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## Most Important Current Affairs

### January Important Current Affairs

#### Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) Interest Rate was Hiked for January–March 2023 Quarter

**Recent in news:** Central Government changed the interest rate on Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP). Deposits made into KVP accounts will now earn an interest rate of 7.2% annually compounded. Earlier the interest rate offered on KVP was 7%. At 7.2% interest, the investment in the KVP account will double in value after 120 months.

#### What is Kisan Vikas Patra?

Kisan Vikas Patra is a saving certificate scheme that was launched to encourage long-term financial discipline.

#### When Kisan Vikas Patra was Launched?

The Kisan Vikas Patra was introduced by India Post in the year 1988. The scheme was closed in 2011 by the Government of India after a Government Committee suggested that this scheme can be misused for money laundering purposes. The Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) was later relaunched in the year 2014.

#### Tenure of Kisan Vikas Patra

According to the 2014 amendment of Kisan Vikas Patra, the scheme provides a tenure period of 118 months with a minimum investment of Rs. 1000.

#### Benefits of Kisan Vikas Patra

- The scheme provides flexible denominations ranging from Rs.100 to a maximum of Rs.50,000.
- Kisan Vikas Patra is a government scheme and hence, it provides guaranteed returns to the investors.
- There is no Maximum limit but a minimum limit of 1000.
- KVP is a risk-free investment with the same interest rate throughout the year.
- KVP allows premature withdrawal with a lock-in period of 2 years and 6 months.
- Kisan Vikas Patra can be transferred to any other eligible individual. The new holder must submit all the required documents and should also get approval from the post office before availing of the benefits.
- There is no TDS for money withdrawn from KVP after the expiry of the maturity date.

#### Eigibility criteria of Kisan Vikas Patra

A single adult, a Joint Account (up to 3 adults), a guardian on behalf of a minor or on behalf of a person of unsound mind, or a minor above 10 years in his own name can open Kisan Vikas Patra.

#### Types of Accounts in Kisan Vikas Patra

1. Single Holder Type Account
2. Joint A- Type Account
3. Joint B- Type Account.

#### United States R'Bonney Gabriel crowned 71st Miss Universe 2022

#### Miss Universe 2022

The United States candidate **R'Bonney Gabriel** has crowned **Miss Universe 2022** at a ceremony held in New Orleans, Mexico. The crown was presented to her by India's **Harnaaz Kaur Sandhu** who had won the 2021 title. She was handed a bouquet of flowers, draped in the winner's sash and crowned with a tiara onstage at the 71st Miss Universe Competition. The second runner-up was Miss Dominican Republic, **Andreina Martinez**. Miss Curacao, **Gabriela Dos Santos**, and Miss Puerto Rico, **Ashley Carino**, rounded out the top five finalists.

#### Indian participant

**Divita Rai** of India reached the top 16, but she was unable to advance further. India's participation in the 71st Miss Universe was restricted to the top 16 since she was unable to make it into the top 5. Ms. Rai, a native of Mangaluru, who could not make it to the top-5 cut, hails from a family in Thiruvail. Daughter of Dilip Rai and Pranita Rai, Ms. Divita studied in Mumbai. She was adjudged Liva Miss Diva Universe 2022 and got qualified for the Miss Universe contest. Only two Indians before **Ms. Sandhu** had won the title of Miss Universe— actors **Sushmita Sen in 1994** and **Lara Dutta in 2000**.

#### About Miss Universe R'Bonney Gabriel

According to Miss Universe, Gabriel is a former high school volleyball player and graduate of the University of North Texas. A short bio posted on the organization's website said she is also CEO of her own sustainable clothing line. The 28-year-old Gabriel is a fashion designer from Houston, Texas.

#### Critics Choice Awards 2023 full winners list: RRR bags two more awards

#### 28th Critics Choice Awards

The **28th Critics Choice Awards** were held, and once again, SS Rajamouli's RRR has made India proud, as the film scored two awards. **RRR** won Best Song award for **Naatu Naatu**, as well as Best Foreign Language film. RRR was also nominated for Best Director, Best Picture and Best Visual Effects.

