FEBRUARY – 2023

POLITY

1. **New India Assurance** (NIA) has launched a **'Pay as You Drive'** (PAYD) policy, which offers a **comprehensive motor insurance policy** that charges a premium based on the usage of the vehicle.

2. According to the **UN World Population Prospects 2022**, India is projected to overtake China as the world's most populous country in **2023.**

3. **Mission Antyodaya** is a project by the **Ministry of Rural Development**. It is a convergence framework to measure the outcomes on **parameters that transform lives and livelihoods in Rural areas.**

4. **'Operation Dost'** is an ongoing search and rescue operation initiated by the Government of India to aid **Syria** and **Turkey.**

5. Ministry of Tribal Affairs has revealed that the **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes** (NCST) is currently functioning with **less than 50%** of its sanctioned strength.

6. The **South India's** 1st Industrial Corridor Project is to be implemented at **Tumakuru** under the Chennai Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC).

7. **Greater Tipraland** is a proposed region for the separate state to **Tripuris**.

8. Union Ministry of Mines notified the **draft Geo-heritage Sites and Geo-relics** (Preservation and Maintenance) Bill, 2022, for public comments.

9. Prime Minister Modi Inaugurated **Arabic Academy** in **Mumbai**

10. AICTE and **Bureau of Police Research and Development** jointly launched **KAVACH-2023**. It is a National Level Hackathon to **tackle cyber threats** and provide effective solutions.

11. The Election Commission of India ordered that the Eknath Shinde faction will get the party name **Shiv Sena** and the party's symbol of the **bow and arrow.**

12. The Union cabinet extended the term of the **22nd Law Commission** till **August 31, 2024**.

    Chairperson : **Ritu Raj Awasthi**

13. The revised norms for **MPLADS:** The **interest accumulated** on MPLADS funds **cannot** be used for development works and those earnings will be **deposited** in the **Consolidated Fund of India**

14. The **Chief Justice of India** (CJI) announced that the SC will adopt a **"neutral citation system"** for its judgments.

15. '**She is a Changemaker'** is a pan-India **capacity building programme**, launched by **National Commission for Women** for **women representatives** at **all levels**, gram panchayats to parliament members and political workers

ECONOMY

1. **Hydrogen for Heritage**: India has planned to introduce **hydrogen power trains** on its **heritage lines**

2. According to **RBI**, there were approximately **1.87 crore** physical and digital payment acceptance devices deployed under the **Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF)** Scheme

3. RBI launched the first pilot of Digital **Rupee- Retail segment** (e₹-R) on **December 01, 2022**

4. India signed a MoU with **Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle** Joint Business Council (**IMT-GT JBC**), to promote adoption of energy efficiency

5. The first **Integrative Medicine Centre** was inaugurated at the **Safdarjang Hospital** in Delhi.

6. During 2021-22, India received **foreign inward remittances** of USD 89,127 million which was the highest ever inward remittances received in a single year.

7. Under the TReDs businesses, **financial companies** or **government organizations** can provide financial support to the MSMEs. Now the **factoring businesses** are included. (RBI)

8. **MobiKwik** has become the **first fintech** apps to support **RuPay Credit Cards on UPI**.

9. **Indore Municipal Corporation** (IMC) has launched India's **first public issue of municipal bonds** intending to raise up to Rs 244 crore to fund a **solar power project**.

10. **European Union** recently announced **Green Deal Industrial Plan** which aimed to boost domestic green manufacturing. It includes,

Net Zero Industry Act (NZIA)
Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA)

11. The NASSCOM report says that India is the **third largest tech startup** holder in the world. India has the **second-highest number of unicorns** in the world.

12. In 2023, **India and UAE** celebrated one year of signing the **CEPA agreement**. (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement)

13. India is to get its 1st **National Metro Rail Knowledge Centre** In **Delhi**

14. Reserve Bank of India notiies that Under **FCRA, 2010** foreign contributions must be received only in the "FCRA account" of State Bank of India New Delhi Main Branch.

Contributions to the FCRA account	
Received from	Received through
Foreign banks	Swift
Indian intermediary banks	NEFT and RTGS systems

15. **South Asia Distribution Utility Network** (SADUN) was launched to modernise **distribution of utilities** in South Asia via knowledge sharing among discoms. It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Power, USAID and PFC.

