

JANUARY – 2023

FIRST IN NEWS

1. India's 1st **School of Logistics, Waterways, and Communication** was launched in **Agartala**.
2. **Karnataka** is the 1st State to develop a **Land Resource Inventory portal**.
3. **Vidisha** becomes the 1st ever district in India for the **on-ground deployment of innovative 5G use cases**, offered by startups.
4. For the 1st time, **FSSAI** has specified identity **standards for basmati rice**.
5. India's 1st **Centre of Excellence in Online Gaming** will be set up by **Digital India Startup Hub** at **Shillong** through the **Software Technology Parks of India**.
6. **Right to Sight: Rajasthan** becomes 1st state to implement **Blindness Control Policy**.
7. **J&K** becomes 1st Indian Union Territory to completely shift to **e-Governance Mode**.
8. NCERT launched India's 1st **National Assessment Regulator, PARAKH**.
9. **Kollam** becomes 1st **constitution literate** district in India
10. **Wayanad** becomes 1st district in country to provide **basic documents to all tribal**.
11. **Himachal Pradesh** targets to be 1st '**green energy state**' by **2025**.
12. **1st wheat e-auction** of **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** to be held on February 1.
13. **Bharat Biotech International Limited** launched **iNCOVACC (BBV154)**, the world's 1st intranasal vaccine for Covid-19.
14. India's 1st **Green Solar Panel Factory** is to be build by Luminous Power Technologies in **Uttarakhand**.
15. **Indian Oil Corporation** has started the **exports of aviation gasoline** for the 1st time by India.
16. India's 1st **green hydrogen blending** project has been started in the **pipelined natural gas (PNG)** network of **NTPC Kawas Township, Surat**.
17. **Qualcomm** has announced the **Snapdragon Satellite**, which will be the world's 1st **satellite-based** solution to support **two-way messaging** for premium smartphones.

18. World's 1st **Palm Leaf Manuscript Museum** was opened in **Thiruvananthapuram**.
19. **Kerala** becomes country's 1st **fully digital banking state**.
20. India's 1st **underwater metro service** runs under **Hooghly River, Kolkata** connecting **Salt Lake to Howrah** via Kolkata.
21. **Kerala** became the 1st state to have a **welfare board** for the beneficiaries of **employment guarantee programmes**. It provides **Pension** to **MGNREGA Workers**.

POLITY

1. The Indian government has done away with the **discretionary Haj quota** for pilgrims, in accordance with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "**resolve to end VIP culture**" in the country.
2. The Union Minister for Law and Justice has written to the **CJI** suggesting that **a nominee of the government** should be included in the **collegium** that makes recommendations **for the appointment of judges**.
3. **Election Commission of India** hosts **2nd International Conference on 'Use of Technology and Elections Integrity'** in **New Delhi**.
4. The **SC Collegium** headed by CJI reiterated its decision to appoint 5 advocates as HC judges, including **Saurabh Kirpal**, who if appointed, could be **India's first openly gay judge**.
5. The CJI D.Y. Chandrachud announced that the Supreme Court will release **1,268 judgments** in **13 Indian languages** on Republic Day.
6. Rashtrapati Bhavan's Mughal Gardens was renamed **Amrit Udyan**
7. The Supreme Court of India has made a ruling that **an individual** can seek enforcement of **right to freedom of speech** not only against the **government**, but also **against other citizens**.
8. The Centre has declared **The Resistance Front (TRF)** as a terrorist organisation under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, **UAPA**.
9. **Electronic Supreme Court Reports (e-SCR) project** has been launched to provide the **digital version of the SC's judgements**.

SCHEMES IN NEWS

Scheme Name	Launched by	Objective
Rejuvenating Watershed for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development (REWARD) scheme	Karnataka	Science-based watershed model. Karnataka has been identified as a “ lighthouse partner ” by the World Bank .
National Urban Technology Mission	Ministry of housing and urban affairs	It will infuse technological innovations in municipal services and infrastructure of 4,500 urban local bodies
Padho Pardesh	Ministry of Minority Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheme of interest subsidy on education loans for overseas studies for minority students. • The scheme is discontinued recently.
Grameen Udyami Scheme	National Skill Development Corporation	To provide multi-skill to India’s youth and impart functional skills to them for enabling livelihoods.
Monument Mitra scheme	Ministry of Culture	Now, Revamped to enable private firms , to upkeep 1,000 ASI monuments .
Cyber Sanginis (supported by MeITY)	OPPO India and Common Services Centre	To equip the 10000 women with the skills and knowledge needed to become certified ‘ Cyber Sanginis ’.
Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development, (BIND) scheme	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	For infrastructure development and for providing financial support to Prasar Bharati
Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)	–	Aimed at improving the performance of blocks within districts lagging in various development parameters
Young Professionals Scheme	Part of MOU on India-UK Migration and Mobility	It allows up to 3,000 degree-holding citizens of age group (18-30) years to live and work in each other’s countries for a period of 2 years .

