
CURRENT AFFAIRS
FEBRUARY 2023

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NATIONAL NEWS

Centre notifies appointment of 5 new judges to Supreme Court of India, working strength rises to 32

- The Union government appointed five new judges to the Supreme Court.
- With their appointments, the number of judges in the Supreme Court will rise to 32 against the sanctioned strength of 34.
- Currently, the Supreme Court is functioning with 27 judges, including the Chief Justice of India.

Key Points

Union Law Minister	- Kiren Rijju (since July 2021)
Chief Justice of India	- Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud (since 9 th November 2022)
Supreme Court established	- 26 th January 1950
Supreme Court Location	- New Delhi

India's first hydrogen train to be launched by 2023 on heritage routes

- India will get its first hydrogen train by December 2023 and it will initially run on heritage circuits.
- It will be completely indigenously manufactured. The test run will be conducted on the Sonipat–Jind section in Haryana.
- The new trains will run on the routes of Kalka–Shimla Railways, Nilgiri Mountain Railways, Darjeeling Hills, Kangra Railways, Bilimora Waghai, Mhow–Patalpani, Marwar–Devgarh–Madriya and Matheran Hill Railways in Maharashtra.
- These hydrogen trains will include the modified version of steam engines.

Key Points

Union Railways Minister	- Ashwini Vaishnaw (since 7 July 2021)
Chairman & CEO Railway Board	- Anil Kumar Lahoti (since 1 st January 2023)

India to be the theme country at the Madrid International Book Fair in 2025

- India will be invited as the focal country at the Madrid International Book Fair in 2025. This information was provided by Jose Maria Ridaó, Ambassador of Spain.

- Spain is the theme country at the 46th International Kolkata Book Fair.

Key Points

Spain's capital	- Madrid
Spain's Prime Minister	- Pedro Sánchez

India's Haj quota for 2023 fixed at 1,75,025

- Minority Affairs Minister Smriti Irani has informed that under the Annual Bilateral Agreement with Saudi Arabia for the Haj pilgrimage this year, the Government has restored the original Haj quota which stands at 1,75,025.
- The quota earmarked for Haj Committee of India under the Annual Bilateral Agreement is meant for pilgrims from various States and Union Territories for Haj this year.

Amit Shah laid foundation stone for India's Fifth Nano Urea Plant in Deoghar.

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of a ₹ 450-crore Nano Urea Plant and township of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) in Deoghar, Jharkhand.
- This will be India's fifth Nano Urea Plant.
- Nano urea improves crop productivity, soil health and nutritional quality of product and aims to address the imbalanced and excessive use of conventional urea.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the world's first Nano Urea Plant in Gujarat last year.

Yuva Sangam Portal Launched

- The Yuva Sangam registration portal was launched on 6th February 2023 in New Delhi.
- The Yuva Sangam is an initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to build close ties between the youth of the Northeast region and the rest of India under the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.
- Under the initiative, over 20 thousand youth will travel across the country and gain a unique opportunity for cross-cultural learning.

Key Points

Union Minister of DoNER, Culture and Tourism	- G. Kishan Reddy
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PM inaugurates new campus of Aljamea-tus-Saifiyah in Mumbai, Maharashtra

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated the new campus of Aljamea-tus-Saifiyah (The Saifee Academy) at Marol, Mumbai.
- Aljamea-tus-Saifiyah is the principal educational institute of the Dawoodi Bohra Community.
- Under the guidance of his holiness Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, the institute is working to protect the learning traditions and literary culture of the community.

Meta partners with the Ministry of Electronics and Information technology (MeitY) for the G20 stay safe campaign

- Facebook-parent Meta has partnered with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) for the G20 Stay Safe Online Campaign.
- The company will create and distribute resources in multiple Indian languages via various channels to raise awareness about how to stay safe online
- Meta is launching #DigitalSuraksha campaign to educate the youth about misinformation. The campaign is aimed at offering a safer and inclusive internet to India.

Key Points

Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology	- Ashwini Vaishnaw
Facebook's CEO and Chairman	- Mark Zuckerberg
Facebook's HQ	- California, United States

PM inaugurates 200th Jayanti celebrations of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati in New Delhi

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated the year-long celebrations commemorating the 200th birth anniversary of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in Delhi on 12 February 2023.
- Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati, born on February 12th, 1824, was a social reformer who founded Arya Samaj in 1875 to counter the prevalent social inequities.
- Arya Samaj has played a key role in the cultural and social awakening of the country through its emphasis on social reforms and education.