16. UK surpasses India as the **world's sixth-biggest equity market**.

17. The National Stock Exchange has received the nod from the **SEBI** to launch its **Social Stock Exchange**.

18. The World's largest Divyang Park was launched in **Anubhuti Inclusive Park** in **Nagpur**, **Maharashtra**.

19. The **Greenfield Refinery cum Petrochemical Complex** at **Barmer**, Rajasthan is being set up in order to achieve the target of 450 MMTPA refining capacity by 2030. (Barmer refinery - Jewel of the Desert)

20. The first **Prime Minister GatiShakti** regional workshop for the **Western and Central Zone** was held **in Goa.**

21. **International Monetary Fund** has released its **World Economic Outlook** (WEO) Update, which has estimated the global growth at 3.4% in 2022, is now **projected to fall to 2.9% in 2023** before rising to **3.1% in 2024.**

GEOGRAPHY

1. **Microsoft** launched **Project ELLORA** (Enabling Low Resource Languages) is an initiative to bring **'rare' Indian languages** such as Gondi, and Mundari in online.

2. Three earthquakes measuring - **7.8, 7.6, and 6.0** – magnitude on the Richter scale have devastated **Turkey and Syria**.

3. **Geological Survey of India** has for the 1st time established **Lithium inferred resources** of about **6 million tonnes** in the **Salal-Haimana** area of the **Reasi District** of **Jammu & Kashmir.**

4. The **International Seabed Authority** with headquarters in **Jamaica** has officially designated India as a **"Pioneer Investor"**

5. According to **Food and Agriculture Organization Corporate Statistical Database** (FAOSTAT), **India** is the **highest milk producer** in the world contributing **24%** of global milk production in the year 2021-22.

6. **Cyclone Gabrielle (Category 3 cyclone)** hit the New Zealand coast and the government declared it as an **emergency.**

7. The Government of India is to launch **Millet International Initiative for Research and Awareness** (MIIRA). It will contribute the **"seed money"** while each **G20 member** will later have to contribute to its budget in the form of a membership fee.

8. The Shinku La tunnel is a part of **Project Yojak**, is implemented by BRO to make **Manali – Leh** route is accessible all through the year. Located between **HP and Ladakh**.

9. NASA released a **Mammatus Clouds**. It is a cellular pattern of **pouches hanging underneath** the base of a cloud, typically a cumulonimbus raincloud.

10. The **Pangong Tso Lake** in **Ladakh** will host the first-ever **frozen lake marathon** at an altitude of roughly 13,862 feet.

CULTURE

1. The **Kala Ghoda Arts Festival** is a unique festival celebrated in **Mumbai.**

2. The **Sangwol Society of South Korea** is organizing a walking pilgrimage in India. Under this, **108 Buddhists** will walk and cover **1,100 km** in India.

3. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched the Aadi Mahotsav festival. It is a **10 day** long festival celebrated in **New Delhi**. Theme: **Aadi Mahotsav Festival : A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Crafts, Culture, Cuisine, and Commerce**

4. **Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar** award is presented by **Sangeet Natak Akademi** to artists in the field of dance, music, and drama.

5. **Project BHASHINI** seeks to enable easy access to the **internet and digital services** in Indian languages, including **voice-based access**, and help the creation of content in Indian languages.

6. PM inaugurated the celebrations of commemorating the **200th** birth anniversary of **Swami Dayanand Saraswathi,** who founded the Arya Samaj in **1875**.

7. The **1st G20 Working Group (CWG) meeting of Culture** began in **Khajuraho**, Madhya Pradesh

8. **Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival** ceremony:

    I. Best Actor : Ranbir Kapoor

    II. Best Actress : Alia Bhatt

Award	Awarded By
Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards	Independent corporate film festival, organized by his grandson
Dadasaheb Phalke Award	Directorate of Film Festivals, Government of India

9. President Droupadi Murmu will present the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships** and **Sangeet Natak Awards** for the year 2019, 2020 and 2021 to over 100 eminent artists

10. The **Shree Krishna temple in Kerala** introduced a **mechanical elephant** for the first time in Indian history. It will perform temple rituals here.

ENVIRONMENT

1. **Yaya Tso**, known as **birds' paradise** for its beautiful lake located at an altitude of 4,820 metres, has been **proposed** as **Ladakh's first biodiversity heritage site** (BHS)

2. **MISHTI** (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes) is aimed to "**preserve Mangrove forests**"

3. MOEFCC launched the **'Save Wetlands Campaign'**

4. **Peru** reported the death of **585 sea lions** and **55,000 wild birds** due to the **H5N1 bird flu** virus.

5. The **Government of Rajasthan** announced **Wetland Ex-Situ Conservation Establishment** (WESCE) plan. It is launched within **Keoladeo National Park**. Funded by **France**.