National Green Hydrogen Mission	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	Aimed to produce atleast 5MMT green hydrogen production per year Component: SIGHT, SHIP
5T initiative, Jaga Mission	Odisha	To empower the lives of slum dwellers and create a slum-free state in India. It is recognised by UN-Habitat

ECONOMY

1. Fintech platform **BharatPe** has received **in-principle authorisation** from the **RBI** to operate as an online **payment aggregator**.
2. According to **Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy**, **Gujarat** and **Rajasthan** emerged as **Top Investment Destinations** in India.
3. **Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee – National Institute of Water and Sanitation** (DSPM – NIWAS) has been inaugurated in **West Bengal**.
4. According to a report by **Oxfam India**, “**Survival of the Richest The richest**”, **1% of Indians** own over **13 times** more wealth than the bottom **50 %**.
5. **Paytm Payments Bank** has got the final approval from RBI to operate as **Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit** under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.
6. “**Navpravartan**” Startup Zone, **Chanpatia** in **Bihar** is an initiative of setting up a startup zone for the **migrant workers** who returned to the district during the **Covid-19 lockdown** in 2020.
7. India announces **100 million Maldivian Rufiyaa** for community development projects in **Maldives**
8. **Indian Ports Association** signs MoU with **Research and Information System for Developing Countries** for setting up a **Centre for Maritime Economy and Connectivity** in **New Delhi**.
9. India’s Services Exports to cross the goal of **\$300bn** in this FY. The **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** announced that it sets the target to reach a **services export** target of **USD 1 trillion by 2030**.

10. **Egypt** plans to allot land to Indian industries in **Suez Canal Special Economic Zone**
11. **Energy Strategy 2040** is strategy of **ONGC** with the targets of doubling oil, and gas production
12. **India** will become the 1st major economy to move to a **T+1 (trade plus one) market settlement cycle**. Currently the market follows a **T+2 settlement cycle**.

Type	Trade-related settlements will be cleared
T+1 (trade plus one)	within a day of the actual transactions
T+2 settlement cycle	within two days after the transaction

13. **Hindenburg Report** drags **Gautam Adani** down from 3rd to 7th position on Forbes' rich list
14. **Coal India Ltd** is set to launch **M-Sand Projects**.
15. **National Stock Exchange** emerges as the **World's Largest Derivatives** exchange for 4th year in a row.
16. **World's longest river** cruise, "**Ganga Vilas**," was flagged off from **Varanasi to Dibrugarh** via **Bangladesh**.
17. **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** has held **Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela** under **Skill India Mission**.
18. **RBI** notified that **SBI, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank** remain **domestic systemically important banks** (D-SIBs).
19. The **Greenfield International Airport at Goa's Mopa** has been renamed as **Manohar International Airport**.
20. **Ghaziabad-Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay** section (**762 km**) has been **fully automated** and becomes the **longest fully automatic block signalling section** of Indian Railways.
21. India becomes the **3rd largest auto market** globally for the first time, **surpassing Japan**
22. RBI puts on hold **licensing of the New Umbrella Entity** (NUE) network.

INITIATIVES OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Institutions	Initiatives
State Bank of India	e-Bank Guarantee (e-BG) facility
SEBI	Application Supported by the Blocked Amount (ASBA) system
Reserve Bank of India	Utkarsh 2.0 (Medium-term Strategy Framework.
Reserve Bank of India	Stressed Assets Securitisation Framework For Quicker Resolution.
SEBI	Information Database on Municipal Bonds
Reserve Bank of India	Proposes rules governing loan loss provisioning by banks

GEOGRAPHY

- Pineapple Express** is one of the **atmospheric rivers** picks up warm, moist that air near **Hawaii**. When hits the land in the **Western United States** and **Canada**, it can cause heavy rain and snow.
- Swedish** state-owned mining company has discovered the **largest ever known deposit of rare earth** oxides in **Europe**.
- Research suggested that **Earth's inner core**, a hot iron ball the size of Pluto, has **stopped spinning faster** than the planet's surface and might now be rotating slower than it.
- Agrinnovate India Limited** granted "**Non-Exclusive Rights**" for Commercial production of **Lumpi-ProVac** to **Institute of Veterinary Biological Products**, Pune.
- The **primary cause** of the **land subsidence** in **Joshimath** is believed to be the **NTPC's Tapovan Vishnugad Hydro Power Project**.
- Kalasa-Banduri Nala project** is being constructed on **Mahadayi River** basin by Karnataka.

ENVIRONMENT

1. **Giving to Amplify Earth Action** was introduced by the **World Economic Forum** to assist raise the **\$3 trillion** in funding needed annually to achieve net-zero, stop the destruction of the environment, and restore biodiversity by **2050**.
2. **Wetlands International's** largest annual water bird census named **Asian Water Bird** across **Asia and Australasia** simultaneously.
3. **UNEP** launched '**Nature Risk Profile**', a methodology for analyzing **companies' impacts and dependencies on nature** at **Davos** World Economic Forum Summit.
4. Tamil Nadu is planned to set up a **turtle conservation and rehabilitation centre** in **Chennai**.
5. A study has found that parts of **India and China** are hotspots for the night-time production of **nitrate radicals** that can **increase** the amount of deadly **ozone and PM2.5** in the atmosphere.
6. **IISER Pune** developed a unique molecular sponge-like material called **viologen-unit grafted organic-framework** (iVOFm). It utilizes **Electrostatics and Macropores** to clean the polluted water.
7. "**Stockholm+50: A healthy planet for the prosperity of all our responsibility, our opportunity**" was held in the year **2022** to mark the 50 years of the Stockholm Conference
8. **Green Urban Oases program** launched by **FAO** which aimed at improving **resilience of dryland cities** into '**green urban oases**'.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. The **United Kingdom** attempted '**Start Me Up**' mission, its first orbital space launch. However, it was **failed** due to an anomaly in satellite launch.
2. **Space Kidz** (Chennai based start-up) built the '**AzaadiSAT**' satellite, which is made by **750 school girls** from **75 government schools**.
3. Former India cricket team captain **MS Dhoni** and drone market **Garuda Aerospace** have launched a surveillance drone named **Droni**.
4. **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation** has recommended market authorisation for **Covovax** as a **heterologous booster** dose for **adults**, Manufactured by **Serum Institute of India**.

