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DECEMBER 23 ENGLISH

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## DECEMBER – 2023

### **FIRST IN NEWS**

1. **Nepal** becomes the **1<sup>st</sup> South Asian country** to officially **register same-sex marriage**.
2. The **world's 1<sup>st</sup> portable disaster hospital** was opened in **Aarogya Maitri Cube**, in **Gurugram** that can be airlifted and consists of 72 cubes. It is a component of **Project BHISHM**.
3. **Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K)** and the **Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited** have launched **India's 1<sup>st</sup> fully integrated school of sustainability** at **IIT Kanpur**.
4. **Ministry of Earth Sciences** has flagged off India's **1<sup>st</sup> winter scientific expedition** to the **Arctic**.
5. Telangana has unveiled the **world's first 3D-printed temple**, in **Burugupally**.

### **POLITY**

1. **Supreme Court** has **upheld** the validity of **Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370** of the Constitution of India, which granted **special status** to the erstwhile state of **Jammu and Kashmir**.
2. Chief Justice of India constituted an **all-women bench** in SC to hear transfer petitions involving **matrimonial disputes** and bail matter. This is **3<sup>rd</sup> such bench**. The **1<sup>st</sup> all-women bench** was set up in **2013**.
3. According to the **UNDP report "Turning the tide on internal displacement: A development approach to solutions"**, for the **1<sup>st</sup> time** ever, **more than 100 million people** were **forcibly displaced** in **2022**, most of them within their own countries.
4. The **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)**, has recently issued a notification **exempting** the **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERTIn)** from the purview of the **Right to Information Act, 2005**.

5. The **Anand Marriage Act**, which provides statutory recognition and registration provisions for **Sikh wedding rituals**, has been implemented in **Jammu & Kashmir**.

### ***SCHEMES IN NEWS***

Scheme Name	Launched by	Objective
<b>PM JANMAN</b> (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan)	<b>Ministry of Tribal Affairs</b>	Address socio-economic challenges faced by <b>Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)</b> in India
<b>Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS)</b>	<b>Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology</b>	
<b>Raising &amp; Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP)</b>	<b>MSME</b>	<b>Aims to improve the performance of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in India.</b>

### ***ECONOMY***

- RBI** cancelled the licence of **Urban Co-operative Bank, Uttar Pradesh**.
- Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB)** is a joint initiative of the **UNDP** and **OECD** launched a programme in **Saint Lucia**.
- GI Tag:

Product	State
<b>Lakadong turmeric</b>	Meghalaya

## **ENVIRONMENT**

1. The **United Arab Emirates** announced a **\$30-billion** commitment to an investment fund called **ALTERRA** during **COP-28 Conference**
2. **India** became a **member** of the **Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)** Consortium, an initiative led by **Global Leadership Council (GLC)** of the **Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP)**.
3. The **Indian Railways** has initiated the deployment of **Gajraj system**, an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based solution** designed to **prevent elephant fatalities on railway tracks**.
4. At COP28, **UNICEF's Generation Unlimited** and **Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change**, launched the **Green Credit Initiative**, a program aimed at **reshaping global environmental policies**
5. **India** and **Sweden** launched **Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) 2.0**, at **COP-28** in **Dubai**.
6. **MOEFCC** has granted approval for the establishment of a cheetah breeding and conservation centre in **Gujarat's Banni Grassland**.
7. **MOEFCC** has launched the **Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS)**.
8. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched **MedTech Mitra**, a strategic initiative to empower MedTech innovators and advance healthcare solutions.
9. **MOEFCC** has launched the **National Transit Pass System (NTPS)- One Nation-One Pass** pan-India to facilitate the **seamless transit of timber, bamboo**, and other forest produce across the country.
10. The **Vijayawada Railway Station** of **Andhra Pradesh** has been awarded the prestigious platinum rating by **the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)** for its commitment to environmental sustainability and eco-friendly practices.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