India's first AC double decker e-bus inducted into BEST fleet

- India's first air-conditioned double-decker electric bus has finally been inducted into the fleet of BEST, Mumbai's civic transport public body.
- The bus is all set to ply on the routes where other conventional double-decker buses that run on diesel are already being operated around.
- The prototype air-conditioned e-bus of the county was unveiled by Union minister Nitin Gadakari in Mumbai on 17th August 2022.

12 Cheetahs to be flown in from South Africa

- Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav announced that twelve cheetahs will be flown in from South Africa. This will be done three years after India first mooted the idea.
- The cheetahs will be released into their quarantine enclosures in the Kuno National Park, Chambal region, Madhya Pradesh.
- The cheetah is the only large carnivore that got completely wiped out from India, mainly due to overhunting and habitat loss.
- Under the ambitious Cheetah reintroduction programme, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had released the first batch of eight spotted felines including five females – from Namibia into a quarantine enclosure at Kuno on his 72nd birthday on September 17th last year.

Northern India's first nuclear plant to come up in Haryana's Gorakhpur: Jitendra Singh

- North India's first nuclear power plant is coming up in Gorakhpur, Haryana. The Department of Atomic Energy has also been permitted to form joint ventures with Public Sector Undertaking (PSUs) for resources to open atomic energy plants.
- Gorakhpur Haryana Anu Vidyut Pariyojana's (GHAVP) having two units of 700 MW capacity each of Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) indigenous design is under implementation near Gorakhpur village in Fatehabad district in Haryana.
- A total fund of 20,594 crore has been allocated for this project.

Kerala High Court becomes the first in the country to publish judgments in a regional language

- The Kerala High Court has published two of its recent judgments in Malayalam becoming the first high court

in the country to publish judgments in the regional language.

- This was done on February 21st which is also observed as International Mother Language Day.
- The Supreme Court formed an Artificial Intelligence committee to develop a dedicated open-source judicial domain language translation tool called SUVAS (Supreme Court Vidhik Anuwad Software) to translate judgments from English to vernacular languages.
- The Kerala High Court made use of this tool to translate the judgments.

India joins Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate

- India has joined a global platform launched by the US and the UAE with an aim to accelerate investment and support for climate-smart agriculture and food systems innovation.
- The Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM4C) was launched by the two nations in November 2021.

Union Government approves the renaming of Aurangabad and Osmanabad

- The central government approved the renaming of Aurangabad as Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar and Osmanabad as Dharashiv.
- Aurangabad derives its name from Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, while Osmanabad was named for a 20th century ruler of the princely state of Hyderabad.
- Chhatrapati Sambhaji, the eldest son of warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, was the second ruler of the Maratha state founded by his father. Sambhaji Maharaj was executed on Aurangzeb's orders in 1689.

- Dharashiv is the name of a cave complex near Osmanabad and dates back to the 8th century as per some scholars.

Kerala becomes first state to use robotic scavengers to clean manholes

- Kerala government launched robotic scavenger, Bandicoot, to clean sewages in this temple town.
- With this, it became the first state in the country to use robotic technology to clean all its commissioned manholes.
- Bandicoot has been developed by Kerala-based Genrobotics,

Karnataka Government will build the country's first Marina or a boat basin

- The Karnataka Government will build the country's first Marina or a boat basin offering dockage, at Byndoor in Udupi district to promote coastal tourism in Karnataka.
- This will promote coastal tourism in Karnataka.
- Additionally, the Benakal area and Anjanadri Hill will be developed along with a scheme to pay a monthly honorarium of ₹ 5,000 to the recognised tourist guides.

'Jai Jai Maharashtra Maza', official state song from February 19th

- The Maharashtra government declared the decision to designate 'Jai Jai Maharashtra Maza' as the state song.
- It will now be played along with the National Anthem at all government events from February 19th.
- 19th February is the birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
- The song's two stanzas have a total duration of 1.41 minutes.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India and U.S. step up strategic partnership with technology initiative

- India and the U.S. launched a program to enhance their strategic partnership with delegations led by the National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval and his American counterpart, Jake Sullivan.
- This was done on the inaugural dialogue of the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET).

- The iCET seeks to build supply chains which increase co-production and co-development between the countries and increase linkages between the countries' start-up ecosystems, both governments said in their statements describing the dialogue.

UNESCO designates Odesa World Heritage site in danger

- The UNESCO designated the historic centre of Odesa of Ukraine as a World Heritage Site and categorised it

as being “in danger” during a committee meeting in Paris.

- With this, Russia will be under more pressure to stop from invading Odesa, and the city will have better access to funding and technical support.
- Odesa is also known as “the intercultural capital of Ukraine”.

