

GENERAL AWARENESS-CURRENT AFFAIRS
MONTH OF MARCH-2023

List of Important Days

- March 01 - World Seagrass Day.
- March 01 - World Civil Defence Day. (Theme - "Uniting the world's leading specialists for the safety and security of future generations")
- March 01 - Civil Accounts Day. (47th foundation day of Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS))
- March 03 - World Wildlife Day.
- March 04 - National Security Day (Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas). (Theme - "Nurture young minds - Develop safety culture")
- March 04 - 52nd National Safety Day. (Theme - "Our Aim - Zero Harm")
- March 04 - World Obesity Day. (Theme - "Changing Perspectives: Let's Talk About Obesity")
- March 05 - International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness.
- March 08 - No Smoking Day. (Theme - "Stopping smoking improves your brain health")
- March 08 - International Women's Day.
- March 09 (second Thursday in March) - World Kidney Day. (Theme - "Kidney Health for Everyone - Preparing for the Unexpected, Supporting the Vulnerable")
- March 10 - 54th CISF Raising Day.
- March 10 - International Day of Women Judges.
- March 14 - International Day of Action of Rivers. (Theme - "Rights of Rivers,")
- March 14 - International Day of Mathematics or Pi Day.
- March 15 - International Day to Combat Islamophobia.
- March 15 - World Consumer rights Day. (Theme - "Empowering Consumers Through Clean Energy Transitions.")
- March 16 - National Vaccination Day. (Polio Ravivar)
- March 17 - World Sleep Day. (Theme - "Sleep is Essential for Health")
- March 18 - India's Ordnance Factories Day.
- March 18 - Global Recycling Day. (Theme - "Creative Innovation")
- March 20 - International Day of Happiness. (Theme - "Be Mindful, Be Grateful, Be Kind.")
- March 20 - World Oral Health Day. (Theme - "Be Proud of Your Mouth")
- March 21 - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
- March 21 - International Nowruz Day.
- March 21 - World Poetry Day.
- March 21 - World Down Syndrome Day.
- March 21 - International Day of Forests. (Theme - "Forests and health")
- March 21 to 27 - Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination.
- March 22 - World Water Day.
- March 23 - World Meteorological Day.

- March 23 - Shaheed Diwas or Martyrs' Day.
- March 24 - World Tuberculosis Day. (Theme - "Yes! We can end TB!")
- March 24 - International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims.
- March 25 - International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members.
- March 26 - Purple Day of Epilepsy.
- March 27 - World Theatre Day.
- March 30 - International Day of Zero Waste.

Reserve Bank of India

- Recently, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had stated during the most recent Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) address that the apex banking regulator, in collaboration with banks, would launch a pilot project to evaluate the operation of a QR-code based coin vending machine.
- The Reserve Bank of India **imposed a Rs 5,000 cap on withdrawals** by individual customers from Tamil Nadu-based **Musiri Urban Co-operative Bank** as part of several restrictions slapped on the lender due to its deteriorating financial condition.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das launched a mission – "**Har Payment Digital**" – with the aim of making every citizen in the country a user of **digital** payments as part of Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW) 2023.
 - The **theme** of the awareness week is "Adopt digital payments and Teach others also".
- Reserve Bank of India governor Shaktikanta Das said payments through **UPI** (unified payment interface) have grown exponentially in the past 12 months with **daily transactions** crossing **36 crore**, which is up 50 per cent from 24 crore in February 2022.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted an 'Infrastructure Finance Company (IFC)' status to Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (**IREDA**).
 - It was earlier classified as an 'Investment and Credit Company (ICC)'.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has permitted banks from **18 countries** to open Special Vostro Rupee Accounts (**SVRAs**) to settle payments in rupees.

State Bank of India

- The State Bank of India (SBI) announced the completion of a **\$1 billion** syndicated **social loan** facility.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has raised **Rs 3,717 crore** through its third Basel III compliant Additional **Tier 1 bond issuance** in the current financial year at coupon rate of 8.25 per cent.

Other Banks

- Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company (**Kotak Mutual Fund**) has launched a digital campaign called 'DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality', which calls for digital inclusion of all with the hashtag **#IncludeAll**.
- **Suryoday Small Finance Bank** announced the launch of '**Blossom Women's Savings Account**' with 7 percent per annum interest rate with monthly interest credit.
- National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved the **merger** of **HDFC Ltd** and **HDFC Bank**.
- **Canara Bank** in collaboration with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched the **Rupay Credit Card** through UPI using the BHIM app.
- **ICICI Bank** announced that it offering a comprehensive bouquet of digital and physical solutions to cater to **all banking needs** of **startups** across their various life stages.

- **YES Bank** has collaborated with National E-Governance Services Limited (**NeSL**) to issue its first electronic Bank Guarantee (**e-BG**).
- **Axis Bank** has introduced a ground breaking payment solution called “**MicroPay**” in collaboration with technical partners **Ezetap** by **Razorpay** and **MyPinpad**.
- Starting from April 1, merchants carrying out transactions through the Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**) using Prepaid Payment Instruments (**PPI**) will be subjected to **charges**, according to a circular issued by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Insurance

- Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (**ABSLI**), the life insurance subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL) launched a new-age savings solution **ABSLI Nishchit Aayush Plan**, which aims to provide financial security to policyholders while also providing long-term savings benefits.

Supreme Court

- The Supreme Court ordered an experts **committee** to be set up, headed by a retired Supreme Court judge, **AM Sapre**, after a batch of PILs was filed on the recent **Adani Group shares crash** triggered by the US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research’s allegations of fraud.

Election Commission

- As the counting of votes for the Assembly Election Results 2023 has been done, the BJP took the lead and crossed the halfway mark in both **Tripura** and **Nagaland**.
 - In Tripura, **Manik Saha** will be the Chief Minister and serve his second term.
- The Election Commission (**EC**) in the Indian state of **Karnataka** has selected **Manjamma Jogati**, a transgender folk dancer, as a poll icon to encourage more members of the transgender community to register and vote.

States

- The world’s first 200-metre-long **bamboo crash barrier** named ‘**Bahu Balli**’ has been installed on a highway connecting Chandrapur and Yavatmal districts in **Maharashtra**.
- CM of **Uttarakhand**, Pushkar Singh Dhami has announced the launch of **Mukhyamantri Ekal Mahila Swarozgar Yojana** for single women.
- Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis informed the **Maharashtra’s** Legislative Council that the state will introduce the **fourth women’s policy** to give more opportunities to women by considering the issues of women from all groups.
- In **Nagpur**, Maharashtra, a new project known as “**beggar-free city**” has been launched.
- **Uttarakhand** launched the country’s first “**Resham Keet Bima**” programme to safeguard its **sericulturists**.
- The government of **Uttarakhand** has approved a **10% horizontal** reservation for statehood campaigners in state government positions.
- **Rajasthan** CM Ashok Gehlot announced the creation of **19 new districts** and **3 new divisions** in the state.

Defence and National Security

- The Ministry of Defence received a proposal from the **Indian Army** to buy 310 Advanced Towed Artillery Gun Systems (**ATAGS**) for deployment along the borders with China and Pakistan, marking a significant step towards ‘**Make-in-India**’ in the defense sector.
- The Indian Air Force (**IAF**) participated in Exercise **Shinyuu Maitri** with the Japan Air Self-Defence Force (**JASDF**), which was conducted from 13 February 2023 to 02 March 2023 at Komatsu, **Japan**.

- The Indian warship **INS Trikand** has arrived in **Bahrain** for her first participation in the **International Maritime Exercise** organized by the US-led Combined Maritime Forces, a 34-nation naval group.
- **Indian Army** and the **French Army** will hold their first joint military exercise, **FRINJEX-23**, at Pangode Military Station in Thiruvananthapuram, **Kerala**.
- In the first command appointment for a woman officer in the Indian Air Force (**IAF**), Group **Captain Shaliza Dhami** has been selected to take over the command of a frontline combat unit in the Western sector.
- **Colonel Geeta Rana** of the Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers has taken over **command** of an independent field workshop in the Eastern **Ladakh** region with China after the Indian Army recently approved women officers for command posts.
- The **Indian Navy's** exercise, called the "Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise for 2023" (**TROPEX-23**), culminated in the Arabian Sea after running for four months from November 2022 to March 2023.
- **Indian Navy** has received a fully indigenized **fuze** for an anti-submarine warfare (**ASW**) underwater rocket, manufactured for the first time by a private Indian industry.
- In the rugged **Doda** area of Jammu & Kashmir, the **Army** erected the tallest "**Iconic National Banner**".
- **Indian Navy's** indigenously built guided missile frigate, **INS Sahyadri** participated in a Maritime Partnership Exercise (**MPX**) with **French Navy (FN)** in the Arabian Sea.
- The Indian Ocean Area will host the **third** edition of the multilateral exercise **La Perouse**.
 - The Royal **Australian Navy**, **French Navy**, **Indian Navy**, **Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force**, **Royal Navy**, and **United States Navy** will all have people, ships, and essential helicopters participating in this event.
- **Operation Bold Kurukshetra**, a bilateral armour training exercise, was held from March 6-13, 2023, in **Jodhpur** Military Station in India.
 - It was the 13th iteration, and the **Singapore Army** and **Indian Army** both took part.
- The **Indian Navy** deployed a P8I aircraft to Guam, **USA**, to participate in the third edition of 'Exercise **Sea Dragon 23**', a coordinated multi-lateral Anti-Submarine Warfare (**ASW**) exercise for Long Range MR **ASW** aircraft organized by the **US Navy**.
- Recently, during the on-going tensions between India and China at the Line of Actual Control (**LAC**), the **Indian Army** and **Air Force** carried out a 96-hour joint exercise named '**Vayu Prahar**' in the eastern region.
- **India** is set to become a major **exporter** of **defense equipment** and materials, with exports projected to be worth Rs 35,000 to Rs 40,000 crore by **2026**.

Committees/Commissions

- IT Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar launched a **grievance appellate panel** mechanism that will look into appeals by users against decisions of **social media platforms**.

Schemes/Initiatives

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways **Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated **7 National Highway projects** worth Rs 2,444 crore, totaling 204 km in Rewa, **Madhya Pradesh**.
- The eighth edition of the annual **Raisina Dialogue**, the flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-strategy, begins in **New Delhi**. The annual Raisina Dialogue will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
 - **Italian** Prime Minister **Giorgia Meloni** will be the chief guest and keynote speaker at its inaugural session.

- Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and four Sikkim ministers released a unique cover of the Department of Posts, '**Go Green, Go Organic**' for **Sikkim**.
- **FinEMPOWER**, a new initiative from **BSE** and **UN Women India**, was introduced at the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).
- Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched '**Swachhotsav**', a three-week women-led swachhata campaign under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban).
- PM Narendra Modi dedicated **World's longest railway platform** of 1.5 kilometres at Sri Siddhaarooda railway station in Hubballi in the state of **Karnataka**.
- PM Narendra Modi dedicated the **Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway** to the country.
- The **Ministry of Culture** administers a Scheme by the name of '**Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists**' (erstwhile 'Scheme for Pension and Medical Aid to Artistes').
- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated "**AgriUnifest**" in Bengaluru, **Karnataka**.
- The Bureau of Indian Standards (**BIS**) has launched the "**Learning Science via Standards**" initiative to promote science learning among school students.
- PM Narendra Modi, and his **Bangladesh** counterpart Sheikh Hasina, will inaugurate the **India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline** via video conference.
- The **Minister of State** (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (**MoSPI**), Rao Inderjit Singh, launched the 24th edition of "**Women and Men in India 2022**" in **New Delhi**.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the **Vedic Heritage portal** in **New Delhi**.
- PM Modi has recently launched an app called "**Call Before You Dig**" to prevent uncoordinated digging that can cause damage to underground utility assets, such as optical fibre cables.
- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah unveiled the statues of **Lord Basaveshwara ji** and **Nadaprabhu Kempegowda ji** at the State Assembly premises in Bengaluru, **Karnataka**.
- The Whitefield (**Kadugodi**) to **Krishnarajapura Metro Line** was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi.

Summit/Conference

- Union Minister of Ayush and Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the first **B2B Global Conference & Expo** on Traditional Medicine under Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) at **Guwahati**.
- President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the 7th **International Dharma Dhamma Conference 2023** in Bhopal, **Madhya Pradesh**.
 - The 7th edition of the conference has a **theme** of "Eastern Humanism for the New Era".
- On March 8, 2023, in conjunction with **Sangeet Natak Akademi**, Government of India, and **P. L. Deshpande Maharashtra Kala Academy**, Government of Maharashtra, an **All India Women's Folk Art Conference** will be held in Ravindra Natya Mandir in Prabhadevi, **Mumbai** on the occasion of International Women's Day.
- The 5th **Asean-India Business Summit** took place on 6 March 2023 in **Kuala Lumpur**.
- The 23rd **Commonwealth Law Conference** was inaugurated by Goa Governor P.S. Sreedharan Pillai.
- With a focus on India's civilizational connections with the SCO states, the two-day **international conference** of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on "Shared Buddhist Heritage" was launched at Vigyan Bhawan in **New Delhi**.

- The Rishikul campus of Ayurvedic University in Haridwar recently hosted the **International Ayurved conclave** with a **theme** on “Veterinary and Ayurveda”.
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference** in **New Delhi**.
- The inaugural joint conference between the **Indian** and **African army chiefs** is scheduled to take place in **Pune**.

Agreement/Deal/Signed

- Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corp Ltd (**IRCTC**) and **HDFC Bank**, announced the launch of a co-branded travel **credit card**.
 - Known as the **IRCTC HDFC Bank Credit Card**, the newly launched co-branded card is available exclusively on NPCI’s RuPay network.
- **Axis Bank** completed the acquisition of **Citibank’s consumer business**.
- Godrej & Boyce, the flagship company of the Godrej Group, announced that its business **Godrej Tooling** has partnered with **Renmakch**, to collaborate on Machinery & Plant (M&P) projects for Railways and Metro Rail, offering world-class equipment that is ‘Made in India’.
- In order to reduce carbon footprint in its operations, **Tata Steel Mining Limited** has signed a memorandum of understanding with **GAIL (India) Limited** for supply of **natural gas** to its ferro alloys plant at Athgarh in Odisha’s Cuttack district.
- **India** and **Australia** signed a Framework Mechanism for Mutual Recognition of **Qualifications** that will help ease the mobility of students and professionals between the two countries.
- The National Anti-Doping Agency (**NADA**) under the Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry; and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (**NCERT**) signed an MoU to strengthen value-based **sports education** amongst school children and teachers.
- Domestic information technology (IT) services firm, **HCL Technologies**, announced a partnership with **Azure Quantum**, Microsoft’s quantum cloud computing service.
 - Through this partnership, HCL Tech will offer cloud-based quantum computing services to businesses using Microsoft’s platform as a technology stack.
- The **United States** and **India** will sign a memorandum of understanding on **semiconductors** as both countries discuss coordination of investment and continue dialogue around policies to spur private investment.
- The **defence ministry** sealed a deal with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (**HAL**) to procure **six Dornier aircraft** at a cost of Rs 667 crore for the Indian Air Force.
- **Punjab National Bank**, nation’s public sector bank and **Central Warehousing Corporation** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate financing under **e-NWR** (Electronic Negotiable Warehousing Receipt).
- **Australia** and **India** have agreed to accelerate a broader economic partnership and to boost their **defence ties**.
- The Government of **India** and the **World Bank** have signed an agreement for the **Green National Highway Corridors Project**, with loan assistance of **\$500 million** against total project cost of \$1,288.24 million (Rs 7,662.47 crore).
- **IDFC FIRST Bank** has become the official banking partner of the **Mumbai Indians**.
- The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Central Bank of United Arab Emirates** for promoting innovation in financial product and services.
- The **Ministry of Steel** has signed 57 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with **27 companies** for specialty steel production under the Production Linked Incentive (**PLI**) Scheme.

- **IDFC First Bank** has announced its collaboration with the Swedish company **Crunchfish** to launch a pilot project to demonstrate **offline retail payments**.

Meet/Visit

- A Ministerial Meeting on **South-South Cooperation** has been held during LDC5 with an aim to explore concrete, innovative and actionable solutions in support of the deliverables of the DPoA.
 - The Meeting is organized by **OHRLLS**, the State of Qatar (host country) and **Malawi** (Chair of LDCs) in collaboration with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.
- The **B20 Conference**, held in Gangtok, **Sikkim** under India's G20 presidency, focused on exploring business opportunities in tourism, hospitality, pharmaceuticals, and organic farming.
- The National Security Advisers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (**SCO**) will convene in **New Delhi**, with **China** and **Pakistan** expected to attend virtually.

Fund

- The **Centre** and the **World Bank** have signed **two** complementary loans of **\$500 million** each to support and enhance the country's **health sector** development.

Economy

- **Moody's** now expects **India's** real **GDP** growth to be **5.5%** in 2023, up from the earlier projection of 5%, and to be 6.5% in 2024.
- **India's** gross domestic product (**GDP**) growth rate fell for the second straight quarter in the October-December period, coming in at **4.4 percent**, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation said.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has unveiled **Rs 1,18,500 crore budget** for **Jammu & Kashmir** Union Territory for the next financial year.
- India's Wholesale price index (**WPI**)-based **inflation** eased below the **4 per cent**-mark in **February** and was recorded at 3.85 per cent, data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry showed.
- **India's retail inflation** for **February** slows down to **6.44 percent** as against 6.52 percent in January 2023, according to data published by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on March 13.
- **CRISIL** expects **India's** gross domestic product (**GDP**) growth to touch **6%** in fiscal 2024, compared with 7% estimated by the National Statistics Office (NSO) for fiscal 2023.
- The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (**OECD**) has increased its **growth** projection for India by 20 basis points to **5.9%** for the fiscal year 2024.
 - The report also predicts that India's GDP will grow by **6.9%** in the fiscal year **2023**, and around 7% in the following fiscal year, despite tighter financial conditions.
- The Employees' Provident Fund Organization (**EPFO**) has **increased** the **interest rate** on employees' provident fund (**EPF**) deposits for the financial year 2022-23.
 - At its meeting, the retirement fund body has fixed the interest rate at **8.15 per cent**.
- **S&P Global Ratings** has maintained its earlier projection for **India's economic growth rate** at **6%** in the fiscal year starting from April 1, with a further increase to 6.9% in the following year.

Companies/Industry

- A 300-acre plot adjacent to **Bengaluru's international airport** has been agreed upon by **Foxconn**, a Taiwanese company that assembles iPhones, as the location for its largest technology manufacturing campus in India.
- **Reliance Life Sciences Pvt Ltd** has received a licence from the **Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur** for a **gene therapy** method that has the potential to treat a variety of genetic eye ailments.

- Indian commercial vehicle manufacturer, **Ashok Leyland**, has launched an “**All Women Production Line**” with 100 per cent female employees at its Hosur plant in **Tamil Nadu**.
- **Pfizer** is spending about **\$43 billion** to acquire **Seagen** to reach deeper into new **cancer treatments** that target tumor cells while sparing surrounding healthy tissue.
- **IDFC Mutual Fund** has rebranded itself as **Bandhan Mutual Fund**.
- Competition Commission of India said that it has cleared **Reliance Industries Ltd's** Rs 2,850 crore acquisition of the Indian business of **German** retailer **Metro AG**.
- **Microsoft** strikes a deal to make **Xbox PC video games** available on the **Boosteroid** cloud gaming platform.
- **Svaya Robotics**, a Hyderabad-based company, has partnered with two **DRDO labs**, the Research and Development Establishment in Pune (**R&DE**) and Defence Bio-engineering & Electro Medical Laboratory in Bengaluru (**DEBEL**), to create India's first **quadruped robot** and wearable exo-skeleton.
- **First-Citizens Bank** and Trust Company has entered a purchase and assumption agreement with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) to acquire recently failed **Silicon Valley Bridge Bank** in the **United States**.
- **ICICI Lombard General Insurance** has introduced an industry-first feature for health insurance policyholders called ‘**Anywhere Cashless**’.
- **SJVN Ltd**, a state-owned company, has secured Rs 915 crore in ‘**GREEN**’ financing from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (**JBIC**) to support its 90 MW Omkareshwar floating **solar project** in **Madhya Pradesh** and 100 MW Raghanesda solar project in **Gujarat**.

Taxation/Trade

- The gross goods and service tax (**GST**) **revenue** collection in the month of **February** 2023 stood at **Rs 1,49,577 crore**, up around 12% on an annual basis.

Space

- The CE-20 cryogenic engine, which will power the nation's rocket for the third moon mission, **Chandrayaan-3**, had a flight acceptance hot test that was successfully completed, according to the Indian Space Research Organization (**ISRO**). The **LVM3-M4 rocket's** cryogenic upper stage will be powered by the CE-20 cryogenic engine, according to the space agency.
- **SpaceX** launched NASA's **Crew-6 mission** to orbit en route to the International Space Station, with a Russian cosmonaut and United Arab Emirates astronaut joining two NASA crewmates for the flight.
- **SpaceX** launched a **Falcon 9** rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station with 40 more internet satellites for rival OneWeb, followed by the landing of the rocket's first stage booster back at the Florida spaceport.
- The Indian Space Research Organization (**ISRO**) successfully launched its heaviest rocket, **LVM3**, for the sixth consecutive time from the Sriharikota spaceport. The rocket successfully placed 36 satellites belonging to the UK-based OneWeb group company into their intended orbits.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**) is preparing **four individuals** to live on **Mars**.

Science and Technology

- Researchers trying to uncover the secrets of **Earth's geology** have revealed the **fifth layer** of the planet. The fifth layer is made of iron and nickel.
- A team of scientists from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (**ICAR**) has discovered a new species of **Moray Eel fish** from the Cuddalore coast in **Tamil Nadu**.
 - The new species has been named “**Gymnothorax Tamilnaduensis**”.

Health/Diseases/Drugs

- **POTS** or postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome has affected around three million Americans before Covid-19 and at least one million new patients after the pandemic.

Environment

- **Indonesia's Mount Merapi**, one of the world's most active volcanoes, erupted, spewing out smoke and ash that covered villages near the crater.
- An earthquake of 7.1 magnitude struck the **New Zealand's Kermadec Islands** region, the US Geological Survey (USGS) said.

