



# ACE

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# ESE-2023

## (Preliminary Examination)

### Current Issues

(March - 2023)

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**27 All India 1<sup>st</sup> Ranks in ESE**

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# Current Issues

(March - 2023)

## POLICY OF GOVERNANCE

### TV SOMANATHAN COMMITTEE



#### Why in News?

Government of India constituted a Committee- TV Somanathan Committee to investigate Pension Reforms

#### KEY POINTS

- The committee undertakes an analysis of existing framework and structure of the National Pension System (NPS) and suggests if there are any necessary changes.
- The committee to be chaired by Somanathan would have secretary in the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Special Secretary in the Department of Expenditure and Chairman of Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority as members.
- The committee aims at finding out the middle way in between of the financially imprudent Old Pension System and the reform able NPS.

## THIRD BIODIVERSITY HERITAGE SITE OF ODISHA



### KEY POINTS

- The Odisha government has declared the Gandhamardan hill, spanning 18,963.898 hectare over Bolangir and Bargarh districts, as the third biodiversity heritage site of the state by giving it the status of a unique, ecologically fragile ecosystem having rich biodiversity.
- The other two being Mahendragiri hills and Mandasaru gorge in Gajapati and Kandhamal districts respectively.
- The Mandasaru gorge in Kandhamal district was notified as the first such site in Odisha in 2019, followed by Mahendragiri hills in 2022.
- Gandhamardan has become the 37th biodiversity heritage site of India, along with the Majuli island of Assam, Nallur Tamarind grove of Bangalore, Khlaw Kur Syiem KmieIng sacred grove of Meghalaya and Naro Hills of Madhya Pradesh.

## MUKHYAMANTRI VRIKSHA SAMPADA YOJANA



### KEY POINTS

- The 'Mukhyamantri Vriksha Sampada Yojana' launched in Chhattisgarh is the first major campaign at the national level to promote commercial tree plantation on a large scale.
- Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel launched this scheme on 21 March 2023, on the occasion of World Forestry Day.
- The scheme aims at encouraging commercial plantations in chhattigarh.
- As per government official statement it is planning to plant 15 crore trees on 1 lakh 80 thousand acre of land in 5 years.
- For the first time in the country, there will be guaranteed procurement of trees of identified species at minimum support price.

## TAMIL NADU 18TH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



### KEY POINTS

- The government of Tamil Nadu has decided to declare Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary as the 18th wildlife sanctuary in the state.
- Four forest ranges in Erode Forest Division, spread across 80,567 hectares, will form the new 'Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary', the 18th wildlife sanctuary in the State.
- The reserve forest areas in Anthiyur, Bargur, Thattakarai and Chennampatti, which are home to more than 10 tigers, elephants, leopards, wild boars, gaurs and deer, will be covered under the new sanctuary.
- The sanctuary is located on the western side of Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR), northern side of Kollegal forest division and eastern side of Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary in Karnataka and adjacent to Cauvery North and South Wildlife Sanctuaries in Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri.

## INDIA'S FIRST STATE TO PASS RIGHT TO HEALTH BILL



### KEY POINTS

- Rajasthan passed a landmark Right to Health (RTH) Bill under which private hospitals will not be able to charge emergency patients and will be compensated by the state — a “controversial” provision according to such hospitals and doctors who continued protests against the move for the second day and were later joined by government doctors.
- The Act is consistent with the Right to Life under Article 21 of the Constitution, which has been interpreted by the Supreme Court as the right to live with dignity.
- India already guarantees its citizens the right to food, education, employment, and information, but no right to health. This Act fills a significant void. It will considerably minimise out of pocket expenditure (OoPE) on health, and reduce morbidities and preventable mortalities.
- The enactment of the right to health is an attempt by the government to enhance access to quality healthcare without any catastrophic expenditure by families.

## ARAVALLI GREEN WALL PROJECT



### KEY POINTS

- Shri Bhupender Yadav launched the Aravalli Green Wall Project, a major initiative to green the 5 km buffer area around the Aravalli Hill Range in four states at a function organised to celebrate the International Day of Forests at Tikli Village in Haryana.
- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav is moving to revive the Aravallis through various initiatives like single-use plastic ban, water conservation efforts and natural resources protection.
- Shri Yadav unveiled the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation Through Forestry Interventions and a FAQ on Agro-forestry published by Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education.
- The rejuvenation of water bodies and catchment of the local streams will help in improving the overall soil moisture regime, productivity and drought resilience.