The American Canadian Critics Choice Association CCA show Who shows for the finest In cinematic achievement. The Critics Choice Movie award Formerly known as the Broadcast Film Critics Association award was held. Critics Choice Awards Winner 2023 shows were hosted by **Chelsea Handler**.

#### Indian Movie

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**Critics Choice Movie Awards**

The Critics Choice Movie awards were given according to the nominees selected. You can see the Critics Choice Movie awards list in the given. The list is given according to the movie, series etc.

- Best Animated Series: "Harley Quinn"
- Best Foreign Language Series: "Pachinko"
- Best Comedy Special: "Norm Macdonald: Nothing Special"
- Best Talk Show: "Last Week Tonight With John Oliver"
- SeeHer Award: Janelle Monáe
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Jeff Bridges
- Best Picture: "Everything Everywhere All at Once"
- Best Director: Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"
- Best Actor: Brendan Fraser, "The Whale"
- Best Actress: Cate Blanchett, "Tár"
- Best Supporting Actor: Ke Huy Quan, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"
- Best Supporting Actress: Angela Bassett, "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever"
- Best Young Actor or Actress: Gabriel LaBelle, "The Fabelmans"
- Best Acting Ensemble: "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery"
- Best Original Screenplay: Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"
- Best Adapted Screenplay: Sarah Polley, "Women Talking"
- Best Cinematography: Claudio Miranda, "Top Gun: Maverick"
- Best Production Design: Florencia Martin and Anthony Carlino, "Babylon"
- Best Editing: Paul Rogers, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"

**Critics Choice Super Award 2023**

The Critics choose super award 2023 for the films and the television series you can see in the given below. In this above section you see the various actors and their award. But now you can see the Indian movie and the best song award which goes to an RRR movie. The movie was made by SS Rajamouli. The list of the Critics Choice Super award 2023 is given below as you can see it.



- **Best Foreign Language Film: "RRR"**
- **Best Song: "Naatu Naatu," "RRR"**
- Best Score: Hildur Gudnadóttir, "Tár"

**Television**

- Best Drama Series: "Better Call Saul"
- Best Actor in a Drama Series: Bob Odenkirk, "Better Call Saul"
- Best Actress in a Drama Series: Zendaya, "Euphoria"
- Best Supporting Actor in a Drama Series: Giancarlo Esposito, "Better Call Saul"
- Best Supporting Actress in a Drama Series: Jennifer Coolidge, "The White Lotus"
- Best Comedy Series: "Abbott Elementary"

**Other Category**

- #SeeHer Award: Janelle Monáe
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Jeff Bridges

**Amazon back as World's Most Valued Brand, Apple down to No 2**

Billionaire **Jeff Bezos's** e-commerce company **Amazon** has become the **most valued brand, overtaking Apple**, last year's top. **Amazon** has reclaimed the top spot as the **world's most valuable brand** despite its brand value falling **15 per cent** this year from **\$350.3 billion to \$299.3 billion**. According to brand valuation consultancy **Brand Finance's** report, "**Global 500 2023**", while Amazon is back at No 1, its brand value has fallen by over **\$50 billion** this year, with its rating slipping from **AAA+ to AAA**. This is as consumers evaluate it more harshly in the post-pandemic world.

**Apple slipped to the second spot:**

**iPhone maker Apple** slipped to the second slot to be ranked the **world's second most valuable brand** (brand value down 16% to \$297.5 billion from \$355.1 billion). This year's fall in brand value relates to a fall in forecast revenue with supply chain disruptions and a constrained labour market expected to limit the supply of its marquee hardware products. Among all, 48 tech brands featured in the ranking, which is two less than the earlier 50 rated in 2022. This is after Snapchat and Twitter dropped out.

**list of the Top 10 most valuable brands according to the report:**

1. Amazon- Worth \$299.3 billion
2. Apple- Worth \$297.5 billion
3. Google-Worth \$281.4 billion
4. Microsoft-Worth \$191.6 billion
5. Walmart-Worth \$113.8 billion
6. Samsung Group-Worth \$99.7 billion
7. ICBC-Worth \$69.5 billion
8. Verizon-Worth \$67.4 billion
9. Tesla-Worth \$66.2 billion
10. TikTok/Douyin-Worth \$65.7 billion





**India's Top-Valued Brands:**

From India, over **150-year-old Tata Group** is the only brand to feature in the **top 100**. The conglomerate's brand value jumped up to **69 from 78 last year**. However, reasons for the ranking

going up were not available. Among Indian **IT tech giants, Infosys** jumped to the **150th slot from 158 last year**. According to the report, Infosys has seen an **84% increase** in its brand value since 2020.