5. World Health Organization announced that **Uganda** had successfully declared the **end of the Ebola disease outbreak** caused by **Sudan ebolavirus**.
6. Startup firm **IG Drones** develops India's 1st 5G-enabled Drone, **Skyhawk**. It is capable of vertical take-off and landing.
7. **Agharkar Research Institute** (an autonomous institute under DST) developed a new bandage containing **chitosan and agonist nanoparticles** can rapidly minimize blood loss from wounds.

Mission to Venus	Country
VERITAS	NASA
EnVision	European Space Agencies
Shukrayaan I	ISRO

8. India announced the donation **12,500 doses** of **pentavalent vaccines** to **Cuba**.
9. **NASA's James Webb Space** Telescope discovers new Exoplanet Named **LHS 475b**.
10. **Jammu and Kashmir** government have been declared as a "**Free Area**" for purposes of the **Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases** in Animals Act **2009**.
11. World's 1st **generic Palbociclib** tablets was launched for **advanced breast cancer** therapy under the brand **Palborest**.
12. Scientists have reported the 1st evidence of the **presence of solitary waves** or distinct electric field fluctuations in the **Martian magnetosphere**.
13. Kerala reported cases of **norovirus**, a **gastro-intestinal zoonotic disease** that is spread by intimate contact or **contaminated food**.
14. **IIT-Madras** develops indigenous mobile **operating system BharOS**.
15. **Demonstration Rocket for Agile Cislunar Operations**, or **DRACO**, programme is mission of **NASA and DARPA** to **test nuclear-powered rockets** that would fly humans to **Mars by 2027**.
16. **Canada** is set to Commercialise **World's First Photonic-based, fault-tolerant quantum computer**.

17. The **Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer** or JUICE is the mission of European Space Agency with the aim of studying **Jupiter** and its three largest icy moons – **Ganymede, Europa, and Callisto**.
18. A **green comet** is estimated to come closest to Earth, termed the **C/2022 E3 (ZTF)**, was found using the wide-field survey camera at the **Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF)** in the US.
19. **XR Startup Program** is a collaboration between **MeitY Startup Hub** and **Meta** to discover, nurture, and accelerate **Extended Reality (XR)** technology startups and innovators across India.
20. The **Institute of Nano Science and Technology, Mohali** have developed a new electrolyte called **sodium tetrafluoroborate (NaBF₄)**.
21. **Varanasi Cantt Railway Station** has been awarded a **5-star “Eat Right Station”** certification (by **FSSAI**).
22. The **US Food and Drug Administration** has approved **lecanemab**, a monoclonal antibody for the treatment of **Alzheimer’s disease**.
23. **Indian Institute of Astrophysics** and their international collaborators decided to study the most massive globular cluster system in our galaxy, **Omega Centauri** using the **Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope** image on **AstroSat**.
24. ‘**SMART**’ (**Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research in Teaching Professionals**) program was launched to boost **scientific research** in priority **healthcare research areas** through **Ayurveda colleges** and **hospitals**.
25. The **Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals** issued a gazette notification titled **Ethylene Glycol (Quality Control) Order, 2022**.
26. **Ozempic, Wegovy and Rybelsus** are the brandnames for an **anti-diabetes medication** called **semaglutide** which is used to treat **type-2 diabetes**
27. **WALLABY (Widefield ASKAP L-band Legacy Allsky Blind survey)**, is a **radio telescope** in **Western Australia** to build a **3D map** of the night sky, and map galaxies as far as a billion light years away.
28. Europe's **1st orbital launch complex for satellites** has been built at **Esrang Space Center** in the northern Swedish city of **Kiruna**.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. **India and Panama** have signed an MoU to encourage cooperation in the **training of diplomats**.
2. **Australian government** announced **Punjabi** as the newest language to be taught in **public schools** for its **school students**
3. **Title 42** is an **immigration policy** that was implemented by the **U.S** during **COVID-19 pandemic** to expel migrants from **Nicaragua, Cuba and Haiti** caught crossing the **U.S.-Mexico border** back to **Mexico**.
4. Over 1,000 **Indian peacekeepers** serving with the **United Nations Mission in South Sudan** (UNMISS) have been honoured with the **prestigious UN medals**.
5. The trade between India and China reached an all-time high of **USD 135.98 billion** in 2022 and the **trade deficit** with china **crossed the USD 100 billion** mark for the **first time**.
6. The **United Nations Security Council 1267** Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee has listed Pakistan-based terrorist **Abdul Rehman Makki** as a **global terrorist**.
7. China's Population **shrinks** for the 1st time **Since 1961**.
8. International Tourism Fair **FITUR 2023** kicks off in **Madrid**.
9. The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution titled '**Education for Democracy**' that reaffirms the right of everyone to education. It was **co-sponsored** by **India**
10. **Brazilian** Government declares **Medical Emergency** in **Yanomami**, after reports of **children deaths from malnutrition**.
11. **U.S.** designated **Russia's Wagner group** as a **transnational criminal organisation**
12. **Switzerland** is the 1st **WTO member** to formally accept the **Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies**.
13. **India and Egypt** signed an MOU to facilitate **content exchange, capacity building**, and Co-Productions between **Prasar Bharati** and the **National Media Authority of Egypt**.
14. **UNESCO** designates **Ukraine's Odesa** a **World Heritage in Danger site**
15. **Canada** appoints **Amira Elghawaby** as the 1st representative to fight **Islamophobia**.