Key Points

UNESCO’s Chief	- Audrey Azoulay
UNESCO’s HQ	- Paris, France
Formation	- 16 th November 1945

Australia to remove the British monarch from its banknote

- Australia will erase the British monarch from its banknotes, replacing the late Queen Elizabeth II’s image on its \$5 note with a design honoring Indigenous culture.
- The Reserve Bank of Australia’s decision to leave her successor Charles III off the \$5 note means no Britain-based monarch will remain on Australia’s paper currency.

Key Points

Australia’s Capital	- Canberra
Australia’s Prime Minister	- Anthony Albanese

India, UAE and France establish trilateral cooperation initiative

- India, France and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) created a formal trilateral cooperation initiative for projects in solar and nuclear energy, the fight against climate change and joint production of military hardware.
- It will also act as a platform to bolster cooperation on sustainable projects between the development agencies of the three countries, which will also work to align their economic, technological and social policies with the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

India and European Union to create three working groups under Trade and Technology council to boost ties

- India and the European Union established three Working Groups under the India–EU Trade and Technology Council, TTC, and their Terms of Reference.

- The TTC is a strategic coordination mechanism that will allow both partners to tackle challenges at the nexus of trade, trusted technology and security, and thus deepen cooperation in these fields between India and the EU.
- The TTC with India is only the second such Council for the EU and the first one being with the United States. However, it is the first such mechanism for India.

Pakistani PM approves IMF agreement

- Pakistan’s Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has approved a deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and all matters over the bailout programme are settled.
- Pakistan was working towards to unlock a \$6.5 billion to ward off economic meltdown.
- The government secured a \$1.1 billion loan in August, part of a \$6.5 billion package agreed upon in 2019. But it has been halted multiple times because of Islamabad’s failure to meet loan conditions and disagreements over spending plans after the floods.
- Inflation has risen to a 48-year high in crisis-hit Pakistan.
- Year-on-year inflation in January 2023 was recorded at 27.55%, the highest since May 1975, with thousands of containers of imports held up at Karachi port.

Key Points

IMF’s Headquarters	- Washington DC
IMF’s Managing Director	- Kristalina Georgieva
IMF’s Formation	- 1945

Quad countries launch Quad Cyber Challenge.

- The QUAD has announced the launch of Quad Cyber challenge, a public campaign, to improve cyber security in the four QUAD nations.
- QUAD is a plurilateral framework comprising India, Australia, Japan and the US.
- Internet users across the Indo-Pacific and beyond have been invited to join it and pledge to practice safe and responsible cyber habits.

Russian arms supplies to India worth \$13 billion in past 5 years

- India has received \$13 billion of arms during the past five years from Russia. India has further placed orders with Moscow for weapons and military equipment exceeding \$10 billion.

- India is the world's biggest buyer of Russian arms, accounting for around 20% of Moscow's current order book.

Key Points

Union Defence Minister - Rajnath Singh
Chief of Defence Staff - General Anil Chauhan

Europe's 'first menstrual leave' law passed by Spain

- The Spanish government approved a historic law granting paid medical leave to women suffering from severe menstrual pain.
- This is the first for any European country.
- Menstrual leave is currently offered only in a small number of countries across the globe, such as Japan, Indonesia and Zambia.

Key Points

Spain's Capital - Madrid
Spain's Prime Minister - Pedro Sánchez

European Union (EU) formally bans the sale of diesel and gas cars from 2035.

- The European Parliament formally approved a law to

ban the sale of new gas and diesel cars in the European Union starting in 2035.

- It is an attempt to speed up the transition to electric vehicles. This law will require to cut down CO₂ emissions by 100%.
- The law will come in effect in phases and will require a 55% cut in CO₂ emissions for new cars starting 2030.

FATF suspends Russia's Membership

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) suspended Russia's membership after finding that Moscow (Russia's conflict in Ukraine breached the FATF's principles that aims to promote security, safety and integrity of the global financial system.
- Morocco and Cambodia were taken off the list after improving their controls.
- FATF is a global organisation that monitors financial crime.

Key Points

FATF's HQ - Paris, France
FATF's President - T. Raja Kumar

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Uttar Pradesh Government launched Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan

- The Uttar Pradesh government has launched a campaign to empower girls from the underprivileged class.
- It will work under the Aarohini Initiative Training Programme for the safety and security of girls in 746 Kasturba Gandhi Residential Girls Schools in the state.

Power Minister launches SADUN to modernise power distribution utilities in South Asia

- RK Singh, the Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy, has launched the South Asia Distribution Utility Network (SADUN).
- It aims to modernise distribution of utilities in South Asia via knowledge sharing among the region's discoms.

