

**HARBOUR**

# **Current Affairs**

## **2023-24**



***Grade 6-8***

# National

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## January 2024

- ✧ The Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Maharashtra has been marked as India's first Dark Sky Park and the fifth such park in Asia for protecting the night sky and preventing light pollution, making the facility ideal for astronomy enthusiasts.
- ✧ According to the Temple officials, the inauguration ceremony of Ram Mandir will start from January 16, 2024. The date of Lord Ram Lalla's consecration is all set for January 22, 2024 and the booking for passes for 'Aarti' are now being accepted online and offline by Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra ahead of the temple's official opening.
- ✧ The lively Chandubi Festival, held near the scenic Chandubi Lake in Assam's Kamrup district, began on January 1 and will run until January 5. Organized by the residents of Rajapara village in collaboration with the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council, this annual event has been a tradition for 14 years.

## December 2023

- ✧ The Supreme Court's landmark decision on December 11, 2023, upheld the Union Government's 2019 move to abrogate the special status of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) under Article 370 of the Constitution.
- ✧ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is set to increase its liquidity infusion into the banking system through the 7- day variable rate repo (VRR) auction on December 22.
- ✧ The Uttarakhand government organized the Global Investors Summit in Dehradun on December 8-9. The event will spotlight more than 15 investor-friendly policies, emphasizing effective governance, a favorable regulatory environment, and sustainable practices to attract potential investors.
- ✧ Goa Liberation Day 2023, celebrated annually on December 19, holds special significance as it commemorates the liberation of the state from Portuguese colonial rule. The year 2023 marks the 62nd anniversary of this momentous occasion, highlighting the resilience and determination of the people of Goa in their quest for freedom.
- ✧ Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke at the second edition of the Infinity Forum, a prominent Financial Technology event scheduled for December 9, 2023. Hosted by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and GIFT City, the event is organized under the auspices of the Government of India. Following the success of its inaugural edition in December 2021, Infinity Forum 2.0 aims to be a global thought leadership platform with a focus on financial services.

## November 2023

- ✧ On November 7, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, accompanied by other dignitaries, unveiled a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the

Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir. The statue, symbolizing cultural pride, was installed at the 41 National Rifle (Maratha LI) camp near the Line of Control (LoC) that divides India and Pakistan.

- ✧ The Indian Parliament's winter session, scheduled from December 4 to December 22, was announced by Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Prahlad Joshi on November 9. It is anticipated to involve substantial legislative discussions and address important topics.
- ✧ Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, the Union Minister for Women and Child Development and Minority Affairs, inaugurated the Anganwadi Protocol for Differently-abled Children in a national outreach initiative at Vigyan Bhawan on November 28, 2023. The program, attended by officials, experts, and stakeholders from diverse ministries and organizations, focuses on enhancing the overall well-being of differently-abled children.
- ✧ The Uttar Pradesh government has announced that November 25 will be observed as a "no non-veg day" to honor Sadhu TL Vaswani's birth anniversary, promoting a vegetarian lifestyle. This involves the temporary closure of all slaughterhouses and meat shops in the state on that specific day.
- ✧ The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), a body under the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the well-known global retail giant, Lulu Hypermarket LLC. The agreement, focusing on the global promotion of Brand India, was formally signed during the World India Food (WIF) 2023 event on November 3, 2023, in New Delhi.

### *October 2023*

- ✧ By December 31, 2024, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) aims to implement 'Bima Vahaks' in every Gram Panchayat nationwide, as per the recent announcement on October 10, 2023, in New Delhi.
- ✧ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has given its approval for the merger of the Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) and IDFC First Bank. This approval was communicated through a regulatory filing on October 17, 2023.
- ✧ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin honored nine distinguished space scientists, including K Sivan and Mylswamy Annadurai, at a special event in Chennai on October 2, 2023. Each scientist received a cash award of Rs.25 lakh, and the Chief Minister announced a scholarship program to inspire scientific innovation among postgraduate engineering students.
- ✧ On October 20, 2023, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS Corridor's priority section and launch the RapidX train from Sahibabad to Duhai Depot, marking the commencement of RRTS operations in India at Sahibabad RapidX Station.
- ✧ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the Periodic Labour Force Survey Report for 2022-23 on October 9, 2023. The report shows positive trends, indicating a 4.2 percentage point increase in the Female Labor Force Participation Rate, reaching 37.0% in 2023, highlighting greater female involvement in the workforce.

## September 2023

- ✪ India celebrated a momentous occasion with its inaugural lighthouse festival in Goa, organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways. This event, held from September 23 to September 25, is a key step in the broader initiative to revitalize 75 lighthouses nationwide, turning them into vibrant tourist destinations and honoring their cultural and historical importance.
- ✪ On September 24th, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate nine Vande Bharat Express trains, including two for West Bengal's Howrah and Tamil Nadu's Chennai, and one each for Kerala, Odisha, Telangana, Gujarat, and Rajasthan. These semi-high-speed trains, consisting of eight coaches, aim to enhance India's rail connectivity.
- ✪ The fourth edition of 'Nadi Utsav,' celebrating India's river culture, kicks off on September 22nd and runs until September 24th, 2023. Organized by NMCM (National Mission on Cultural Mapping) of IGNCA in collaboration with the Janapada Sampada Division, this year's event in Delhi promises a culturally enriching experience along the banks of the Yamuna River.
- ✪ Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan unveiled a 108-foot statue of the 8th-century spiritual leader Adi Shankaracharya on September 21, showcasing a commitment to promoting Sanatan Dharma and cultural unity amid political dynamics.
- ✪ The Indian government has launched Series II of the Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) Scheme for 2023-24, open for subscription until September 15. This scheme provides a secure option to invest in gold, moving away from physical ownership, and offers an opportunity for extra income.

## August 2023

- ✪ On August 1, 2023, Amazon India inaugurated its inaugural floating store on Dal Lake in Srinagar, Kashmir, aligning with the company's commitment to offering dependable and convenient delivery services to its clientele. This initiative supports small businesses in tapping into lucrative earning prospects.
- ✪ Prime Minister Modi introduced a novel form of urea known as 'Urea Gold' while visiting Rajasthan on August 1, 2023. 'Urea Gold,' alternatively referred to as Sulphur Coated Urea (SCU), features a sulfur coating aimed at improving soil quality and cutting down on farmers' costs.
- ✪ On August 2, 2023, the Indian Parliament approved the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023. This legislation empowers the private sector to engage in mining activities for six of the twelve atomic minerals, including lithium, and for deep-seated minerals such as gold and silver.
- ✪ The Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai has bestowed Geographical Indication (GI) status upon seven products originating from diverse regions of India, with four hailing from Rajasthan. The recognized products include 'Jalesar Dhatu Shilp' (a metal craft from UP), 'Goa Mankurad Mango,' 'Goan Bebinca,' 'Udaipur Koftgari Metal Craft,' 'Bikaner Kashidakari Craft,' 'Jodhpur Bandhej Craft,' and 'Bikaner Usta Kala Craft.'

## July 2023

- ✳ On July 1, 2023, India and Malaysia declared the adoption of the Indian Rupee (INR) as a means of settlement for their trade. These accords are designed to diminish dependence on the US dollar as the primary currency for global trade and financial transactions. Utilizing local currencies is also anticipated to mitigate currency risks for businesses.
- ✳ On July 3, 2023, the Department of Telecommunications (DOT) initiated the Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA) with the goal of nurturing innovation and establishing a leadership position in 6G technology, the upcoming phase in wireless communication. This initiative is poised to position India as a pioneer in the advancement and integration of 6G technology, with substantial implications for the economy, society, and the environment.
- ✳ India organized the 23<sup>rd</sup> SCO summit in New Delhi on July 4, 2023. The council meeting of the member states' heads took place in a virtual format. The theme for the 2023 SCO Summit was "Towards a SECURE SCO," a concept introduced by the Indian Prime Minister during the 2018 SCO Qingdao Summit. The term "SECURE" represents Security, Economic development, Connectivity, Unity, Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and Environmental protection.
- ✳ On July 4, 2023, IDFC First Bank and IDFC Ltd. unveiled their merger proposal, intending to simplify the corporate framework, enhance the book value per share, and streamline regulatory compliance. The merger is anticipated to conclude within the current fiscal year, pending any unforeseen circumstances.
- ✳ On July 4, 2023, the Ministry of External Affairs declared that Zanzibar, Tanzania, will host the inaugural international campus of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT). A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been executed to formalize the establishment of this institution, which is slated to enroll 50 undergraduate students and 20 master's students. The new IIT campus in Zanzibar will operate under the name IIT Madras at Zanzibar.
- ✳ On July 5, 2023, the Ministry of Home Affairs initiated the "Program for Advancement and Modernization of Fire Services in the States" with the primary aim of improving fire safety infrastructure nationwide. The scheme commenced with a significant budget of 5000 crore.
- ✳ On July 5, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced a preliminary regulation allowing individuals with debit, credit, and prepaid cards to opt for their preferred card network starting from October 1, 2023. This initiative, known as card network portability, provides cardholders with the freedom to switch to an alternative payment network while retaining their existing card accounts, balances, and credit history.
- ✳ On July 6, 2023, Punjab National Bank (PNB) unveiled UPI 123PAY, an IVR-based UPI solution, aligning with the Digital Payment Vision 2025. The initiative seeks to advance India's transition to a society without the reliance on cash or cards. UPI 123PAY will support multiple languages, ensuring accessibility for customers in their chosen language.