1. India's 1<sup>st</sup> Telecom Centre of Excellence is set to be established in **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee**.
2. The **Measles and Rubella Vaccine** named **Mabella** launched by Vaccine maker Indian Immunologicals (IIL) for children.
3. Scientists have identified **Hydrogen cyanide**, a vital molecule for the formation of life, on **Enceladus**, a moon of Saturn
4. **China** has unveiled **world's deepest physics lab on Earth** in **Sichuan**.
5. **YUVAi (Youth for Unnati and Vikas with AI)** is aimed to foster a deeper understanding of AI, to enable school students from **class 8 to 12** across the nation with AI skills.
6. PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated **world's largest meditation centre Swarved Mahamandir** in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**.
7. World Health Organisation has officially recognised '**Noma**' as a neglected tropical disease.
8. **NASA** has relaunched **OSIRIS-REx spacecraft** to explore the **asteroid Apophis** very close flyby of Earth in 2029.

Name	Type	Country/Institution	Purpose
<b>XPoSat</b>	X-ray Polarimeter Satellite	<b>ISRO</b>	Aims to investigate the <b>polarization of intense X-Ray sources</b> and study the enigmatic world of <b>black holes</b> .
<b>EQUULEUS</b>	Spacecraft	<b>JAXA</b>	World's <b>first steam-propelled</b> spacecraft heads to the moon and beyond.

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

1. **New Zealand** set to **scrap world's first law banning tobacco sale** to future generations.
2. **U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak** faces leadership test over his **Rwanda plan**
  - Rwanda plan: **UK government** stated that **anyone** entering the UK **illegally after January 1, 2022**, could be sent to Rwanda, **with no limit on numbers**.
3. **India** has been **re-elected** to the **International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council** for the **2024-25**.
4. **Italy** has **officially withdrawn** from China's ambitious **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**.
5. **India** has been unanimously **elected** as a member representing **Asian region in the Executive Committee of Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)** during its 46<sup>th</sup> meeting being held at **FAO Headquarters at Rome**.
6. **Carbon Border Tax (CBT): UK plans** to implement carbon tax from **2027** on imports of materials like steel and aluminium
7. **United Nations** has **declared 2024** as the **International Year of Camelids**.
8. The **United States** has launched **Operation Prosperity Guardian** to maintain security in the **Red Sea**.
9. **International Organisation for Migration (IOM)** has launched **Project PRAYAS** to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration for Indian workers and students
10. **Angola** has left **Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** due to dispute over oil production quotas.

### **NATIONAL NEWS**

1. **Maha Lakshmi scheme**, introduced by **Telangana**, which aimed at providing **free travel to women** in **TSRTC buses**.
2. Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has bagged the **32<sup>nd</sup> spot** in **Forbes'** annual list of the **World's 100 Most Powerful Women**
3. The **Hump WWII Museum** is the 2<sup>nd</sup> museum in Asia dedicated to the **fallen airmen of the Allied Forces** during the **World War-II** at **Pasighat** in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
4. **NAMO Drone Didi** is a **Central Sector Scheme** for providing drones to **15000 Women Self Help Groups** (SHGs) to rent to farmers for agriculture purposes.
5. **Parliament** has passed a bill giving nod to the establishment of **Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University** in **Telangana**.
6. **Kerala** has emerged most preferred state to work in India as per **India Skills Report 2024**.
7. **Operation Nanhe Farishte** is a **Railway Protection Force** (RPF) initiative to **reconnect children** who have been lost or separated from their families.
8. **Barracuda**, India's **fastest solar-electric boat**, was launched in **Alappuzha**, Kerala.

### **TAMILNADU NEWS**

1. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin unveiled a statue of late anti-caste activist **Iyothee Thass Pandithar** in **Guindy**
2. **World Bank** has approved **USD 300 million** loan to boost urban water and sewerage system in **Tamil Nadu**.

3. **Tamil Nadu** has been recognised as the **top performer** in the **Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2023** rankings in Coastal states Group
4. Transperson activist **Kalki Subramaniam** has been named the representative from the **Southern region** in the **National Council for Transgender Persons**
5. **A memorial stone** named **Smritika** for **Bipin Rawat**, was installed at **Nanjappa Chatram, Coonoor**.
6. **Makkaludan Mudhalvar scheme** was launched, which is aimed at **disposing off grievances or petitions** filed by people on merit **within 30 days**.