- SADUN is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Power, USAID and PFC.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the 'iDEX Investor Hub' (iIH)

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the 'iDEX Investor Hub' (iIH), under which more than ₹ 200 crores had already been pledged by leading Indian investors.
- Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) is the flagship initiative of the Department of Defence Production to encourage start-ups and other such entities engaged in defence innovation.
- It aims to accelerate investment in the Defence sector and gives investors a unified view of opportunities and innovations.
- 'DISC 9' is the first collaboration of iDEX with the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (i4C) division of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

PRASHAD Scheme: Ministry of Tourism Designates Four Pilgrim Centres for Development

- The Union government has identified four pilgrim centres for development under the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Scheme.
- Chamundeshwari temple in Mysuru, Sri Madhwa Vana in Kunjarugiri in Udupi district, Papnash temple in Bidar district and Sri Renuka Yallamma Temple in Saundatti in Belagavi district have been selected under the scheme.

Key Points

Union Minister of Tourism - G. Kishan Reddy

Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) unveiled "Bal Mitra"

- The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) launched 'Bal Mitra', a WhatsApp Chatbot to provide communication support to children and parents in Delhi.
- The chatbot 'Bal Mitra' will serve as a source of authentic information regarding children and their rights.
- It will help citizens and the commission to interact more effectively and eliminate the gap of information between the government and citizens.
- The chatbot will also guide people, especially parents, on issues of admissions and education of their children.

BANKING, FINANCE AND ECONOMY NEWS

UNION BUDGET 2023

- The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2023–24 on 1st February 2023.
- The Union budget was named as 'Saptrishi' with seven priorities of the budget-inclusive development, reaching the last mile, infrastructure and investment, unleashing the potential, green growth, youth power and financial sector.
- The budget aims to keep the fiscal deficit at 5.9%, while states are allowed a deficit of 3.5% of GSDP. Of this, 0.5% should be tied to power sector reforms.
- The new tax regime increased the rebate limit to INR 7 lakh. The number of slabs in the new regime is reduced to five and the tax exemption limit is increased to INR 3 lakh. The highest surcharge levied on personal income tax has been reduced significantly from 37% to 25%.
- The maximum deposit limit in the Senior Citizen Savings Scheme has been revised upwards from INR 15 lakh to INR 30 lakh.
- The maximum deposit limit for the Monthly Income Account Scheme increased from INR 4.5 lakh to INR 9 lakh for a single account and INR 9 lakh to INR 15 lakh for a joint account.
- 'PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth' (PM-PRANAM) to be launched to incentivise States and Union Territories to promote alternative fertilisers and balanced use of chemical fertilisers.

- 'Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes', MISHTI, to be taken up for mangrove plantation along the coastline and on salt pan lands, through convergence between MGNREGS, CAMPA Fund and other sources.
- Amrit Dharohar scheme to be implemented over the next three years to encourage optimal use of wetlands, enhance bio-diversity, carbon stock, eco-tourism opportunities and income generation for local communities.
- Direct Benefit Transfer under a pan-India National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme to be rolled out to provide stipend support to 47 lakh youth in three years.
- Sector specific skilling and entrepreneurship development to be dovetailed to achieve the objectives of the 'Dekho Apna Desh' initiative.
- To make India a global hub for 'Shree Anna', the Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad, will be supported as the Centre of Excellence for sharing best practices, research and technologies at the international level.

RBI Monetary Policy: Repo rate raised by 25 basis points; FY23 GDP growth estimate raised

- The RBI governor Shaktikanta Das announced a repo rate hike of 25 basis points (bps), taking the key benchmark interest rate to 6.5%.
- This is the first rate hike in 2023. Before this, the repo rate was hiked by 35 bps on December 7th.

- The advance estimates of the National Statistical Office (NSO) had pegged the real GDP growth at 7% in FY23.
- For FY24, the growth rate is expected to be 6.4%.

Key Points

RBI established	- 1 st April 1935
RBI HQ	- Mumbai, Maharashtra
RBI Governor	- Shaktikanta Das

RBI's financial literacy week starts from 13th to 17th February, 2023

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been conducting Financial Literacy Week (FLW) every year since 2016 to propagate financial education messages on relevant themes including "MSMEs", "Credit Discipline and Credit from Formal Institutions" and "Digital Financial Literacy" and so on.
- The theme for this year's Financial Literacy Week to be observed during February 13–17, 2023 is "Good Financial Behaviour, Your Saviour", with emphasis on "Saving, planning, and budgeting" and "Prudent use of digital financial services" which aligns with overall strategic objectives of the National Strategy for Financial Education: 2020–2025.