6. India has signed an agreement with South Africa to translocate **12 cheetahs** to the **Kuno Palpur** National Park in **Madhya Pradesh**. It was **the first intercontinental transfer** of Cheetahs in the world.

7. The **Jal Jan Abhiyan** will be implemented by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti** and the **Brahma Kumaris organization.** Objective: Water conservation

8. The **European Union** has passed a law to ban the **sale of diesel and gas** cars by **2035** to reduce emissions.

9. The **United Nations Security Council** used the word **"UNTHINKABLE"** to stress and warn about the risks posed by sea level rise.

10. The **Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate** is a joint initiative of the UAE and USA. Objective : To address hunger and climate change.

11. The Centre plans to set up create **10 clean plant centres** to boost **fruit crop production**. Based on the model centres in Israel, the Netherlands, and the USA.

12. The 1st Marina of India will be constructed in **Byndoor (Someshwara beach)** Udupi district, Karnataka.

13. **Dharoi Bird Survey** was conducted in **Dharoi reservoir**, **Gujarat**

14. FAO publishes its **1st Global Assessment of Soil Carbon** in **Grasslands**. It measured the baseline of stocks of **Soil Organic Carbon (SOC)**.

15. **Singareni Thermal Power Plant**, **Telangana** is set to become the 1st public sector coal-based power generating station in the South and 1st among the State PSUs in the country to have **flu gas desulphurization** (FGD) plant.

16. UNEP has announced that **Gabon, Jamaica and Sri Lanka** have united in a **$14 million** project to **eliminate the use of mercury** in **skin-lightening products**.

17. **Hyderabad** won Arbor Day Foundation's '**Tree City of the World'**

18. **Hyderabad** won '**World Green City'** award by the International Association of Horticulture Producers (IAHP)

19. **Coal India Limited** has transformed **30 abandoned mining areas** into eco-parks and eco-tourism destinations.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. **ISRO and IIT Madras** plans to develop a **training module** for the Indian Spaceflight Programme using **Augmented Reality / Virtual Reality / Mixed Reality** (AR / VR / MR)

2. India's first **Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (H2ICE)** technology was launched by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Ashok Leyland for **heavy-duty trucks**.

3. **Chatbots:**

Chatbot	Owned by
ChatGPT	Microsoft-backed firm OpenAI
Bard	Google
Bal Mitra – Whatsapp Chatbot	Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights
Ernie Bot	Chinese search engine- **Baidu**
Lexi	India's **1st AI assistant powered** by ChatGPT powered **AI chatbot**
Ama KrushAI	India's 1st Agri Chatbot, launched in **Odisha**
LLaMA	**META** has launched its chatbot, **LLaMA**.

4. NASA unveiled its first **all-electric experimental aircraft**, named as **X-57 "Maxwell"** at its aeronautics lab in the California desert, US.

5. The **Directorate General of GST Intelligence** (DGGI) has joined hands with **National Forensic Sciences University** (NFSU) to launch **Digital Forensic Laboratories**.

6. Skye Air Launched **India's First Traffic Management System** for **Drones**.

7. Jeff Bezos-led **Blue Origin** signed with **NASA**, to launch a mission to **Mars** to study the magnetic field.

8. The Escape and Plasma Acceleration and Dynamics Explorers (**EscaPADE**) are a **dual-spacecraft** mission to study ion and sputtered escape from **Mars**. It is a part of the NASA Small Innovative Missions for Planetary Exploration **(SIMPLEx)** program.

9. ISRO launched the 2nd **edition of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle** (SSLV-D2) from Sriharikota. It dropped **EOS-07, Azaadi SAT-2,** and **Janus-1** satellites. It is a **3 stage launch vehicle**.

10. **UPI Payment for Foreign travellers' rule 2023**: The RBI has decided to permit all inbound foreign travellers **to use UPI payments** for their merchant payments **while they are in India**.

11. The SpaceX has completed the **Starship static fire test** (reusable rocket) successfully.

    • It will be used in the **Artemis III mission** of **NASA** to land its astronauts on the **moon**.

12. Italian researchers have discovered a **Black Galaxy** or **Invisible Galaxy** using **ALMA**. (Atacama Large Millimtre Array).

13. Israeli researchers have used the **antennae of the locusts** to create **sniffing robots**. It is bio-hybrid and therefore its sniffing powers are higher than the electronic sniffers.

14. The WHO recently confirmed the **Marburg disease** outbreak in **Equatorial Guinea**.

Type of disease	Viral (Marburg virus)
Mode of transmission	Bats

15. A US scientist discovered **quasicrystals**, whose **atomic structure does not repeat** are called quasi-crystals. It was formed accidentally from **an electric discharge**.