**National Current Affairs**

- **SPIC MACAY**, with the Ministry of Culture and the New Delhi Municipal Council, presents "Shruti Amrut," a new instalment of its wildly popular "**Music in the Park**" series
- PM Modi shared snippets titled "**Your Exam, Your Methods-Choose Your Own Style**" from the Exam Warriors Book and has urged students to share how they prepare for exams. PM Modi in his message shared that in the book **Exam Warriors**, one mantra is "Your Exam, Your Methods-Choose Your Own Style".
- The **National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT)** has released India's first national assessment regulator, **PARAKH**, which will work on setting norms, standards, and guidelines for student assessment and evaluation for all recognized school boards in the country. **PARAKH** stands for The **Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development**. It is established within the education survey division of the NCERT.
- PM Modi inaugurated the second phase of **Saansad Khel Mahakumbh 2022-23** in Basti district, **Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Coffee shipments from India, Asia's third-largest producer and exporter**, rose 1.66 per cent to 4 lakh tonne in 2022 on rise in instant coffee exports and re-exports. Exports stood at 3.93 lakh tonne in 2021. In value terms, coffee export was higher at Rs 8,762.47 crore in 2022 as against Rs 6,984.67 crore in the previous year. India ships both **Robusta and Arabica** varieties, besides instant coffee.
- Union Home and Cooperation Minister **Shri Amit Shah** has laid the foundation stone of the **Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI)** at **Devanahalli in Karnataka** and inaugurated the residential and administrative complexes of the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**. The residential complexes of ITBP inaugurated by Shri Amit Shah include Residential Quarters, Joint Building, Barracks for 120 Jawans, Staff Officers' Mess and Officers' Mess.
- The **National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM)** and the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), the two prominent institutions under the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India for regulating medical education and conducting scientific research respectively, have launched '**SMART**' (**Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research in Teaching Professionals**). The program aimed to boost scientific research in priority healthcare research areas through Ayurveda colleges and hospitals.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation (SPM-NIWAS)** at Joka in Kolkata via video conferencing. SPM-NIWAS has been set up with a budget of Rs 100 crore, on 8.72 acres of land at Joka, Diamond Harbour Road, Kolkata, West Bengal.
- The President of India **Droupadi Murmu** inaugurated Samvidhan Udyan, Mayur Stambh, National Flag Post, Statue of Mahatma Gandhi, and Maharana Pratap at Raj Bhavan, Jaipur on **3rd January 2023**. The President of India virtually inaugurated the **Transmission System for Solar Energy Zones** in Rajasthan and laid the foundation stone for the 1000 MV Bikaner Solar Power Project of SJVN Limited.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi to launch the world's longest river cruise, "**Ganga Vilas**" from Varanasi, **Uttar Pradesh** to Dibrugarh, **Assam** on 13th January 2023. **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** has informed us that all preparations for the arrival of the Prime Minister and the launch ceremony in Varanasi should be finished.
- The **President of India Droupadi Murmu** inaugurated the **18th National Jamboree of the Bharat Scouts and Guides** at Pali, Rajasthan on 4th January 2023. The President of India noted that the Bharat Scouts and Guides is the largest voluntary, non-political, uniformed youth organization and educational movement in the country.
- **India** has taken over the leadership of the **Asia Pacific Postal Union (APPU)** in January 2023. **Dr Vinaya Prakash Singh** will take over the charge of **Secretary General of the Union** for a tenure of 4 years. This is the result of the elections during the **13th APPU Congress** held in August-September 2022.
- **Silent Valley National Park** in the last month identified 141 species of birds of which 17 were new species of birds. A total of 175 species of birds have been spotted in Silent Valley. The bird survey was conducted at Silent Valley on the 27th, 28th, and 29th of December 2022 and marked the **30th Anniversary** of the first bird survey in Silent Valley. The **bird survey** was first conducted in the last week of December 1990, however, due to Covid-19, the anniversary could not be celebrated in December 2020.
- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare **Narendra Singh Tomar** inaugurated the three-day 'North East Krishi Kumbhar-2023' and took part in the 49th Foundation Day celebration of the **ICAR Research Complex**





for NEH Region, Umiam. The Minister inaugurated the administrative cum academic block office and Girl's Hostel of the College of Agriculture at Kyrdemkulai, Ri Bhoi district.