Education

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced that **two Australian universities Wollongong and Deakin** are set to establish campuses in **Gujarat's 'GIFT City'**.

Transport/Cars/Scooters

- **Air India**, owned by the Tata group, will discontinue the **Vistara brand** on completion of its merger with Tata SIA Airlines Ltd.
 - Tata Group owns a 51 per cent stake and Singapore Airlines the rest in Vistara.
- The first **methanol-powered buses** in **Bengaluru** were unveiled by Union Minister for Road and Transport, Nitin Gadkari.
- The first **bullet train in India** will begin service in **August 2026**.
 - The Indian railway is building the country's first bullet train from Ahmedabad, **Gujarat** to Mumbai, **Maharashtra** over 508-kilometer route.
- **Indian Railways** has set a target of becoming a '**net-zero carbon emitter**' by **2030**.

Films and Film Festival

- Oscars awards 2023: The 95th Academy Awards (Oscars 2023) have announced that RRR's "**Naatu Naatu**" won **Best Original Song**.
 - The Oscars 2023 was accepted by lyricist Chandrabose and composer Keeravani.
 - The **Elephant Whisperers**, a Netflix documentary short from Kartiki Gonsalves and Guneet Monga, has won the 95th Academy Awards' **Best Documentary Short** award.

Festival

- The **Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela** is organized every year by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) and this year it was held in **New Delhi** from 2nd to 4th March 2023.
 - Theme - "Nutrition, Food and Environmental Protection with Shree Anna".
- The **International Yoga Festival 2023** was held in Rishikesh from 1st March to 7th March 2023.
- **National Youth Parliament Festival** Fourth Edition was held in the Parliament of India in the national Capital, **New Delhi**.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (**MoHFW**) in collaboration with Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (**PMBI**), the implementing agency of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (**PMBJP**) and States and Union Territories is celebrating 5th Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2023 under (**PMBJP**).
 - The 5th Jan Aushadhi Diwas is organized across India based on the theme "Jan Aushadhi - Sasti bhi Acchi bhi".
- **Attukal Pongala** was celebrated with pomp by women in **Kerala** on March 7.
- **Yaoshang**, **Manipur's** version of Holi, which lasts for five days, has begun.
- Connaught Plaza in **Delhi** was host a **Flower Festival** beginning from, March 11.

Appointments/Election (or) Latest who is who?

- **Vishal Sharma** has been named the Chief Executive Officer-Designate (CEO-Designate) of the **Godrej Industries Limited (GIL)-Chemicals Business**.
- Senior Indian Information Service (IIS) officer, **Rajesh Malhotra** has been appointed as the principal director general of the Press Information Bureau (PIB), according to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
 - He will be the principal spokesperson of the government of India. He will replace **Satyendra Prakash**.
- **Bola Tinubu** has been elected as the **Nigeria's** new president.
- **Salhoutuonuo Kruse** and **Hekani Jakhalu** made history by becoming the **first women** candidates to be elected in the **Nagaland** state assembly election.
- **Vietnam** parliament has elects **Vo Van Thuong** as new president.
- Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, **Rashmi Shukla** has been appointed as the Director-General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
- **Jishnu Barua** has become the new chairperson of power regulator Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC).
- **Pramerica Life Insurance Limited** has appointed **Pankaj Gupta** as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.
 - Pankaj Gupta succeeds **Kalpna Sampat**, who was the previous MD & CEO.
- **Tejal Mehta**, an Indian-American woman judge who promised to make a real impact to the community and treat people with compassion, has taken oath as the **first Justice of a district court** in the US state of **Massachusetts**.
- **S.S. Dubey** took charge as the new Controller General of Accounts (CGA).
- **Qatar's** Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani has appointed Foreign Minister **Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani** as the country's new **prime minister**.
- **Manik Saha** took oath as 13th chief minister for the second time as **Tripura Chief Minister** after the BJP clinched a victory in the February 16 Assembly polls.
- **Conrad Kongkal Sangma** was sworn in as the **Meghalaya chief minister** for the second successive term in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- **Savlon** revealed the God of Cricket, **Sachin Tendulkar** as its world's first '**Hand Ambassador**' for its Swasth India Mission.
- **Xi Jinping** began an unprecedented third term as **China's president** after he was endorsed by a unanimous vote.
- **Neiphiu Rio**, the leader of the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP), took the oath of office as the fifth **Chief Minister of Nagaland**.
- **Arun Subramanian**, an attorney, has been appointed as the first Indian American **judge** of the Manhattan Federal District Court in **New York**.
- **Ram Chandra Paudel** has been elected to serve as the new **president of Nepal**.
- **B Gopkumar** has been named the new CEO of renowned fund house **Axis Mutual Fund** by Axis Asset Management Company.
 - **Chandresh Nigam** is replaced by Gopkumar.
- The selection of **Rohit Jawa**, a senior executive of the UK-based parent company Unilever, as Hindustan Unilever Ltd.'s (HUL) new managing director and CEO has been approved by the company's board.
 - **Sanjiv Mehta** will be replaced by Jawa.

- Former Infosys President **Mohit Joshi** has been appointed as the company's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) according to IT services provider **Tech Mahindra**.
 - **Gurnani** will be succeeded by Mohit Joshi.
- The Center has chosen **Siddhartha Mohanty** as the **interim chairman** of the Life Insurance Company of India (LIC).
 - Currently the managing director and CEO of LIC Housing Finance, **Mohanty** will take over as MD of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).
- **Tim Mayopoulos**, the former CEO of Fannie Mae, was appointed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) to lead **Silicon Valley Bank**.
- **Amitava Mukherjee**, NMDC Director (Finance), has been given the additional responsibility of Chairman-Cum-Managing Director.
- The US Senate Committee has announced the appointment of **Eric Garcetti** as the new US **Ambassador to India**.
- **Honeywell International HON** announced that company current president and chief operating officer, **Vimal Kapur**, will succeed **Darius Adamczyk** as the new chief executive officer (CEO), effective Jun 1.
- Climate entrepreneur **Shreya Ghodawat** has been appointed as **India's ambassador** for **She Changes Climate**- a global campaign driving awareness of the crucial role of women in accelerating just climate action.
- **Gianni Infantino** was re-elected as **FIFA president** until 2027 by acclamation.
- **Viacom18** has appointed **MS Dhoni** as its **brand ambassador** to promote digital sports viewing.
- The Indian government has appointed **Deepak Mohanty** as the new chairman of Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), replacing **Supratim Bandyopadhyay** whose term ended in January.
 - Additionally, **Mamta Shankar** has been appointed as the new whole-time member (Economics).
- **Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav** has won the election to become **Nepal's third Vice President**.
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (**BPCL**) announced that **G. Krishnakumar** has taken over as the Chairman and Managing Director of the company.
 - He replaces **Arun Kumar Singh**, who retired as chairman in October 2022.
- **Lalit Kumar Gupta** has been approved as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI).
- The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (**FSIB**) has suggested that **Ashwani Kumar** be appointed as the managing director of **UCO Bank**.
- **Luxor Writing Instruments Pvt Ltd** has appointed renowned cricketer **Virat Kohli** as its latest brand ambassador.
- **Humza Yousaf**, a Pakistani-origin politician, has won the Scottish National Party (**SNP**) leadership contest and is set to become **Scotland's First Minister**, replacing Nicola Sturgeon.
- The New Development Bank (**NDB**), which is also known as the BRICS bank, has announced that former **Brazilian** President **Dilma Vana Rousseff** has been elected as its new President.
 - She replaces **Marcus Troyjo** in the position.
- **Pranav Haridasan** has been appointed as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of **Axis Securities** for the next three years.
 - **B Gopkumar**, who is currently the MD & CEO of Axis Securities, has been transferred to Axis Asset Management Company as MD & CEO.

- NDTV announced to the stock exchanges that **Upendra Kumar Sinha**, the former chairman of Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has been appointed as the non-executive chairperson and independent director of the NDTV board of directors.
 - Additionally, **Dipali Goenka**, the CEO of Welspun India, has also been appointed as an independent director on the NDTV board.
- Lt. **Manmeet Colon**, who is of Indian origin and a Sikh woman officer, has recently taken up the position of **assistant police chief** in the state of Connecticut, becoming the first-ever person of Asian descent to hold the position.
- **Ajay Singh**, the chief of SpiceJet, has become the new President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).
 - He has replaced **Sumant Sinha**.

Resignation/Dismissed/Retired/Quit

- **Tim Paine**, the former captain of the **Australian** test cricket team, has announced his retirement from cricket.

Arrests/Jailed

- **Ales Bialiatski**, a leading defender of human rights in Belarus and a candidate for the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize, was given a 10-year prison term in Minsk, the Capital of **Belarus**.
- The International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an **arrest warrant** for Russian President **Vladimir Putin** over the forced transfer of children to Russia after the Kremlin's invasion of Ukraine.

Deaths

- **Chandrashekhara Dasgupta**, a former Indian diplomat and the Padma Bhushan Awardee (2008), passed away.
- Former Chief Justice of India **A.M. Ahmadi** has passed away.
- Veteran actor-writer-director **Satish Kaushik** has passed away.
- **Sameer Khakhar**, an experienced actor who had worked in theater, television, and movies, has passed away.
- A Malayalam comedy superstar Innocent **Vareed Thekkethala** has passed away.
- The cheetah, named **Sasha**, dies due to kidney ailment in MP's Kuno National Park.

Awards/Honours

- A decade after his retirement, there is news about plans to install a life-size **statue** of **Sachin Tendulkar** inside the iconic **Wankhede stadium** where he played his last game for India.
 - The statue will be unveiled on April 23. It will be the legend's 50th birthday.
- Groupe Speciale Mobile Association (GSMA) has conferred **Government Leadership Award 2023 to India** for implementing best practices in telecom policy and regulation.
- **Sashidhar Jagdishan**, managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of **HDFC Bank**, has been chosen as the **Business Standard Banker of the Year 2022**.
- Indian Grandmaster **D Gukesh** has been honoured with **Player-of-the-Year award** by the Asian Chess Federation (ACF) for clinching the gold medal with a record-breaking score of 9/11 in the 44th Chess Olympiad at Mahabalipuram.
 - The All India Chess Federation (AICF) bagged the '**Most Active Federation**' award conferred during the ACF annual summit.
- **Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry** has received the **Porter Prize 2023**.
 - The theme of the two-day conference was The Indian Economy 2023: Innovation, Competitiveness and Social Progress.