16. The neem trees in the state of **Telangana** are affected by a fungus.

Name of Fungal disease	Twig Blight
Name of Fungus	**Phomopsis azadirachtae**

17. The 1st **Marine Spatial Planning Framework** (MSPF) in India was launched in **Puducherry**. It is being implemented under the **Indo-Norway Ocean Initiative.**

18. **IIT Kanpur** develops **energy-efficient system** to **transport minerals.**

19. India's 1st **waste-to-hydrogen plant** to be set up in **Pune.** It will use "**Plasma Gasification Technology**".

20. A **Vertiplane X3 drone** was used to deliver **anti-tubercular drugs** in Tehri Garhwal during the trial.

21. The **1st nuclear plant** in **North India** is to be built in **Gorakhpur (Haryana)** which will generate **2800 MW.**

22. ISRO recently announced that the **EMI-EMC test** (Electromagnetic tests) of **lander part** of **Chandrayaan 3** was successful.

23. The definition of **broadband** was upgraded to mandate **a minimum speed of 2Mbps**.

24. World's 1st **Cloud-Built Demonstration Satellite** Launched **JANUS-1** Successfully

25. India's **1st hybrid sounding rocket** by private players launched **APJ Abdul Kalam Satellite Launch Vehicle Mission-2023** successfully from **Pattipolam** village of Chengalpattu.

26. **Serum Institute** to establish **centre of excellence** for Infectious Diseases & Pandemic Preparedness in **Hyderabad**.

27. India's 1st **semiconductor manufacturing unit** is to be set up in **Dholera of Gujarat**.

28. **WHO** will set up an **mRNA** (messenger ribonucleic acid) **vaccine hub** in **Telangana**.

29. **HD-3385** is a Climate Smart **Wheat Variety** of **ICAR**

30. Brazil suspended its beef exports to China due to **mad cow disease.**

Disease	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or mad cow disease
Transmission agent	**Prion**
Affects	Neurological system of cattle

31. **China** launched the **Zhongxing-26 satellite** on **Long March 3B rocket** to provide broadband connectivity for aviation and ship-related operations.

32. **ROSCOSMOS** launched an empty **SOYUZ spacecraft** to **bring back the stranded astronauts** in space.

33. The **Crew-6 mission** is a joint operation of both **NASA and SpaceX**. It will be carried by the **Falcon 9 rocket** of SpaceX to International Space Station.

34. The man referred to as the **Dusseldorf patient** became the 3rd person to have been **cured of HIV** after a **bone marrow transplant** carrying a specific HIV-resistant **CCR5 delta 32 genetic mutation.**

35. India launches 1st indigenously developed **ATS system** (Automatic Train Supervision) for Delhi Metro Rail Corporation and becomes **6th country** to have its **own ATS products**

36. The **Kamioka Liquid Scintillator Antineutrino Detector** (KamLAND) experiment in Japan has found **no evidence** that **neutrinos are their own antiparticles.**

37. The latest discovery revealed Jupiter has **12 more moons**. With this, the count of Jupiter's moons increased to **92**. Today **Jupiter has the maximum number of moons.**

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. iCET is the **Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies** which will work to connect the **defence startups** in **India and USA**

2. **UNESCO** designated the **Odesa of Ukraine** as **World Heritage in Danger sites**.

3. The **Madrid International Book Fair** is being organized in **Spain** since 1993.

Year	Theme
2023	Spain
2025	**India**

4. **South Africa** declares '**State of Disaster'** over **electricity crisis**.

5. **Nord Stream** (literally 'North Stream') is a network of **offshore natural gas pipelines** in **Europe** which run under the **Baltic Sea** from **Russia to Germany**.

6. The **Government of Spain** recently passed **a Menstrual Paid Leave Law**.

7. **Seattle** created history becomes 1st city in US to **ban caste discrimination**

8. The UN General Assembly approved a **nonbinding resolution** that calls for Russia to end hostilities in Ukraine and demands the withdrawal of its forces.

9. US President Joe Biden is nominating former Mastercard Chief Executive **Ajay Banga** to lead the World Bank.

10. The **International Monetary Fund** unveiled a **Crypto Action plan** to safeguard monetary sovereignty in the world.

NATIONAL NEWS

1. Government of Goa has launched the **Vision for All School Eye Health program**

2. India has welcomed **Congo** to **International Solar Alliance**.

3. Ministry of Tourism launched the **Visit India Year – 2023** initiative.

4. PM Narendra Modi has been pegged as the **world's most popular leader** with an approval rating of **78 per cent** as per a survey by a US-based consulting firm '**Morning Consult**.