RBI's second hackathon HARBINGER 2023 – Innovation for Transformation' launched

- The RBI has announced its second global hackathon called 'Harbinger 2023 – Innovation for Transformation' with the theme of 'Inclusive Digital Services'.
- The RBI has invited fintechs from all over the world to develop solutions that have the potential to make digital financial services accessible to the differently-abled, facilitate efficient compliance.

Indian Overseas Bank has launched the facility of issuance of e-BG (Electronic Bank Guarantee) scheme

- Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has launched the facility of issuance of e-BG (Electronic Bank Guarantee) in association with the National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL).
- The e-BG is an instrument issued by the city-headquartered bank in which the bank undertakes to guarantee a specific amount against the non-fulfilment of some action/performance of the applicant.
- The main features of the e-BG are completely paperless mode with digital stamping and digital signature. Real

time issuance of e-BG would make it available for the beneficiary instantly leading to time saving which in turn would fast track all the business purpose for which it is issued.

Philips Domestic Appliances has announced the change of its company name to Versuni

- Philips Domestic Appliances has been renamed as Versuni. This comes after Royal Philips sold its domestic appliance business to Hillhouse Capital in September 2021.
- The new name is the next step after the Domestic Appliances business became independent in September 2021.

ADB pledges \$25 billion for India's infra, social and green needs

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) committed up to \$25 billion for the next five years to fund India's infrastructure creation under the PM Gati Shakti initiative as well as social development and climate action to help the country meet its priority development needs.

Key Points

ADB Formation	- 19 th December 1966
ADB's President	- Masatsugu Asakawa
ADB's HQ	- Mandaluyong, Philippines

India's unemployment rate rose to 7.45% from 7.14% in January: CMIE

- India's unemployment rate rose to 7.45% in February from 7.14% in the previous month, data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) showed.
- The urban unemployment rate declined to 7.93% in February from 8.55% in the previous month, while the rural unemployment rate rose to 7.23% from 6.48%, the data showed.

NSE gets final SEBI approval to launch Social Stock Exchange

- The NSE received the nod from Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), capital markets regulator to launch its Social Stock Exchange.
- It had given an in-principle approval to National Stock Exchange (NSE) for setting up the exchange last December.

- The idea of a social stock exchange was first mooted in the Union Budget 2019–20 to enable entities involved in social activities such as charitable trusts and non-profit organisations (NPO) to access the capital market for funds.
- RIL and its vehicle partner Ashok Leyland, along with a few other partners, together developed the technology under its net carbon zero vision. The first engine runs with this tech was tested in early 2022.

Key Points

NSE's HQ	-	Mumbai, Maharashtra
NSE's founded	-	1992
NSE's chairperson	-	Girish Chandr Chaturvedi
NSE's MD & CEO	-	Ashish Kumar Chauhan

Adani Group acquires strategic Haifa Port in Israel for \$1.2 Billion

- The Adani Group acquired the strategic Israeli port of Haifa for USD 1.2 billion. The Haifa Port is located in a natural, protected bay in northeast Israel. It is one of Israel's three major international seaports and handles the transportation of goods, cargo and tourists. The port was officially opened in 1933.
- A consortium of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) and Israel's Gadot Group had won the tender to privatise the Port of Haifa for a staggering USD 1.18 billion. The Adani Group holds a 70% stake in the consortium.

India's first hydrogen combustion engine tech for heavy-duty trucks unveiled by RIL

- Reliance Industries unveiled India's first Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine technology solution for heavy duty truck.

- The hydrogen tech solution will emit near zero emissions, deliver performance on par with conventional diesel trucks and reduce noise and with projected reductions in operating costs thus redefining the future of green mobility.

India received around \$89,127 million, highest ever remittances in 2021–22

- India received foreign inward remittances of USD 89,127 million in 2021–22, which was the highest ever received in a single year.
- The U.S., UAE, UK, Singapore and Saudi Arabia are the top five major countries from where India receives such payments.

Google launches Bard AI Chatbot

- Google unveiled an experimental conversation AI service called Bard on 6th February 2023.
- It is an attempt to catch up with the wildly popular chatbot ChatGPT from Microsoft-backed firm OpenAI.
- The service will initially be available to "trusted testers" before becoming more widely available to the public.

Key Points

Google's founder	-	Larry Page and Sergey Bern
CEO	-	Sundar Pichai
Headquarters	-	California, U.S.