16. **China** is constructing dam on **Mabja Zangbo** river near Indian border.
17. **Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique**, and **Switzerland** began their **2 year term** as **non-permanent members** of the **UN Security Council**.
18. **Croatia** adopted the **European Union's common currency**, **€** and joined the **Schengen Area**. It became the **20th** member of the euro area.
19. **Brazil** and **Argentina** to begin preparations for **Common Currency**.

Country	Present Currency
Brazil	Real
Argentina	Peso
Croatia	Kuna

20. India will sign a **Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement (MMPA)** with **Austria**
21. India will assume **chairmanship** of the plenary of the **Wassenaar Arrangement** for a year.

NATIONAL NEWS

1. **Vivek Agnihotri's** film **'The Kashmir Files'** has been shortlisted for **Oscars 2023**.
2. Kerala **'Year of Enterprises' Project** acknowledged as **Best Practice Model** at the **National Conference on Micro Small and Medium Enterprises**.
3. A **'Soul of Steel' challenge** was launched in **Uttarakhand** which aims to test **one's high-altitude endurance**. It is an initiative of **CLAW Global** and is being supported by the **Indian Army**.
4. **Saansad Khel Mahakumbh (2022-23)** has been organized in **Basti** district, **Uttar Pradesh**.
5. **Telangana government** and the **World Economic Forum** have established a **Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR Telangana)**
6. Kerala allows **60 days Maternity Leave** for Female Students above the **age of 18 years**.
7. **Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT)** has announced the grant of **menstrual leaves** to female students.

8. **NACO** forms **largest Human Red Ribbon Chain** in Kalinga Stadium, **Odisha**.
9. The **21 largest unnamed islands of Andaman & Nicobar Islands** would be named after the **21 Param Vir Chakra** awardees.
10. Prime Minister Narendra Modi distributed **title deeds or 'Hakku Patra'** to eligible beneficiaries from the **Lambani nomadic tribes** residing in northern Karnataka. (Hakku Patra means **Claim Letter**)
11. **Unique Land Parcel Identification Number** is a **14-digit** identification number accorded to a **land parcel** to provide **Integrated Land Services** to the citizens.
12. **Aska Police Station** of **Odisha** awarded as the **Best Police Station** in India.
13. **Chhattisgarh** announces **Unemployment Allowance**
14. **National Rural Livelihood Mission** has launched the **Prajwala Challenge**. It is aimed at **inviting ideas, solutions, and actions** that can transform **rural development**.
15. The 2nd Phase of Sari Festival "**VIRAASAT**" begins in **New Delhi**
16. **National Genome Editing & Training Centre** was inaugurated at National Agri-food Biotechnology Institute (NABI) **Mohali, Punjab**
17. "**She Feeds the World**" program in India is launched by the philanthropic foundation of **PEPSICO and CARE**

TAMILNADU NEWS

1. Tamil Nadu Government has moved a resolution seeking the revival of the **Sethusamudram Project**, a proposed **shipping canal project** in India that would connect the **Gulf of Mannar and the Palk Strait**.
2. Chennai organises its 1st **International Book Fair**.
3. American India Foundation inaugurated 1st **STEM Innovation and Learning Center** in **Chennai**.
4. Prime Minister pays tributes to **Rani Velu Nachiyar** on her birth anniversary
5. The Government of Tamil Nadu have set up the **Tamil Nadu Green Climate Fund** of **Rs.1000 Crores**. It will be managed by the **Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Fund Management Corporation** (TNIFMC) Ltd.

6. **Sharath kamal** (Table tennis player from Tamilnadu) was awarded the **Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award**, India's highest sporting honour.
7. **R Pappammal**, an **organic farmer** from **Coimbatore** who was awarded the **Padma Shri** for **agriculture**.
8. **Punnagai (smile)** is an initiative that connects **Kathirimalai** with long-range Wi-Fi network and provides **telemedicine facilities** for the **tribal people** and **tele-education services** to the children.
9. **Vallalar biodiverse shelter** (Vallalar Palluyir Kaapagam) to protect stray, injured animals in Tamil nadu to commemorate the **200th birth anniversary of Vallalar**.
10. **Tamil Nadu** participated in the **World Economic Forum's (WEF) Annual Meeting**, in **Davos**, for the first time in 2022

CULTURE

1. The **28th edition of Saarang**, India's **largest student-run festival** begins at **IIT Madras**. Theme: **'Mystic Hues'**
2. The **Ministry of Culture** organized **'Sur Sarita – Symphony of Ganga'** program at the **Kashi Vishwanath Corridor in Varanasi**
3. **Ottan Thullal** is a **recite-and-dance art** form of Kerala. It was introduced by **Kunchan Nambiar**
4. Archeological Survey of India discovered two **1200-Year-Old Miniature Stupas** at **Nalanda**. The stupas are carved from stones and depict **Buddha figures**.
5. Centre **has nominated maidams of Ahom Kingdom in Charaideo in Assam** to seek **UNESCO World Heritage Tag**.
6. **400th birth anniversary of Lachit Barphukan**, who was the legendary general from the **Ahom community** who fought the Mughals in **1671**.
7. **Ministry of Tourism** organized **Bharat Parv** event at Red Fort Lawns.
8. The 3rd edition of **2 days Orange Festival** has been organized in **Nagaland's Rusoma village** to mark the **harvest of organic oranges** in the district
9. **Indian Council of Historical Research** rejected inclusion of Muslim dynasties in Exhibition at Lalit Kala Akademi titled **'Glory of Medieval India: Manifestation of the unexplored – Indian dynasties**.
10. **Shumang Leela** is a traditional form of theatre in **Manipur**.