### **CULTURE**

1. The first ever **Indian Art, Architecture & Design Biennale (IAADB) 2023** is held at **Red Fort**.
2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition **Kashi Tamil Sangamam 2023** was inaugurated in **Varanasi**, Uttar Pradesh. **IIT Madras** and **Banaras Hindu University (BHU)** are **knowledge partners** for the event.
3. The apex predator mosasaur fossil discovered in **Japan's Wakayama Prefecture** has been named **Wakayama Soryu** which means Blue Dragon.
4. **18<sup>th</sup> session** of the **Intergovernmental Committee for safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage** Committee has been held in **Botswana**.
5. **Rambagh Gate** and **Ramparts in Punjab, India** have been awarded the highest honour, '**Award of Excellence**' in this year's **UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation**.
6. **Gwalior** in **Madhya Pradesh** has set Guinness world record for '**Largest tabla ensemble**' during **Tansen festival**.



### **AWARDS/PRIZE**

<b>Award</b>	<b>Awarded by</b>	<b>Awarded to</b>	<b>Known for</b>
<b>Premchand Fellowship</b>	<b>Sahitya Akademi</b>	<b>Tshering Tashi</b>	(Bhutanese Author)
<b>Nansen Award</b>	UNHRC	<b>Abdullahi Mire</b>	Somalia refugee  For his work championing the <b>right to education for displaced children.</b>
<b>WISE Award (WISE 11 Summit)</b>	<b>Qatar Foundation</b>	<b>Safina Hussain</b>	Founder of <b>Educate Girls</b>
<b>Nyholm Prize for Education</b>	<b>Royal Society of Chemistry</b>	<b>Savita Ladage</b>	-
<b>Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award</b>		Javed Akhtar	-
<b>International Gender Equality Prize in 2023</b>	<b>Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland</b>	Afghan Women Skills Development Center, Finland	-
<b>Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2023</b>	Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust	<b>Daniel Barenboim</b>	-
Bhutan's National Order of Merit		<b>Poonam Khetrapal Singh</b>	<b>Regional Director Of (WHO)</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> edition of Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize		Poet <b>Sukrita Paul Kumar</b>	<b>'Salt and Pepper: Selected Poems'</b>

<b>SKOCH Gold Award 2023</b>		<b>Power Grid Corporation of India Limited</b>	-
<b>33<sup>rd</sup> Vyas Samman 2023</b>		<b>Pushpa Bharati</b> (Hindi-Writer)	-
<b>2023 Climate Assessment for Financial Institutions (CAFI) Awards</b>	<b>International Finance Corporation</b>	<b>Federal Bank – Top performer</b>	-

### **PERSONS IN NEWS**

Person	Why in news?
<b>Anumula Revanth Reddy</b>	Sworn in as the 1 <sup>st</sup> Congress Chief Minister of Telangana
<b>Kanchan Devi</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> woman Director General of the Indian Council of Forestry Research Education (ICFRE)
<b>Mohammed Al Ramsi</b>	Appointed as the Chairman of the World Radio communication Conference (WRC) 2023
<b>Geetika Koul</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> woman medical officer in the Indian Army to be deployed at Siachen, the world's highest battlefield.
<b>Hansraj Ahir</b>	Appointed as the <b>NCBC chairperson</b>

Nina Singh	Became the 1 <sup>st</sup> <b>Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)</b>
<b>Uma Sekhar</b>	Elected to the Governing council of International Institute for the Unification of Private Law ( <b>UNIDROIT</b> )
<b>Anish Shah</b>	<b>Elected as President for 2023-24 of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce &amp; Industry</b>
<b>Akshata Krishnamurthy (NASA)</b>	Has become the first Indian citizen to operate a Mars rover
<b>Nikhil Dey</b>	Has been named as the International AntiCorruption Champion by the US State Department