- India's first-ever coal gasification-based **Talcher Fertilizer Plant** in Odisha will be ready to be dedicated to the nation by October 2024.
- **The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2023** convention in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, was formally opened by PM Modi.
- **Prime Minister** has launched the government's **Aspirational Block Programme (ABP)**, which is aimed at **improving the performance of blocks** lagging on various development parameters.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh released the theme for the "**National Science Day 2023**", titled "**Global Science for Global Wellbeing**" at National Media Centre.
- **Amit Shah** inaugurated the 'Jai Hindi' **Light and Sound Show at Red Fort**.
- **Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal**, along with Tripura Chief Minister **Dr. Manik Saha**, inaugurated the **School of Logistics, Waterways and Communication in Agartala**.
- **The world's longest river cruise, the MV Ganga Vilas** launched by PM Modi. **The Ministry of Culture** has organized a grand curtain raiser cultural program '**Sur Sarita-Symphony of Ganga**' on the launch event of the world's longest river cruise.
- **Digital India Startup Hub**, through the **Software Technology Parks of India**, shall set up **India's first Centre of Excellence in Online Gaming at Shillong** by March 2023.
- **New addition to Vande Bharat Train** will run between **Secunderabad and Visakhapatnam**.

### International Current Affairs

- **China's population** fell last year for the first time in six decades, a **historic turn** that is expected to mark the start of a long period of decline in its citizen numbers with **profound implications for its economy**. The drop, the worst since the **Great Famine of 1961**, also lends weight to predictions that **India** will become the **world's most populous nation** in this year. Long-term, UN experts see China's population shrinking by 109 million by 2050, more than triple the decline of their previous forecast in 2019.
- The **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** has listed **Pakistan-based terrorist Abdul Rehman Makki** as a **global terrorist**. Makki is the brother-in-law of **Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)** chief and 26/11 mastermind **Hafiz Saeed**.
- **India** will support **Sri Lanka's debt restructuring plan** as the island nation looks to trim its huge public expenditure to

win approval for a **crucial bailout** from the **International Monetary Fund**. New Delhi's backing comes at a critical time for Sri Lanka as it has to put its **massively indebted public finances** in order to unlock a **\$2.9 billion IMF loan** that was agreed in September. The IMF has stressed the importance of joint talks involving three of Sri Lanka's main bilateral creditors – **China, Japan and India**.

- **India** announced donation of 12,500 doses of **pentavalent vaccines to Cuba**. This was her first visit to Cuba. Pentavalent vaccine provides protection to a child from 5 life-threatening diseases – Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Hepatitis B and Hib.
- **New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern**, a global figurehead of progressive politics, resigns.
- **Croatia** has switched to the euro and entered **Europe's passport-free zone** – two important milestones for the country after joining the **European Union (EU)** nearly a decade ago. At midnight, the Balkan nation bid farewell to its **kuna currency** and became the **20th member of the eurozone**. It is now the **27th nation in the Schengen zone**, the world's largest passport-free travel area.
- China's **CRRC Corporation Ltd.** Launched a **hydrogen urban train**, and it is the first in Asia and the second such train in the world. **Germany** introduced green trains a few months back. The Indian Railway on the other hand is moving fast to induct the '**World's Greenest Train**' soon.
- The **Indian government** has proclaimed that they have identified **two lithium mines and one copper mine** in Argentina
- **US** has approved the **first-ever vaccine for honey bees** which will confer protection from the **American foulbrood disease**, a vaccine, developed by **Dalan Animal Health**, a **US-based biotech company**. The vaccine will be supplied on a "limited basis" to commercial beekeepers in the US and is expected to be available this year.
- **Hawaii's Kilauea volcano erupted again**.
- "**Start Me Up**" **first-ever orbital launch from the U.K. that failed**.
- **Punjabi** to be taught as a school curriculum in western **Australia**.
- **United States** to extend **Title 42**, to expel migrants from **Nicaragua, Cuba and Haiti** caught crossing the **U.S.-Mexico border back to Mexico**.
- **United States** said its **ballistic missile submarine, USS West Virginia**, visited its **Indian Ocean military base at Diego Garcia**.
- European officials and **Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf** inaugurated the **EU's first mainland orbital launch complex**.