5. India delivered **50 buses** to **Sri Lanka** at the Presidential Secretariat premises as Sri Lanka celebrated its **75th Independence Day**

6. **Natasha Perianayagam**, a 13-year-old Indian-American schoolgirl, has been named on the **"world's brightest" students** list for the second year in a row by the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth.

7. **Madhya Pradesh** Government has changed the name of Bhopal's **Islam Nagar** village to **'Jagdishpur'.**

8. **India** and **European Union** established **Trade and Technology Council.**

9. The **India Post** is organizing **AMRITPEX 2023 (**National Philatelic Exhibition) in **New Delhi.**

10. **India** signed an agreement with **Mauritius** to export the **ALH Mk3 helicopters** to the country.

11. **IIT Indore Students** awarded with **Global Best M-GOV Awards** by Egyptian President for the **'Blockbill'** app**.**

12. **Kerala High Court** became the 1st state in country to publishes its **judgment in regional language.**

13. **JADUI PITARA** is a play-based learning material for children between the ages of **3 to 8** years. Objective: **LEARN THROUGH PLAY**

14. **Kerala (Guruvayur)** has become the 1st state to launch **BANDICOOT robotic scavengers**.

15. India introduced an international brand name for millet **SHREE ANNA** during the budget.

16. **Himachal Pradesh** has begun the commercial cultivation of **liquorice (Mulethi)** for the first time. (sweet-tasting perennial shrub , which is 50 times sweeter than sucrose)

17. The **Shivamogga airport** was inaugurated in **Karnataka**. It will be named after the Jnanpith awardee **Mahakavi Kuvempu**.

18. **Advika Platform** was launched by **Odisha** to Link all schemes targeting girls on a platform (Advika - **Every Girl is Unique**)

19. The state of **Andhra Pradesh** has declared **Visakhapatnam** as its new capital.

20. Mission to **eliminate sickle cell anemia by 2047**.

Target Group	**People in the age group** 0 to 40 years **in** Tribal areas
Funding	under the **National Health Mission**

TAMILNADU NEWS

1. Earlier **Keeladi** was believed that Sangam Era was **300 BCE**. But the excavations at Keeladi revealed that Sangam Era was **older and dated 800 BCE**.

2. Forest department launched the Ramsar Site logo for **Pallikaranai Marshland** on the occasion of World Wetlands Day.

3. Chief Minister released the **Tamil Nadu Electric Vehicles Policy - 2023** of Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce Department.

4. Government of Tamilnadu celebrates the centenary birth anniversary of **Tmt Sathiyavanimuthu Ammaiyar** (Feb 15, 1923)

5. Tamil Nadu Government is to set up Biodiversity Museum and Conservation Centre with Eco-park in **Agasthiyamalai Elephant Reserve** (Kakkachi, **Ambasamudram** Division**).** It shares the landscape with **Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve.**

6. The **'Maperum Tamil Kanavu'** event was being organised in **every district** to sensitise the **younger generation** to **Tamil culture** and its richness as the present generation had known very little about **Tamils' civilization**.

AWARDS / PRIZE

Award	Awarded by	Awarded to	Known for
FIH President's Award	FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023	V Karthikeya Pandian (Secretary to CM of Odisha)	For his commendable contribution to hockey
Mathrubhumi Book of The Year' award	4th edition of Mathrubhumi International Festival of Letters (MBIFL 2023)	Dr Peggy Mohan	Author
Raja Ram Mohan Roy National Award	Press Council of India	A.B.K. Prasad	Journalist
President Color	President of India	**Haryana Police**	The highest award presented to military units, federal forces, and state police forces
UNESCO Peace Prize	UNESCO	**Angela Merkel**	• Former German chancellor • For **"her efforts to welcome refugees"**
Webby Awards	International Academy of Digital Arts & Science (IADAS)	**Don't Choose Extinction'** campaign	A Campaign launched by UNDP to raise awareness about the climate emergency
Jnanappana Award – 2023	Guruvayur Devaswom	Poet V. Madhusoodanan Nair	Poet
World Mother Language Award	Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka, Bangladesh.	Dr. Mahendra Kumar Mishra	Indian educator and social worker for the advancement of indigenous languages in Odisha

Wolf prize (Wolf Foundation of Israel – since 1978)		
Field	**Won by**	**Research on**
Medicine	Professor Daniel Drucker	on intestinal hormones
Agriculture	Martinus Th Rien	on water flow and contaminant transport in soils
Physics	Can Genuchten	on soil physics and Vadose zone
Chemistry	• John T Wilson • Hiroaki Suga • Jeffery W Kelly	on pathological dysfunctions of RNA
Mathematics	Ingrid Daubechies	on wavelet theory
Arts	• Fujiko Nakaya of Japan • Richard Long of England	