- **Vinod Kumar Shukla** has won the **PEN/Nabokov Award** for Achievement in International Literature for lifetime achievement in literature.
- Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (**BHEL**) has been awarded the Central Board Of Irrigation And Power (**CBIP**) Award 2022 for 'Best Contribution in **Solar Energy**'.
- Tokyo Olympic Games silver-medallist weightlifter **Mirabai Chanu** has bagged the 2022 '**BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year**' award after a public vote.
- **Delhi airport** has been ranked among the **cleanest airports** in Asia-Pacific as a part of the Airport Council International (ACI)'s annual service quality award.
- Civic architect, urban planner and activist, Sir **David Alan Chipperfield** has been selected as the 2023 **Laureate of The Pritzker Architecture Prize**, the award that is regarded internationally as architecture's highest honor.
- Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Dr L. Murugan presented the 8th **National Photography awards** in New Delhi.
 - The **theme** for the Professional category was "Life and Water", while in the Amateur category the theme was "Cultural Heritage of India".
- The **International Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2023** in the categories of "TV/Cinema Commercials International and Country International" were won by the **Indian Ministry of Tourism** and Government of India, respectively.
- Pagalkhana, a 2018 satirical novel by renowned Hindi author **Dr. Gyan Chaturvedi**, has been chosen for the 32nd **Vyas Samman**.
- **Skytrax**, a UK-based consultancy, awards airports worldwide with the prestigious World Airport Awards based on customer surveys.
 - **Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA)** has been declared the **best airport** in the **South Asian region**.
- **Shaktikanta Das**, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, has been honored with the title "**Governor of the Year**" for 2023 by Central Banking, an international economic research journal.
- The Indian Navy's top gunnery school, **INS Dronacharya**, will be presented with the **President's Colour** in honor of its outstanding services.
- The **KK Birla Foundation** has announced that Tamil writer **Sivasankari** will be the recipient of the prestigious **Saraswati Samman** award for the year 2022, for her 2019 memoir, **Surya Vamsam**.
- The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying announced that the fourth phase of the **Sagar Parikrama** program began on March 18 and concluded on March 19.
 - During the program, progressive fishermen were recognized for their achievements related to various schemes.
- The highest civilian honor in Kerala, the "**Kerala Jyothi**," was awarded to the writer **M T Vasudevan Nair**.
 - The second-highest award, "**Kerala Prabha**," was shared by actor **Mammootty**, former civil service officer **T Madhava Menon**, and writer **Omchery NN Pillai**.
- **Tapoban**, an NGO based in Pathsala, **Assam**, which focuses on supporting children with special needs and autism, has been honored with the prestigious **Children's Champion Award 2023** in the health and nutrition category.
- Kashmir's **Aliya Mir** honoured with **Wildlife Conservation Award 2023**.
- The Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (**FOSWAL**) presented a unique literary award to **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** of **Bangladesh** for his trilogy of books, which includes The Unfinished Memoirs, The Prison Diaries, and the New China 1952.

- **Perumal Murugan's** novel 'Pyre', which deals with caste-based discrimination, has been nominated for the 2023 **International Booker Prize** longlist.
- **Naveen Jindal** has been awarded a **lifetime achievement** award by the **University of Texas** at Dallas for his accomplishments in industry, politics, and education.

Sports/Game

- **Manchester United** ended their 6-year trophy drought when they defeated Newcastle United 2-0 to win the **Carabao Cup** in Wembley.
- Tamil Nadu's **Jeswin Aldrin** broke the national record in the **men's long jump** in the second AFI National Jumps Competition.
- India's top triple-jumper **Aishwarya Babu** has been **banned** by the National Anti-Doping Agency's (NADA) disciplinary panel for four years for using a prohibited anabolic steroid.
- **Karnataka** ended their 54-year wait to win the **Santosh Trophy** national football championship, beating Meghalaya in a pulsating final at the King Fahd International Stadium in the **Saudi Arabia capital**.
- **Max Verstappen** won the season-opening **Bahrain Grand Prix** from pole position.
- The **Indira Gandhi Sports Complex** in New Delhi will host the **IBA Women's World Boxing Championship 2023** from March 15-26.
 - **Mahindra** has been named the **title sponsor** of this competition, while **MC Mary Kom** and Bollywood actor **Farhan Akhtar** have been named as **brand ambassadors**.
- **Royal Challengers Bangalore** (RCB) partnering with **Equitas Small Finance Bank** as their banking partner for the IPL 2023 season.
- Team **Rest of India** secured their 30th title win in the final of the **Irani Cup 2022/23**.
 - They defeated **Madhya Pradesh** by 238 runs.
 - **Yashasvi Jaiswal** was adjudged the Player of the Match.
- **Sampanna Ramesh Shelar**, a Bachelor of Physical Education student, has set a new record by becoming the fastest Indian in the under-21 category to swim **across the Palk Strait**, from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka to Dhanuskodi in Tamil Nadu.
- In the Women's Premier League (**WPL**) 2023 final, held at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai, the **Mumbai Indians** won against the Delhi Capitals by seven wickets.
- **India** emerged as a dominant force at the 13th edition of the **IBA Women's World Boxing Championship 2023**, held in New Delhi.
 - The event concluded with **four** Indian female boxers securing **gold** medals in different weight categories.
- **Herbalife**, a leading global nutrition company, has teamed up with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (**BCCI**) to become an official partner of the **TATA Indian Premier League (IPL)** for the 2023 season.
- **Shakib Al Hasan** has surpassed Tim Southee to become the leading wicket-taker in T20I cricket during the second T20I match against Ireland in Chattogram.

Report

- **India's** purchasing managers' index (**PMI**) **declined** to a 4-month low at **55.3** in February owing to a rise in input costs, according to the S&P Global India Manufacturing PMI report.
 - In **January**, the manufacturing PMI stood at **55.4**.
- **Bank credit growth** slowed down to **16.8%** in the October-December 2022 period from a year earlier, RBI data showed.

- **Elon Musk**, CEO of Tesla, once again overtook the position of **richest person** in the world on February 28, according to a Bloomberg Billionaires Index report.
 - The **second**-placed French business tycoon **Bernard Arnault** has a net worth of \$185 billion.
 - Amazon Executive Chairman **Jeff Bezos** ranks **third** in terms of wealth.
- **Reliance Jio** has climbed up to number **two** rank – up from fifth place last year – in a list of the top 10 strongest **telecom brands** in the world.
 - **Swisscom** is the **strongest** telecoms brand with a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 92.
- Joblessness as measured by the **CMIE All India unemployment** rate remained elevated in February 2023 and **rose** to **7.45%** from 7.14% in the previous month.
- Economic growth and strength are boosted by gender equality, according to the **World Bank's Women, Business and the Law Report 2023**.
 - It increases labour force participation and results in a more effective allocation of resources.
- **Mumbai's** jumped to rank **37** from 92 in a global list of movement in **prices of luxury homes** as the city saw a gain of 6.4 percent during the 2022 calendar year.
 - Property consultant Knight Frank virtually released 'The Wealth Report 2023'.
- As per the National Statistical Office (NSO), **India's** per **capita income** in nominal terms **doubled** to Rs 1,72,000 since 2014-15 when the Narendra Modi-led NDA came to power but uneven income distribution remains a challenge.
- An ILO-UNICEF report on Social Protection for Children said **31 Indian states** have implemented the national '**PM CARES for Children**' scheme launched during the pandemic.
- **Rudraprayag** and **Tehri** the two districts in **Uttarakhand** are facing the highest risk of **landslides**, according to satellite data collected over the past two decades.
 - Data collected by the Indian Space Research Organization (**ISRO**).
- **Knight Frank**, a global real estate consultancy, released its **Wealth Report 2023**.
 - Among Indian respondents, the consultant said **88 per cent** saw a rise in UHNWI's (ultra-high-net-worth individuals) wealth in 2022.
- According to the '**Global Air Quality**' study published by the Swiss company IQAir, **India** fell from the fifth to the **eighth** most polluted nation in the world in 2022.
 - The two Indian cities that made the list of the **most polluted cities** in the world are **Bhiwadi**, which is a suburb of Delhi, and **Delhi**.
- **India** is still the **world's largest importer** of **military equipment**, despite an 11% decline in arms purchases between 2013-17 and 2018-22, according to a study by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (**Sipri**).
- Recently, at the United Nations Least Developed Countries (**LDC**) **Summit** that concluded on March 9 in Doha, **Qatar**.
 - **Bhutan** will no longer be on the list of LDCs and will become only the seventh country to graduate from the list.
- According to the data shared by the Ministry of Education, **Bihar** (61.8 %) has the **lowest** literacy, followed by **Arunachal Pradesh** (65.3 %) and **Rajasthan** (66.1 %).
 - **Kerala** has the **highest** literacy rate in India at 94%, followed by **Lakshadweep** at 91.85% and **Mizoram** at 91.33%.
- **India's Mayurbhanj** and **Ladakh**, which have been chosen for their **endangered tigers** and **historic temples**, are two of the 50 locations which are featured in the **TIME Magazine's** list of **World's Greatest Places** in 2023.
- **Afghanistan** remains the country most impacted by **terrorism** for the fourth consecutive year, the tenth Global Terrorism Index (GTI) report showed.
 - **India** ranked **13th** on the index.

- According to Nitin Gadkari, India's Union Road Transport and Highways Minister, the **country's highways infrastructure** will be at par with that of the **United States** by **2024**.
- According to the latest update from the **Passport Index**, **India's** ranking has fallen by six places in 2023, resulting in an individual ranking of **144** compared to 138 in 2022.

General - National

- **India's** Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**) is shortly to be connected to comparable networks in **Indonesia**, **Mauritius**, and the **United Arab Emirates** (UAE).
- The '**Catch the Rain 2023**' campaign was introduced by President Droupadi Murmu in **New Delhi**.
 - The campaign's central idea is the sustainability of **drinking water** sources.
- Steel and Mines Minister Prafulla Kumar Mallik has informed the state Assembly that **Gold deposits** have been found at different locations in **three** districts of **Odisha**, including Deogarh, Keonjhar, and Mayurbhanj.
- In a major move, a select group of **central government employees** have been given a **one-time option** to opt for old pension scheme, according to a Personnel Ministry order.
- The government e-Marketplace (**GeM**) held a celebration to celebrate "**SWAYATT**," a programme to support start-ups, women, and youth advantage through e-Transactions on GeM, which has been a major **success**.
- The "**Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023**", organized by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti** to honour the women champions of rural water and sanitation sector, was graced by the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu.
 - **36 women WASH Champions** were conferred with the '**Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023**'.
- **Finance Ministry** has tweaked the anti-money laundering law by bringing **cryptocurrencies** and other virtual digital assets **trade** under its ambit.
- The celebration of **Yoga Mahotsav 2023** marks the official beginning of the 100-day countdown to International Yoga Day 2023.
- Atal Innovation Mission is establishing **Atal Tinkering Laboratories** (ATLs) in schools across India to foster curiosity, creativity, and imagination in young minds.
 - ATL Sarthi is one such initiative in this direction.
- **AAHAR 2023**: Asia's biggest International Food and Hospitality Fair begins in **Delhi**.
- To encourage micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (**MSMEs**) to adopt particular manufacturing practices, the Indian central government introduced a **revamped** version of the **MSME Competitive (LEAN) Programme**.
- The **Union home ministry** has announced a **10 per cent reservation** for **former Agniveers** in vacancies in the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), just after taking a similar initiative for jobs for them in the BSF.
- Government, **Ministry of Textiles**, has issued a notification to set up **7 Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks** with a total outlay of Rs. 4,445 crore.
- As part of the 'Drowning Prevention Awareness' campaign, Indian Police Service (IPS) officer **Krishna Prakash** swam from **Gateway of India to Elephanta Caves**, Mumbai.
- The government increased the **maximum age** for Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority's (**PFRDA**) **ombudsman** from 65 to **70 years**.
- The Central Government has launched a program called the National Rabies Control Programme (**NRCP**), which seeks to prevent and manage cases of **Rabies**.