- ✪ On July 7, 2023, India became a member of the Champions Group within the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG) at the behest of the UN Secretary-General. This invitation underscores India's growing global leadership and dedication to tackling present-day global issues.
- ✪ The Mayoral Summit of the Urban 20 (U20) took place in the paired cities of Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar in Gujarat on July 7, 2023. Attended by representatives from 35 cities in India and 57 cities globally, the significant result of the U20 Mayoral Summit was the presentation of the U20 Communiqué by the attending mayors to the G20 leaders.
- ✪ On July 9, 2023, the Ministry of Education's Department of School Education and Literacy unveiled the Performance Grading Index (PGI) report for States/UTs. This index serves as a comprehensive, evidence-based tool for analyzing the school education system. Notably, no state secured a position in the top-5 category of the PGI. Punjab and Chandigarh, however, clinched the leading positions in the overall PGI ranking.
- ✪ On July 10, 2023, the Education Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan, revealed that IIT Delhi plans to establish its international campus in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Additionally, IIT Delhi has disclosed its decision to incorporate students from UAE schools in its Summer Boot Camp, providing talented individuals with the opportunity to engage in research and innovation within IIT Delhi's laboratories.
- ✪ On July 10, 2023, 'Odisha TV,' a news channel based in Odisha, introduced 'Lisa,' India's inaugural regional AI news anchor. Lisa represents a noteworthy achievement in local television broadcasting as the state's pioneering artificial intelligence news anchor. With the ability to communicate in multiple languages, Lisa stands out as a significant milestone in the field.
- ✪ On July 10, 2023, the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) achieved a significant milestone by becoming the initial Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) in India to attain Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS) certification. This internationally accredited certification, granted by InterCert USA, signifies ONGC's successful implementation of the ISO 37001:2016 International Standard.
- ✪ The initiation of rupee-based trade transactions on July 11, 2023, between Bangladesh and India marks a noteworthy achievement in regional economic collaboration. This initiative seeks to diminish dependence on the US dollar, fostering the enhancement of regional currency and trade. For Bangladesh, this bilateral trade agreement signifies a substantial breakthrough, signaling a shift away from utilizing the US dollar for trade settlements with a foreign nation.
- ✪ As of July 13, 2023, the UGC introduced a new regulation for recruiting entry-level professors, eliminating the prerequisite of holding a PhD for those seeking assistant professor positions in colleges and universities. Meeting the eligibility criteria by clearing the National Eligibility Test (NET), State Eligibility Test (SET), or State Level Eligibility Test (SLET) is now sufficient for consideration in the appointment process.
- ✪ On July 14, 2023, India effectively initiated Chandrayaan-3 utilizing the LVM3-M4 rocket from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota. A significant

milestone has been achieved as the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft has entered the moon's sphere of influence, marking India's third lunar mission.

- ✧ On July 14, 2023, a resolution acknowledging Arunachal Pradesh as an essential component of India was approved by the United States Senate Committee. The resolution, presented by Senators Jeff Merkley, Bill Hagerty, Tim Kaine, and Chris Van Hollen, reasserts the United States' recognition of the McMahon Line as the recognized international boundary between China and Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✧ Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrapped up his official trip to France and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) spanning from July 13 to July 15, 2023. His invitation as the chief guest at France's military parade reflects a gesture of great honor. Additionally, President Emmanuel Macron of France bestowed upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi the prestigious 'Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour.' Furthermore, during his visit to the UAE, Prime Minister Narendra Modi engaged in discussions with President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi.
- ✧ On July 16, 2023, the collaboration between the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) takes a significant step as they unite to create nuclear engines for rockets. This partnership aims to revolutionize space exploration through the joint development of an advanced nuclear thermal rocket engine. The focus of ISRO-BARC's efforts lies in the creation of Radio Thermoelectric Generators (RTGS).
- ✧ On July 17, 2023, the government of Uttar Pradesh issued an official directive categorizing the Gomti River as a 'non-perennial river' as part of a Government Order (GO) related to floodplain zoning for 12 rivers, including the Gomti. The order specifically mentioned that the Gomti is recognized as a non-perennial river, indicating that it does not maintain an environmental flow throughout the entire year.
- ✧ On July 18, 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi remotely inaugurated the new integrated terminal building at Veer Savarkar International Airport in Port Blair. The construction of the terminal, which cost approximately 710 crore, marks a significant advancement in improving connectivity for the island union territory. The terminal building spans a total built-up area of approximately 40,800 square meters and has the capacity to accommodate around 50 lakh passengers annually.
- ✧ On July 18, 2023, Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister and Cooperation Minister, officially launched the 'CRCS-Sahara Refund Portal' in New Delhi. This platform is specifically designed to aid depositors who have invested funds in cooperative societies affiliated with the Sahara Group. The objective of the portal is to facilitate the refund process for over 10 crore depositors associated with the Sahara Group, allowing them to reclaim their investments.
- ✧ On July 19, 2023, the NITI Aayog published the third version of the 'Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2022' for Indian States/Union Territories. According to the report, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Gujarat have emerged as the top four performers in the EPI. The report underscores the significance of export-oriented businesses, highlighting their higher productivity compared to domestic firms.

- ☆ On July 19, 2023, Union Minister Piyush Goyal initiated the sale of 'Bharat Dal,' a brand offering subsidized Chana Dal at budget-friendly rates. The aim of providing Chana Dal at a reduced cost is to ensure accessibility for consumers. The government has transformed its stock of gram into Chana Dal for distribution to the public.
- ☆ On July 20, 2023, Japan became the second Quad partner to enter into a semiconductor agreement with India. Both nations signed a collaborative pact to enhance the semiconductor ecosystem, fortifying their alliance and resilience within the worldwide supply chain. The agreement encompasses diverse areas with the goal of establishing a strong and dependable semiconductor supply chain.
- ☆ On July 20, 2023, the Indian government unveiled an innovative 'Credit Guarantee Scheme,' marking the inaugural initiative of its kind for the Livestock Sector. This pioneering scheme is designed to revitalize the rural economy by harnessing the potential of MSMEs. Its objective is to offer credit guarantee protection to qualifying lending institutions, enhancing financial accessibility for the underserved livestock sector.
- ☆ Surpassing the United States, Surat in Gujarat, known as India's gem capital, achieved a milestone on July 21, 2023, by unveiling the world's largest office building, the 'Surat Diamond Bourse.' This innovative structure, which replaces the iconic Pentagon, comprises nine interconnected rectangular buildings radiating from a central 'spine.' The Surat Diamond Bourse is designed to accommodate more than 4200 offices, varying in size from 300 to 75,000 square feet each, providing a comprehensive hub for various diamond-related activities and infrastructure.
- ☆ On July 22, 2023, the Aviation Security Control Centre (ASCC) of CISF in New Delhi was inaugurated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Established by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), this initiative aims to adeptly tackle the existing security challenges.
- ☆ On July 23, 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially opened the Bharat Mandapam, an international exhibition and convention center complex at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. This significant initiative, undertaken as a national project with an estimated expenditure of around 2700 crore, is designed to spotlight and boost India's standing as a premier global business hub.
- ☆ On July 23, 2023, Darwin Platform Infrastructure acquired India's inaugural private hill station, Lavasa, for a sum of 1.8 thousand crore. The primary aim of Darwin Platform Infrastructure's resolution plan is to settle the demands of home buyers. Additionally, the plan seeks to guarantee the completion and delivery of homes within five years, contingent on securing environmental clearance, with a total claim amount of 6642 crore.
- ☆ On July 25, 2023, the Parliament approved the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2022. This legislation aims to modify the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order of 1950 concerning its applicability to Chhattisgarh. The Bill incorporates the Dhanuwar, Dhanuwar, Kond, Kondh, Kisan,



Saunra, Saonra, and Binjhia communities into the roster of Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Chhattisgarh.

- ✧ On July 25, 2023, India implemented a prohibition on the export of non-basmati white rice with the aim of mitigating fluctuations in domestic retail prices. This directive, endorsed by the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs, is applicable to all shipments of non-basmati white rice. India's action holds significance globally, considering it is the foremost exporter of rice worldwide.
- ✧ The establishment of India's inaugural Atal Incubation Center (AIC) in fisheries will be undertaken by the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS). This initiative, announced on July 25, 2023, follows the receipt of a 10 crore grant from NITI Aayog. The grant from NITI Aayog is intended to support KUFOS in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship within the fisheries sector.
- ✧ On July 26, 2023, Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister, inaugurated an innovative program called 'Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar' (MGMD) as a component of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The primary goal of this initiative is to culturally document India's 6.5 lakh villages across 29 States and 7 Union Territories on an extensive virtual platform.
- ✧ The third edition of the Summit on 'Establishing Global Chemicals and Petrochemicals Manufacturing Hubs in India' (GCPMH 2023) took place in New Delhi on July 27-28, 2023. This summit stands as one of the most extensive biennial events, promoting the development of chemical and petrochemical manufacturing hubs in India.
- ✧ On July 28, 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Semicon India 2023 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The event centers around exploring investment prospects in India's semiconductor industry through expert-led discussions. The conference's overarching theme is 'Enabling Growth in India's Semiconductor Ecosystem.'
- ✧ To mark Global Tiger Day on July 29, 2023, the Indian government has unveiled the 'Status of Tigers Report 2022' at the Corbett Tiger Reserve. The tiger count in India has witnessed a growth from 2967 in 2018 to 3682 in 2022, reflecting an annual increase of 6%. The projected upper limit for the tiger population stands at 3925, with an average of 3682 tigers. As of now, India hosts nearly 75% of the global wild tiger population.
- ✧ On July 29, 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam 2023' at Bharat Mandapam in Delhi, marking the third anniversary of the introduction of the National Education Policy 2020. During the event, PM Modi also disbursed the initial funds for the PM SHRI scheme, with 6,207 schools receiving the first installment, totaling 630 crore rupees.
- ✧ On July 30, 2023, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) initiated the launch of the PSLV-C56 rocket from the initial launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota. Accompanying the PSLV-C56 on its mission were 6 co-passenger satellites along with a DS-SAR satellite from Singapore. Developed by DSTA and ST Engineering on behalf of the Government of Singapore, the DS-SAR satellite has a weight of 3600 kg.