PERSONS IN NEWS

Person	Why in news?
Manuela Roka Botey	Became the first woman of **Equatorial Guinea** to hold the position
Dr. Ami Bera (Indian-origin)	Member of **US House Committee handling intelligence**-related matters
Shamika Ravi	Member of the **Economic Advisory Council** to Prime Minister (EAC-PM)
Apsara Iyer	Become the first **Indian-American woman** to be elected the President of **Harvard Law Review**
Lekshmana Chandra Victoria Gowri	**Additional judge** of **Madras High Court**
Abdul Nazeer	• Retired Supreme Court Judge. • Appointed the **Governor of Andhra Pradesh**
Rayyana Barnawi	• **1st Arab woman** to enter space. • To International Space Station along with **Ali Al-Qarni,** a fighter jet pilot in **Falcon 9 rocket**

Vivek Ramaswamy	• Indian American • A **Republican candidate** for president of the United States in 2024.
David Robert Malpass	Stepped down as the **President of the World Bank**
BVR Subrahmanyam	Appointed as the **CEO of NITI Aayog**
Nikos Christodoulides	President of Cyprus
Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar	**Vice Chief of Army Staff**
Neal Mohan	CEO of Alphabet-owned **YouTube**
Eoin Morgan	• Announces retirement from Cricket • **England's World Cup-winning** captain
Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi	Appointed as the **Drug Controller General of India** (DCGI)
Kanak Rele (Passed away)	• Mohiniyattam exponent • 1st **Gopinath National Puraskaram** of the Government of Kerala
Ruchira Kamboj	**Elected India's Permanent Representative** to the United Nations for the 62nd session
Afshan Khan	• Indo-Canadian • **Coordinator** of the "**Scaling Up Nutrition Movement**"
C.P. Radhakrishnan	Appointed as the new **Governor of Jharkhand.**
Vani Jairam	• Veteran playback singer passed away • "**Meera of modern India**"

COMMITTEES IN NEWS

Committee	Purpose of the committee
Manoj Govil committee	To look into the **Draft Digital Competition Act**
Uday Kotak Committee	on **Corporate Governance** instituted by **SEBI**

For any Queries Mail to: tnpscprelims@shankarias.in

IMPORTANT DAYS

Day	Date	Theme
31st Foundation Day of the National Commission for Women	January 31	'Sashakt Nari Sashakt Bharat'
World Interfaith Harmony Week	February 1-7	
World Wetlands Day	February 2	It's Time for Wetlands Restoration
World Cancer Day	February 4	"Close the care gap"
International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	February 6	"Partnership with Men and Boys to transform Social and gender Norms to End FGM
Safer Internet Day	February 7	'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'.
Bonded Labour system abolition Day	February 9	**Tamil Nadu** is the **1st state** in the country to make such an announcement.
World Pulses Day	February 10	'Pulses for a Sustainable Future'
International Electric Vehicles	February 21	"Multilingual education — a necessity to transform education."
World Unani Day	February 11	Unani Medicine for Public Health
International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2023	February 11	**"Innovate. Demonstrate. Elevate. Advance (IDEA): Bringing communities Forward for sustainable and equitable development."**
National Productivity Day	February 12	**"Productivity, Green Growth, and Sustainability: Celebrating India's G20 Presidency."**
National Women's Day	February 13	Commemorate Sarojini Naidu's Birthday
World Radio Day	February 13	Radio and Peace

International Epilepsy Day	2nd Monday of February	"STIGMA".
International Childhood Cancer Day	**February 15**	**'Better Survival'**
Financial Literacy Week'	**February 13-17**	**"Good Financial Behaviour – Your Saviour"**
Statehood day of Arunachala Pradesh	February 20	Granted in 1987. It was the 24th state in the country.
International Mother Language Day	February 21	**Multilingual Education – A Necessity to Transform Education**
World Thinking Day	February 22	'Our World, Our Peaceful Future'
Central Excise Day	February 24	
Tamil Nadu Girl child day	February 24	TN govt celebrates Late Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa – 75th birth anniversary
National Science Day 2023	February 28	Global Science for Global well being

DEFENCE IN NEWS

Military Exercise	Parties involved
Exercise Tri-shakti Prahar	Indian Army, Air force and CAPFs
TARKASH	Indo-US joint exercise
Dharma Guardian Exercise	India and Japan
DUSTLIK 2023	India-Uzbekistan Military Exercise
Malabar multilateral naval exercise	Australia
Desert Flag VIII	UAE and India
Cobra Warrior Exercise	Multinational exercise

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1. The **Indian Coast Guard** is celebrating its **47th Raising Day** on 1st February 2023.