General - International

- Inspectors from the **United Nations** nuclear watchdog found **uranium** particles enriched up to 83.7% in **Iran's** underground Fordo nuclear site.
- **Japan, the United States, South Korea and Taiwan** have held the first meeting of senior officials under a new U.S.-led framework to help ensure a stable **supply of semiconductors**.
 - Officials from industry organizations in the four economies took part in the virtual conference of the "**Chip 4**" alliance on Feb 16.
- After months of intensive talks, the **United Kingdom and European Union** have unveiled an agreement on the **Northern Ireland Protocol**, called the **Windsor Framework**.
- The United Nations (UN) inked the first '**High Seas Treaty**' in a bid to protect the ocean bodies of the world that lie outside the national boundaries and form almost two-thirds of the world's oceans.
- **Indonesia** is all set to move its capital from Jakarta to **Borneo** over environmental issues such as being congested, sinking into seawater, and being prone to earthquakes.
- **Colombia** has opened **military service to women** for the first time in 25 years.
- Startup-focused lender **Silicon Valley Bank Financial Group** became the largest bank to **fail** since the 2008 financial crisis, in a sudden collapse that roiled global markets, left billions of dollars belonging to companies and investors stranded.
- **Denmark** inaugurates a project to **store carbon dioxide** 1,800 metres beneath the North Sea, the first country in the world to bury CO2 imported from abroad.
- A bipartisan resolution was passed by the **US**, formally recognizing the **McMahon Line** as the **international boundary** between China and India's Arunachal Pradesh.
- A recent study conducted by researchers from the **World Bank**, Harvard Kennedy School, AidData, and the Kiel Institute for the World Economy has revealed that **China** spent approximately **\$240 billion** from 2008 to 2021 bailing out 22 developing countries that had difficulty repaying loans taken for **Belt and Road infrastructure projects**.
- The **Saudi Arabian** government has taken a significant step towards joining the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (**SCO**), a regional alliance dominated by China and Russia.
- The northwestern Kagera region of **Tanzania** has been declared an **epidemic zone** by the country's leaders after five people died and three others were diagnosed with **Marburg viral disease (MVD)** at a local hospital.

Books and Authors

Book's Name

- India's Vaccine Growth Story – From Cowpox to Vaccine Maitri
- As Good as My Word
- Mundaka Upanishad: The Gateway to Eternity
- India's Struggle for Independence – Gandhian Era
- Bipin: The Man Behind the Uniform
- Snakes In the Ganga: Breaking India 2.0
- Phoolange

Author's Name

- Shri Sajjan Singh Yadav
- KM Chandrasekhar
- former MP Dr. Karan Singh
- P. Jyothimani
- Rachna Biswat Rawat
- Shri Rajiv Malhotra and Mrs. Vijaya Viswanathan
- Lekhnath Chhetri

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TO THE POINTS: MARCH-2023

- Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company Limited has launched 'ReAssure 2.0,' which includes many industry-first features. The age limit for this scheme is **18 years to 65 years**.
- **World Bank** has provided USD 1.78 billion in assistance to Turkey to help with relief and recovery efforts after devastating earthquakes in Turkey and neighbouring Syria.
- With the completion of the electrification of the Subhagpur-Pachperwa Broad Gauge (BG) route in North Eastern Railway, Indian Railways has completed the electrification of all BG routes in **Uttar Pradesh**.
- The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has recently removed the clause that people beyond **65** years could not receive cadaver organ transplants.
- The "Chip 4" or "Fab 4" alliance includes four of the world's top producers of semiconductors.
- **Uttar Pradesh** government and the Singapore Ministry of Trade and Industry have now jointly signed an Agreement for economic cooperation for the first time.
- **Kerala** became the first State in India to use a robotic scavenger named "Bandicoot" to clean manholes.
- **IREDA** has planning to establish an office in Gujarat's GIFT City to finance Renewable Energy projects in foreign currency.
- **RRR** film has achieved five awards at the Hollywood Critics Association Awards ceremony 2023 in Los Angeles, California.
- Birdwatchers across 35 States and Union Territories uploaded more than 46,000 bird lists, making India take the second spot after the United States of America. **Kerala** has recorded the highest number of checklists of birds.
- IFC-IOR signed an MoU with Regional Coordination Operations Centre (RCOC), **Seychelles**, to further the existing cooperation in the realm of maritime safety and security.
- **West Bengal** is top among large state categories on the second edition of the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Index 2022.
- **Rajan Amba** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of Jaguar Land Rover India.
- **K Govindaraj** has been nominated as the Asia President of the FIBA (Fédération Internationale de Basketball).
- The Indian Navy has launched the first Missile cum Ammunition (MCA) Barge, Yard 75 (LSAM 7) in **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**.
- Former President Pratibha Patil's husband Devisingh Ransingh Shekhawat passed away at the age of 89. He served as the first gentleman of India in **2007-2012**.
- Every year, Zero discrimination day has been celebrated on **01 March**.
- Every year, World Civil Defence Day has been celebrated on **01 March**.
- **PFRDA** has recently reduced the timeline for withdrawal from NPS subscribers for processing partial withdrawal requests from 4 working days (T+4) to 2 working days (T+2) across all CRAs.
- **IDFC Mutual Fund** is set to launch India's first International Debt Fund.
- **Bank of Maharashtra** has partnered with Experian India for credit portfolio management.
- Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank) and **RBL Bank** have entered into an agreement under the Trade Assistance Programme (TAP) to support cross-border trade transactions.

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has notified Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Second Amendment Regulations, 2023. These standards will be enforced on **01 September 2023**.
- India's 94.5 crore voters (**60%**) have their Aadhaar numbers linked to their voter IDs, according to the Election Commission (EC) report.
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has decreased its shareholding from 5.433% to **3.362%** of the paid-up capital.
- **Bangladesh** has signed an agreement with the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to increase the use of solar energy in the country.
- **31st** edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF) has been organized at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, India.
- Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai has confirmed the construction of India's first Marina which will be constructed at Byndoor in the **Udupi** district of Karnataka.
- **Amazon** has announced that it will join the Indian government's ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) platform.
- According to the latest Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade data, Foreign direct investment (FDI) into India declined by **15 per cent** during the April-December this fiscal.
- President **Droupadi Murmu** has presented the Sangeet Natak Akademi awards and fellowships for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021.
- **BEL** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Cisco and the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), DRDO.
- **Kerala** has entered into an agreement with UN Women, boosting women-friendly activities in the State's tourism sector.
- Mental health initiative **Mpower** from the Aditya Birla Education Trust has signed an MoU with NIMHANS to support the implementation of Tele MANAS in India.
- **IIT Madras** has partnered with the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) to develop a urine-based tuberculosis diagnosis or screening.
- The India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA) has inaugurated its three-day mega global seminar 'The Pulses Conclave 2023' in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- **Tata Motors** has signed an agreement with ride-hailing company Uber to supply 25,000 electric vehicles (EVs).
- **Shailesh Pathak** has been appointed as the new Secretary General of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).
- **Ranveer Singh** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the Beverage maker PepsiCo.
- Indian Air Force (IAF) will take part in the multinational exercise Cobra Warrior at the Waddington Air Force Base of the Royal Air Force in **United Kingdom**.
- Under Operation **Sadbhavna Programme**, Indian Air Force (IAF) has arranged 3 flights to evacuate stranded passengers from Jammu to Leh and Chandigarh to Thoise in Nubra.
- **Russia** space agency has successfully launched the Soyuz MS-23 spacecraft to bring back 3 astronauts stranded on the International Space Station (ISS) following a leak in the cooling system in their Soyuz capsule.
- **RBI** has tightened norms for Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) on income recognizing fees.
- **Bharti AXA Life Insurance** has announced its bancassurance partnership with Unity Small Finance Bank (Unity Bank) for the distribution of life insurance products through the Bank's network.

- The State Bank of India (SBI) launched a new retail term deposit scheme called Amrit Kalash Deposit. Total tenure of the deposit scheme is **400 days**.
- Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI) has launched a new-age savings solution **ABSLI Nishchit Aayush Plan**.
- **IMF** has laid out a nine-point action plan for crypto assets.
- The President Droupadi Murmu has formally inaugurated the 14th edition of Sanskriti Mahotsav in **Bikaner, Rajasthan**.
- Union Government planning to construct **10** "Clean Plant Centers" in order to boost domestic production.
- **Ministry of Home Affairs** has approved the renaming of Aurangabad city as "Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar" and Osmanabad city as "Dharashiv".
- Giorgia Meloni will be the Chief Guest and keynote speaker at the 8th Raisina Dialogue to be held in March 2023. Giorgia Meloni is the Prime Minister of **Italy**.
- **Japan** has provided loans worth Rs 2,288 crore for 2 projects in India.
- **Irinjadappilly Sri Krishna Temple** in Kerala for the first time used a 'robotic elephant' for performing rituals.
- **Nicola Fox** has been appointed as the first woman Science Directorate of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
- **Hari Balakrishnan** has been awarded the 2023 Marconi Prize.
- By the end of 2023, the Civil Aviation Research Organization (CARO), a facility with advanced simulators being established in **Hyderabad, Telangana**, will be fully operational.
- **Ministry of Rural Development** has signed an MoU with Meesho to drive digital inclusion of all women registered under State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLMs) and enable them to sell online.
- Australia won the ICC Women's Twenty20 World Cup 2023 title. Australia has lifted the ICC Women's Twenty20 World Cup trophy for the **6th** time.
- LeBron James has been seen in the news. He relate to **Basketball**.
- **R. Kaushik and R. Sridhar** is the author of the new book titled "COACHING BEYOND: My Days with the Indian Cricket Team" recently released.
- The 'World Book Fair' has been organized at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. **France** has been designated as the Guest of Honor country at the World Book Fair.
- Every year, World Wildlife day has been celebrated on **3 March**.
- **NSE** gets SEBI approval to launch WTI crude oil & natural gas futures contracts.
- **ADB** has provided Rs 1,311.20 crore to strengthen tourism infrastructure in Himachal Pradesh.
- **ESAF Small Finance Bank** and V-Guard Industries signed an agreement to provide financing options to customers looking to install solar rooftop power systems.
- **Angel Broking Limited** has received in-principle approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for sponsoring a mutual fund.
- According to the latest annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), India's unemployment rate dropped to a five-year low in July-June 2021-22 to **4.1 per cent**.
- **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** has released the Revised Guidelines on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)-2023.