## June 2023

- ✳ The Strategic Forces Command conducted a successful training launch of the Agni-1 Medium-Range Ballistic Missile on June 1, 2023, from APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha. The Defense Ministry declared the missile as a verified system, possessing the capability to accurately target objectives with a high degree of precision.
- ✳ Prime Minister Narendra Modi engaged in a one-on-one discussion with Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' at Hyderabad House in Delhi on June 1, 2023. Subsequently, the two leaders collectively inaugurated the departure of the Indian Railway cargo train, commencing its journey from Bathnaha to the Nepal Customs yard.
- ✳ Prime Minister Narendra Modi led a high-level discussion to assess the circumstances surrounding the train incident in Balasore, Odisha, on June 3, 2023. The tragic event, involving three trains, resulted in a loss of at least 280 lives and left over 900 individuals injured.

## May 2023

- ✳ The RBI has taken a noteworthy action by discontinuing the circulation of 2000 banknotes on May 23, 2023. The issuance of 2000 banknotes in November 2016 was a reaction to the demonetization of 500 and 1000 banknotes. While the RBI has commenced the withdrawal process, it underscores that the 2000 banknotes will continue to be recognized as legal tender.
- ✳ On May 24, 2023, the Ministry of Civil Aviation initiated UDAN 5.1, a distinctive version of the Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) scheme, emphasizing helicopter routes. This marks the inaugural instance within the Regional Connectivity Scheme RCS-UDAN, tailored explicitly for the facilitation of helicopter routes.
- ✳ The Union Health Ministry has issued updated regulations regarding anti-tobacco warnings on OTT platforms. According to the notification, it is now a requirement for OTT platforms to include anti-tobacco warning messages. Any online content publisher featuring tobacco products or their usage must incorporate anti-tobacco health messages lasting a minimum of 30 seconds within the program.
- ✳ The AI Supercomputer 'AIRAWAT', installed at C-DAC, Pune has been ranked 75<sup>th</sup> in the top 500 Global Supercomputing List on May 25, 2023. The announcement was made during the 61<sup>st</sup> edition of the International Supercomputing Conference (ISC 2023) held in Germany.
- ✳ The southern states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana emerged as the top performers among the larger states in the Health Index Report of Covid Year. NITI Aayog's annual health index for the Covid year of 2020-21 released in May 27, 2023.
- ✳ On May 28, 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially inaugurated the recently constructed Parliament House. Situated in the Central Vista area of New Delhi, the new facility accommodates 888 members of the Lok Sabha and 384 members of the Rajya Sabha.

Spanning approximately 65,000 square meters, the triangular-shaped structure is designed to optimize space utilization. The project was executed by Tata Projects Limited based on the plans crafted by Ahmedabad's HCP Design, Planning, and Management, led by chief architect Bimal Patel.

Additionally, Prime Minister Modi placed 'Sengol' in a designated enclosure to the right of the Speaker's chair in the Lok Sabha chamber during the inauguration.

- ✧ On May 28, 2023, the government introduced a new 75-rupee coin to commemorate the inauguration of the new Parliament. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will reveal the coin on the same day, coinciding with the celebration of India's 75 years of independence. The front side of the coin features the Lion Capital of the Ashoka Pillar with the inscription 'Satyameva Jayate' below.
- ✧ On May 29, 2023, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) initiated the launch of NVS-1, the upcoming generation navigation satellite. This satellite is a component of the Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) series, designed to furnish surveillance and navigation capabilities.
- ✧ According to the RBI report released on May 30, 2023, there was a 55% reduction in the total value of reported frauds for the fiscal year 2021-22 compared to 2020-21. Despite an increase in the number of frauds in the banking sector in the Financial Year 2023, reaching 13,530, the associated monetary value nearly halved, totaling 30,252 crore.
- ✧ On May 31, 2023, the Indian government sanctioned an innovative program valued at 1 lakh crore, with the primary goal of substantially increasing the storage capacity for foodgrains within the cooperative sector. To guarantee the efficient execution of the initiative, an inter-ministerial committee will be instituted.
- ✧ On May 31, 2023, King Norodom Sihamoni of Cambodia arrived in New Delhi for a three-day visit to India. The Cambodian monarch was welcomed at the airport by Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, the Union Minister of State for External Affairs. This visit by King Sihamoni signifies the conclusion of the commemorations for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between Cambodia and India.

## *April 2023*

- ✧ On April 3, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that Neeraj Nigam has been appointed as the new executive director (ED). Nigam was previously the regional director of the Bhopal office of the bank, and will now assume his new role as ED. The RBI made this announcement through a press release.
- ✧ The attention was on the state-owned railway entity, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), as the Indian Government elevated its classification from a 'Miniratna' to a 'Navratna' Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE). The Finance Minister endorsed this decision, and the upgraded status is scheduled to come into effect on April 26, 2023.
- ✧ The Thawe Festival, held on April 15th and 16th in Gopalganj, Bihar, was a collaborative effort between the Department of Tourism and the Department of Art and Culture. The primary objective of the festival was to boost tourism in Gopalganj and draw attention to the Thawe Durga Temple, enticing visitors.

- ✪ The tourism department of the Goa government is set to hold the 'Heritage Festival 2023' from April 28 to 30 at Saligao village in North Goa. The festival aims to promote cultural tourism in the state by showcasing its traditions, culture, and arts.

### **March 2023**

- ✪ The World Happiness Report has been released annually around March 20<sup>th</sup>. India's position in the World Happiness Report has improved from 136 to 126, although it is still behind its neighboring countries such as Nepal, China, and Bangladesh.
- ✪ The RBI Governor, Shaktikanta Das has launched the Mission 'Har Payment Digital' during the Digital Payments Awareness Week 2023, which is being observed from March 6 to 12, 2023.
- ✪ The RBI has limited individual withdrawals to Rs 5,000 from Musiri Urban Co-operative Bank in Tamil Nadu due to its financial decline. These restrictions, including a prohibition on loans, investments, and payments, will persist for six months from March 3, 2023, without RBI approval.
- ✪ On March 8, 2023, the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and UN Women India initiated 'FinEMPOWER,' a year-long collaborative capacity-building program aimed at enhancing women's financial security. The 'Ring the Bell for Gender Equality' ceremony, jointly organized by BSE and UN Women India, was conducted to boost investments in women leaders and entrepreneurs at BSE. Sundararaman Ramamurthy, the MD and CEO of BSE, spearheaded these efforts.
- ✪ World Wildlife Day is observed every March 3 to celebrate and raise awareness about the conservation of unique wild species. The theme for 2023 is "Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation." This annual event was designated by the 68th session of the UNGA on December 20, 2013, with the goal of promoting awareness about the need to conserve the world's wild flora and fauna.

### **February 2023**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented Union Budget 2023-24 on February 1, 2023.

#### **7 Priorities of Budget**

1. Financial Sector
2. Green Growth
3. Youth Power
4. Unleashing the Potential
5. Reaching the Last Mile
6. Infrastructure & Investment
7. Inclusive Development

#### **Key Points**

- ✪ The capital spending is nearly threefold compared to the capital expenditure in the fiscal year 2019-20.

- ✪ Fiscal Deficit estimated to be 5.9% of GDP in BE 2023-24.
- ✪ Under the new tax regime, individuals can enjoy tax exemption for income up to 7 lakh per year.
- ✪ Agriculture Credit Target to be increased to 20 lakh crore.
- ✪ **PM Vishwa Karma Kaushal Samman:** A support program for traditional artisans and craftspeople has been envisioned for the first time.
- ✪ **New sub scheme of PM Matsya Sampada Yojana:** A new sub-scheme under the PM Matsya Sampada Yojana, with a dedicated investment of 6000 crore, aims to enhance the endeavors of fishermen, fish vendors, and micro and small entrepreneurs. The goal is to enhance value chain efficiencies and broaden market outreach.
- ✪ Funds totaling 2.40 lakh crore have been allocated for the Railways' capital expenditure.
- ✪ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman raised the allocation for the Defence Budget to 593537.64 crore for the fiscal year 2023-24, compared to the previous year's allocation of 5.25 lakh crore.
- ✪ In the fiscal year 2022-23, the initially allocated budget for capital outlay was 1.52 lakh crore, but the revised estimate indicated that the expenditure amounted to 1.50 lakh crore.
- ✪ A distinct sum of 138,205 crore has been earmarked for defense pensions.
- ✪ A one-time new small savings scheme, Mahila Samman Savings Certificate, will be made available for a two-year period up to March 2025.
- ✪ 157 new nursing colleges to be established in colocation with existing 157 medical colleges set-up since 2014.
- ✪ National Digital Library for Children and Adolescents to be set up for facilitating availability of quality books across languages, geographies and genres.
- ✪ Aspirational Blocks programme covering 500 blocks has been launched for saturation of government programmes; PM Primitive Vulnerable Tribal Groups Development Mission is -being launched to improve conditions of vulnerable tribal groups.
- ✪ Outlay for PM Awas Yojana is being enhanced by 66% to over 79000 crore.
- ✪ National Green Hydrogen Mission with outlay of 19700 crore will facilitate transition to economy to low carbon intensity, our target is to reach annual production of 5 MMT by 2030.
- ✪ Government to provide higher limit of 2 lakh per member for cash deposit and loans by Primary Agricultural Credit Societies.