**Current Affairs Related to States in India**

**Arunachal Pradesh**

- Defence minister **Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated the **Siyom bridge in Arunachal Pradesh**, along with 27 other infrastructure projects completed by the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**. Built at a cost of 724 crore rupees, these projects will hugely augment India's border infrastructure, mostly along the Chinese border, from Ladakh to Arunachal.
- National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)** has submitted a pre-feasibility report to the **Central Electricity Authority of India** for the '**Upper Siang Multipurpose Storage**', India's largest hydel power project to date to come up in Arunachal Pradesh. This will be **11 gigawatt (GW)** project. India may spend **₹1.13 trillion** to build the Upper Siang multi-purpose storage project at **Yingkiong** in **Arunachal Pradesh**

**Assam**

- Mongeeet** is a festival of music, poetry, art, craft, food, culinary techniques, indigenous herbs, and culture celebrated in Majuli, Assam.

**Bihar**

- Cherchera festival** of Chhattisgarh is celebrated on the full moon night of the 'Paush' Hindu calendar month.

**Goa**

- The eagerly anticipated Purple Fest, Celebrating Diversity, the state's first-ever inclusive festival for people with disabilities (PwDs), will take place in Goa. Panjim will host the festival from January 6–8, 2023, with all the fanfare.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the naming of **Greenfield International Airport** at Goa's Mopa as **Manohar International Airport** after former Defence Minister and **Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar**. The airport was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December 2022 at Mopa Goa. The airport will be named after the late Manohar Parrikar to honor his contribution to building modern Goa.

**Gujarat**

- India's first green hydrogen blending operation in the **piped natural gas (PNG)** network at **NTPC Kawas**, Gujarat..

**Himachal Pradesh**

- Five-time MLA from **Bhattiyat Kuldeep Singh Pathania** is all set to be the next Speaker of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly.
- Himachal Pradesh **Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** announced to set up of Rs 101 crore **CM's Sukhashraya Sahayata Kosh** for the destitute in the state.

- The **Himachal Pradesh government** restored the old **pension scheme** in its first cabinet meeting.

**Karnataka**

- Mysuru and Hampi** are the two popular destinations in **Karnataka** to be promoted as a part of the new Tourism policy '**The Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme**.

**Kerala**

- Kerala CM **Pinarayi Vijayan** inaugurated **Indian Library Congress** in Kannur, Kerala. The inauguration event of the Indian Library Congress was organized by the People's Mission for Social Development and Library Council.
- Kerala CM **Pinarayi Vijayan** has inaugurated the **Palm leaf Manuscript Museum** with modern audio-visual technology at the renovated Central Archives, Fort area in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The Museum, promoted as "**World's First Palm-Leaf Manuscript Museum**" was set up by the Archives Department in association with the Kerala Museum of History and Heritage at a cost of Rs 3 crore.
- Kerala** becomes the first state in the country to go **fully digital in its banking service**.
- The **Kerala Cabinet** approved a scheme to ensure those employed under the **Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)** in the poll-bound state get benefits like pension and medical assistance..
- Kerala's '**Year of Enterprises**' Project was recognized as the best practices model at the National Conference on Micro Small and Medium Enterprises chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Kerala** has kicked itself into the **Guinness Book of World Records** by taking **4,500 penalty kicks in 12 hours**.
- The Indian district of **Kollam** has become the country's first constitution literate district

**Madhya Pradesh**

- CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched the **Madhya Pradesh Residential Land Rights scheme (Mukhyamantri Awasiya Bhu Adhikar Yojana)** to distribute free leases of residential land to selected beneficiaries.