- NITI Aayog and **UNDP** have host a hackathon with young people from across the world to contribute ideas and innovations to promote sustainable living and climate-positive behaviour as part of the Government of India's Mission LiFE.
- A new security mechanism has been launched by UIDAI for Aadhaar-based fingerprint authentication and faster detection of spoofing attempts. Aadhar users are required to update their Aadhaar card details once every **10** year.
- **Essar Group** has announced a fresh investment of \$3.6 billion in setting up an Essar Energy Transition (EET) to spearhead green energy transition projects in the UK and India.
- **JP Morgan** Company has proposed a new Asia credit index with lower China weighting.
- **APEDA** has partnered with Lulu Group to promote millets in GCC countries.
- **India** hosted the first meeting of the Governing Board of BIMSTEC Energy Centre (BEC).
- **Uttarakhand** will set up India's first government 'Mother Milk Bank' in the state.
- **Rajesh Malhotra** has been appointed as the principal director general of the Press Information Bureau (PIB).
- Just Fontaine passed away at the age of 86. He relate to **Football**.
- Every year, National Safety Day 2023 is celebrated on March 4th. This year (2023) marks the **51st** National Safety Day.
- **IDFC FIRST Bank** and Federal Bank have partnered with the association of microfinance institutions (MFIs) Sa-Dhan and Delhi-based fintech solutions provider NextGen to encourage feature phone users to use UPI123Pay to make digital payments.
- The RBI has imposed a penalty of over ₹ 3.06 crore on **Amazon Pay India** for non-compliance with certain provisions related to Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) and Know Your Customer (KYC) direction.
- New India Assurance became the second company to offer surety insurance bonds. **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** is the first company to offer surety insurance bonds.
- The government has approved the procurement from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) at a cost of over 6,828 crore rupees. **70** HTT-40 Basic Trainer Aircraft will be supplied over six years.
- The government has collected more than **1.49 lakh** crore rupees in GST revenue in February 2023.
- Indian automaker Tata Motors has launched its first vehicle scrapping facility in **Jaipur, Rajasthan**.
- **Vinod Kumar Shukla** has won the PEN America award for lifetime achievement in literature.
- **India** has won the award for implementing best practices in telecom policy and regulation.
- As per the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) report, **Karnataka** has topped in adopting clean energy transition.
- According to the UK-based Brand Finance report, Reliance Jio got **2nd** place in a list of the top 10 strongest telecom brands in the world.
- **Tamil Nadu** signed an MoU with UNEP for implementing the urban cooling program.
- **D Gukesh** has been honored with the Player-of-the-Year award by the Asian Chess Federation (ACF) for clinching the gold medal in the 44th Chess Olympiad at Mahabalipuram 2022.
- The first meeting of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) meeting has organized in **Gurugram, Haryana**.
- Jishnu Barua has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC). He was the former Chief Secretary of **Assam**.

- A Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Ms. Rashmi Shukla has been appointed as the Director-General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). She replaces **Anish Dayal Singh**.
- **Axis Bank** has completed the acquisition of Citibank's India consumer business and non-banking financial company (NBFC) consumer business.
- **Softbank** has sold 3.85% of its stake in Gurgaon- based logistics firm Delhivery for Rs 954 crore through open market transactions.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in Exercise "Shinyuu Maitri" with the **Japan** Air Self-Defence Force (JASDF).
- Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Aziz Mushabber Ahmadi passed away at the age of 90 in New Delhi, India. He was appointed as the **26th** Chief Justice of India (1994-1997).
- **HDFC Bank** has partnered with IRCTC to launch one of India's most rewarding co-branded travel credit cards.
- RBI has imposed a Rs 5,000 cap on withdrawals by individual customers from **Musiri Urban Co-operative Bank**.
- **Himachal Pradesh** has launched UPI (Unified Payments Interface) and 'Swadhan-e-pension-Gov' services for Kangra Central Cooperative Bank.
- **SIDBI** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Show Reel for developing an online digital platform to support innovators & promote Entrepreneurship in India.
- 7th International Dharma-Dhamma Conference inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.
- **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare** has received the Porter Prize 2023.
- The Ministry of Education (MoE) is set to launch a self-assessment platform for Indian students. SATHEE is a new initiative by the Ministry of Education in association with **IIT Kanpur**.
- Reliance Industries Limited is foraying into the business of commercial property development and has set up a subsidiary called **Reliance SOU Limited**.
- **Australia** and India signed a 'Framework Mechanism for Mutual Recognition of Qualifications' that will help ease the mobility of students and professionals between the two countries.
- **Va Tech Wabag Limited** (Wabag) has been ranked among the top three water companies globally by Global Water Intelligence (GWI), London.
- **UK** and European Union have agreed upon the 'Windsor Framework'.
- Gold mines been found at different places in 3 districts in **Odisha**.
- **Vo Van Thuong** has been appointed as the new President of Vietnam.
- Bola Tinubu has been elected as the new President of **Nigeria**.
- **Ramesh Singh Arora** has been appointed as the Ambassador-at-Large for Kartarpur Corridor as part of efforts to attract Sikh pilgrims from across the world.
- **Karnataka Bank** has appointed Abhishek Sankar Bagchi as its Chief Financial Officer (CFO).
- Craig Fulton has been appointed as the new Chief Coach of the Men's National Hockey Team of India. He belongs to **South Africa**.
- Sayantan Das became India's 81st Chess Grandmaster as well as the **11th** player from West Bengal to bag the honour after he crossed the 2500-mark in live ratings.
- A former Indian diplomat **Chandrashekhar Dasgupta** has passed away at the age of 82.
- The Governor of the RBI Shri Shaktikanta Das has launched the Mission **Har Payment Digital** on the occasion of Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW) 2023.

- **15** stock brokers have been designated as Qualified Stock Brokers (QSBs) by the National Stock Exchange (NSE).
- **Max Life Insurance** and Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB) have launched cooperation to provide Ujjivan SFB customers with holistic life insurance options.
- The ministry of ports, shipping and waterways has sanctioned **7** floating jetty projects situated on Gurupura River and Netravati River in Karnataka.
- The World's first **200** meter-long Bamboo Crash Barrier has been installed on Vani-Warora Highway.
- Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy R K Singh has recently launched the Voluntary Star Labelling Programme and **iDEEKSHA** portal.
- President Droupadi Murmu has launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan – Catch the Rain 2023 campaign for the sustainability of drinking water in New Delhi. Theme - **Source Sustainability for Drinking Water**.
- The Union Minister Parshottam Rupala inaugurated Camel Product Processing Utilization & Training Wing at ICAR-National Research Centre on Camel in **Bikaner, Rajasthan**.
- India got **108th** place in the Electoral Democracy Index of the V-dem Democracy report 2023.
- **NTPC** has received the CBIP Award 2022 for 'Outstanding Contribution in Power Generation'.
- First 'High Sea Treaty' has been signed by United Nations. The UN High Seas Treaty will now protect 30% of the world's oceans by **2030**.
- **UAE** has announced the world's first free zone dedicated to digital and virtual asset companies.
- **Madhya Pradesh** launched a unique scheme namely Mukhyamantri Ladli Bahna Yojana.
- The Group 20 (G20) delegates visited the Sultanpur National Park. Sultanpur National Park located in **Haryana**.
- A 5-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court (SC) ruled that Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs) should be appointed by the President on the advice of a committee.
- **INS Trikand** has participated in the International Maritime Exercise/ Cutlass Express 2023 (IMX/CE-23) held in the Gulf region.
- **8** aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) landed at a Royal Saudi Air Force base heralding a new chapter in the defence relationship between the two countries.
- **IIM Kashipur** has helped facilitate Rs 5 crore funding for 15 agri start-ups at its 7th edition of Uttishtha 2023 annual entrepreneurship summit.
- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has successfully conducted the flight acceptance hot test of the **CE-20 cryogenic engine**.
- **Karnataka** defeated Meghalaya by 3-2 to win the Santosh Trophy after 54 years.
- **Sajjan Singh Yadav** is the author of the book titled 'India's Vaccine Growth Story – From Cowpox to Vaccine Maitri' recently released.
- Satyabrata Mookherjee passed away at the age of 90. He was a renowned **Politician**.
- Every year, International Women's Day 2023 has been celebrated on **8 March**.
- National No Smoking Day, is held every second Wednesday of March. This year it was **March 8, 2023**.
- **CBDT** has granted tax exemption to certain specified incomes of the insolvency regulator Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) for 5 financial years.

- **EIB** and Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) Limited are exploring a partnership on the financing of renewable energy and green hydrogen projects in India.
- **World Bank** has signed two complementary loans worth \$1 billion to support and improve public healthcare infrastructure in India.
- **Punjab National Bank** makes Positive Pay System mandatory for cheque payments worth Rs 5 lakh and above.
- The Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has inaugurated the Hydrogen-based advanced Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) in **New Delhi**.
- Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Renuka Singh Saruta inaugurated the Mara Tribal Girls' Hostel in **Mizoram**.
- The Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has released a unique cover of the Department of Posts, 'Go Green, Go Organic' for **Sikkim**.
- Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik unveiled former CM Biju Patnaik's iconic **Dakota** aircraft for public display at Biju Patnaik International Airport Bhubaneswar.
- **BSE** and UN Women India have launched a new programme, 'FinEMPOWER'.
- **Ministry of Rural Development** has extended its MoU with NIFT for providing design support for the products made by Self Help Groups of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission.
- India and **Mexico** sign an agreement on research, technology and innovation cooperation in New Delhi.
- **NCERT** has signed an MoU with National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) to strengthen value-based sports education amongst school children and teachers.
- Neiphiu Rio was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Nagaland for the **5th** time.
- **Conrad K Sagma** took oath as the Chief Minister of Meghalaya for the second consecutive term.
- **Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf al-Sabah** has been re-appointed as the Prime Minister of Kuwait.
- The maiden Joint Military Exercise "FRINJEX-23" between Indian Army and French Army was held in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**.
- A Russian submarine in the Sea of Japan has hit a land target over 1,000 kilometres (621 miles) away with a **Kalibr** cruise missile in a drill.
- The Indian Navy has received for the first time a fully indigenized fuze **YDB-60** for underwater Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Rocket RGB (Rocket Guided Bomb).
- **Max Verstappen** has won the 2023 Bahrain Grand Prix.
- A World renowned Indian classical dancer & Mohiniyattam exponent **Kanak Y. Rele** passed away at the age of 85.
- **City Union Bank** has partnered 42 Card Solutions to launch its first-ever credit card service.
- **Kotak Mutual Fund** has launched a digital campaign named 'DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality'.
- India recently proposed to launch International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) to protect big cats and assured support over five years with guaranteed funding of **\$100 million**.
- **Manipur** has recently celebrated Yaoshang festival.
- **Uttar Pradesh** has exempted Electric Vehicles buyers in the state from tax, and registration fees.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has declared Tehsil Mauganj of Rewa district as the **53rd** district of Madhya Pradesh.