### **IMPORTANT DAYS**

Day	Date	Theme
<b>Statehood Day of Nagaland</b>	December 1	–
<b>World AIDS Day</b>	<b>December 1</b>	<b>Let Communities Lead</b>
<b>National Pollution Control Day 2023</b>	December 2	<b>Sustainable Development for a Clean and Healthy Planet</b>
<b>International Day for the Abolition of Slavery 2023</b>	<b>December 2</b>	–
World Computer Literacy Day	December 2	<b>Literacy for a human-centred recovery: bridging the digital divide</b>

<b>Indian Navy Day</b>	December 4	<b>Operational Efficiency, Readiness, and Mission Accomplishment in the Maritime Domain</b>
<b>International Cheetah Day</b>	December 4	–
World Soil Day 2023	December 5	<b>Soil and Water: A Source of Life</b>
<b>International Anti Corruption Day</b>	December 9	<b>UNCAC at 20: Uniting the World Against Corruption</b>
<b>Human Rights Day</b>	December 10	<b>Equality, Reducing inequalities, advancing human rights</b>
<b>International Animal Rights Day</b>	December 10	–
Nobel Prize Day 2023	December 10	–
International Mountain Day	December 11	<b>Restoring Mountain Ecosystems</b>
Universal Health Coverage Day	December 12	<b>Health for All: Time for Action</b>
<b>National Energy Conservation Day</b>	December 14	–
<b>International Day of Neutrality</b>	December 12	–
International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers	December 17	–
<b>International Migrants Day</b>	<b>December 18</b>	–
<b>Minority Rights Day</b>	<b>December 18</b>	–

International Solidarity Day	Human	<b>December 20</b>	<b>Advocate for Change</b>
National Mathematics Day		<b>December 22</b>	<b>Mathematics for Everyone</b>
National Farmers Day		<b>December 23</b>	Delivering Smart Solutions for Sustainable Food Security and Resilience
National Consumer Right Day		<b>December 23</b>	<b>Consumer Protection in the era of E-Commerce and Digital Trade</b>
<b>Good Governance Day</b>		<b>December 25</b>	—
<b>International Day of Epidemic Preparedness</b>		<b>December 27</b>	—

### **DEFENCE IN NEWS**

1. **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully tested an **indigenous high-speed flying-wing Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)** under project '**Ghatak**'.
2. **Indian Armed Forces officers** have been awarded '**Golden Owl**' for outstanding performance at **Defence Services Command & Staff College (DSCSC)** in **Sapugaskanda, Sri Lanka**.
3. **Indian Akash air defence missile system** has destroyed 4 targets simultaneously at **Exercise Astrashakti**.
4. **8<sup>th</sup> edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave of Chiefs (CoC)** has been conducted by **Royal Thai Navy** at **Bangkok, Thailand**.
5. Squadron Leader **Manisha Padhi** has been appointed as the **first Indian women Aide-De-Corp (ADC)** from the **Indian Armed Forces**.

Exercise	Parties involved	Exercise type
<b>VAJRA PRAHAR 2023</b>	Indo - US	Military
<b>Exercise VINBAX-2023</b>	India and Vietnam	Military
<b>Surya Kiran</b>	India - Nepal	Military

### **PLACES IN NEWS**

Place Name	State/country	Known for
<b>Mount Ulawun volcanic eruption</b>	Papua New Guinea	India announces a <b>\$1 million relief assistance</b> package for Papua New Guinea in the aftermath of the Mount Ulawun volcanic eruption.
<b>Essequibo region</b>	Coastal area bordering Atlantic ocean	The region is disputed by <b>Guyana and Venezuela</b>

### **INDICES**

Report	Released by	Note
<b>World Malaria Report 2023</b>	World Health Organisation	<b>66% of Malaria</b> cases in Southeast Asia were from <b>India</b>
<b>Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2024</b>	Germanwatch	India has ranked <b>7<sup>th</sup></b> in the CCPI 2024, one move up from the previous year CCPI