### About Project:

- In the initial phase, 75 water bodies will be rejuvenated under the project, starting with five waterbodies each in every district of Aravalli landscape on March 25th.
- The project will also include large-scale plantation drives and conservation of water resources in the Aravalli region.
- The project will cover degraded land in Gurgaon, Faridabad, Bhiwani, Mahendergarh and in Rewari districts of Haryana. Voluntary organization, Society for Geoinformatics and Sustainable Development and NGO, IMGurgaon are being engaged to mobilize people for Shramdaan for revival of water bodies at Bandhwadi and Ghata Bundh respectively.

## INTERNATION ISSUES

### SCO DIALOGUE PARTNER SAUDI ARABIA



#### Why in News?

On March 29, Saudi Arabia agreed to join the SCO as a dialogue partner in preparation for full membership

#### KEY POINTS

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was founded in June 2001 by China, Russia, and the Central Asian states of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.
- Pakistan and India became full members of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in 2017.
- The cabinet of Saudi Arabia's government has approved a memorandum granting the country the status of a dialogue partner in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.
- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization was established in 2001 as a Political, economic and Security organization to rival Western institution.



## WORLD'S LONGEST RAILWAY PLATFORM



### KEY POINTS

- The longest railway platform in the world at Shree Siddharoodha Swamiji Hubballi station in Karnataka was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 12.
- Karnataka is now home to the world's longest railway station.
- Indian Railways' South Western Railway(SWR) zone's Hubballi has its name registered in the Guinness Book of World Records now, for having the world's longest railway platform at Shri Siddharoodha Swamiji station.
- It is a 1507 m long platform that has been built at a cost of about INR 20 crore, and is a part of remodelling of the Hubballi yard and to facilitate running of additional trains in future.

## JOINT CONFERENCE OF ARMY CHIEFS OF INDIA AND AFRICAN



### KEY POINTS

- The first joint conference of army chiefs of India and African countries was held in Pune on 28 March.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh attended the conference as the chief guest. Army Chief General Manoj Pandey was also present.
- This is the first ever conference of the army chiefs of these countries.
- Army chiefs of 10 countries along with 31 representatives of African countries are present in this conference.
- A defence exhibition held under the Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign and the aim of the exhibition is to target African countries as a market for defence products.

### THIRD EDITION OF THE MULTILATERAL EXERCISE LA PEROUSE



#### KEY POINTS

- Indian Navy's indigenously built guided missile frigate, INS Sahyadri and fleet tanker, INS Jyoti participated in the third edition of the multilateral exercise La Perouse conducted from 13 - 14 March 2023.
- The two-day multi-lateral maritime exercise 'La Pérouse', involving participation of personnel, ships and integral helicopters of Royal Australian Navy, French Navy, Indian Navy, Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force, Royal Navy and the United States Navy, kick-started in the Indian Ocean Region.
- The biennial exercise La Perouse is conducted by the French Navy and aims to enhance maritime domain awareness and optimize maritime coordination among participating navies in the Indo-Pacific region.

## SECOND INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK FOR PROSPERITY (IPEF)



### KEY POINTS

- An Inter-Ministerial delegation from India led by Department of Commerce participated in the second Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) negotiating round in Bali, Indonesia from March 13-19, 2023.
- During the Bali Round, discussions covered all the four pillars of the IPEF: Trade (Pillar I); Supply Chains (Pillar II); Clean Economy (Pillar III); and Fair Economy (Taxation & Anticorruption) - (Pillar IV).
- India participated in the discussions related to Pillars II to IV.
- IPEF Partners have committed to an aggressive negotiating schedule throughout 2023 with the objective of realizing concrete benefits to enhance a shared vision for economic competitiveness and prosperity in their respective economies.

## G7 HIROSHIMA SUMMIT



### KEY POINTS

- Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has formally invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the G7 Summit after both had a delegation-level talk at Delhi's Hyderabad House.
- The India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership is based on our mutual democratic values and respect of the rule of law at the international platform.

## NATIONAL GENOME STRATEGY BU UAE



### KEY POINTS

- National Genome Strategy recently launched by UAE aims to establish a comprehensive framework of laws and regulations to support the development and implementation of genomic programmes, improving public health priorities and wellbeing in the UAE.
- Over the next 10 years, the strategy will provide a comprehensive framework of legislation and governance to support the development and implementation of genomic programmes to deliver on

the UAE's public health priorities and enhance wellbeing in the country.