### Some Remarkable Achievements

- ✪ 11.7 crore household toilets under Swachh Bharat Mission
- ✪ 9.6 crore LPG connections under Ujjawala Yojana
- ✪ 220 crore Covid vaccination of 102 crore persons
- ✪ 47.8 crore PM Jan Dhan bank accounts

- ✧ Insurance cover for 44.6 crore persons under PM Suraksha Bima and PM Jeevan Jyoti Yojana
- ✧ Cash transfer of 2.2 lakh crore to over 11.4 crore farmers under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi

### *January 2023*

- ✧ The Economic Survey 2022-23 was tabled by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament on January 31, 2023.
- ✧ India anticipates a resilient GDP expansion of 7% in the fiscal year 2023, considering real terms.
- ✧ The anticipated GDP growth for the fiscal year 2024 is expected to fall within the bracket of 6-6.8%.
- ✧ The Gross Tax Revenue registered a Year-on-Year (YoY) growth of 15.5% from April to November 2022.
- ✧ Central & State Government's budgeted expenditure on health sector touched 2.2% of GDP in FY22 (RE).
- ✧ Expenditure in the social sector rises to 21.3 lakh crore in FY23 (Budget Estimate), up from 9.1 lakh crore in FY16.
- ✧ India has announced its commitment to achieving the net-zero emissions target by the year 2070.
- ✧ India achieved its target of 40% installed electric capacity from non-fossil fuels ahead of 2030.
- ✧ The National Green Hydrogen Mission aims to make India self-sufficient in energy by 2047.
- ✧ Investments from the private sector in agriculture rose to 9.3% during the fiscal year 2020-21.
- ✧ Investments from the private sector in agriculture rose to 9.3% during the fiscal year 2020-21.
- ✧ Institutional Credit to the Agricultural Sector continued to grow to 18.6 lakh crore in 2021-22.
- ✧ The Industrial Sector's Gross Value Added (GVA) increased by 3.7% during the initial half of the fiscal year 2022-23.
- ✧ Anticipated growth for the services sector in the fiscal year 2023 is 9.1%, compared to the 8.4% year-on-year growth in the fiscal year 2022.
- ✧ India's contribution to global exports of commercial services has risen from 3% in 2015 to 4% in 2021.

# ***International***

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## ***January 2024***

- ✪ On 9 January 2024 France has a new prime minister. Gabriel Attal, at 34, is the youngest head of state in French history.
- ✪ Sri Lankan Education Minister Dr. SushilPremajayantha has said that a new campus of IIT Madras will be started in Kandy, Sri Lanka. The proposal was part of the Budget 2024 presented by Sri Lankan President RanilWickremesinghe as Finance Minister.
- ✪ Uganda is set to host the 19th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit. India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will be visiting Uganda from January 15-20, 2024, to attend the summit 2

## ***December 2023***

- ✪ Often referred to as the Jewish Christmas, Hanukkah or Chanukah is a festival celebrated for eight days, usually in the month of December. It is also known as the "festival of lights." This year, Hanukkah festivities are taking place from December 7 to December 15.
- ✪ Indonesia's Mount Marapi, located in West Sumatra, recently erupted, leading to a tragic incident resulting in the loss of lives and the disappearance of several climbers. The eruption occurred on December 3, 2023, catching many by surprise as authorities scrambled to evacuate those in the vicinity.
- ✪ On December 11, there was a groundbreaking vote that brought back Donald Tusk, the former EU leader, as Poland's Prime Minister after almost ten years. This marks a notable departure from the previous eight years of turbulent conservative rule. Tusk's return is anticipated to signal a shift towards a more pro-European era, with commitments to restore democratic norms and strengthen relations with European partners.

## ***November 2023***

- ✪ FATF has removed the Cayman Islands, Panama, Jordan, and Albania from its 'grey list,' acknowledging their substantial progress in improving their AML/CFR systems to address strategic deficiencies. However, Bulgaria has been added to the list.
- ✪ The recent revelation of extensive reserves of natural or "white" hydrogen has energized the landscape of energy and climate change. Many view this discovery as a potential game-changer in combating climate change. However, it is essential to closely examine the reality behind this newfound energy source amid the excitement.
- ✪ Russia has officially exited the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), attributing the withdrawal to NATO's expansion hindering cooperation. This decision follows Russia's recent withdrawal from the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and a test launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile.

## October 2023

- ✧ Indonesia's President Joko Widodo inaugurated Southeast Asia's inaugural high-speed railway, named the "Whoosh," on December 4, 2023. This marks a significant achievement for the nation's infrastructure and is a crucial element of China's Belt and Road Initiative. The project is expected to substantially cut travel times between two essential Indonesian cities.
- ✧ Bangladesh obtained its inaugural uranium delivery from Russia to power the Rooppur nuclear plant. The project, funded and built by Russia's Rosatom, holds significance in strengthening Bangladesh's power infrastructure and bolstering its expanding economy.
- ✧ On October 8, the grand opening of BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham, the largest Hindu temple in the United States, took place in Robbinsville, New Jersey. This remarkable architectural achievement stands as a testament to the vibrant Hindu community in the US and symbolizes the enduring spirit of artistry, spirituality, and human dedication.

## September 2023

- ✧ Vanuatu's parliament elected Sato Kilman as the nation's new prime minister after a court upheld a vote of noconfidence in his predecessor, who had sought closer ties with US allies amid China-US rivalry in the Pacific Islands.
- ✧ India and the United Kingdom have jointly introduced the Infrastructure Financing Bridge during the 12th Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD). This cooperative effort underscores the ongoing dedication of both countries to collaborate closely, aiming to unlock significant infrastructure investment prospects in India.
- ✧ Mayor Craig Greenberg has declared September 3 as Sanatana Dharma Day in Louisville, Kentucky in the United States emphasizing the significance of fostering peace, tolerance, and understanding within diverse communities.

## August 2023

- ✧ Iraq has been formally acknowledged by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the 18th country to eliminate trachoma as a public health concern. This accomplishment also positions Iraq as the fifth nation in the WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Region to achieve this significant milestone.
- ✧ The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) held the Bhumi Pujan ceremony for the construction of the India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage (IICBCH) in Lumbini, Nepal.
- ✧ Russia has launched an e-visa facility for Indians from August 1, allowing travellers to the country to surpass the hassles of obtaining a regular visa. The e-visa facility, also available for travellers from 54 other countries, does not require a visit to consulates or embassies.

## July 2023

- ✧ On July 3, 2023, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) inaugurated a fresh Ministry of Investment with the goal of elevating economic competitiveness. The objective is to refine the nation's investment outlook and bolster its standing in the global



market. The ministry will primarily focus on suggesting investment policies, formulating strategies, and drafting legislation.

- ✪ On July 3, 2023, New Zealand achieved a historic milestone by becoming the initial nation to prohibit plastic produce bags in supermarkets. These lightweight plastic bags, commonly utilized for gathering fruits and vegetables, are now banned, along with plastic straws and utensils. However, certain establishments, including supermarkets, pharmacies, hospitality venues, and health and disability services, are exempt from this ban.
- ✪ The Times Higher Education (THE) Young University Rankings 2023 were released on July 3, 2023, on THE's official website. In a noteworthy shift, Australia's emerging universities have surpassed Germany's for the first time in five years, establishing themselves as the world's top-scoring developing institutions on average. Additionally, Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU) in Kerala, India, has secured its position among the top 10 universities in the list.
- ✪ On July 5, 2023, Egypt and Turkey advanced their efforts to fully restore diplomatic relations. The nations declared the assignment of Salih Mutlu Sen as the Turkish ambassador to Cairo and Amr Elhamamy as the Egyptian ambassador to Ankara. This development marks the ongoing progress in the reconciliation process between the two significant regional powers.
- ✪ On July 5, 2023, the World Investment Report 2023 was published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Offering valuable perspectives on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) patterns in developing nations, the report underscored a worldwide decrease in FDI, experiencing a 12% decrease to \$1.3 trillion in 2022. Specifically, FDI in Asian developing countries reached \$662 billion in the same year.
- ✪ On July 5, 2023, Japan receives approval from the UN nuclear watchdog to discharge treated radioactive water from Fukushima into the ocean, following a two-year evaluation, despite strong opposition from Beijing and local residents. Japan plans to release over a million metric tonnes of treated radioactive water into the sea.
- ✪ On July 6, 2023, the Global Peace Index 2023, published by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), was released. Iceland has maintained its status as the world's most peaceful country. Following Iceland are Denmark (2nd), Ireland (3<sup>rd</sup>), New Zealand (4<sup>th</sup>), Austria (5<sup>th</sup>), Singapore (6<sup>th</sup>), Portugal (7<sup>th</sup>), Slovenia (8<sup>th</sup>), Japan (9<sup>th</sup>), and Switzerland (10<sup>th</sup>). India is ranked 126<sup>th</sup> out of 163 countries on the Global Peace Index.
- ✪ Peru, a South American nation, implemented a 60-day state of emergency around the Ubinas volcano on July 6, 2023. The ash plume has reached communities located 10 km from the volcano, impacting areas where approximately 2000 residents reside.
- ✪ On July 7, 2023, President Joe Biden declared that the United States has successfully eliminated its long-standing reserves of chemical weapons, meeting the September 30, 2023 deadline set by the international Chemical Weapons Convention (ICWC).