PEOPLE IN NEWS/APPOINTMENTS

Name	Designation
Lt. General Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik (Retired)	Governor of Arunachal Pradesh
C.P. Radhakrishnan	Governor of Jharkhand
S. Abdul Nazeer	Governor of Andhra Pradesh
Lakshman Prasad Acharya	Governor of Sikkim
Shiv Pratap Shukla	Governor of Himachal Pradesh
Gulab Chand Kataria	Governor of Assam
Justice (Retd.) Biswa Bhusan Harichandan	Governor of Chhattisgarh
Brig (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd.)	Lt. Governor of Ladakh
Ramesh Bais	Governor of Maharashtra

Name	Designation
Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar	Governor of Bihar
Phagu Chauhan	Governor of Meghalaya
La. Ganesan	Governor of Nagaland
Anusuiya Uikye	Governor of Manipur
Manuela Roka Botey	Prime Minister of Equatorial Guinea
Dr. Ami Bera	Member of US House Committee handling intelligence-related matters
Apsara A. Iyer	President of Harvard Law Review
Mohammad Shahabuddin Chuppu	Bangladesh's 22 nd President
Nikos Christodoulides	President of Cyprus
Harmanpreet Kaur	Brand ambassador of Puma India
Madhvendra Singh	First Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Gujarat Ports Infrastructure Company Limited of the Gujarat Maritime Cluster.
K Satyanarayana Raju	Managing Director and CEO of Canara Bank
Ayushman Khurana	National Ambassador of UNICEF
Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi	Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)
Girish Chandra Murmu	External auditor of International Labour Organisation (ILO)
BVR Subrahmanyam	CEO of Niti Aayog
Lt. Gen RS Reen	Director General Quality Assurance.
Rayyana Barnawi	First Saudi woman astronaut to go in space

DAYS AND THEMES

Date	Day	Theme
4 th February	International Day of Human Fraternity	
4 th February	World Cancer Day	
6 th February	International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female	Partnership with Men and Boys to transform Social and gender Norms to End FGM
7 th February	Safer Internet Day	Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online
10 th February	World Pulses Day	Pulses for a Sustainable Future
10 th February	National Deworming Day	
11 th February	International Day of women and girls in science	Innovate, Demonstrate, Elevate, Advance (IDEA): Bringing communities forward for sustainable and equitable development
11 th February	World Unani Day	Unani Medicine for Public Health
12 th February	National Productivity Day	Productivity, Green Growth and Sustainability: Celebrating India's G20 Presidency
15 th February	International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD)	Better Survival

Date	Day	Theme
20 th February	World Day of Social Justice	Overcoming Barriers and Unleashing Opportunities for Social Justice
21 th February	International Mother Language Day	Multilingual education – a necessity to transform education
22 th February	World Thinking Day	Our World, Our Peaceful Future
28 th February	National Science Day	Global Science for Global Wellness

OBITUARIES (NATIONAL)

Name	Occupation/ Field	Place
Shanti Bhushan	Union law minister and eminent jurist	Delhi
K.V. Tirumalesh	Kannada writer	Hyderabad
K. Vishwanath	Film director	Hyderabad
Pervez Musharraf	Former President of Pakistan	Dubai
Vani Jayaram	Playback singer	Chennai
B.K.S. Verma	Popular artist	Bengaluru
Javed Khan Amrohi	Veteran theatre and film actor	Mumbai
Lalitha Lajmi	Indian painter	Kolkata
Tuslidas Balram	Footballer	Kolkata
Shahnawaz Pradhan	Actor	Mumbai
Balipa Narayan Bhagwatha	Singer and screenwriter	Bengaluru
Nandamuri Taraka Ratna	Actor and politician	Hyderabad
Om Prakash Kohli	Gujarat Governor and veteran Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader	Delhi
Subi Suresh	Television host	Kochi
TCA Ramanujam	Retired chief commissioner of income taxes, lawyer, expert	
Kanak Rele	Dancer	Mumbai

OBITUARIES (INTERNATIONAL)

Name	Occupation/Field	Place
Elena Fanchini	Ski racer	Italy
Burt Bacharach	Composer, songwriter, record producer and pianist	United States

RANKS AND INDICES

World Happiness Index 2023 – Indian ranked 126

- According to the 2023 World Happiness Report, Finland is the happiest country in the world for the sixth year in a row. Afghanistan was ranked as the unhappiest nation.
- India ranks at 126th position out of 136 countries.
- The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network released the World Happiness Report 2023 which ranks countries on happiness.
- The report is released annually and ranks 136 countries based on six key factors to measure happiness — social support, income, health, freedom, generosity and absence of corruption.