- The National Genome Strategy ensures a comprehensive and sustainable ecosystem that will accelerate the development of priority preventive and personalised healthcare solutions for our citizens.
- National Genome Strategy is based on five key pillars:
  1. Establishing an agile framework of legislation and governance
  2. Creating a harmonised and secure data infrastructure
  3. Developing top-tier genomic research and innovation capabilities
  4. Focusing on genomic applications that align with public health priorities
  5. Building strategic partnerships that accelerate delivery of best-in-class programmes.

### EXERCISE — VAYU PRAHAR



### KEY POINTS

- The Army and the Air force jointly conducted a multi domain air-land exercise — Vayu Prahar — in the Eastern Theatre to validate joint plans for synergised multiple domain operations.
- The scope of the joint exercise included rapid mobilisation of an earmarked Rapid Reaction Force from the hinterland to undertake air-landed operations in a nominated Advance Landing Ground.
- An ALG is usually a single landing strip for an aircraft, which in India is predominantly operated by the military forces.
- The air-landed force further executed contingency tasks as per a realistic exercise scenario in challenging high-altitude terrain conditions.
- In December 2022, over 200 soldiers of China's People's Liberation Army clashed with Indian

soldiers in the Yangtse area of Arunachal's Tawang district.

- The clash came amid rising reports of Chinese incursions and construction activity over the past few years near the eastern sector.

## EGYPT JOINED BRICS BANK



## KEY POINTS

- Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi approved an agreement establishing the New Development Bank (NDB) of the BRICS bloc (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) and allowing Egypt to join the bank.
- Egypt added as the fourth new member of BRICS New Development Bank. After Bangladesh, UAE, and Uruguay.
- The New Development Bank was set up by BRICS nations on the basis of the intergovernmental agreement signed at the sixth BRICS summit in Fortaleza in July 2014.
- The bank's goal is to finance infrastructure projects and sustainable development projects in BRICS member states and developing countries. The bank previously received an "AA+" international credit rating from Fitch Ratings and S&P Global Ratings, allowing it to effectively attract long-term funding on international and local capital markets

# AWARDS

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS



### KEY POINTS

- Chancellor Naveen Jindal receives Lifetime Achievement Award from University of Texas. Founding Chancellor of O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU).
- Mr. Naveen Jindal, has received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the University of Texas at Dallas for his outstanding accomplishments in industry, politics and education.
- This is the highest award that the University of Texas at Dallas bestows on alumni to recognise a graduate whose contributions have bettered society and inspired others to reach new heights of excellence.



## KERALA HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD



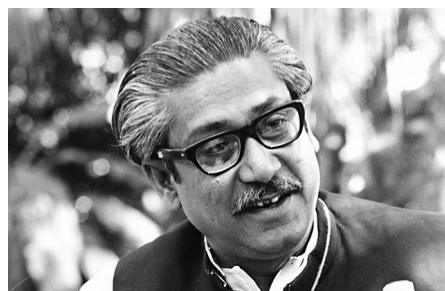
### KEY POINTS

- Kerala Awards are highest state-level civilian awards instituted by the government of the Indian state of Kerala on the model of the Padma Awards instituted by Government of India.
- Writer M T Vasudevan Nair was awarded the highest civilian honour in Kerala, The Kerala Jyothi

### The Kerala Awards are of three categories.

- Kerala Jyothi: This is the highest award and will be conferred only on one person.
- Kerala Prabha: This is the second highest award and is conferred on three individuals
- Kerala Sree: This is the third highest award and is conferred on six persons.

## FOSWAL LITERARY AWARD



### KEY POINTS

- The Foundation of SAARC writers and Literature (FOSWAL) honored Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with a special literary award.
- He receive this award on Bangladesh's Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

for his trilogy- The Unfinished Memoirs, The Prison Diaries and The New China as I Saw.

- SAARC Literary Award is an annual award conferred by the Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL) since 2001.

## AWARD OF PRESIDENT COLOUR



## KEY POINTS

- INS Dronacharya, the Gunnery School of the Indian Navy, is being awarded the prestigious President's Colour on 16th March 23 by the Hon'ble President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu.
- The President's Colour or the Nishan is considered the highest honour that the Supreme Commander, President of India, bestows on a unit for its exceptional service to the Nation.
- The President's Colour, also called Nishaan, is the highest honour bestowed on a military unit for its exceptional service to the nation.
- In 2004, INS Dronacharya was named the Center for Excellence in gunnery and missile warfare.