2. **CERT–In** launched **G20 Cyber Security Exercise and Drill.**

3. **Bharat Electronics Limited** signed an MOU with the **Israel Aerospace Industries** in producing **the LORA weapon system** (Long-Range Artillery) Weapon System)

4. The **HWASONG-15** is one of the three major ICBM (Intercontinental Ballistic Missile) of **North Korea**. All the ICBMs of North Korea use **liquid propellants**.

5. **INS Sumedha** (Naval Offshore Patrol Vessels) participated in the **NAVDEX** (Naval Defence Exhibition) and **IDEX** (International Defence Exhibition) conducted in **Abu Dhabi**.

6. Indian Army Gets 'World's 1st fully Operational **SWARM Drone** System.

7. Ministry of Defence launched **'iDEX Investor Hub'**

8. Russia has withdrawn from the **START treaty** (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty). It restricts **Russia and USA** to a maximum of **1,550 deployed strategic nuclear warheads** each and limits launchers and **heavy bombers to 800.**

9. **Operation NARCOS** is a pan India drive against **smuggling of narcotics** through **rail** by **Railway protection Force.**

10. **Operation Sadbhavana (Goodwill)** is an initiative of **Indian Army** in the **Jammu and Kashmir** and **Ladakh** to address aspirations of people affected by terrorism, sponsored and abetted by **Pakistan**.

11. **Operation AAHT:** Special teams will be deployed by **Railway protection Force** on all **long-distance trains/routes** with focus on **rescuing victims** from **traffickers**.

PLACES IN NEWS

Place Name	Known for
Sculpture Park at Bikaner House, New Delhi	Presence of full of traditional art and culture sculpture.
Gaziantep Castle, Province of Gaziantep in western Turkey	The magnitude of the earthquake was 7.8 Ritcher was recorded.
NEOM City	**Planned smart city** in **Tabuk** Province in **Saudi Arabia.**
Doomsday Glacier (Thwaites Glacier), Antartica	Study says that the **weak spots** in the glacier are increasing.

INDICES

Report	Released by	Rank
Indian Institutional Ranking Framework ranking (2023)	Ministry of Education	1st - **Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad** 2nd - IIM Bengaluru (Karnataka) and 3rd - IIM Kolkata (West Bengal)
World Happiness Index 2023 Report	Sustainable Development Solutions Network	1st - Finland 126th – India
Global Quality Infrastructure Index (GQII) 2021	Independent consulting firms Mesopartner and Analyticar	5th – India Based on the quality of their infrastructure.
Global Labour Resilience Index	White Shield	Denmark was ranked first in the index India ranked 65th.
Services Trade Restrictiveness Index	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development	India ranked 47th. Japan was ranked topmost

Artificial Intelligence Penetration	NASSCOM	**AI penetration of India is 3.09**. This is the highest among all G20 countries and OECD countrie
2nd edition of the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) report	Dr Bibek Debroy, Chairman EAC-PM.	–

SUMMITS

Summit Name	Hosted in	Purpose of Summit
30th National Child Science Congress	Ahmedabad, Gujarat	• Theme: **"Understanding Eco System for Health and Wellbeing"**. • By Department of Science and Technology
1st G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group Meeting	Chandigarh	Focuses on strengthening the international financial architecture
1st Youth20 (Y20) Inception Meeting 2023	Guwahati	-
Global Investors Summit 2023	Lucknow	-
5th International Marine Protected Areas Congress Congress	Canada	Solutions to address funding gaps that marine protected areas (MPA) are facing.
India Energy Week (IEW) 2023	Bengaluru	To showcase India's rising prowess as an energy transition powerhouse
Digital Payments Utsav	To be held in Lucknow, Pune, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru	• To create awareness of digital payments • By MeITY
World Government Summit	Dubai, UAE	Theme: **Shaping Future Governments**