- ✪ On July 7, 2023, China introduced its inaugural open-source desktop operating system, named 'OpenKylin 1.0,' with the objective of diminishing reliance on American technology and establishing an autonomous software system within China.
- ✪ On July 10, 2023, the European Union officially entered into a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with New Zealand. Both parties anticipate a potential 30% surge in bilateral trade over the next ten years. As a result of this agreement, New Zealand is poised to benefit from exports to the 27-country bloc, projecting gains of up to 1.8 billion New Zealand dollars annually.
- ✪ The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) unveiled the Global MPI 2023 on July 11, 2023. The report indicates that 25 nations, including India, effectively reduced their global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) values by half within a span of 15 years, demonstrating achievable and rapid progress.
- ✪ On July 11, 2023, Edgars Rinkevics, the former foreign minister of Latvia, took the oath as the 11<sup>th</sup> president of the country since its independence in 1991. Having openly disclosed his sexual orientation as gay in 2014, Rinkevics joins the ranks of a select few LGBTQ+ heads of state in Europe. He has committed to prioritizing the advocacy for inclusion and equality throughout his presidential term.
- ✪ In Vilnius, Lithuania, the annual NATO Summit took place on July 11, 2023, with leaders from 31 NATO allies in attendance. This gathering occurred 503 days after the commencement of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Over the course of the two-day summit, NATO leaders reached consensus on fresh strategies to enhance deterrence and defense against potential Russian aggression by reinforcing their forces in the eastern region.
- ✪ On July 12, 2023, Saudi Arabia joined as the 51<sup>st</sup> signatory to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) during the 56<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM). The signing, which occurred alongside the AMM, aligns with the TAC's objective of fostering political stability and security in Southeast Asia through the peaceful resolution of inter-country conflicts.
- ✪ Exciting findings were unveiled by Peruvian archaeologists on July 13, 2023, at the Chavin de Huantar archaeological site. A 3,000-year-old sealed passage, named the 'Condor's Passageway,' was unearthed at this historical site situated roughly 190 miles (306 km) northeast of Lima, Peru. The location served as a significant hub for the Chavín culture, thriving between 1,500-550 BCE.
- ✪ The Henley Passport Index 2023, released on July 18, 2023, by Henley & Partners in collaboration with the International Air Transport Association (IATA), reveals that individuals holding Singapore passports enjoy visa-free access to an impressive 192 out of 227 global travel destinations. Germany, Italy, and Spain share the second position, offering visa-free entry to 190 destinations each.
- ✪ The QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) rankings for the Best Student Cities in 2024 were unveiled on July 20, 2023. London has retained its top position for the fifth consecutive year, with Tokyo following closely. Mumbai holds the 118<sup>th</sup> spot with an overall score of 54.7, trailed by Delhi at 132, Bangalore at 147, and Chennai ranking between 151 and 160.

- ✪ On July 21, 2023, UN Women and UNDP unveiled a collaborative report titled “The Paths to Equality: Twin Indices on Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality.” Within this report, they introduced two indices: the Women’s Empowerment Index (WEI) and the Global Gender Parity Index (GGPI), designed to assess the human development of women and girls. The WEI, concentrating exclusively on women, evaluates their ability to make choices and pursue opportunities in life, emphasizing empowerment and freedom.
- ✪ The Ministry of Defence in Argentina has entered into a Letter of Intent (LoI) with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) as of July 21, 2023, with the objective of acquiring light and medium utility helicopters for its armed forces. This LoI reflects a dedication to fostering a mutually beneficial partnership between HAL and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Argentina.
- ✪ On July 23, 2023, Twitter, a widely-used social media platform, unveiled a fresh logo, ‘X,’ as a significant aspect of its extensive rebranding initiative. The iconic blue bird logo has been substituted with the prominent presence of the letter ‘X’ on the website. The announcement of this new logo was a collaborative effort made by Twitter’s founder, Elon Musk, and CEO Linda Yacarino.
- ✪ On July 24, 2023, President Vladimir Putin of Russia endorsed new legislation with profound implications for the LGBTQ+ community in the country. The law, unanimously approved by both parliamentary houses, encompasses a sweeping prohibition on sex reassignment. This legislation strictly forbids medical procedures designed to alter an individual’s gender and the modification of gender information on official documents or public records.
- ✪ On July 24, 2023, despite protests, the Israeli Parliament approved legislation that restricts the authority of the Supreme Court. The controversial bill, successfully passed by Israeli MPs, diminishes the Supreme Court’s power to annul government actions considered unreasonable.
- ✪ The Spanish Popular Party (PP) secured victory in the July 24, 2023 elections. However, the PP did not achieve the anticipated substantial triumph, which would have led to the ousting of Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez. The election of the next prime minister will occur once lawmakers are seated in the new Congress of Deputies. With 98% of the votes tallied, the PP was projected to attain 136 seats.
- ✪ Rebellious troops asserted to have ousted the democratically elected President of Niger on July 27, 2023, citing the nation’s worsening security situation as their rationale. Leaders from regional and global spheres urged the release of Bazoum, who assumed office just two years ago in Niger’s initial peaceful transfer of power since gaining independence.
- ✪ On July 30, 2023, UNESCO called for a global prohibition on smartphones in educational institutions to advocate for a human-centered approach to education. The organization released its 2023 Global Education Monitoring Report titled ‘Technology in Education: A Tool on Whose Terms’, endorsing a universal restriction on smartphones in schools where the integration of technology does not enhance learning results.

- ✪ The recent WHO tobacco control report underscores global advancements, including the enforcement of MPOWER measures as of August 2, 2023. The document indicates ongoing global strides in combating tobacco use, revealing that the prevalence of smoking has reduced from 22.8% in 2007 to 17% in 2021, resulting in 300 million fewer smokers worldwide today.

### *June 2023*

- ✪ Recep Tayyip Erdogan took the oath at the Turkish Parliament on June 3, 2023, following a landmark runoff election victory, ensuring an additional five-year term in office. The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of twenty-one heads of state, 13 prime ministers, along with parliamentary and ministerial-level representatives.

### *May 2023*

- ✪ In the UK, it has been confirmed by the fertility regulator on May 8, 2023, that a baby has been born utilizing the DNA from three individuals for the first time. The majority of the genetic material is derived from the two parents, with approximately 0.1% originating from a third woman who acted as a donor. This groundbreaking medical advancement is designed to safeguard children from inheriting incurable mitochondrial diseases.
- ✪ On May 12, 2023, the California state Senate approved a bill with a 34-1 vote, aiming to criminalize discrimination based on caste within the state. If the state Assembly also passes the bill and Governor Gavin Newsom approves it, California would be the inaugural state to prohibit caste-based discrimination.
- ✪ The G7 summit of 2023 took place in Hiroshima, Hiroshima Prefecture, Japan, from May 19 to 21. Member countries highlighted significant goals in their climate aspirations in response to various studies and reports. Within the summit, Prime Minister Modi issued a '10-point call to action' addressing global challenges in the realms of food, health, and development.
- ✪ The 76<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly (WHA), a notable international health gathering, took place from May 21 to 30, 2023, in Geneva, Switzerland. This yearly assembly serves as a forum for delegates from all member states of the World Health Organization (WHO) to convene and discuss urgent health concerns impacting global populations. The focus of this year's assembly centers on the theme: "WHO at 75: Saving lives, advancing health for all."
- ✪ In the elections held on May 22, 2023, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, the Prime Minister of Greece from the conservative party, emerged victorious. His party secured 146 seats, falling just five seats below the 151 needed for a majority. The New Democracy party, under Mitsotakis's leadership, was on track to receive nearly 41% of the total votes.
- ✪ An overwhelming majority of voters in Uzbekistan supported President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's proposal to amend the country's Constitution in the recent referendum on Sunday. The proposed changes pledge increased freedoms for the citizens of the former Soviet republic and potentially allow the President to extend his tenure beyond the current two-term limit.

- ✪ On May 26, 2023, a report titled “Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates (JME)” was issued by UNICEF, WHO, and the World Bank Group. The report revealed that in 2020, 18.7% of children in India experienced malnutrition due to inadequate nutrient intake, leading to wasting. The report further highlighted that half of the global population of children affected by wasting resides in India.
- ✪ Uganda’s President, Yoweri Museveni, enacted legislation on May 29, 2023, that is supported by a majority in this East African nation. The approved bill does not penalize individuals based on their LGBTQ+ identity, but it retains provisions for the death penalty in cases of ‘aggravated homosexuality.’
- ✪ Uganda’s President, Yoweri Museveni, enacted legislation on May 29, 2023, that is supported by a majority in this East African nation. The approved bill does not penalize individuals based on their LGBTQ+ identity, but it retains provisions for the death penalty in cases of ‘aggravated homosexuality.’
- ✪ Bola Tinubu assumed the presidency of Nigeria on May 29, 2023, facing increasing demands to tackle the ongoing economic and security challenges in the country. The inauguration took place at Eagles Square in the capital city of Abuja and was attended by dignitaries from both domestic and international spheres.
- ✪ On May 30, 2023, Japan endorsed supplementary sanctions against Russia in response to its conflict with Ukraine. The sanctions involve the freezing of assets belonging to numerous individuals and entities, along with a prohibition on exports to organizations associated with the Russian military.