## ABEL PRIZE FOR 2023



### KEY POINTS

- The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters has decided to award the Abel Prize for 2023 to Luis A. Caffarelli of the University of Texas at Austin, USA.
- Luis Caffarelli, 74, has won the 2023 Abel Prize “for his seminal contributions to regularity theory for nonlinear partial differential equations including free-boundary problems and the Monge-Ampère equation”.
- First awarded in 2003, the Abel prize “recognises pioneering scientific achievements in mathematics”.
- It is named after Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel (1802-29), who in his short life made pioneering contributions in a multitude of fields.
- It is often considered to be an equivalent of the Nobel prize – which does not have a category for mathematics – and has been modelled as such.

# SPORTS

## SWISS OPEN SUPER 300



### KEY POINTS

- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, the popular Indian doubles badminton pair, secured their first doubles title of 2023 by winning the Swiss Open Super 300 finals.
- They were the second seeds in the tournament and played exceptionally well in the final match, winning the first set 21-19.
- The Indian pair ultimately won the second set 24-22 to wrap up the match in 54 minutes.

## CHRISTOPHER MARTIN-JENKINS SPIRIT OF CRICKET AWARD 2022



### KEY POINTS

- Aasif Sheikh, a wicketkeeper from Nepal, has been awarded the 2022 Christopher Martin-Jenkins Spirit of Cricket Award for his act of sportsmanship during a T20 international match.
- He refused to run out Ireland's Andy McBrine, who was accidentally tripped over by Kamal Airee, the bowler.

## FASTEST INDIAN IN U21 GROUP TO SWIM ACROSS PALK STRAIT



### KEY POINTS

- Swimmer Sampanna Ramesh Shelar becomes fastest Indian in U21 group to swim across Palk Strait from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka to Dhanuskodi in Tamil Nadu in 5 hours and 30 minutes.
- His swim commenced from Talaimannar and he reached Dhanushkodi completing the distance of 29 Kms.
- He is a Bachelor of Physical Education student and trains under the guidance of Mr. Jitendra Khasnis.
- With this achievement, Mr. Shelar is planning to do solo swims across the English & Catalina Channels soon, to eventually complete swimming across the seven oceans popularly known as the Oceans Seven Challenge.

# SUMMITS

## UN WATER CONFERENCE



### KEY POINTS

- The United Nations held its first water conference on March 22-24 in New York.
- The conference coincided with the mid-term review of the International Decade for Action.
- The water conference brings together people from different countries and organizations to work together on solving global water challenges
- The UN 2023 Water Conference's theme was Our watershed moment: uniting the world for water.
- UN 2023 Water Conference – the first in almost 50 years – could be a watershed moment for UN Sustainable Development Goal 6: ensuring the sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- These are the critical foundations on which many of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) depend, especially health, food, gender equity, education, livelihoods, industry, climate and the environment.
- The first UN Water Conference was held in Argentina in 1977.

## ONE WORLD TB SUMMIT 2023



### KEY POINTS

- This initiative is to work collectively towards TB elimination in spirit of Jan Bhaagidari on a war footing and inaugurated the One World TB Summit 2023.
- During event, The Prime Minister unveiled the “Annual India TB Report 2023” which is a compilation of the country’s efforts towards making India TB-free by 2025.
- He launched a Training module on Extra Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
- The module is developed for training the healthcare workers of secondary and tertiary levels of public and private sector in India.
- The Prime Minister also launched the **TB-Mukt Panchayat** initiative to leverage the support of over 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats to raise awareness about TB, eliminate the stigma attached to the disease and help monitor and improve uptake of services.
- A new Treatment Preventive Therapy was also launched to prevent the development of active TB – thereby stemming the spread of the disease. Alongside, a family-centric care model was also announced to ensure the wellbeing of families affected by TB.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### PAPER BASED DEVICE TO DETECT ADULTERATION IN MILK



#### KEY POINTS

- IIT Madras develop a paper based portable device to detect adulteration in milk.
- Researchers under Dr Pallab Sinha Mahapatra at IIT Madras have developed a three-dimensional paper-based portable device that can detect adulteration, such as urea, detergent, soap, salt, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, boric acid, and neutralisers in milk within 30 seconds.
- Researchers claim that this “three-dimensional (3D) paper-based portable device” has the capability of detecting substances used as adulterating agents in milk including urea, detergents, soap, starch, hydrogen peroxide, sodium-hydrogen-carbonate and salt, among others.
- These researchers even claim that one can perform this test at home. To test for these adulterating agents in milk, one would require just a millilitre of milk.