IIRF releases MBA Ranking 2023

- According to the latest Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF) ranking (2023), the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad (Gujarat), is the top government college in India for pursuing the Master of Business Administration (MBA) course.
- IIM Bengaluru (Karnataka) and IIM Kolkata (West Bengal) are ranked second and third, respectively.
- The rankings are based on seven criteria – Research, Teaching Learning Resource Pedagogy, Industry Income and Integration, Placement Performance, Future Orientation, External Perception and International Outlook, and Placement Strategies and Support.

PM Modi named as world's most popular leader

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been named the

world's most popular leader for the second time in a row by a US-based global leader approval tracker Morning Consult.

- The survey showed PM Modi had an approval rating of above 75% of India's adult population.
- He is followed by Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador and Swiss President Alain Berset among others.

India ranks 42 among 55 countries on International IP Index

- India ranks 42nd among 55 leading global economies on the International IP Index released by the U.S. Chambers of Commerce. India is ripe to become a leader for emerging markets seeking to transform their economy through IP-driven innovation.
- The United States ranks first in the 2023 index, followed by the UK and France.

SPORTS NEWS

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

- The Fifth Khelo India Youth Games 2022 concluded with Maharashtra securing the top position in the medal tally with 161 medals including 56 gold, 55 silver and 50 bronze medals.
- Haryana grabbed second position by winning 128 medals including 41 gold, 32 silver and 55 bronze medals.
- Host Madhya Pradesh remained at third place with 96 medals including 39 gold, 30 silver and 27 bronze medals. Rajasthan and Delhi have been in the fourth and fifth position, respectively.

Australia clinch 6th Women's T20 World Cup title

- Australia won the Women's T20 World Cup for the sixth time by beating South Africa by 19 runs in the final at Newlands.
- The victory for the Australia is their sixth in Women's T20 World Cup history. Australia's previous victories came in 2010, 2012, 2014, 2018 and 2020.

Tata group bags title sponsorship rights for Women's Premier League to 2027.

- Tata Group has secured the title sponsorship rights for the Women's Premier League (WPL) for five seasons (BCCI), from February 15th, 2023, to July 31st, 2027.
- The Tata Group is also the title sponsor of the Indian Premier League (IPL). It bagged the rights for ₹ 600 crore for two years.

Madhya Pradesh won 13th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship in 2023

- Madhya Pradesh was named the winner of the 13th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship in 2023.
- It defeated Maharashtra 5-1 in the championship game in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.
- Jharkhand finished third after winning the third-place game against Haryana.

Lionel Messi has bagged the Best FIFA men's player prize for 2022.

- Argentina's Lionel Messi has bagged the Best FIFA men's player prize for 2022.
- He beat his World Cup final rival, Kylian Mbappe to the men's gong.

EVENTS

Vice President inaugurates the 36th Surajkund International Crafts Mela

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the 36th Surajkund International Crafts Mela at Faridabad, Haryana.
- On the inaugural occasion, he urged everyone to consider locally produced handicraft items when looking for gifts for their friends and relatives.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 14th edition of its flagship aero show

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the 14th edition of Asia's biggest aero show – Aero India 2023 – at Air Force Station, Yelahanka in Bengaluru on February 13, 2023.
- A commemorative stamp was also released by the Prime Minister on the occasion.
- The theme of Aero India 2023 is "The Runway to a Billion Opportunities".

Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurates AMRITPEX 2023

- The Minister for Communications, Electronics and Information Technology and Railways, Ashwini

Vaishnaw inaugurated AMRITPEX 2023 – National Philatelic Exhibition.

- This five-day Mahakumbh of Stamps is being celebrated from 11th February to 15th February 2023 and is being organised as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Celebrations.

Kala Ghoda Art festival began in Mumbai

- The Kala Ghoda Arts Festival began on 4th February and will go on till 12th February 2023. The Kala Ghoda Arts Festival is Asia's biggest multicultural festival. The festival is happening after a break of two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

World Government Summit 2023 to begin in Dubai.

- The World Government Summit 2023 began on 13th February 2023 in Dubai.
- The World Government Summit will be held under the theme of "Shaping Future Governments". It will bring together global thought leaders, global experts, and decision-makers to share and contribute to the development of tools, policies, and models that will be critical in shaping future governments.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Grammy Awards 2023 winners

Category	Winner
Record of the year	Lizzo
Album of the year	Harry Styles – Harry's House
Song of the Year	Lizzo – About Damn Time
Best New Artist	Samara Joy
Best Pop Solo Performance	Bonnie Raitt wins for 'Just Like That'
Best Pop Duo/Group Performance	Sam Smith and Kim Petras – Unholy
Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album	Harry Styles – Harry's House
Best Dance/Electronic Recording	Beyonce – Break my Soul
Best Contemporary Instrumental Album	Snarky Puppy – Empire Central
Best Rock Performance	Brandi Carlile – Broken Horses.
Best Metal Performance	Ozzy Osbourne Featuring Tony Iommi – Degradation Rules.
Best Rock Song	Brandi Carlile – Broken Horses
Best Rock Album	Ozzy Osbourne – Patient Number 9
Best Alternative Music Performance	Wet Leg – Chaise Lounge