### *April 2023*

- ✪ In a surprising decision, Italy has declared its intention to prohibit the use of the English language, imposing significant penalties on those who defy the ban. This announcement closely follows the recent prohibition of ChatGPT, an OpenAI language model. The move has faced extensive backlash, prompting concerns about Italy’s dedication to global collaboration and its standing in the worldwide economic landscape.
- ✪ Israel effectively deployed its latest spy satellite, designated Ofek-13, into orbit on April 5, 2023. Taking off from the Palmachim Airbase in central Israel, this satellite is designed to enhance intelligence capabilities for the Israeli military and intelligence agencies.
- ✪ On April 5th, in the second T20I match between Sri Lanka and New Zealand in Dunedin, Kim Cotton made history by becoming the first woman to officiate as an on-field umpire in a men’s international match involving two full-member teams. Prior to this, she had an extensive umpiring career, having served in various capacities in women’s T20Is and ODIs, including officiating at the women’s T20 and ODI World Cups from 2018 to 2023.

### *March 2023*

- ✪ The 5th ASEAN-India Business Summit occurred on March 6, 2023, in Kuala Lumpur. Representatives from ASEAN and India gathered to explore ways to strengthen business ties, connectivity, and supply chain resilience through increased ASEAN-India collaboration. The Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology delivered a speech at the summit.

- ✧ At the United Nations Least Developed Countries (LDC) Summit in Doha, Qatar, which concluded on March 9, Bhutan, the landlocked Himalayan kingdom, is set to graduate from the LDC list. This makes Bhutan the seventh country to achieve this status.
- ✧ Denmark pioneers a project, led by Ineos and Wintershall Dea, to store imported carbon dioxide 1,800 meters below the North Sea. This initiative, called the “Greensand” project, transforms an old oil field into a CO<sub>2</sub> graveyard, aiming to prevent atmospheric warming by injecting carbon. The goal is to store up to eight million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually by 2030, making Denmark the first country to bury CO<sub>2</sub> from other nations.

### *February 2023*

- ✧ India and the United States initiated a program to strengthen their strategic partnership, with delegations led by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and his American counterpart, Jake Sullivan, during their meeting in Washington for the first dialogue of the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET).
- ✧ Manuela Roka Botey has been appointed as the prime minister of Equatorial Guinea, making history as the first woman to hold this position in the country. President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, who has been in power since 1979, announced the appointment via a decree broadcasted on state television.
- ✧ Britain and the European Union have reached a new trade agreement for Northern Ireland, with the goal of resolving Brexit-related tensions and fostering increased collaboration. This development comes amidst growing geopolitical concerns in Europe due to Russia’s actions in Ukraine.

### *January 2023*

- ✧ India and Pakistan, despite strained bilateral relations, continued a tradition dating back to 1992 by sharing lists of nuclear installations immune to attacks during hostilities. Additionally, both countries exchanged lists of prisoners held in each other’s jails. India specifically requested the early release and repatriation of civilian prisoners, missing defense personnel, fishermen, and their boats from Pakistan’s custody.
- ✧ The 10th edition of Dhaka Lit Fest (DLF), Bangladesh’s largest international literary festival, delayed for three consecutive years due to the Covid-19 pandemic, is now set to take place from January 5-8, 2023, at the historic grounds of the Bangla Academy in Dhaka.
- ✧ China’s CRRC Corporation Ltd. has unveiled Asia’s first hydrogen urban train, the second globally. With a speed of 160 km per hour and an operational range of 600 km without refueling, it follows Germany’s introduction of green trains a few months ago, which set a record with a range of 1175 km. Meanwhile, the Indian Railway is making swift progress to introduce the ‘World’s Greenest Train’ soon.
- ✧ The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has listed Pakistan-based terrorist Abdul Rehman Makki as a global terrorist. Makki is the brother-in-law of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) chief and 26/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed.

# ***Persons In News***

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## **Aadhav Arjuna**

Aadhav Arjuna, a prominent national basketball player, secured the position of President of the Basketball Federation of India (BFI) on July 5, 2023. Simultaneously, he holds the presidency of the Tamil Nadu Basketball Association (TNBA). Aadhav won convincingly with 38 out of 39 votes, surpassing the outgoing President K. Govindaraj.

## **Ajay Banga**

Ajay Banga, of Indian origin, assumed the role of the 14<sup>th</sup> President of the World Bank on June 2, 2023. His nomination for this position came from US President Joe Biden in February 2023. The World Bank's 25-member Executive Board has chosen Ajay Banga to serve in this capacity for a five-year term.

## **Ajay Yadav**

On May 31, 2023, Ajay Yadav officially took on the role of Managing Director at the Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI), which serves as the central government's key agency for conducting auctions of renewable energy projects.

## **AK Jain**

As of May 18, 2023, the vacant chairman position at the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has been successfully occupied. AK Jain, the former Coal Secretary, has been selected by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet to serve in this capacity for a term of 5 years.

## **Alia Bhatt**

Gucci, the renowned Italian luxury fashion brand, has named Alia Bhatt as its inaugural global ambassador from India. She is set to make her first appearance as the brand's latest global ambassador during the Gucci Cruise 2024 show.

## **Amarendu Prakash**

Amarendu Prakash has taken charge as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) from May 31, 2023.

He was previously the Director (In-charge) of SAIL's Bokaro steel plant.

## **Amy Pope**

On May 22, 2023, Amy Pope from the United States was appointed as the inaugural female Director-General of the United Nations Migration Agency. Presently holding the position of Deputy to Director General Antonio Vitorino, Pope is set to commence her five-year term as Director General on October 1, 2023, succeeding Vitorino.

## **Ashwini Kumar**

On June 1, 2023, Ashwani Kumar, currently serving as the Executive Director of Indian Bank, assumed the role of Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of UCO Bank. Ashwani Kumar takes over from Soma Shankar Prasad, who retired on May 31, 2023.



## **Celeste Saulo**

On June 2, 2023, Celeste Saulo from Argentina made history by becoming the inaugural female Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Securing a resounding victory in the UN Climate and weather agency's Congress held in Geneva, Saulo, who had been the director of Argentina's National Meteorological Service since 2014, now assumes the prestigious role.

## **Lisa Franchetti**

On July 22, 2023, President Joe Biden put forward Admiral Lisa Franchetti's nomination to head the US Navy. If confirmed, Admiral Franchetti would make history as the inaugural female appointee to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

## **Mukesh Ambani**

Mukesh Ambani has been appointed to the Consultative Committee for the 28<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) scheduled for May 26, 2023. This committee will play a role in providing guidance and counsel to the COP28 session regarding Climate Change.

## **Nisha Biswal**

The Senate has approved the appointment of Indian-American policy expert Nisha Biswal as the Deputy Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of a U.S. finance agency. Ms. Biswal will assume the role of Deputy CEO at the United States International Development Finance Corporation.

## **Nivriti Rai**

Nivriti Rai has been appointed as the Managing Director and CEO of Invest India on July 19, 2023. He is renowned global business and technology expert. Rai takes over from Manmeet K Nanda, Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

## **Oommen Chandy**

Oommen Chandy, the ex-Chief Minister of Kerala and prominent figure in the Congress party, passed away on July 18, 2023, at 79 years old. Chandy secured a seat in the Kerala Legislative Assembly at 27 and achieved victory in 11 successive elections.

## **Pan Gongsheng**

Pan Gongsheng was appointed as the Governor of the Central Bank of China on July 25, 2023. Pan Gongsheng is a deputy governor of the central bank. He assumed the position, succeeding Yi Gang, an American-trained economist.

## **Prayuth Chan-ocha**

Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha quits politics after losing.. election on July 11, 2023. He served almost nine years in office after seizing power in a 2014 military coup.

## **Qu Dongyu**

Chinese diplomat Qu Dongyu was re-elected to a second term as Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations on July 2, 2023. In 2019, Qu-Dongyu was elected as the head of the UN agency.



## **R. Dinesh**

On May 27, 2023, R. Dinesh assumed the role of President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the term 2023-24. R. Dinesh holds the position of Executive Vice-President at TVS Supply Chain Solutions.

## **Rakesh Pal**

On July 19, 2023, Rakesh Pal assumed the position of the 25<sup>th</sup> Director General of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). Notably, he holds the unique distinction of being the inaugural gunner within the ICG. Pal, a graduate of the Indian Naval Academy, commenced his service with the ICG in January 1989.

## **Ravneet Kaur**

On May 15, 2023, Ravneet Kaur has been designated as the new Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI), succeeding Sangeeta Verma, who held the interim position since October 2022.

## **Sachin Tendulkar**

Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar was designated as the 'Smile Ambassador' for the Maharashtra government's oral health initiative, known as the 'Swachh Mukh Abhiyaan,' on May 30, 2023.

## **Salman Rushdie**

Salman Rushdie was awarded The Order of the Companions of Honour at Windsor Castle on May 23, 2023, in recognition of his contributions to literature.

## **Sat Pal Bhanoo**

On July 20, 2023, Sat Pal Bhanoo was designated as one of the managing directors at Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), replacing Siddhartha Mohanty.

## **Shah Rukh Khan**

On July 22, 2023, the renowned Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan was announced as the brand ambassador for the ICC World Cup 2023. Khan inaugurated the 'It Takes One Day' campaign for the World Cup 2023, lending his distinctive voice to the initiative.

## **Sheikh Talal Fahad Al Ahmad Al Sabah**

On July 22, 2023, Shah Rukh Khan, the renowned Bollywood actor, was designated as the ambassador for the ICC World Cup 2023. Using his distinctive voice, Khan inaugurated the 'It Takes One Day' campaign for the World Cup 2023.

