The Scheme aims at providing third party Certification to promote sustainable forest management and agroforestry. Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal has been chosen as the Scheme operating agency.

#### 25. Royal Bengal Tiger spotted at 3640m

The Royal Bengal Tiger was captured by trap cameras of Bombay National History Society (BNHS) for the first time at an altitude of 3640m. It was spotted inside the premises of Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary located at a tri junction of Sikkim, Bengal and Bhutan.



#### 26. DRDO to pause missile testing to save Sea Turtles

The Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) to pause missile testing at Wheeler Island off Odisha Coast due to mass nesting season of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles. Wheeler Island is also known as APJ Abdul Kalam Island.

#### 27. Kala Azar Elimination Target 2023

India set to achieve the Elimination target of Kala Azar in 2023. Kala Azar also known as Visceral Leishmaniasis is a fatal disease transmitted by the bite of Phlebotomine Sandflies. Bangladesh was recognized as the first country in the World to be officially validated by WHO for eliminating Kala Azar.

#### 28. UNEPs "State of Finance for Nature" report

The United Nations Environment Programme released the "State of Finance for Nature" report on the sidelines of COP28 of UNFCCC. The report states that



countries invest USD 7 Trillion annually in subsidies and private investments which has a direct negative impact on Nature.

### 29. Cheetah Breeding centre in Banni Grasslands

The Government of India has approved the setting up of Cheetah Breeding and Conservation Centre in Banni Grassland. The state Government of Gujarat prepared a proposal under National CAMPA for using Banni Grassland as the centre.

### 30. Global Cooling Pledge

63 countries made history by signing the World's First Global Cooling Pledge at COP28, Dubai. The Pledge was to reduce cooling emissions by 68 percent by 2050. The cooling emissions are expected to triple by 2050, currently accounting for 7 percent of Global greenhouse gases.

### 31. India ranks seventh in CCPI 2024

The annual climate report "Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2024" was released on the sidelines of COP 28, Dubai. India improved its ranking from eight last year to seventh in 2023. The report does not rank the first three countries as they are kept within the "Very High" performance category.

### 32. eDNA from Snow Tracks

Scientists at WWF and MIX Research have developed a unique noninvasive method of collecting environmental DNA (eDNA) from snow tracks of Polar Bears, Eurasian Lynx and Snow leopards. The new tool will protect these enigmatic species and their remote habitats.

### 33. India selected as lead country for IMO Green Voyage2050 project

India has been selected as the leading country for the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Green Voyage2050 Project. The objective of the project is to

assist developing countries in their efforts to reduce GreenHouse Gas (GHG) Emissions from ships.



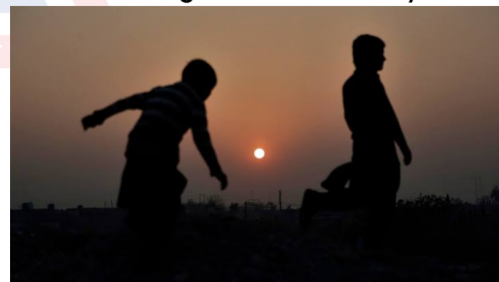
### 34. Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme 2023

The Environment Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism launched Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme 2023 in Sultanpur National Park, Haryana. It is an Alternative Livelihood Programme for capacity building of local community members around different Ramsar Sites of the country.

### 35. India to witness shortest day on December 22

India is set to witness the shortest day of the year on December 22, 2023 due to a phenomenon known as Winter Solstice. The phenomenon is observed every year on December 21 or December 22 and the event marks seasonal transition.

### 36. Sea Turning Red in Puducherry



The principal bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has appointed a three member committee to inspect Kuruchikuppam drain and beach. The Committee will look after the cause behind the recent phenomenon of the sea turning red in Puducherry. The Red tide is a term used for Algal bloom.

### 37. Indian Government launched Forest Certification Scheme

The Government of India has launched its own Forest Certification Scheme namely "The Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS)" to counter foreign agencies. The Scheme aims to validate entities that follow sustainable practices in management of Forest and its products.

### 38. New Endangered Bat Specie named Nustrale discovered

Researchers have found a new species of Bat under Endangered category, named "Nustrale" on the French Island of Corsica. The island is located in the Mediterranean Sea. The species is named Nustrale in Corsican Dialect meaning "Ours".

### 39. Radon a silent killer in US

The reports from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) reveals that more than 21000 deaths per year happen due to lung cancer caused by Radon. It becomes the second leading cause of death in the United States. Radon is a radioactive gas formed when Uranium, Thorium or Radium break down in Rocks, Soil and Groundwater.

### 40. Noma disease included in NTD list

The World Health Organisation announced the inclusion of Noma disease in the list of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). Its scientific name is Cancrum Oris or Gangrenous Stomatitis. The decision was taken at the 17th meeting of Strategic and Technical Advisory Group of Neglected Tropical Diseases (STAG-NTD).

### 41. India's maiden Winter Scientific Arctic Expedition launched

Union Minister Shri Kiren Rijju launched India's first winter Scientific expedition to the Arctic. It was launched from the Ministry of Earth Sciences Headquarters in New Delhi. The expedition from November to March will allow researchers to conduct unique scientific observations during Polar nights.

### 42. Army Hospital successfully conducts Bone Marrow Transplant

Doctors at the Army Hospital R&R in Delhi Cantt in an extraordinary medical achievement have conducted for the first time a successful life saving Bone Marrow Transplant for a seven year old child. The Child was diagnosed with a rare primary immunodeficiency disorder.