Category	Winner
Best Alternative Music Album	Wet Leg-Wet Leg
Best R&B Performance	Muni Long – Hrs & Hrs
Best Traditional R&B Performance	Beyoncé – Plastic Off the Sofa
Best Progressive R&B Album	Steve Lacy – Gemini Rights
Best R&B Album	Robert Glasper – Black Radio III
Best Rap Performance	Kendrick Lamar – The Heart Part 5
Best Melodic Rap Performance	Future Featuring Drake & Tems – Wait for U
Best Rap Song	Kendrick Lamar – The Heart Part 5
Best Country Solo Performance	Willie Nelson – Live Forever
Best Country Duo/Group Performance	Carly Pearce and Ashley McBryde – Never Wanted to Be That Girl
Best Country Song	Cody Johnson – ‘Til You Can’t
Best New Age, Ambient, or Chant Album	Mystic Mirror – White Sun
Best Improvised Jazz Solo	Wayne Shorter and Leo Genovese – Endangered Species
Best Jazz Vocal Album	Samara Joy – Linger Awhile
Best Jazz Instrumental Album	Stevens – New Standards, Vol. 1
Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album	Steven Feifke, Bijon Watson & Generation Gap Jazz Orchestra – Generation Gap Jazz Orchestra
Best Gospel Performance/Song	Maverick City Music and Kirk Franklin – Kingdom
Best Contemporary Christian Music Performance/Song	Maverick City Music and Kirk Franklin – Fear Is Not My Future
Best Gospel Album	Maverick City Music and Kirk Franklin – Kingdom Book One (Deluxe)
Best Contemporary Christian Music Album	Maverick City Music – Breathe
Best Roots Gospel Album	Tennessee State University – The Urban Hymnal
Best Latin Pop Album	Rubén Blades & Boca Livre – Pasieros

76th BAFTA Awards 2023

CATEGORY	WINNERS
Best Film	All Quiet at the eastern Front
Leading actress	Cate Blanchett, Tar
Leading actor	Austin Butler, Elvis
Best Director	Edward Berger, All Quiet at the Western Front
Best casting	Elvis
Best Cinematography	All Quiet on the Western Front
Adapted Screenplay	All Quiet on the western front, Edward Berger, Lesley Paterson, Lan Stokell
Editing	Everything Everywhere All AT Once, Paul rogers
Cinematography	All Quiet on the western front, James friend
Best Documentary	Navalny (Daniel Roher)
EE Bafta Rising star Award	Emma Mackey
Film Not in the English Language	All Quiet On The Western Front

Raja Ram Mohan Roy National Award for the veteran journalist ABK Prasad

- Veteran journalist A.B.K. Prasad has been chosen for the prestigious Raja Ram Mohan Roy National Award for excellence in journalism.
- His journalistic career is spread over 75 years and has the singular honour of being the editor of all the mainstream journals of Andhra Pradesh. He has also served as the Chairman, Official Language Commission during the period 2004 to 2009 in the united Andhra Pradesh.
- The award is presented by the Press Council of India every year in the name of Raja Ram Mohan Roy. He was the founder of Brahma Samaj and played a major role in abolishing Sati.

Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel awarded UNESCO peace prize

- Germany's former chancellor Angela Merkel received UNESCO peace prize for opening her country to refugees during her time in office. She welcomed more than 1.2 million refugees and asylum seekers to Germany in 2015 and 2016.

- She was awarded the Felix Houphouet-Boigny UNESCO Peace Prize in Ivory Coast's capital Yamoussoukro.

Poet V Madhusoodanan Nair to receive Njanappana award

- V Madhusoodanan Nair, noted writer and teacher, has been selected for this year's Njanappana Puraskaram. The award carries ₹50,001, a gold locket of Guruvayurappan and a citation.
- It was instituted by Guruvayur Devaswom in memory of 'Poonthanam Namboothiri', the ardent devotee of Guruvayoorappan, who wrote Jnanappana.

MIT scientist Hari Balakrishnan awarded 2023 Marconi prize

- Dr. Balakrishnan is a professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).
- The Marconi Prize is a top honour for computer scientists and is awarded by the U.S. based Marconi Foundation.