- Attukal Bhagavathy Temple was seen in the news. Attukal Bhagavathy Temple located in **Kerala**.
- **Sipra Das** has been with Lifetime Achievement award at the 8th National Photography Award ceremony.
- **Indira Gandhi International airport** has won the award for Air Service Quality (ASQ) best airport for 2022 in the category of more than 40 million passengers per annum (MPPA).
- **Shalija Dhani** became the first woman officer of the IAF to be given command of a frontline combat unit.
- S S Dubey took charge as the **28th** Controller General of Accounts (CGA).
- Sallhoutuono became the first woman to be sworn in as a minister in **Nagaland** history.
- **Arun Subramanian** became the first Indian American to become the Judge of the Manhattan Federal District Court of New York.
- **Reliance Industries** has appointed Mr Hitesh Sethia, as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of its newly created financial services unit.
- **Slice** has invested \$3.42 million to acquire a 5% equity stake in Guwahati-based North East Small Finance Bank.
- The Indian Navy carried out a successful test-firing of a Medium Range Surface Air Missile (MRSAM) from frontline warship **INS Visakhapatnam**.
- **China** has launched Zhongxing-26, a communications satellite into geosynchronous transfer orbit (GTO).
- CISF Raising Day is celebrated every year on 10th March. India celebrated the **54th** anniversary of CISF (Central Industrial Security Force) Raising Day on March 10, 2023.
- **Bajaj Finserv** has received the final registration from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to start its mutual fund (MF) business operations.
- **Axis Bank** has collaborated with ITC Limited to offer the Bank's lending products and services to farmers who are a part of ITC's agriculture ecosystem.
- **YES Bank** has entered into a co-lending partnership with Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd to offer home loans at competitive interest rates.
- **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** has launched the 'Unpause Initiative', a programme designed to assist women who have taken a career break for any reason and are now ready to return to the workforce.
- According to the latest report by PayNearby in association with RBI Innovation Hub, Insurance penetration among women in rural India remains a concern with only **1%** insured.
- Equitas Small Finance Bank has signed a partnership as the 'Proud Banking Partner' with **Gujarat Titans** for the 2023 season.
- Bandhan Bank has opened its Mega Currency Chest in **West Bengal**.
- Group of 16 countries led by **Vanuatu** launched an effort to fight the problem of climate change at the United Nations.
- **Flipkart** has launched the 'Samarth Krishi' program to provide farming communities and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) with national market access and more negotiation power.
- **Apple** has partnered with Foxconn to invest about \$700 million in a new plant in India to ramp up local production.
- **Sara Ali Khan** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of PepsiCo-owned snack brand Kurkure.

- **Slice** has appointed bollywood actor Kiara Advani as its brand ambassador.
- **Kerala's** Electrical & Allied Engineering Limited has signed an MoU with Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited for the joint research and development of a lightweight bailey bridge with a carbon fibre composite deck.
- **HDFC Bank** has partnered with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC) to launch a co-branded travel credit card.
- According to UNICEF, The number of pregnant women and nursing mothers suffering from under nutrition has increased by **25 percent** in 12 countries since 2020.
- The Ministry of Defence has signed an agreement with **HAL** to procure 70 HTT-40 Basic Trainer Aircraft & 3 Cadet Training Ships from L&T.
- The Indian Railways is collaborating with Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) under the **RTIS project**.
- 140th International Olympic Committee (IOC) is held in **Mumbai, Maharashtra** from October 15 to 17.
- **KM Chandrasekhar** is the author of the book titled "As Good as My Word".
- Project Icebreaker is a joint initiative from the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and the central banks of **Israel, Norway, and Sweden**.
- **SIDBI** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ShowReel for developing an online digital platform.
- PM Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese have inaugurated the friendship hall of fame in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.
- **Hardeep Singh Puri** has launched a three-week-long women-led cleanliness campaign 'Swachhotsav'.
- The Ministry of Power has mandated new coal or lignite-based thermal plants to either set up renewable energy capacity equivalent to at least **40** per cent of the thermal plant's capacity.
- Keeladi museum was inaugurated by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in **Sivaganga, Tamil Nadu**.
- The Two tigers have been reintroduced in Madhya Pradesh's Madhav National Park after **27** years.
- According to the latest data, loans worth ₹ 3.56-lakh crore have been sanctioned under **Mudra loan**.
- Gyan Chaturvedi has been selected for the 32nd Vyas Samman for his 2018 satirical novel **Pagalkhana**.
- India has signed a pact with **US** on semiconductor supply chain, innovation partnership.
- Nepali Congress senior leader Ram Chandra Poudel has been elected as the **3rd** President of Nepal.
- **Geeta Rana** became the 1st female commander to assume control of a stand-alone field workshop in the Eastern Ladakh sector with China.
- **Xi Jinping** has been elected as the President of China for the 3rd term.
- Indian Navy's TROPEX 2023 exercise held recently in **Arabian Sea**.
- **Colombia** has allowed women to join the military for the first time in 25 years.
- The National Board of Wildlife (NBWL) cleared all ways for Indian Air Force (IAF) to set up mountain radars in **Ladakh** by giving approval for their induction.

- The US Space Agency National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has handed over the Earth observation satellite namely **NISAR** to Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) at Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Recently, **Satish Kaushik** passed away at the age of 67.
- The RBI infused liquidity amounting to **₹ 82,650** crore into the banking system via the 14-day Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auction.
- **Punjab National Bank** has signed an MoU with Central Warehousing Corporation to facilitate financing under e-NWR (Electronic Negotiable Warehousing Receipt).
- **Kochi Metro Rail Limited** became the first Metro in India to accept digital currency for parking.
- SEBI has announced a reward system of up to **Rs 20 lakh** for informants, who share information about the assets of defaulters.
- **Muthoot Finance** has announced the extension of its National Pension Scheme (NPS) services to both its domestic and Non- Resident Indian (NRI) customers through its website.
- First India-Bangladesh cross-border oil pipeline will be virtually inaugurated by PM Modi and **Bangladesh** PM Hasina.
- A new initiative called 'beggar-free city' has been started in **Nagpur, Maharashtra**.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has amended the Border Security Force, General Duty Cadre (Non-Gazetted) Recruitment Rules, 2015 to give **10%** reservations for ex-Agniveers in BSF recruitment.
- **Central Railway** has achieved complete electrification of its 3,825 kilometers long broad gauge network.
- According to Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade data, **Maharashtra** has recorded positive growth in foreign direct investment (FDI) in the current fiscal year.
- Reliance Industries planned to set up a 10-gigawatt renewable solar energy project in **Andhra Pradesh**.
- PM Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Australia Anthony Albanese held bilateral talks in **New Delhi**.
- **Boeing** Company has announced an agreement with GMR Aero Technic to establish a new Boeing Converted Freighter (BCF) line in Hyderabad.
- **B Gopkumar** has been appointed as the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) at Axis Securities.
- **Hindustan Unilever Limited** has appointed Rohit Jawa as its new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for tenure of 5 years.
- **IndusInd Bank** has re-appointment Sumant Kathpalia as its Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for a further period of 2 years.
- The Bank of Baroda (BoB) board has approved up to **49%** divestment in its wholly-owned subsidiary, BoB Financial Solutions Ltd (BFSL).
- International Day of Action of Rivers has been celebrated on 14 March every year. Theme - **Rights of Rivers**.
- **State Bank of India** has raised Rs 3,717 crore through an additional tier 1 (AT1) bond sale.
- The credit card outstanding in January 2023 rose **29.6%** to reach an all-time high of Rs 1.87 lakh crore on the back of increased digitization and rising consumer confidence.
- **IDFC Mutual Fund** rebranded itself as Bandhan Mutual Fund.

- RBI Governor Shri Shaktikanta Das announced that payments through unified payment interface (UPI) have grown exponentially in the past 12 months, with daily transactions crossing **36 crores** in March 2023.
- As the first such move in the sector, private non-life insurer Shriram General Insurance Company (SGIC) has opened two branches in Ludhiana, Punjab, and **Jaipur, Rajasthan**, that are exclusively for women.
- **NTPC** has commissioned India's first Air cooled condenser installed Super Critical plant to demonstrate its Commitment towards water conservation through reduces, reusing and recycling.
- **Denmark** is the first country in the world to open an underwater burial site for Carbon dioxide (CO₂) and also import the gas from other countries.
- As per the United Nations report, **Afghanistan** became the most repressive in the world for women and girls, deprived of many of their basic rights.
- Uttarakhand became India's first state to launch the "Resham Keet Bima" scheme to protect its Seri culturists. This scheme will be run under **Saral Krishi Beema**.
- The Odisha government has approved **Rs 500 crore** to launch a new scheme Livelihoods Cluster Development initiative for tribal people under the 'Mukhya Mantri Janajati Jeebika Mission.'
- Sashidhar Jagdishan has been chosen as the Business Standard Banker of the Year 2022. He is the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of **HDFC Bank**.
- **Paytm** has signed an MoU with Andhra Pradesh on the sidelines of the Andhra Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023.
- According to the 'Landslide Atlas' report prepared by Hyderabad-based National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of ISRO, **Rudraprayag** district in Uttarakhand has "maximum exposure to landslide risk in India.
- **Siddhartha Mohanty** has been given the additional charge of the Chairman of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) for a period of 3 months.
- Tech Mahindra has appointed Mohit Joshi as its Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for a period of **5 years**.
- **40** broadband satellites of UK-based startup OneWeb have been successfully launched by a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Florida's Cape Canaveral Space Force Station (USA).
- Every year, World Consumer rights Day has been observed on **15 March**.
- **Rs 5 lakh** amount has been imposed a penalty by RBI on HDFC for non-compliance with certain provisions issued by the National Housing Bank (NHB).
- **UCO Bank** has raised Rs.500 crore through Private Placement of BASEL III Compliant Additional Tier I Bonds (Series I).
- SEBI has provided relaxation of **60 days** to large Registrars to an issue/ Share Transfer Agents (RTAs) from complying with the enhanced requirements pertaining to periodic reporting.
- First Bharat Gaurav special tourist train has commenced its journey from **Secunderabad Railway Station**.
- The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has revised its growth estimate for India upwards by 20 basis points to **5.9 per cent** for FY24.
- Caller ID verification platform Truecaller has inaugurated its first exclusive office space in Bengaluru, Karnataka. Truecaller is based in **Sweden**.
- Foxconn is set to invest Rs 1600 crore to launch a new factory to make AirPods for Apple Inc in **Telangana**.

- The International Ayurved conclave on the theme 'Veterinary and Ayurveda' has started at the Rishikul campus of an Ayurvedic University in **Haridwar, Uttarakhand**.
- **Rajasthan** has announced the formation of 19 new districts and 3 new divisions in the state.
- **Haryana** has launched the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Antyodaya Parivar Suraksha Yojana (DAYALU) scheme for the poorest of the families in the event of a death or permanent disability of kin.
- India's first tribal carbon-free village is set to come up in **Bhiwandi, Maharashtra**.
- The Delhi government has launched a new initiative **Mohalla** bus scheme for last-mile connectivity in the upcoming Budget 2023-24 to modernise transport infrastructure.
- Tamil writer Sivasankari has been awarded the Saraswati Samman 2022 for her book **Survya Vamsam**.
- **Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium** has been officially recognized as the largest fully-seated hockey stadium in the world.
- The Tamil novel 'Pookkuzhi' translated as 'Pyre' in English by Anirudh Vasudevan has made a place in the International Booker Prize 2023 longlist. The author of the 'Pookkuzhi' is **Perumal Murugan**.
- **Hello Ujjivan** app has won the 13th AGBA in the "Innovation in Consumer Tech" category.
- TCS has been named to the Forbes annual list of "America's Best Large Employers".
- India got **13th** place in the tenth Global Terrorism Index (GTI) report.
- Ramsahaya Prasad Yadav has been elected as the 3rd Vice President of **Nepal**.
- **Lockheed Martin** Company has signed an MoU with Tata Group to make fighter wings in India.
- The Indian Air Force deployed a Mi-17 helicopter to fight forest fires in **Goa**.
- **India** hosted the military wargame 'AFINDEX-23' with 22 African nations.
- The UK Space Agency funds Rolls-Royce's plan to build a nuclear reactor on the moon by **2029**.
- World Poetry Day has been observed every year on **21 March**.
- Every year, World Forest day has been observed on **21 March**.
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has partnered with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) to launch co-branded fuel credit card.
- **State Bank of India** has donated ₹ 24 crores to the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, Karnataka for constructing a multi-specialty hospital (Orthopedics Wing).
- Under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), **3** Centers of Excellence (CoEs) have been established.
- The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has organized the second edition of 'World Food India-2023' in **New Delhi**.
- As per National Monetization Pipeline (NMP), **25** airports of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) have been earmarked for leasing over the years 2022 to 2025.
- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) held the 47th meeting of the Executive Committee of NMCG under the Chairmanship of **G. Asok Kumar**.
- The Government of India has approved **57** Solar Parks with an aggregate capacity of 39.28 GW.
- Samsung Electronics planned to build the 'World's Largest' chip centre with a \$230 billion investment in **South Korea**.
- 3rd edition of the International SME Convention 2023 (ISC) organized in **New Delhi**.