11. **Aadi Shaurya – Parv Parakram Ka** is a **Military Tattoo and Tribal Dance Festival**, will be held in **New Delhi**. It is organized by the **Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Tribal Affairs** and the **Indian Coast Guard**
12. **Octave 2023** is a festival organised under **South Zone Culture Centre Thanjavur**, to showcase the **indigenous art and culture of Northeast India**.

FESTIVALS OF STATE

Festival	State
Cherchera	Chhattisgarh
Gaan Ngai	Manipur (Zeliarong community)
Lohri Harvest	Punjab
Mongeet	Majuli
Magh Bihu	Assam

AWARDS/PRIZE

Award	Awarded by	Awarded to	Known for
Golden Globes Winners 2023	Hollywood Foreign Press Association	Best Original Song, Motion Picture- Naatu Naatu song from “RRR” movie	
Federal Bank Literary Award 2022		Noted writer K Venu	For his autobiography ‘Oranweshanathi nte Katha’
‘Golden Kailasha’ Award	Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival	Rajasthani film, Naanera	Directed by Deepankar Prakash
Best Small Bank award	Best Banks survey for the year 2022.	Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited	

Bahrain's ISA Award For Service to Humanity	Bahrain	Nepalese Sanduk Ruit	Dr ophthalmologist
Best sustainable greenfield airport award	ASSOCHAM 14 th International Conference-cum -Awards for Civil Aviation 2023 at New Delhi.	Goa Manohar International Airport	–
International Press Academy (IPA) award		Bhavin Rabari of Gujarati film Chhello.	
21st Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF)	Best script writing award	–	Direction: Anik Dutta
	Best actress	Ketaki Narayan	For the Movie: Prappeda (Hawk's Muffin)
Excellence in Governance Award in Healthcare	–	Krishnanunni (IAS, Erode)	For A project called Punnagai (smile).
Green Railway Station Certificate	Indian Green Building Council	Visakhapatnam Railway Station	For adopting green concept
Odakuzhal Award 2022	–	Writer Ambikasuthan Mangad	For his Short stories Pranavayu
Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar	–	To 11 children	For their excellence in 6 categories
Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2023	–	Odisha State Disaster Management Authority and Lunglei Fire Station, Mizoram	–
Skoch Gold award	–	Greater Chennai Police	For Kaaval Karangal programme

Digital India Awards (MeitY)		
Category	Award	Project
Digital Empowerment of Citizens	Platinum	e-NAM
	Gold	Transport Mission Mode Project (eTransport)
	Silver	Judgment Search Portal
Digital Initiatives at Grassroots Level	Platinum	e-Vivechna App (MP)
	Gold	DeGS Computer Basic Training (Jharkhand)
	Silver	Ksheerasree Portal (Kerala)
Digital Initiatives for Ease of Doing Business	Platinum	Mine Mitra (UP)
	Gold	eAbkari (Odisha)
	Silver	Invest Punjab
Data Sharing and Use for Socio Economic Development	Platinum	Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
	Gold	Central Board of Secondary Education
	Silver	Center for e-governance (Karnataka)
Public Digital Platforms – States	Platinum	DUARE SARKAR (West Bengal)
	Gold	e-Services Manipur
Public Digital Platforms – Central Ministries, Departments	Platinum	ICEGATE Portal
	Gold	e-Shram

TAMILNADU AWARDS 2023

Awards	Awardee
Bharathiyar Award	AR Venkatachalapathy
KAP Viswanatham Award	Veteran poet Mu Metha
Devaneyya Pavanar Award	Dr R Mathivanan
Kamarajar Award	EVKS Elangovan

Periyar Award	Poet Kali Poongundran
Thiru.Vi.Ka Award	Namakkal P Velsami
Thiruvalluvar award	Eranian NK Ponnusamy
Bharathidasan Award	Valajah Vallavan
Anna Award	SNM Ubayadullah.
Ambedkar Award	SV Rajadurai
Kalaignar MU Karunanidhi Porkizhi Award	Author Meena Kandasamy

PERSONS IN NEWS

Person	Why in news?
Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda	First female Vice-president of Gabon.
Anurag Kumar	Appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Electronics Corporation of India Limited.
AC Charania	Chief-technologist in NASA. Indian-American space expert.
Constantine II	Former and last King of Greece passed away
Santhi Kumari	1st Woman Chief Secretary of Telangana.
Sharad Yadav	Former MP passed away Played a significant role in the implementation of the Mandal Commission recommendations.
Ronald E Asher	British linguist Specialised in Dravidian languages , passed away
Falak Mumtaz	Won gold medal at 23rd National Sqay Championship.
Clare Lombardelli	Appointed as OECD Chief Economist
Captain Surbhi Jakhmola	Becomes 1st woman officer to be posted at BRO.
R'Bonney Gabriel (United States)	Crowned 71st Miss Universe 2022

Michele Santelia	Has achieved a world record by typing copies of 81 books backwards , a technique that he calls ' mirror writing '.
Mukarram Jah Bahadur	Last Nizam of Hyderabad passes away
Pankaj Kumar Singh	Appointed as the Deputy National Security Adviser
Jacinda Ardern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand's Prime Minister • Announces resignation
Aruna Miller	1 st Indian-American politician to be sworn in as the Lieutenant Governor in the state of Maryland .
Nguyen Xuan Phuc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vietnam President. • Announces resignation following corruption scandals.
Janani Ramachandran	Indian-American attorney becomes 1st LGBTQ woman of colour to take oath as U.S. City Council member
Praveen Sharma	Appointed as Director of National Health Authority
Nilamani Phookan	Assamese poet and recipient of Jnapith Award has passed away.
Chris Hipkins	Replaces Jacinda Ardern as prime minister of New Zealand.
Vikram Dev Dutt	Appointed as the Director general in the Directorate of General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
Jeff Zients	Appointed as the Chief of staff by Joe Biden
RV Prasad	A scientist with 69 patents has been honored with the Indian Achievers Award as the most distinguished scientist of the year
Balkrishna Doshi	Modernist architecture in India passes away
Julie Turner	Nominated by US President Biden as North Korea Human Rights Envoy .
Sabir Ali	' Ironman of India ' won the decathlon gold at the 1981 Asian Athletics Championships in Tokyo , passed away
Petr Pavel	Former chairman of NATO has become the President of the Czech Republic
Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi	Appointed as the Drugs Controller General Of India