## THE 'MOST SILENT SHIP' INS ANDROTH



### KEY POINTS

- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), a shipbuilding company in India, has launched INS Androth.
- Androth', the second of 08 x ASW Shallow Water Craft (SWC) Project, being built by M/s GRSE for Indian Navy was launched on 21 Mar 23 at M/s GRSE, Kolkata.
- The ship has been named Androth to signify the strategic maritime importance accorded to the island of Androth, located about 170 Nm north-west of Kochi, in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

## ISRO'S ONEWEB INDIA-2 MISSION



### KEY POINTS

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Sunday successfully launched the second batch

of 36 satellites for the UK-based OneWeb.

- This batch of satellites by the UK-based company will be its 18th launch to date, its third this year and the second with ISRO.
- This will also complete the company's first-generation LEO (low earth orbit) constellation, enabling the company to initiate global coverage in 2023.
- The communications satellites were launched by ISRO's Launch Vehicle Mark-III (LVM3).
- In October last year, the Indian space agency successfully launched the first set of 36 satellites by OneWeb from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, marking the rocket's entry into the global commercial launch service market.
- This mission marks OneWeb's second satellite deployment from India, highlighting the collaboration between the UK and Indian space industries.
- Across India, OneWeb will bring secured solutions not only to enterprises but also to towns, villages, municipalities and schools, including the hardest-to-reach areas across the country.

### **MARITIME PARTNERSHIP EXERCISE (MPX)**

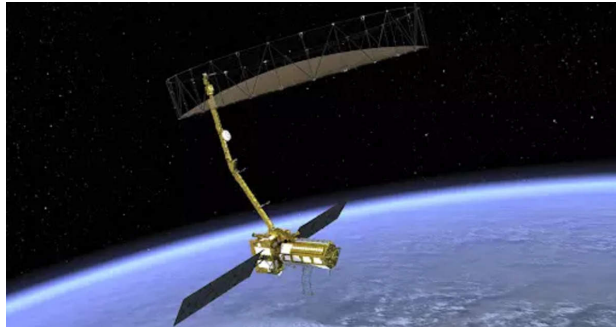


### **KEY POINTS**

- Indian Navy's indigenously built guided missile frigate, INS Sahyadri participated in a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with French Navy (FN) ships FS Dixmude, a Mistral Class Amphibious Assault Ship and FS La Fayette, a La Fayette Class Frigate, in the Arabian Sea.
- This aimed at consolidating their shared commitment to regional and global security challenges, the exercise witnessed cross deck landings by integral helicopters, tactical manoeuvres and a customary steampast by the ships.

- The exercise underscored the strong navy-to-navy links and the high level of interoperability between the two nations in the maritime domain.

### **NISAR (NASA-ISRO SYNTHETIC APERTURE RADAR)**



### **KEY POINTS**

- NASA and ISRO have come together to manufacture a satellite named NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar).
- This earth science satellite has been designed to cater to various mission objectives, such as designing, developing, and launching Dual Frequency (L and S band) Radar Imaging Satellite, and exploring newer application areas using L & S Band microwave data, especially in surface deformation studies, terrestrial biomass structure, natural resource mapping, and monitoring and studies related to the dynamics of ice-sheets, glaciers, forests, oil slick, etc.

# REPORTS

## STATE OF INDIA'S ENVIRONMENT REPORT 2023



### KEY POINTS

- Recently, State of India's Environment report 2023 was launched by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) and DTE (Down to Earth) magazine.
- In the past five years, India's overall global rank in meeting the SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals – has slipped by nine places.
- In 2022, it stood at the 121st position, behind Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh; Pakistan was lagging close behind at 125.
- The SoE is published every year by Down To Earth, the fortnightly magazine that Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) helps bring out. The 2023 report covers an extensive gamut of subject assessments, ranging from climate change, agriculture and industry to water, plastics, forests and biodiversity.
- The report has analysed the performance of individual states - An alarmingly high number of states have slipped in their performance of SDGs 4, 8, 9, 10 and 15.” These numbers refer to the Goals on quality education; decent work and economic growth; industry, innovation and infrastructure; reduced inequalities; and life on land, respectively.

## STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE (SIPRI) REPORT



### KEY POINTS

- India's arms imports fell 11% between 2013-17 and 2018-22, but the country is still the world's top importer of military hardware, a report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).
- The report comes at a time when India has sharpened its focus on achieving self-reliance in defence manufacturing.
- India's share of the global arms imports was the highest in the past five years at 11%, followed by Saudi Arabia (9.6%), Qatar (6.4%), Australia (4.7%) and China (4.7%), according to data published by the think tank that measures weapons imports over five-year periods.

## SUBJECT-BASED QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKING 2023



### KEY POINTS

- The QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023 cover a total of 54 disciplines, grouped into five broad subject areas.
- The Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi has entered the list of top 50 institutions for engineering in the QS World University Ranking by Subject 2023.

- The Delhi University is the Indian varsity with maximum entries (27) followed by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, (25) and IIT-Kharagpur (23), a statement released by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS).
- The rankings provide independent comparative analysis on the performance of more than 15,700 individual programmes taken by students at 1,594 universities in 93 locations across the world, across 54 academic disciplines and five broad faculty areas.
- IIT-Bombay has featured among the world's top 100 in mathematics by clinching the 92nd spot, up by 25 places, and IIT-Kanpur ranks among the world's top 100 in engineering-electrical electronic (87th, up by 21 places) and in computer science information systems (96th, up by 13 places).
- While IIT-Kharagpur occupies the 94th spot, up by 15 places, for computer science and information systems, IIT-Madras has moved up by 50 places to come at 98th spot for mathematics.
- The most represented Indian universities in this edition of the rankings are the University of Delhi (27 entries), IIT-Bombay (25 entries) and IIT-Kharagpur (23 entries).
- The QS Rankings are based on various parameters such as research publications, academic reputation, employer reputation and H-Index.

## WEALTH REPORT 2023



## KEY POINTS

- Knight Frank, a global real estate consultancy released its Wealth Report 2023 which provides insights into the trends and performance of the prime residential property market across the world.
- The Wealth Report is the ultimate guide to prime property markets, global wealth distribution, the threats and opportunities for wealth, commercial property investment opportunities, philanthropy and luxury spending trends.
- Among Indian respondents, the consultant said 88 per cent saw a rise in UHNWI's (ultra-high-net-worth individuals) wealth in 2022.

- Currently, India contributes 8 per cent of the total global billionaire population compared to 4.9 per cent five years ago. India ranked third in terms of number of self-made billionaires with 105 billionaires in the list.
- New York City has emerged as the wealthiest city in the world, with 340,000 resident millionaires, according to a new report published by Henley & Partners and New World Wealth.
- Tokyo, which was the wealthiest city ten years ago, fell to 2nd place with 290,300 millionaires.

### WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT 2023



### KEY POINTS

- It has been over ten years since the first World Happiness Report was published. And it is exactly ten years since the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 66/281, proclaiming 20 March to be observed annually as International Day of Happiness.
- India ranked at No. 126 in the World Happiness Report 2023. This is an improvement from last year, when India's position was at No. 136 on the list.
- The 2023 World Happiness Report has been released, and it shows that Finland remains the happiest country in the world for the sixth year in a row.
- Denmark, Iceland, Israel, and the Netherlands are the next happiest countries, with other European countries such as Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, and Luxembourg also making the top 10.

## HURUN GLOBAL RICH LIST 2023



### KEY POINTS

- The 2023 M3M Hurun Global Rich List ranked a total of 3,112 billionaires from 69 countries and 2,356 companies, a decrease from last year's 3,384 billionaires.
- The number of billionaires dropped by 8% and their total wealth dropped by 10% compared with last year.
- This release is to highlight and benchmark India's position in the 2023 M3M HURUN Global Rich List.
- With \$82 billion, Mukesh Ambani is the richest telecom entrepreneur in the 2023 M3M Hurun Global Rich List.