- As per the IRENA's World energy transitions outlook 2022, The developing world attracted **15 per cent** of the total investments in renewable energy (RE) globally in the last calendar year.
- **Ministry of AYUSH** has signed an MoU with the Ministry of Rural Development to collaborate in making Lakhpati Didis from the SHGs.
- **Shiprocket** Company has signed an MoU with Indian Postto boost last-mile Ecommerce delivery services across India.
- As per the S&P Platts data, **NTPC** has been ranked as the top independent power producer and energy trader globally.
- **G Krishnakumar** has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL).
- **Baidu** Company has launched its own Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered chatbot, 'Ernie Bot', based on its deep learning model Ernie.
- **Tamil Nadu** has launched an initiative to reduce the mortality rate among people with tuberculosis in the state.
- **Hardik Singh** has been conferred with the Men's Indian Hockey Player of the Year awards 2022.
- Football team **ATK Mohun Bagan** has won their maiden Indian Super League title.
- **Deepak Bagla** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Invest India.
- The Ministry of Steel has signed 57 MoUs' with **27** companies for speciality steel under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme.
- Award-winning author, historian and academic Patrick French passed away at the age of 57. He belongs to **United Kingdom**.
- Japanese writer **Kenzaburo Oe** passed away recently at the age of 88.
- Every year, World Water Day has been celebrated on **22 March**.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently imposed a monetary penalty of ₹ 2.27 crore on RBL Bank for not complying with certain directives on **Loan recovery agents**.
- Axis Bank and Autotracs Finance Limited Ltd (AFL) announced their strategic partnership under the co-lending model through the YubiCo. Lend platform. Autotracs Finance Limited Ltd is based in **Haryana**.
- '4R strategy' which was in news recently is related to **Banking**.
- The Competition Commission of India has approved Reliance Retail Ventures' (RRVL's) acquisition of METRO Cash & Carry India for a cash consideration of **Rs 2,850 crore**.
- Government of Maharashtra has decided to launch the second phase of the Jalyukt Shivar project. Jalyukt Shivar project targets **Drought-prone areas**.
- **Dhanya Rajendran** has been named the 2022 recipient of the Chameli Devi Jain Award for Outstanding Women media persons.
- According to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp (FDIC), **New York Community Bank** has agreed to buy a significant chunk of the Signature Bank in a \$2.7 billion deal.
- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the **24th** issue of "Women and Men in India 2022" (an annual statistics released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation).
- The fertilizer cooperative major IFFCO and state-owned Coal India Ltd (CIL) will manufacture Nano DAP for a period of **Three** years.

- **Maharashtra** has decided to launch the second phase of Jalyukt Shivar project and it is a scheme that targets drought-prone areas by undertaking water conservation measures.
- The United Kingdom (UK) Treasury and the Bank of England have facilitated a private sale of the UK subsidiary of the collapsed Silicon Valley Bank to HSBC Holdings Plc's 'ring-fenced subsidiary' for **1 pound** sterling.
- **Union Bank of Switzerland** is buying troubled rival Credit Suisse for almost \$3.25 billion, in an effort to avoid further market-shaking turmoil in the global banking system.
- **Bengaluru, Karnataka** has received the Partnership for Healthy Cities award at a summit in London for the effective implementation of smoke-free laws effectively.
- **Department of Social Justice and Empowerment** has signed an MoU, with the Prajapati Brahma Kumari Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, Mount Abu in New Delhi for spreading the message of NashaMukt Bharat Abhiyaan, NMBA, among youth, women and students.
- **Lalit Kumar Gupta** has been appointed as the Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) for 5 years.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved for India and **Tanzania** to use their national currencies for bilateral trade settlement.
- **IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company** received approval from the capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO).
- The Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has released a unique cover of the Department of Posts, 'Go Green, Go Organic' for **Sikkim**.
- **4** private enterprises are authorized to offer e-invoice registration services to businesses by the GST Network.
- Jindal Steel & Power has received BIS certification to manufacture India's First Fire Resistant Steel Structures at its rail mill and special profile mill in **Raigarh, Chhattisgarh**.
- The Government of India has notified that Sovereign Gold Bonds 2022-23 (Series IV) will be opened for subscription. The issue price of the Bond during the subscription period shall be **₹ 5,611** per gram.
- **IMF** has approved USD 3 billion in financial assistance for debt-ridden Sri Lanka.
- The Government of Tamil Nadu has notified Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary in Erode district as the **18th** wildlife sanctuary in the state.
- **Odisha** has named Gandhamardan Hill a biodiversity heritage site.
- Indian Navy's second anti-submarine warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) warship named Indian Naval Ship (INS) Androth has been launched in **Kolkata, West Bengal**.
- 2nd edition of the Africa-India Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX), mega military exercise between India & 23 African nations held in **Pune, Maharashtra**.
- The government plans to sell up to **3.5%** of its stake in aerospace and defence company Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) through an offer for sale (OFS).
- Architect and urban planner Sir David Chipperfield have won the 2023 Pritzker Architecture Prize. He belongs to **UK**.
- The Union Home Ministry has cleared a proposal for signing an MoU between India and **Nigeria** drug control agencies.
- **GAIL India Limited** has signed an MoU with Shell India on liquefied natural gas (LNG) for road transport, regasification of imported LNG and renewables.

- **Manmeet K Nanda** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) (Additional charge) of Invest India.
- Air Force Veteran Wing Commander **Jag Mohan Nath** has passed away.
- Every year, World Tuberculosis Day has been observed on **24 March**.
- **Mahindra and Mahindra's** last mile electric mobility unit will receive a \$73 million investment from the International Finance Corp (IFC) of the World Bank.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has initiated the establishment of a "Greenfield Data Centre" and an "Enterprise Computing & Cyber security Training Institute" in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- **PFC Company** has inked a pact with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for a project loan of Japanese Yen (JPY) 2.65 billion or about Rs 165 crores.
- **ICICI Bank** has launched an array of digital solutions for participants of the capital market and clients of custody services.
- **RBI** has launched two key surveys namely the Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS) and the Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH).
- **Amazon Pay** has collaborated with Bharat BillPay to strengthen its loan repayment facility.
- **State Bank of India** completed its first commercial trade in Sri Lankan rupees.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) sold net **\$384 million** in the spot foreign exchange market in January 2023.
- **National Green Tribunal** has imposed an environmental compensation of ₹ 100 crore on Kochi Municipal Corporation for its continuing neglect of duties.
- 3rd Edition of the International SME Conference (ISC) held recently in **New Delhi**.
- A 3-day International Conference on 'Natural farming for Revitalizing Environment & Resilient Agriculture' concluded in **Imphal, Manipur**.
- **ALT Realtech** has launched the world's first digital real estate exchange, ALT DRX, allowing investors to buy one sq. ft. of real estate at a time.
- **Tejal Mehta** has been appointed as the first justice of a district court in the US state of Massachusetts.
- **Ukraine's** rights group Truth Hounds was awarded Norway's Sakharov Freedom Award.
- As per the data collated by market research firm CoalMint, **India** has emerged as one of the highest global importers of coking coal at 69 million tonnes, accounting for 22 per cent of the world's shipments in the calendar year 2022.
- 4th Asian Kho Kho Championship for Men and Women held recently in **Assam**.
- The Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) and the **Sweden** India Business Council have signed an MoU for sustainable infrastructure and defence manufacturing.
- Senior journalist **Abhay Chhajlani** passed away at the age of 88.
- **Rachna Biswat Rawat** is the author of the new book titled "Bipin: The Man Behind the Uniform".
- **25 March** has been observed every year as the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.
- **Karur Vysya Bank** has executed an agreement with SBI Lite as an additional bancassurance partner in the life insurance category.
- **CoinDCX** became a Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)-registered reporting entity under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) norms.

- **Egypt** became a new member of BRICS' New Development Bank (NDB).
- The Women and Child Development Ministry have celebrated the **5th** Poshan Pakhwada from 20th March to 3rd April 2023.
- **Cochin Shipyard Limited** has bagged the International Order for World's First Zero-Emission Feeder Container Vessel.
- **Tamil Nadu** became the first Indian state to launch the PM MITRA mega Textile Park.
- Asia's largest tulip garden named 'The Indira Gandhi Tulip Garden' opened recently in **Srinagar**.
- **Odisha** has unveiled the renovated Dakota DC-3 aircraft for public viewing at the Biju Patnaik International Airport.
- **Lenskart** Company has announced signing definitive documents for a \$500 million investment from the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA).
- RailTel has bagged a **₹ 287.57-crore** order from the Centre for C-DAC for supply, installation, integration, testing and commissioning of the IT infrastructure for greenfield datacentres at New Delhi and Bengaluru along with training and support.
- Bandhan Bank has appointed Ratan Kumar Kesh as its Executive Director (ED) for a period of **3** years.
- **Hyundai India** has signed a pact with General Motors India for the potential acquisition of the latter's plant in Talegaon, Maharashtra.
- **Canara Bank** has sold its stake in Russian joint venture (JV) Commercial Indo Bank LLC (CIBL) to the other venture partner State Bank of India (SBI) for about Rs 121.29 crore.
- Bilateral maritime exercise **Konkan 2023** that was recently held between the Indian Navy (IN) of India and the Royal Navy of the United Kingdom (UK) in the Arabian Sea.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) received the **3rd** regiment of the S-400 'Triumf' air defence missile system from Russia.
- North Korea has tested a nuclear-capable underwater attack drone called **Haeil**, the first weapon of its kind capable of generating a radioactive tsunami that can destroy naval strike groups and major ports.
- **NTPC Green Energy** has signed a joint venture agreement with Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) for setting up renewable energy (RE) projects to meet the round-the-clock power requirement of the state-run oil marketing company's (OMCs) refineries.
- **NAFED** has signed an MoU with the Ministry of Agriculture to extend its support to the various government initiatives to promote millets.
- **Rohan Bopanna** became the oldest player to have won the Men's Doubles title at the ATP 2023 Series.
- Pradeep Sarkar passed away at the age of 67. He was a renowned **Director**.
- Every year, World Theatre Day has been celebrated all over the world on 27 March. Theme - **Theatre and a Culture of Peace**.

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