**Manipur**

- The **Gaan Ngai** of the **Zeliangrong Community** celebrated in Manipur.
- Imoinu Day** is celebrated in Manipur as a part of the Meitei Cultural ritual. The traditional festival of Imoinu Day is celebrated on the 12th day of the **Meitei Lunar Month of Wakching**.





**Odisha**

CM of Odisha **Naveen Patnaik** directed the distribution of **five kilograms of rice** per month free of cost to beneficiaries of the **State Food Security Scheme (SFSS)** for the next one year

**Tamil nadu**

- **Octave 2023** is a festival being held under the aegis of the **South Zone Culture Centre**, Thanjavur, **Tamil Nadu** to showcase the indigenous art and culture of Northeast India. Octave 2023 was inaugurated by Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi.
- **Jallikattu** bull-taming competition got underway in the **Tamil Nadu** village of Avaniyapuram

**Tripura**

- The **Election Commission (EC)** is focusing on 929 polling booths across **Tripura**, setting a target of **92 per cent voter turnout** in the assembly elections due early this year. These booths recorded a voter turnout of less than 89 per cent, which was the average across 3,328 booths in the 2018 assembly polls. The EC is also working on **'Mission Zero Poll Violence'** to make the assembly elections peaceful.
- The **'Saharsh'** will be extended to all **government and aided schools** in Tripura from the second week of January.

**Uttarakhand**

- The **Uttarakhand** decided to abolish the **revenue policing system** in the state. The Pushkar Singh Dhami government has also announced that revenue villages will be brought under the regular policing system. Law and order in 1,800 revenue villages of Uttarakhand will now be handled by the state police, according to a statement by the Chief Minister's Office.
- **Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen Gurmit Singh (retd)** has approved the **30 percent** horizontal reservation to domicile women of the state in the government jobs bill.

**Uttar Pradesh**

**Uttar Pradesh (UP)** has emerged as the top location for mobile gamers, followed by **Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Bihar, and West Bengal**, according to the India Mobile Gaming Report 2022 issued by the gaming platform Mobile Premier League (MPL).

**Westbengal**

- West Bengal **Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee** launched a new campaign **"Didi'r Surakha Kavach"** for her party, Trinamool Congress. The campaign "Didi'r Surakha Kavach" ahead of the panchayat polls due in April.

**Union Territories of India**

**Jammu and Kashmir**

- **Jammu and Kashmir's governments** have declared the union territory as a "Free Area" for purposes of the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act 2009. According to the notification issued by the government, the declaration has been made in the exercise of the power conferred by sub-section (5) of

section 6 of the **Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals (PCICDA) Act 2009.**

**Jammu & Kashmir** becomes the first **union territory in India** to completely switch to a digital method of administration, leading the way in the digital transformation of governance. All governmental and administrative services in Jammu & Kashmir are currently only offered digitally.

**New Appointments: National**

1.	MD and CEO, Indian Overseas Bank	Ajay Kumar Srivastava
2.	state icon for Bihar by the Election Commission.	Folk singer Maithili Thakur
3.	All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) Chairman	Saiyam Mehra
4.	Vice Chairman, All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council	Rajesh Rokde
5.	Asia Pacific Postal Union, Secretary General	Vinaya Prakash Singh
6.	Chetan Sharma was reappointed as the chairman of the senior selection committee by BCCI. Salil Ankola, Shiv Sunar Das, Subroto Banerjee and Sridharan Sharath are new members of the selection committee.	
7.	MD and CEO, Paytm Payments Bank	Surinder Chawla
8.	CMD, Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL).	Anurag Kumar
9.	Meta announced the appointment of former Tata CLiQ CEO Vikas Purohit as the director of global business group in India.	
10.	Senior IAS Officer A Santhi Kumari has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Telangana.	
11.	'nutrition sponsor', Herbalife Nutrition India Private Limited	Smriti Mandhana
12.	Deputy, NSA	Pankaj Kumar Singh





S.No.	Designation/Post	Who is appointed	Replacing whom
<b>Constitutional &amp; Other Posts</b>			
1.			
2.			