Air Marshal A P Singh	Appointed as the Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force
Captain Shiva Chauhan	1 st women officer to be operationally deployed in Siachen .
Walter Cunningham	Apollo 7's last surviving astronaut, passes away.
Belinda Clark	1 st women cricketer to have statue cast at Sydney Cricket Ground .
Manpreet Monica Singh	1 st ever female Sikh judge in the US after she was sworn in as a Harris county judge.
Dr Tehemton E Udawadia	Father of laparoscopic surgery , passes away.
Kevin McCarthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st time since 1923 that a nominee of the majority party in the House hasn't been able to win the first vote for the position of Speaker.
Inacio Lula da Silva	Sworn in as the President of Brazil for the 3 rd time.
Dr. Vinaya Prakash Singh	Elected as the secretary General of Asian Pacific Postal Union (4 years term)

IMPORTANT DAYS

Day	Date	Theme
Foundation Day of DRDO	January 1	65 th Foundation day.
Global Family Day	January 1	–
World Braille Day	January 4	–
17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)	January 9	Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's Progress in Amrit Kaal
World Hindi Day	January 10	To commemorate the date in 1949 when Hindi was 1 st spoken in the United Nations General Assembly
Startup India Innovation Week	January 10 – 16	By Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

National Youth Day	January 12	Theme: Developed Youth-Developed India (Viksit Yuva-Viksit Bharat)
National Road Safety Week 2023	January 11 to 17	–
Day of Non-Resident Tamils	January 12	–
Armed Forces Veterans Day	January 14	–
Indian Army day	January 15	Theme: “Honouring the Valor of Our Armed Forces”
National Startup Day	January 16	No dedicated theme.
18th National Disaster Response Force day	January 19	–
Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur celebrate statehood	January 21	–
Parakram Diwas	January 23	To mark the birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose
International Day of Education	January 24	“to invest in people, prioritize education”
National Girl Child Day	January 24	Theme: Self Defence Training for Girls
International Day of Education to Afghan girls and women	January 24	By UNESCO
Himachal Pradesh celebrates its 53rd Statehood Day	January 25	18 th state of India
National Voters Day	January 25	‘Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure’
International Customs Day	January 26	Nurturing the next generation: Promoting a culture of knowledge-sharing and professional pride in Customs
International Holocaust Remembrance Day	January 27	“Home and Belonging”
Data Protection Day, or Data Privacy Day	January 28	–

World Leprosy Day	January 29	Theme: Act Now. End Leprosy
Martyr's Day	January 30	–
World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day	January 30	Theme: Act Now. Act Together. Invest in Neglected Tropical Diseases

DEFENCE IN NEWS

Exercise	Participating countries	Type of Exercise
Veer Guardian-2023	Japan and India	Air force
'Varuna'	India-France	Maritime
AMPHEX 2023	largest biennial Triservices	Amphibious exercise
PRALAY	Indian Air Force	Air Force
Exercise Cyclone – I	Indo-Egypt Joint Training	Army
Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX)	Indian Navy	Maritime exercise
Veer Guardian 2023	India & Japan	Air exercise
Tarkash 2023	India's National Security Guard and US Special Operations Forces	counter Terrorism Exercise
Dessert Warrior	India & Egypt	Air Exercise

1. United States Nuclear Submarine, **USS west Virginia** visited its **Indian Ocean Military Base** in **Diego Garcia**.
2. ICG Ship '**Kamla Devi**', 5th and last vessel of FPV Series Commissioned at **Kolkata**.
3. **Tata Boeing Aerospace Limited** has delivered the 1st fuselage for six **AH-64 Apache attack helicopters** ordered by the Indian Army in Hyderabad.
4. **Fifth Kalvari Class Submarine "Vagir"** to be commissioned into Indian Navy.

5. **Leopard 2 tank:** It is a **German** made **main battle tank**. It provide **all-round protection** for troops from threats such as **mines, anti-tank fire, and improvised explosive devices**
6. The **Siyom Bridge** is a **100m long**, Class 70 Steel Arch Superstructure over **Siyom River** in **Arunachal Pradesh**. Constructed by **Border Road Organisation**.
7. The **36th India-France Strategic Dialogue** was held in **New Delhi**.
8. **SPRINT** Scheme (**Supporting Pole-Vaulting in R&D through Innovations for Defence Excellence**) aims to promote the development and usage of **indigenous defence technologies** by **domestic companies**.
9. India will deploy a **platoon of women peacekeepers** to **UN Mission** in **Abyei** (Between Sudan and South Sudan). This will be India's **largest single unit of women Peacekeepers** in a UN Mission since it deployed the first-ever all-women contingent in **Liberia** in **2007**.
10. The **Central Detective Training Institute** (CDTI) was inaugurated at **Devanahalli** in **Karnataka**.