<b>Ethics of Climate Engineering Report</b>	<b>UNESCO's World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST)</b>	Emphasizes the risks and opportunities of climate manipulation technologies.
<b>5th Global Status Report on Road Safety 2023.</b>	<b>World Health Organisation</b>	
Migration and Development Brief	<b>World Bank</b>	<b>India</b> has topped <b>global remittance chart</b> at <b>USD 125 billion</b> in <b>2023</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> LEADS</b> (Logistics Ease Across Different States) 2023 report	<b>Ministry of Commerce and Industry</b>	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Aspirational Delta Ranking of the Aspirational Blocks Programme</b>	<b>NITI AAYOG</b>	Tiriyani Block – Telangana (Top spot)

### **TERMS/CONCEPTS IN NEWS**

<b>Terms</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Tropicalisation</b>	Climate change is causing a significant global phenomenon known as tropicalisation, where <b>tropical species</b> in the ocean are <b>moving towards the poles</b> , while <b>temperate species</b> are <b>retreating</b> .

## SUMMITS

Summit Name	Hosted in	Purpose of Summit
<b>5<sup>th</sup> edition of Global Ayurveda Festival</b>	<b>Thiruvananthapuram</b>	Theme: <b>Emerging Challenges in Healthcare and a Resurgent Ayurveda</b>
<b>Global Green Credit Initiative at COP-28</b>	<b>India co-hosts with UAE</b>	It is an initiative within the governments <b>Lifestyle for Environment</b> or LIFE movement
<b>Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit 2023</b>	New Delhi – By Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	India is the lead chair of GPAI in 2024
<b>India Internet Governance Forum 2023</b>	New Delhi	Theme: <b>Moving Forward – Calibrating Bharat’s Digital Agenda</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> edition of International Tourism Mart</b>	Shillong, Meghalaya	Theme: <b>A 'Green' Approach to Tourism</b>
<b>27<sup>th</sup> World Investment Conference (WIC)</b>	New Delhi	Theme: <b>Empowering Investors: IPAs Pioneering Future Growth</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-1)</b>	Uruguay	By <b>United Nations Environment Programme</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> National Quantum Science and Technology Symposium (NQSTS)</b>	<b>New Delhi</b>	By <b>Quantum Ecosystems and Technology Council of India</b> (QETCI) and <b>MeitY</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Disaster Management</b>	Dehradun	Theme: <b>Strengthening Climate Action &amp; Disaster Resilience</b>



### **PORTAL IN NEWS**

Portal	Purpose	Launched by
<b>National Geoscience Data Repository Portal</b>	Extensive web-based tool for geospatial data access, sharing, and analysis in India	Ministry of Mines
<b>Amplifi 2.0</b>	<b>Assessment and Monitoring Platform for Liveable, Inclusive and Future-ready urban India</b>	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

### **BOOKS AND AUTHORS**

Book Name	Author Name	Note
<b>Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India's Economic Future</b>	<b>Raghuram Rajan</b>	-
<b>'Pranab, My Father: A Daughter Remembers'</b>	<b>Sharmishtha Mukherjee</b>	

### **SPORTS IN NEWS**

1. **R Vaishali** becomes India's **3<sup>rd</sup> female chess Grandmaster**, after Koneru Humpy and D Harika.
2. **Vita Dani** has become the **first Indian** to be inducted as a governing board member of the **International Table Tennis Federation's (ITTF) Foundation**
3. **Sheetal Devi** win best young athlete award in **Asian Paralympic Committee (APC)** conference

4. **Antim Panghal** of India was named the **women's Rising Star** of the Year 2023 by **United World Wrestling**
5. United World Wrestling (UWW).
6. The first-ever Khelo India Para Games (KIPGs) held in **New Delhi**
7. **Leander Paes** and broadcaster and promoter **Vijay Amritraj** of India have become **the first Asian men** to be inducted into the **International Tennis Hall of Fame**.

Event/Cups	Venue	Note
<b>International Tennis Federation (ITF) World Champion awards for 2023</b>		MEN Category: <b>Novak Djokovic</b> WOMEN Category: <b>Aryna Sabalenka</b>
<b>ISSF World Cup Final 2023</b>	Doha, Qatar	<b>Anish Bhanwala</b> (Indian shooter) – Bronze medal
<b>FIFA U-17 World Cup 2023</b>	Indonesia	Germany won by defeating France

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