India-ASEAN Digital Ministers Meeting	New Delhi.	Theme: **Synergy towards a Sustainable Digital Future**
2nd edition of the Indian Rice Congress	Cuttack, Odisha	Theme: **Transforming Rice Research**
Aero India 2023	Bengaluru	Theme: **Runway To Billion Opportunities**
HARBINGER-2023	By RBI	Inclusive Digital Services
Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable	Bengaluru	co-chaired by **IMF and World Bank** along with **India** (the 2023 President)
B20 conference	State of Manipur	• Theme: **Sustainable Growth and Development** • Part of **G20 summit**
1st edition of "Upnext India 2023 (Reverse Buyer Seller) meet	Gurugram	Market Access Initiative - Export Promotion Scheme.
World's first global summit on Responsible AI in the Military	**Netherlands**	
12th World Hindi Conference	**Nadi**	Theme: **Hindi – Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence**

DHARA (Driving Holistic Action for Urban Rivers)		• Annual meeting of the members of the River Cities Alliance(RCA)
		• Organised by
		  National Mission for Clean Ganga
		  National Institute of Urban Affairs

3rd 'Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism'	New Delhi	• Counter Terrorism • Between India – Egypt
World Security Congress	Jaipur (**Jaipur declaration**)	• Railway Security Strategy: Responses and Vision for Future • By International Union of Railways
15th edition of ELECRAMA 2023	Greater noida	World's largest standalone electrical exhibition
28th edition of Gulfood 2023	UAE	-

Asia Economic Dialogue	Pune	• Asia and the Emerging World Order • By Ministry of External Affairs
Vice-ministerial meeting of I2U2	Abu Dabi	I2U2: India, Israel, the USA, and the UAE
W20 Inception Meeting (Women 20- part of G20)	Aurangabad	It will be followed by 2 other W20 meets 1. Jaipur, in April 2. Mahabalipuram, in June

PORTAL IN NEWS

Portal	Purpose	Launched by
Yuva Sangam registration portal	To build close ties between the youth of the Northeast Region and the rest of India	Under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.
Khanan Prahari	To curb **illegal mining**	Ministry of Coal
Bima Sugam Portal	To create a common platform for insurance buyers and sellers	IRDAI
Aadhaar Mitra	To help people get an answer to their **queries related to the Aadhaar card**	**UIDAI**
National Data & Analytics Platform (NDAP)	To democratize access to public government data by making it accessible for various stakeholders	**NITI Aayog**
Nokkam App	Aims to provide training for **competitive examination**	TN Govt

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Book Name	Author Name	Note
"Victory City"	Salman Rushdie	A brief history of the kingdom of Vijayanagara

SPECIES IN NEWS

Species	Why in News?
Soliga ecarinata	Wasp variety found in **Biligiri Rangana** Hills and **Male Mahadeshwara** Hills in Karnataka
Omorgus Khandesh	• **Beetle species** has been discovered in India • It is important for **forensic science** as it helps detect **the time of death of an animal or human.**

SPORTS IN NEWS

1. India's Teen golf **Aditi Ashok** won her **fourth Ladies European Tour title** at the **Kenya Ladies Open 2023** golf tournament at **Vipingo Ridge, Kenya**.

2. **Hyderabad** city hosts **India's first ever Formula E-race** Hyderabad E-Prix at the '**Hyderabad Street Circuit'** on the banks of **Hussain Sagar Lake.**

3. **Asian cup Football:**

Asian cup Football	Host country
2023	Qatar (first country to host three Asian Cups, after 1988 and 2011)
2027	Saudi Arabia (India's withdrawal its bidding)

4. **N. Neena** won **Gold medal winner** in the **Wako Asian Kickboxing Championship-2022**.

5. 25th **National Deaf Sports Championship** was held in **Indore**

6. The **Border Gavaskar Trophy** is conducted by the **BCCI** and **Cricket Australia**

7. The **T20 Women's Cricket World cup** is being held in **Cape Town, South Africa**

8. **Real Madrid** Club has won the **World Cup** for a record-extending fifth time after beating Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal in **Rabat, Morocco**

9. **5th Khelo India Youth Games 2022**: Maharashtra topped the medal tally.

10. **Savitha Shri** won bronze in the Women's event of **FIDE World Rapid Championship** in the **Almaty city of Kazakhstan**. (Chess)

11. **Tanvick** has entered in the **India Book of World Records** for his performance in **Silambam**

12. **10th Asian indoor athletic championship** held in **Astana, Kazakhstan**

13. **Vignesh and Visakh NR** become **India's first brothers** to become Grandmasters.

14. **ISSF World Cup 2023** held in **Cairo**, Egypt.

Women's 10m Air Rifle	Tilottama Sen
Men's 10m air rifle	Rudrankksh Balasaheb Patil

15. **Carabao cup** (EFL cup) is related to football.

16. The **3rd edition** of **Khelo India Winter Games** 2023 were launched in the **Gulmarg of Jammu and Kashmir.** Mascot: **Snow Leopard.**

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