## **Sheo Kumar Singh**

On July 6, 2023, Justice Sheo Kumar Singh assumed the role of Acting Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), succeeding Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel.

## **Srichand Parmanand Hinduja**

Srichand Parmanand Hinduja, the eldest among the Hinduja brothers and the Chairman of Hinduja Group, passed away in London on May 17, 2023, at the age of 87. The Hinduja brothers led the ranking of the wealthiest families in Britain, boasting an estimated fortune of GBP 28.472 billion in last year's (2022) 'The Sunday Times Rich List.'

### **Tiruchi G. Kannabiran**

Tiruchi G. Kannabiran has been designated as the new director of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). He took on the role on July 28, 2023, and is set to serve in this position for a duration of five years.

### **Tushar Mehta**

On July 1, 2023, the Union Cabinet granted approval for the extension of Tushar Mehta's tenure as the Solicitor General (SG) of India for an additional three years. Tushar Mehta has held the position of Solicitor General since October 2018 and will continue in this role.

### **TV Narendran**

On July 24, 2023, Tata Steel renewed the appointment of TV Narendran as Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director for a five-year term starting from September 19, 2023. With an illustrious career spanning 34 years in the mining and metals industry, Narendran continues to lead the company.

# Awards & Honours

## National

### Lokmanya Tilak National Award

On August 1, 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the Lokmanya Tilak National Award, becoming the 41<sup>st</sup> recipient of this honor. This accolade is bestowed upon individuals who have dedicated their efforts to the development and upliftment of the nation, recognizing their significant impact on the progress of the country.

### AIFF Awards 2022-23

On July 4, 2023, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) unveiled the recipients of its annual awards for the year 2022-23. Lallianzuala Chhangte, the Blue Tigers winger, was honored as the Men's Senior Player of the Year. Meanwhile, the Women's Player of the Year accolade was bestowed upon Manisha Kalyan, who represents Apollon in Cyprus. Additionally, the mixed doubles tennis pair, Mate Pavic from Croatia and Lyudmyla Kichenok from Ukraine, received recognition.

### IIFA Awards 2023

The 23<sup>rd</sup> season of the International Indian Film Academy Awards announced on May 27, 2023.

Major Winner	
Category	Winners
Best Film	Drishyam 2
Best Actor in a leading role(Male)	Hrithik Roshan (Vikram Vedha)
Best Actor in a leading role (Female)	Alia Bhatt (Gangubai Kathiawadi)
Best Director	R. Madhavan (Rocketry: The Nambi Effect)

### 68<sup>th</sup> Filmfare Awards 2023

The Jio World Conventional Centre in Mumbai hosted the 68<sup>th</sup> iteration of the Hyundai Filmfare Awards on April 29, 2023. Salman Khan, Ayushmann Khurrana, and Maniesh Paul co-hosted the ceremony, with Salman Khan making his inaugural appearance as a host for the event.

Major Winners	
Category	Winner
Best Film	Gangubai Kathiawadi
Best Actor (Male)	Rajkummar Rao
Best Actor (Female)	Alia Bhatt
Best Director	Sanjay Leela Bhansali

### Femina Miss India 2023

Nandini Gupta, aged 19, secured the esteemed title of Femina Miss India 2023 on April 18, 2023. Nandini was crowned by the previous titleholder, Sini Sadanand Shetty, who had earned the Femina Miss India World 2022 accolade.

### Children's Champion Award 2023

The prestigious Children's Champion Award 2023 has been granted to Tapoban, an NGO based in Pathsala, Assam, dedicated to the well-being of special needs and

autistic children. The accolade is bestowed by the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

### **Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards 2019, 2022 & 2021**

On February 22, 2023, President Droupadi Murmu conferred the Sangeet Natak Akademi's Fellowships and Awards for the years 2019, 2020, and 2021. Eight distinguished individuals received Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships in the realm of performing arts, while 128 artists specializing in music, dance, theatre, traditional arts, folk arts, and puppetry were honored with Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards.

### **International**

#### **Nobel Prize 2023**

The Nobel Prize winners for 2023 are being announced over the course of the week of October and it marks the celebration of several remarkable achievements spanning a wide array of fields. These esteemed awards are an annual recognition of individuals and organizations that have excelled in fields that encompass physics, chemistry, medicine, literature, peace, and economics.

Field	Nobel Prize Winners	Awarded For
Physiology/Medicine	Katalin Kariko and Drew Weissman	mRNA Vaccines
Physics	Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz and Anne L'Huillier	Electron dynamics in matter
Chemistry	Moungi Bawendi, Louis Brus and Alexei Ekimov	Discovery and synthesis of quantum dots
Literature	Jon Fosse	For his innovative plays and prose which give voice to the unsayable".
Peace	Narges Mohammadi	Fight against women's oppression in Iran
Economic Sciences	Claudia Goldin	Gender Gap in labour market

#### **Miles Franklin Literary Prize 2023**

On July 27, 2023, Shankari Chandran was honored with the esteemed Miles Franklin Literary Prize for the novel "Tea Time at Cinnamon Gardens." This recognition marks a significant milestone for the Sri Lankan-born Australian author, as the book represents Chandran's third published novel, showcasing evident progress and unwavering dedication in his writing journey.

#### **UNESCO's Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage Award**

On July 24, 2023, the Byculla Railway Station in Mumbai was honored with the UNESCO Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage Award. Operating on the Central line of the Mumbai Suburban Railway, Byculla Railway Station is recognized as one of the longest-serving railway stations still in operation and holds historical significance.

#### **Pen Pinter Prize 2023**

On July 6, 2023, celebrated British poet and writer Michael Rosen received the esteemed PEN Pinter Prize for his significant literary contributions. Recognized for his efforts in making poetry engaging for children through both his written works

and performances, Rosen frequently explores themes of a social, political, and moral nature in his writings.

### Cannes Film Festival 2023 Awards

Cannes Film Festival 2023 awardee’s list announced on May 27, 2023. It is 76<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of cinema.

Major Winners	
Category	Winners
Palme D’Or	Anatomie D’Une Chute (Anatomy of a Fall) directed by Justine Triet
Grand Prix	The Zone of Interest directed by Jonathan Glazer
Best Director	Tran Anh Hung for LA Passion De Dodin Bouffant (The Pot-Au-Feu
Jury Prize	Kuolleet Lehdet (Fallen Leaves) directed by Aki Kaurismaki

### International Booker Prize 2023

On May 25, 2023, the 2023 International Booker Prize was awarded to the Bulgarian writer Georgi Gospodinov for his novel “Time Shelter.” Translated into English by Angela Rodel, this marks the inaugural occasion where a Bulgarian novel has secured the International Booker Prize.

### Dag Hammarskjöld Medal

On May 24, 2023, Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, India’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, was awarded the Dag Hammarskjöld Medals. The medals were received on behalf of Head Constables Shishupal Singh and Sanwala Ram Vishnoi, who tragically lost their lives while serving under the UN flag in the Democratic Republic of the Congo last year.

### Pulitzer Prizes 2023

On May 8, 2023, the recipients of the 2023 Pulitzer Prizes were revealed, featuring four journalism awards distributed among 15 categories. The Pulitzers stand as the most esteemed accolade for journalists or organizations based in the United States.

Books, Drama & Music	
Category	Winner
Fiction	Demon Copperhead’ by Barbara Kingsolver (Harper)
Fiction	Trust’ by Hernan Diaz (Riverhead Books)
Drama	’English’ by Sanaz Toossi
History	’Freedom’s Dominion: A Saga of White Resistance to Federal Power’ by Jefferson Cowie (Basic Books
Memoir or Autobiography	Stay True’ by Hua Hsu (Doubleday)
Public Service	Associated Press, for the work of Mstyslav Chernov, Evgeniy Maloletka, Vasilisa Stepanenko and Lori Hinnant
Breaking News Reporting	Staff of the Los Angeles Times
Investigative Reporting	Staff of The Wall Street Journal
Explanatory Reporting	Caitlin Dickerson of The Atlantic

### Laureus World Sports Awards 2023

Lionel Messi was honored with the Laureus Sportsman of the Year award at a ceremony held in Paris on May 8, 2023.

# Sports & Games

## Cricket

### ACC Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2023

The Pakistan A cricket team clinched victory in the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2023 by triumphing over India A in the championship match on July 23, 2023. The competition took place at R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo, Sri Lanka. This achievement represents Pakistan's second consecutive title in the tournament, having previously secured the cup in the 2019 finals against Bangladesh in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

### Duleep Trophy 2023

From June 28 to July 16, 2023, the 16<sup>th</sup> iteration of the Duleep Trophy occurred. In the championship match, South Zone emerged victorious, defeating West Zone by a margin of 75 runs and securing their 14<sup>th</sup> Duleep Trophy title. Vidwath Kaverappa from South Zone was honored with the Player of the Series award.

### IPL 2023

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) on May 29, 2023 clinched their fifth IPL title, equalling a record with Mumbai Indians.

Award Winners and Prize Money		
Award	Awardee	Prize Money
Winner	Chennai Super Kings (CSK)	20 crore
Runners-up	Gujarat Titans (GT)	12.5 crore
Most valuable Player of the Season	Shubham Gill	10 lakh
Fairplay Award	Delhi Capitals	10 lakh
Purple Cap (Most Wickets)	Mohammad Shami	10 lakh
Orange Cap (Most Runs)	Shubham Gill	10 lakh

## Football

### SAFF Championship 2023

The SAFF Championship 2023 took place at Bangalore's Sree Kanteerava Stadium from June 21 to July 4, 2023. In the exciting final, the Indian men's football team secured victory over Kuwait with a thrilling 5-4 win in a penalty shootout.