### Top billionaires of the World ( Year 2022)

- Elon Musk: Wealth USD 205
- Jeff Bezos: Wealth USD 188
- Bernard Arnault: Wealth USD153
- Bill Gates: Wealth USD 124



## PERSONS IN NEWS

### UNOPPOSED PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD BANK



#### KEY POINTS

- The former Mastercard Inc. chief executive Ajay Banga of Indian origin become the unopposed President of World Bank.
- Ajay Banga was Pune-born also felicitated with the Padma Shri by the Indian government in 2016 in the field of trade and industry.

#### About World Bank:

- The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans and grants to the governments of low- and middle-income countries for the purpose of pursuing capital projects established in 1944 Headquarters at Washington DC.
- The World Bank Group is an extended family of five international organizations, and the parent organization of the World Bank, the collective name given to the first two listed organizations, the IBRD and the IDA.
  1. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
  2. International Development Association (IDA)
  3. International Finance Corporation (IFC)
  4. Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)
  5. International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

## INTERNATIONAL BOXING ASSOCIATION (IBA) VICE-PRESIDENT



### KEY POINTS

- Boxing Federation of India (BFI) chief Ajay Singh has been elected as the International Boxing Association (IBA) vice-president.
- Ajay Singh, who is in his second term as the BFI president, becomes IBA's third vice-president and will stay in the role till 2026 alongside Volodymyr Prodyvus of Ukraine and Serbia's Abdulmutalim Abakarov.

## FIRST WOMAN TO COMMAND FRONTLINE IAF COMBAT UNIT



### KEY POINTS

- Group Captain Shaliza Dhama is now all set to take over the command of a frontline combat unit facing Pakistan.
- Group Captain Dhama was commissioned in the year 2003 as a helicopter pilot and has over 2,800 hours of flying experience. A qualified flying instructor, she has served as flight commander of a helicopter unit in the Western sector.
- Group captain in the IAF is an equivalent of a colonel in the Indian Army.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY



#### KEY POINTS

- Zero Discrimination Day is an annual day celebrated on 2 March each year by the United Nations (UN) and other international organisations.
- On Zero Discrimination Day this 2023 year the theme is “Save lives: Decriminalise”.
- In 2014 UNAIDS director Michel Sidibe launched Zero Discrimination Day on World AIDS Day.

### WORLD OBESITY DAY



#### KEY POINTS

- World Obesity Day is observed globally on 4 March as of March 2020 (having previously been observed on the 11th October) with the view of promoting practical solutions to end the global obesity crisis.
- World Obesity Day returns on 4 March 2023 with the theme Changing Perspectives: Let’s Talk About Obesity.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION AWARENESS



### KEY POINTS

- The International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness seeks to promote better awareness and understanding of disarmament issues among the public, especially young people.
- Observed on 5 March, the International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness plays a role in deepening the global public's understanding about how disarmament efforts contribute to enhancing peace and security, preventing and ending armed conflicts, and curbing human suffering caused by weapons.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2023



### KEY POINTS

- International Women's Day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.

- The theme for international women’s day is DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for gender equality
- International Women's Day 2023 raises awareness of topics including gender equality, access to abortion, and violence and abuse against women.
- The United Nations (UN) started celebrating International Women’s Day in 1977 it was officially agreed that the day will be widely observed on March 8 every year.

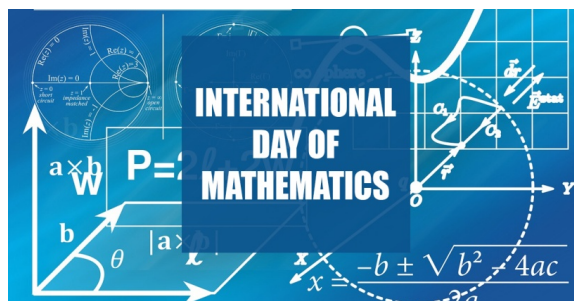
### INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR RIVERS 2023



#### KEY POINTS

- International Day of Action for Rivers 2023: It is observed on 14 March to spread awareness about the importance of rivers and climate change.
- The theme of the 2023 International Day of Action for Rivers is “Rights of Rivers,” which calls for the designation of rivers as a national treasure.
- The first International Day of Action for Rivers was commemorated in March 1997

### INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MATHEMATICS, ALSO KNOWN AS PI DAY



#### KEY POINTS

- Pi Day is an annual celebration of the mathematical constant  $\pi$  (pi). Pi Day is observed on March 14 (the 3rd month) since 3, 1, and 4 are the first three significant figures of  $\pi$ . It was founded in 1988 by Larry Shaw, an employee of the San Francisco science museum, the Exploratorium.