<b>CEO'S/Chairman of Companies/Organizations/Banks/ Or Appointments</b>			
3.			
4.	Coca-Cola signed Olympic gold medalist, <b>Neeraj Chopra</b> for <b>Limca Sportz</b> promotion.		

**New Appointments: International**

S.No.	Designation/Post	Who is Appointed?
<b>President/PM/Heads of Countries/Organizations</b>		
1.	Prime Minister of Gabon	Alain-Claude Bilie By Nze
2.	Vice president of Gabon	Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda
3.	Ministry of Indigenous People (Brazil)	Sônia Guajajara
4.	Brazil's president	Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva
5.	foreign minister, China	Qin Gang
6.	Speaker, USA Parliament	Kevin McCarthy

S.No.	Designation/Post	Who is Appointed?
7.	Manpreet Monica Singh became the first ever female Sikh judge in the US.	
8.	Sultan al-Jaber to preside over the upcoming <b>United Nations climate negotiations</b> in Dubai	
9.	CEO, Bank of Singapore (BoS)	Jason Moo
10.	Chief economist, OECD	Clare Lombardelli, replacing France's Laurence Boone

**Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings**

- **Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (WDRA)** MoU with the **State Bank of India** to help farmers in getting low-interest-rate loans. , to promote awareness about the new loan product called 'Produce Marketing Loan' to exclusively fund against e-NWRs (electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt).
- **Taiwan-headquartered** electric vehicle and infrastructure company **Gogoro** is advancing its plans to deploy **battery swapping** network in India. The company along with **Belrise Industries** (formerly known as Badve Engineering) has inked a **strategic energy partnership** with the **Maharashtra government** to establish a battery swapping infrastructure.
- **IIT Madras+ DRDO** on **Advanced Defence Technologies** including **Combat Vehicle Technologies** is operating a **Research Centre** to develop advanced technologies for the national defence and security needs of the nation.
- **The International Hockey Federation (FIH)** has signed a partnership with the **JSW Group** for the upcoming **FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela,**
- **ISRO** and **Microsoft** signed a MoU to help Indian Space tech start-ups with technology tools, go-to-market support, and mentoring to help them scale and become business ready
- **India** and **Panama** have signed MoU to encourage cooperation in the training of diplomats

- **Sony Sports Network,** which will air the **Australian Open** this month across its channels and **OTT app SonyLiv.**
- **Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board** signed a (MoU) with chapters of 8 countries of the **Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO)** at the 17th **Pravasi Bhartiya Divas** convention. The MoUs were signed with **France Metropole Paris, Mauritius, Reunion Island, Martinique, Sri Lanka, GOPIO International, Malaysia, and Mauritius.**
- **The Indian High Commission** signed an MoU with the **Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka** to establish a **Hindi Chair.**