The win secured India's 9<sup>th</sup> title in the SAFF Championship out of 14 editions.

### Prize Winners

Prize Winners	
Award	Winner
Fairplay Award	Nepal Football Team
Best Goalkeeper	Anisur Rahman Zico (Bangladesh)
Top goal scorer	Sunil Chhetri (6 goals)
Most Valuable Player	Sunil Chhetri

*Tennis*

**Tampere Open 2023**

The Tampere Open 2023 occurred in Tampere, Finland, from July 17 to 23, 2023, where Sumit Nagal secured victory in the ATP Challenger men’s singles category. This marks his fourth ATP Challenger Tour title. The 25-year-old Indian tennis player triumphed over Dalibor Svracina of the Czech Republic in his second ATP Challenger event of the year.

**Wimbledon 2023**

The Wimbledon Championships 2023 was took place at Wimbledon (London, UK) from July 3-16, 2023.

Winners List	
Categories	Winner
Men’s Singles	Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)
Women’s Singles	Marketa Vondrousova (Czech Republic).
Men’s Doubles	Wesley Koolhof (Netherlands) & Neal Skupski (UK)
Women’s Doubles	Barbora Strýcová (Czech Republic) & Hsieh Su-wei (Chinese Taipei).
Mixed Doubles	Mate Pavic (Croatia) & Lyudmyla Kichenok (Ukraine)

**Italian Open 2023**

On May 21, 2023, Daniil Medvedev emerged victorious over Holger Rune in the championship match of the 2023 Italian Open, a professional tennis tournament held on outdoor clay courts at the Foro Italico in Rome, Italy.

*Table Tennis*

**Ultimate Table Tennis 2023**

Goa Challengers clinched a remarkable win with an 8-7 score against the defending champions Chennai Lions, securing the title for Season 4 of Ultimate Table Tennis on July 30, 2023. The competition took place at the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, Mahalunge-Balewadi in Pune. This franchise-oriented league is endorsed by Niraj Bajaj and Vita Dani under the guidance of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTF).

**South Asian Youth Championship**

The three-day international event, the South Asian Youth Table Tennis Championship 2023, concluded on May 17, 2023, in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh. More than 100 athletes from six nations—Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Nepal—participated in this championship.

*Cycling*

**Tour De France 2023**

Jumbo-Visma’s Jonas Vingegaard from Denmark secured victory for the second consecutive year in the 110<sup>th</sup> edition of the Tour de France, culminating on the Champs-Élysées in Paris, France, on July 26, 2023. Representing the Dutch professional cycling team, Vingegaard emerged triumphant in the renowned annual men’s multi-stage bicycle race, the Tour de France, predominantly hosted in France.

## *Badminton*

### **Canada Open 2023**

The badminton event known as the Canada Open occurred in Calgary, Canada, spanning from July 4 to July 9, 2023. Lakshya Sen emerged victorious in the men's singles category, securing the Canada Open 2023 title. Sen achieved this triumph by overcoming the world's 10<sup>th</sup>-ranked player, Li Shi Feng from China. This victory marks Lakshya's second BWF World Tour title for the current season.

### **Malaysia Masters 2023**

The Malaysia Masters 2023 was played in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) from May 23-28, 2023.

Winners List	
Categories	Winner
Men's Singles	Prannoy HS (India)
Women's Singles	Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)

## *Archery*

### **World Youth Championships 2023**

The '2023 World Archery Youth Championship' took place in Limerick, Ireland, from July 3 to 9. India achieved the 2<sup>nd</sup> position in the championship by earning a total of 11 medals, comprising 6 gold, 1 silver, and 4 bronze. Korea claimed the top spot with a total of 10 medals, including 6 gold and 4 silver.

## *Shooting*

### **ISSF World Cup 2023**

The ISSF World Cup 2023 in Baku, Azerbaijan, saw Indian rifle and pistol shooters conclude their participation on May 17, 2023, securing a total of four medals. India achieved the 2<sup>nd</sup> position in the overall medals chart, clinching one gold, two silvers, and one bronze at the Baku event.

## *Hockey*

### **Torneo del Centenario 2023**

On July 30, 2023, in Terrassa, Barcelona, the Indian women's hockey team claimed the Torneo del Centenario 2023 championship. They achieved this triumph by beating the host team, Spain, with a score of 3-0. India secured the leading position with eight points from four matches, while both Spain and England concluded the tournament with four points each.

### **FIH Hockey Pro League 2022-23**

On July 4, 2023, the men's team of the Netherlands emerged victorious in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2022-23 season. The Netherlands secured their victory in the finals against Belgium in Antwerp. This achievement marks the Netherlands as the inaugural team in the men's competition to clinch the title twice, with their initial triumph occurring in the 2021-22 season.



## **Men's Junior Asia Cup 2023**

In the Men's Junior Hockey Asia Cup final held on June 1, 2023, at the Sultan Qaboos Youth Complex Stadium in Salalah, Oman, the Indian hockey team emerged victorious against arch-rivals Pakistan with a score of 2-1. This triumph establishes India as the most successful nation in the Men's Junior Asia Cup's history.

## ***Athletics***

### **FISU World University Games 2023**

India secured a collective of 17 medals at the FISU World University Games 2023, comprising 9 gold, 3 silver, and 5 bronze medals. The event took place on July 31, 2023, in Chengdu, China, where India claimed the second position in the overall medal standings. China led the medal chart with a total of 22 medals, encompassing 13 gold, 5 silver, and 4 bronze medals.

### **25<sup>th</sup> Asian Athletics Championship 2023**

The 25<sup>th</sup> Asian Athletics Championship occurred from July 12 to 16, 2023. The Indian team earned a total of 27 medals, including 6 gold, 12 silver, and 9 bronze. India attained the third position in the overall standings, trailing behind China and Japan.

### **Diamond League 2023**

Neeraj Chopra, the Olympic gold medalist, achieved success with an 88.67 m throw at the Doha Diamond League 2023 on May 5, 2023. Commencing the new season, Chopra's initial throw of 88.67 set an impressive tone. Vadlejch from the Czech Republic secured the second position, while Peters from Grenada claimed the third spot.

## ***Weightlifting***

### **Asian Championships 2023**

At the Asian Weightlifting Championships 2023 in Jinju, South Korea, Indian weightlifters secured three silver medals on May 8, 2023. Bindirani Devi claimed two silver medals in the women's 55 kg category, while Jeremy Lalrinnunga earned a silver medal in the men's 67 kg snatch category.

## ***Golf***

### **The Open 2023**

The golf tournament known as the Open Championship 2023 took place at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club in Hoylake, Merseyside, England, from July 20 to 23, 2023. Brian Harman emerged victorious, securing his inaugural Open Championship title, marking both his first major career win and his initial PGA Tour victory in six years.

# Know Your Government

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## *Council of Ministers*

- ✧ **Narendra Modi:** Prime Minister and also in-charge of Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space; All important policy issues and all other portfolios not allocated to any Minister.

## *Cabinet Ministers*

- ✧ **Amit Shah:** Home Affairs and Cooperation
- ✧ **Rajnath Singh:** Defence Minister
- ✧ **Nitin Jairam Gadkari:** Road Transport and Highways
- ✧ **Nirmala Sitharaman:** Finance; Corporate Affairs
- ✧ **Narendra Singh Tomar:** Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- ✧ **Dr Surahmanyam Jaishankar:** External Affairs
- ✧ **Arjun Munda:** Tribal Affairs
- ✧ **Smriti Zubin Irani:** Women and Child Development; Minority Affairs
- ✧ **Piyush Goyal:** Commerce and Industry; Consumer Affairs; Food and Public Distribution; Textiles
- ✧ **Dharmendra Pradhan:** Education; Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- ✧ **Pralhad Joshi:** Parliamentary Affairs; Coal; Mines
- ✧ **Narayan Tatu Rane:** Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- ✧ **Sarbananda Sonowal:** Ports; Shipping and Waterways; AYUSH
- ✧ **Virendra Kumar:** Social Justice and Empowerment
- ✧ **Giriraj Singh:** Rural Development; Panchayati Raj
- ✧ **Jyotiraditya M Scindia:** Civil Aviation; Steel
- ✧ **Ashwini Vaishnaw:** Railways; Communications; Electronics and Information Technology
- ✧ **Pashu Pati Kumar Paras:** Food Processing Industries
- ✧ **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat:** Jal Shakti
- ✧ **Kiren Rijiju:** Earth Sciences
- ✧ **Raj Kumar Singh:** Power, New and Renewable Energy
- ✧ **Hardeep Singh Puri:** Petroleum and Natural Gas; Housing and Urban Affairs
- ✧ **Mansukh Mandaviya:** Health and Family Welfare; Chemical and Fertilizers
- ✧ **Bhupender Yadav:** Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Labour and Employment
- ✧ **Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey:** Heavy Industries

- ★ **Parshottam Rupala:** Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- ★ **G. Kishan Reddy:** Culture; Tourism; Development of North Eastern Region
- ★ **Anurag Singh Thakur:** Information and roadcasting; Youth Affairs and Sports

*Chiefs of Armed Forces/Intelligence Agencies*

Forces/Agencies	Chief
Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)	Anil Chauhan
Air Force	VR Chaudhari
Army	Manoj Pande
Navy	R. Hari Kumar
CBI	Praveen Sood
Integrated Defence Staff	Balabhadra Radha Krishna
IB	Tapan Kumar Deka
R&AW	Ravi Sinha

# Current Affairs

## 2023-24



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