- The theme for Pi Day 2023 is “Mathematics for Everyone,” which was suggested by Marco Zarco Rotauro of Trece Martires City National High School in the Philippines.

## WORLD SLEEP DAY



### KEY POINTS

- This year's World Sleep Day will be held on Friday 17th March 2023 and is an annual event, intended to be a celebration of sleep.
- The 2023 Theme: Sleep Is Essential for Health.
- World Sleep Day was first observed on March 14, 2008, as an initiative of the World Sleep Society.

## GLOBAL RECYCLING DAY



### KEY POINTS

- Global Recycling Day, falls on March 18 each year and aims to promote the vitality of recycling across the globe.
- The theme of Global Recycling Day 2023 is “Creative Innovation”.
- Global Recycling Day is a relatively new event that was established on March 18th, 2018, by the Global Recycling Foundation.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HAPPINESS



### KEY POINTS

- International Day of Happiness is observed on 20 March. The pursuit of happiness is a fundamental human goal.
- This year's theme for International Day of Happiness is 'Be Mindful, Be Grateful, Be Kind'.
- The United Nations initiated this event in 2013, following Bhutan's advocacy for national happiness.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION



### KEY POINTS

- The UN General Assembly resolution 2142 (XXI), adopted on 26 October 1966, proclaimed 21 March as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
- The 2023 theme of the International Day focuses on the urgency of combatting racism and racial discrimination, 75 years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

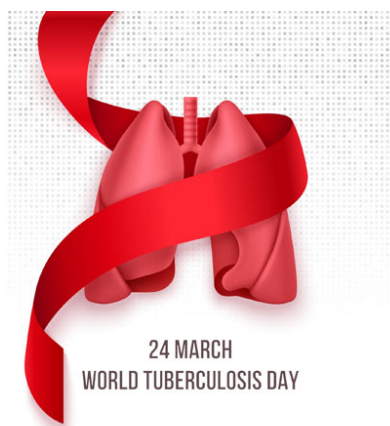
## WORLD WATER DAY



### KEY POINTS

- World Water Day 2023 is about accelerating change to solve the water and sanitation crisis. Dysfunction throughout the water cycle undermines progress on all major global issues, from health to hunger, gender equality to jobs, education to industry, and disasters to peace.
- World Water Day, held on 22 March every year since 1993, celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2 billion people living without access to safe water.

## WORLD TB DAY



### KEY POINTS

- World TB Day is observed annually on March 24 to raise awareness about TB and efforts to end the global epidemic.
- It aims to inspire hope and encourage high-level leadership, increased investments, faster uptake of new WHO recommendations, adoption of innovations, accelerated action, and multisectoral collaboration to combat the TB epidemic.



## **INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE RIGHT TO THE TRUTH CONCERNING GROSS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND FOR THE DIGNITY OF VICTIMS**



### **KEY POINTS**

- Each year, on 24 March, the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims is observed.
- On December 21, 2010, the United Nations General Assembly declared March 24 as the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims.

## **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH DETAINED AND MISSING STAFF MEMBERS**



### **KEY POINTS**

- This day is observed each year on 25<sup>th</sup> march.
- The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is marked each year on the anniversary of the abduction of Alec Collett, a former journalist who was working for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).
- The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members was first observed by the United Nations (UN) in 1993.

## EARTH HOUR DAY 2023



### KEY POINTS

- Earth Hour Day is being celebrated on March 25. The day aims at raising awareness of environmental issues to decrease adverse effects on the upcoming generation.
- The official theme for this year's 2023 celebration is "Invest in Our Planet," a continuation of the theme from 2022, with the aim of convincing businesses, governments, and people all over the world to invest in our planet in order to improve our environment and provide a better and safer future for our offspring.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO WASTE



### KEY POINTS

- On 14 December 2022, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution at its seventy-seventh session to proclaim 30 March as International Day of Zero Waste, to be observed annually.
- The International Day of Zero Waste every year starting from 2023. International Day of Zero Waste will encourage sustainable consumption and production practices and enhance understanding of the ways zero-waste efforts help to achieve the goals of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
- In line with the theme for International Day of Zero Waste 2023 - 'Achieving sustainable and environmentally sound practices of minimizing and managing waste', The Ministry of Housing and Urban affairs is organizing Swachhotsav- International Day of Zero Waste.