74TH REPUBLIC DAY PARADE

Chief guest of 74th Republic Day of India	Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi
Theme of Republic day parade of Tamilnadu	Women empowerment and culture of the state
Winner of Republic Day Parade	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Uttarakhand tablea – Theme: State's wildlife and religious sites 2. Maharashtra 3. Uttar Pradesh
Best Marching Contingent among the three services	Punjab Regiment Centre Contingent
Best Marching Contingent among CAPF/other auxiliary forces	CRPF Marching Contingent

PLACES IN NEWS

Place Name	State/country	Known for
Etalin hydro electric project	Dibang Valley Arunachal Pradesh.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rivers Tangon and Dri (tributaries of Dibang river) Tribal displacement (Idu-Mishmi tribes)
Sammed Shikharji Temple	Jharkhand (Centre asked the state of Jharkhand	It is believed that 20 out of 24 Tirthankars (Jain spiritual leaders) attained salvation at Sammed Shikharji.
Shetrunjaya hill	to forbid all tourism and ecotourism activities in the area)	Home to 865 Jain temples and are a holy place for Shwetambara Jains .
Sankhya Sagar lake (Ramsar site)	Madhya Pradesh	It has virtually disappeared due to invasive aquatic plant (Water hyacinth-Pontederia crassipes).

INDICES

Report	Released by	Note
Henley Passport Index	London-based Henley and Partners	Japan - Most favourable passport in the world. Indian passport - 85th Rank
Business Confidence Index	Confederation of Indian Industry	-
World Social Report 2023	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs	Theme: “Leaving No One Behind in an Aging World”
‘Global 500 – 2023’	Brand Finance	Reliance Jio is placed at 9th among the world’s strongest brands
Public Enterprises Survey (2021-2022)	Department of Public Enterprises	-

SUMMITS

Summit Name	Hosted in	Purpose of Summit
7th edition of 'Invest Madhya Pradesh Global Investors Summit'	Madhya Pradesh	'Madhya Pradesh-The Future Ready State'
World Economic Forum meeting	Davos	Theme: 'Cooperation in a Fragmented World'
'Think 20' meeting of G20	Bhopal	Bhopal Declaration
First G20 Health Working Group meeting	Thiruvananthapuram Kerala	–
Sensitisation workshop on G-20 Environment and Climate Sustainability	Bengaluru	–
Business 20 (B20) India Inception Meeting	Gandhinagar	–
International Craft Summit	Jajpur, Odisha	It is the first-of-its-kind craft summit to feature pioneer crafts persons, culture, and art enthusiasts.
57th Conference of Directors General of Police / Inspectors General of Police	New Delhi	–
Millets & Organics 2023 – International Trade Fair	Thripuravasini, Bengaluru	Theme: "Millets & Organics: Opportunities amidst Challenges"
G20's first Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group Meeting	Bengaluru	–
India International Science Festival IISF-2022	Bhopal	Theme: Marching towards Amrit Kaal with Science, Technology, and Innovation.
India Energy Week 2023	Bengaluru	Growth, Collaboration, Transition

First India Stack Developer Conference	New Delhi	Focused on strategies for ensuring greater global adoption of Indian digital products
G20 University Connect lecture series	–	Indian Institute of Technology Madras
15th BRICS summit	Durban , South Africa	'BRICS @ 15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation, and Consensus'
India's first Model G-20 Summit	Mumbai	By Indian Institute of Democratic Leadership
First G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group meeting	Chandigarh	–
BioAsia 2023	Hyderabad.	Hosted by United Kingdom + Telangana
108th session of India Science Congress	Nagpur	Theme: 'Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women's Empowerment'
1st All India Annual State Ministers Conference on Water	Bhopal	Theme: Water Vision@2047
International Conference on Food and Nutritional Security 2023 (iFANS)	Mohali	–
The Voice of Global South' Summit	Virtual summit	Theme: 'Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose' India will host.
18th National Scouts and Guides Jamboree	Pali district of Rajasthan	–
Global Startup Investors Summit	Hosted by StartupTN	–
Indian Library Congress	Kannur, Kerala	–
83rd All India Presiding Officers' Conference	Jaipur	–
26th National Youth Festival	Hubbali, Karnataka	–

COMMITTEE IN NEWS

Committee	Purpose of the committee
7 member Committee including M C Mary Kom and Yogeshwar Dutt	To Probe Allegations against Indian Weightlifting Federation of India President Sahdev Yadav .
Nityanand Rai committee	To address issues related to the protection of Ladakh's culture, language, land, and employment opportunities.
Bibek Debroy committee	Objective of identifying ways of advancing beekeeping in India.

PORTAL IN NEWS

Portal	Purpose	Launched by
Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP)	To improve the performance of MSMEs by supporting institutional and policy reforms, research studies, and technology upgradation	Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (Support of World Bank)
MAARG (Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience, and Growth) platform	To facilitate mentorship for start-ups across diverse sectors, and geography	Ministry of Commerce
PANI (Portal for Asset and navigation Information)	For information regarding waterways	Inland Waterways Authority of India.
U-WIN platform	To Digitise Universal Immunisation Programme . Aiming to cater to newborns and pregnant women	
National Logistics Portal (marine)	It will serve as a single point of contact for all logistics trade processes across the country.	Ministry of Ports Shipping Waterways and Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Aamantran portal	For witnessing Republic day and Independence day events, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To extend e-Invitations to dignitaries/guests. Online Sale of Tickets to general public. 	Part of e-governance initiative
Global Tamil Angels platform	Allows Tamil Nadu-based start-ups to connect with potential investors from the global Tamil diaspora	StartupTN