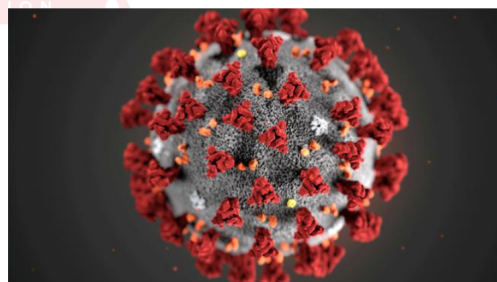
### 43. First ever Tiger sighting at Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary

A tiger was spotted for the first time in the Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary, Uttarakhand. The Sanctuary covers an area of 46 square kilometres and is located at an altitude of 2250 metres. It is a rare and significant event as Tigers are usually found at low altitudes.

### 44. Endangering European Wood Bison

Study titled "Millennial Processes of Population Decline, Range Contraction and Near Extinction of the European Bison" stated that war in Ukraine could hamper the efforts to save the last remnant of European Wood Bison also called as Wisent. Its IUCN status is Near Threatened.

### 45. Case of JN.1 subvariant of Covid 19 found in Kerala



As a part of the ongoing routine surveillance activity by INSACOG (Indian SARS-COV-2 Genomics Consortium), a case of JN.1 subvariant of Covid 19 was detected in Kerala. INSACOG has been monitoring Covid 19 from a genomic perspective.

### 46. New Sea Spider specie Austropallene Halanychi discovered



Scientists have discovered a new species of Sea Spider named *Austropallene Halanychi* off the Antarctic Ocean. Strange Yellow body with boxing glove-like claws are some of the features of the new species found. More than 1000 species of sea spiders have been discovered by Scientists around the world.

#### 47. Calotes Wangi lizard discovered in China

Researchers in China have recently discovered a new species of lizard named *Calotes Wangi* or Wang's Garden Lizard. It was confused for a close iguana relative for years found in Southern China and Vietnam.

#### 48. First Eurasian Otter discovered in Kerala

In an extraordinary finding by Team of researchers, an Eurasian Otter was discovered for the first time in Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary in Idukki, Kerala. The IUCN status of the species is Near Threatened and it is kept in Schedule 2 of Wildlife Protection act 1972.



#### 49. Climate change effects on Aardvarks

A study from Oregon State University stated that warming climate is negatively impacting the chances of long term survival of Aardvarks in Sub Saharan Africa. These nocturnal species are also known as Earth Pigs and have IUCN status of Least Concern.

#### 50. Omicron Subvariant JN.1 declared as Variant of Interest

The World Health Organisation (WHO) recently declared Omicron Subvariant JN.1 as a Variant of Interest (VOI) following a rapid surge. The

Researchers at University of Tokyo have predicted that the Variant will become the dominant lineage of the SARS-CoV-2 virus worldwide.

#### 51. Scientists sequence Genome of Giant Bacterium

Researchers at Cornell University, New York have sequenced the Genome of a mysterious species of Giant Bacterium *Epulopiscium Viviparum* for the first time. The Bacteria is so large that it can be seen without a microscope. The Bacteria was first discovered in 1985.

#### 52. Area around Pong dam Sanctuary declared as Eco Sensitive Zone

The Union Environment Ministry has recently announced one kilometres area around Pong dam Wildlife Sanctuary located in Himachal Pradesh as an Eco-friendly Sensitive Zone. The Pong Dam Lake Wildlife Sanctuary was declared as a Ramsar Site in 2002.

#### 53. Leprosy declared as Reportable Disease in Odisha

The Odisha Government recently declared a NTD namely Leprosy, a Reportable Disease in the state. It is an infectious disease that leads to physical deformity and morbidity in the patient. India has eliminated Leprosy as per WHO criterion of less than one case per 10,000 population.

#### 54. Jumping Spider Species discovered in South India

Two New Species of Jumping Spiders belonging to Genus *Afraflacilla* have been discovered from Kerala and Tamil Nadu. *Afraflacilla Adavathurensis* was discovered from Adavathur while *Afraflacilla Kerala* were spotted in Irinjalakuda and Kuttanad.

#### 55. MedTech Mitra

The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya launched the MedTech Mitra portal. It is a strategic initiative to empower MedTech Innovators and Advance Healthcare Solutions. ICMR

and CDSCO will be coordinating the portal under the guidance of NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission.

#### 56. New species of Bacteria Pantoea Tagorei discovered

The researchers from Visva Bharati University, Kolkata have discovered a new species of bacteria "Pantoea Tagorei", named after Nobel Laureate RabindraNath Tagore. The species has been discovered from soil samples collected at Jharia Coal Mines.



#### 57. WHO grants prequalification to R21/Matrix-M Malaria Vaccine

The World Health Organisation grants pre-qualification to the second Malaria vaccine R21/Matrix-M. The first vaccine that got pre-qualification in June 2022 was RTS,S/AS01. Malaria is a disease transmitted by Parasites like Mosquitoes and mostly children in the African region are affected by it.

#### 58. Polar Stratospheric Clouds over Arctic

Rare Rainbow Clouds scientifically known as Polar Stratospheric Clouds have been witnessed by residents in the Arctic. The phenomenon was observed over various locations including Norway, Sweden, Scotland and Finland.

#### 59. Fossilised Megalodon tooth found

Oceanographers from the USA in collaboration with Zoologist from Germany's SNSB- Bavarian State Collection of Zoology have made a groundbreaking discovery of the first in situ fossilised megalodon tooth in deep sea. The researchers were surveying the area

aboard the Exploration Vessel Nautilus and filmed the In situ before collection.