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Book Name	Author Name	Note
Spare	Prince Harry (member of the British royal family)	–
A Book Come! Let's Run	Tamil Nadu Health Minister Ma. Subramanian	–
Exam Warriors Book	Prime Minister Narendra Modi	Available in 13 languages.
'COACHING BEYOND: My Days with the Indian Cricket Team'	R. Kaushik & R. Sridhar	–
India's Knowledge Supremacy: The New Dawn	Dr Ashwin Fernandes	–
'Hockey & India - A Golden Legacy'	by Sportstar	Released by Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik
The Poverty of Political Economics: How Economics Abandoned the Poor?	Meghnad Desai	India-born naturalised British economist

The World: A Family History of Humanity	Simon Sebag Montefiore	It tells how humanity evolved by the stories of different and famous families.
Breaking Barriers : the Story of a Dalit Chief Secretary	Former IAS. Kaki Madhava Rao	–
Human Anatomy	Dr AK Dwivedi	It is a Medical book released by the Governor of Madhya Pradesh Mangubhai Patel.
Ambedkar: A Life	Shashi Tharoor	–
Revolutionaries: The Other Story of How India Won Its Freedom	Sanjeev Sanyal	Author is a Member of Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister.
Njaan Sakshi (me as the witness)	K.K. Abdul Gaffar's autobiography	Released by MS Dhoni.
Braving A Viral Storm: India's Covid-19 Vaccine Story"	Aashish Chandorkar	

SPECIES IN NEWS

Species		Why in News?
Neelakurinji (Strobilanthes kunthiana)	Plant	Listed as Protected Species under Schedule III of Wildlife Protection Act 1972.
Spot Bellied Eagle Owl' (Bubo Nipalensis)		Spotted for the 1 st time in the Seshachalam forest
Mahabali Frog (Nasikabatrachus sahyadrensis)		A proposal by Govt of Kerala for declaring the frog, as state's amphibian. IUCN: Endangered
Noble's Helen (Papilio noblei)		Spotted for the first time in India's Namdapha National Park of Arunachal Pradesh

Senna spectabilis (Invasive species native to tropical areas of America)	Kerala Forest Research Institute has come out with a management plan to eradicate <i>Senna spectabilis</i> .
Halteria and Paramecium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plankton organisms • Researches found that it can be feed on viruses (virovore)
Miliusa agasthyamalana	What makes the discovery special is that only two mature trees have been spotted so far in its natural habitat.
Tropidophis cacuangoae	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new species of dwarf boa in the Ecuadoran Amazon. • It is unusual for having a vestigial pelvis characteristic of primitive snakes.
Darling 58	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genetically engineered American chestnut tree. • It was dwindled due to a fungal blight, Cryphonectria parasitica
Kelpforests (underwater rainforests)	Declining because of climate change.

SPORTS IN NEWS

1. The 15th edition of the **FIH Men's Hockey World Cup** is set to begin in **Odisha**. It is held every **four years**.
2. The 39th edition of the annual **Spanish football super cup competition** was held at the **King Fahd International Stadium in Riyadh**, Saudi Arabia.
3. The **Malaysia Open Super 1000** was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Women's singles titles	Akane Yamaguchi
Men's singles titles	Viktor Axelsen

4. The Rwanda fast bowler, **Geovanis Uwase** has been **suspended** by ICC from bowling in international cricket with immediate effect after **her action was found illegal** at **Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup**.
5. **Yonex- Sunrise India Open 2023** is set to start in **New Delhi**.

6. **Laxman Rawat** won National Sports Club of **India Snooker Open Crown** 2023.
7. **An Seyoung** won **Women's singles** final by defeating the World No. 1 Japanese **Akane Yamaguchi** at **India Open Badminton Championship** held at **D. Jadhav Indoor Stadium** in New Delhi.
8. Thailand shuttler **Kunlavut Vitidsarn** wins **India Open Badminton** title by defeating Denmark's **Viktor Axelsen**.
9. **India** beat **England** to win **ICC Women's U19 T20 World Cup**
10. **Germany** beat **Belgium** to win the **FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023** at the **Kalinga Stadium** in Bhubaneswar, India.
11. The world's **largest dedicated hockey stadium** in **Rourkela, Odisha**.
12. **Sania Mirza** is said to retire from Professional Tennis
13. India's first-ever **silver medal** from the **World blitz chess championship** was won by **Koneru Humpy** held in **Kazakhstan**
14. **Australian Open 2023:**

Category	Winner
Men's singles	N. Djokovic (serbia)
Women's singles	A Sabalenka (Belarus)
Men's Doubles	J Kubler & R Hijikata (Australia)
Women's doubles	B Krejciakova & K Siniakova (Czechia)
Mixed Doubles	L Stefani & R Matos (Brazil)

15. A 122-foot-tall statue of a **polo player astride a Manipur Pony** was unveiled in **Imphal**, Manipur.

Origin of Modern Polo	Sagol Kangjei
Meaning	Sagol - pony/horse
	kang - a ball or round object
	jei - stick used for hitting
What is Manipur Pony?	Breed of horse mainly found in Manipur

16. **Grandmasters of India:**

Grandmaster	Name	State
78 th Grandmaster	Koustav Chatterjee	Kolkata
79 th Grandmaster	Pranesh	Tamilnadu
80 th Grandmaster	Vignesh NR	Tamilnadu
81 st Grandmaster	Sayantan Das	Kolkata

17. **ICC Annual Awards**

Men's T20 International Cricketer	Suryakumar Yadav (India)
Women's Emerging Cricketer	Renuka Singh (India)
Women's Associate Cricketer	Esha Oza (India)

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