**Banking Current Affairs**

Sno.	Bank Name	Scheme/ App Name/ Mou	Purpose
1.	Punjab and Sind Bank (PSB)	SBI Card	to launch co-brand credit cards for the bank's customers. PSB has also entered the credit card market as a new product segment in its portfolio as a result of this collaboration. Three card variants—the <b>PSB SBI Card ELITE, PSB SBI Card PRIME, and PSB Simply SAVE SBI Card</b> —have been launched by both partners. This collaboration also marks the entry of PSB into 'credit cards' as a new product segment under the bank's portfolio.
2.	HDFC Bank	Microsoft	<a href="#">HDFC Bank</a> as a part of its Future Ready strategy is developing in house IPs as well as partnering with several companies including FinTechs' to co -create technology Ips
3.	Axis Bank	OPEN	provide a fully native digital current account journey for its customers including <b>SMEs (small and medium enterprises)</b> , freelancers, homepreneurs, influencers and more. This has been the <b>bank's first-ever partnership</b> with a fintech player to launch a fully digital current account. Using this account, customers can avail <b>250+ banking services and claim up to 50 per cent</b> cashback through grab-deals.
4.	ICICI Prudential Life Insurance	'360° Financial Protection with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance'	digital-first campaign featuring cricketer <a href="#">Suryakumar Yadav</a>
5.	Axis Bank	Max Financial	to acquire the remaining <b>7 percent stake</b> in <b>Max Financial</b> .
6.	Axis Bank	Indian Institute of Science (IISc)	to establish a <b>Centre for Mathematics and Computing</b>
7.	State Bank of India (SBI)	e-Bank Guarantee (e-BG) facility	in association with <b>National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)</b>
8.	Equitas Small Finance Bank	The <b>Reserve Bank of India</b> gave its approval to <b>SBI Funds Management Ltd</b> to acquire up to 9.99% stake in <b>Equitas Small Finance Bank</b> through the schemes of <b>SBI Mutual Fund</b> , the bank said in an exchange filing. <b>Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund</b> and <b>DSP Mutual Fund</b> have also received RBI's approval to buy 9.99% stake each in the bank.	
9.	Paytm Payments Bank	final approval from <b>Reserve Bank of India</b> to operate as a <b>Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU)</b> . Under Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS), a BBPOU is allowed to facilitate bill payment services of electricity, phone, DTH, water, gas insurance, loan repayments, FASTag recharge, education fees, credit card bill and municipal taxes	
10.	SBI	<b>SBI</b> said it has raised <b>Rs 9,718 crore</b> through its <b>second infrastructure bond</b> issuance at a coupon rate of <b>7.70 per cent per annum</b> for the <b>15-year money</b> . This is the <b>second</b> fund-raising since early December when it had mopped up <b>Rs 10,000 crore</b> via infra bonds.	
11.	Bandhan Bank	'Jahaan Bandhan, Wahaan Trust'	is an integrated marketing campaign in which the company has emphasized the 'trust' that the brand has been able to earn in a span of seven years as a bank.
12.			





**Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities**

1.	RBI	fifth volume of the <b>Reserve Bank of India's</b> history is released. Under the guidance of an <b>Advisory Committee chaired by Dr. Narendra Jadhav</b> , former Member of Parliament and former Principal Adviser & Chief Economist of the Reserve Bank.
2.	RBI	The <b>Reserve Bank of India's Medium-term Strategy Framework</b> for the period 2023-2025 ' <b>Utkarsh 2.0</b> '
3.	<b>Reserve Bank of India</b>	<b>Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH)</b> which will provide useful inputs for <b>monetary policy</b> . In the January 2023 round, the survey will be conducted <b>across 19 cities</b> . It aims to capture subjective assessments of <b>price movements and inflation</b> , based on individual consumption baskets.
9.	<b>Reserve Bank of India</b>	will auction <b>₹16,000 crore</b> of <b>sovereign green bonds (SGrBs)</b> in two tranches.
10.	<b>Reserve Bank of India</b>	told <b>banks and other financial institutions</b> to stop using the <b>London Interbank Offered Rate (Libor)</b> benchmark as soon as possible and mandatorily by December 31 and move to any <b>Alternative Reference Rates (ARR)</b> .
11.	<b>Reserve Bank of India</b>	issued the list of <b>six credit rating agencies</b> that banks can use for the purpose of risk weighting banks' claims for <b>capital adequacy</b> purposes. They are Acuite Ratings & Research Limited, Credit Analysis and Research Limited (CARE), CRISIL Ratings Limited, ICRA Limited, India Ratings and Research Private Limited (India Ratings) and INFOMERICS Valuation and Rating Pvt Ltd.

**Regulatory authorities**

1.	RBI	tweaked norms related to acquisition and holding of shares in banks to ensure that their ultimate ownership and control remain <b>well diversified</b> and the major shareholders are ' <b>fit and proper</b> ' on a continuing basis. The central bank has issued ' <b>Master Direction – Reserve Bank of India (Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights in Banking Companies) Directions, 2023</b> '. The directions are applicable to all banking companies, including <b>Local Area Banks (LABs), Small Finance Banks (SFBs) and Payments Banks (PBs)</b> operating in India. ( <a href="#">Click here to read the article</a> )
2.	RBI	said that the <b>finances of Indian states</b> are projected to improve in 2022-23 with the consolidated <b>gross fiscal deficit</b> to gross domestic product ratio seen falling to <b>3.4 percent</b> from <b>4.1 percent</b> for the previous year. The <b>fiscal health of the states</b> has improved from a sharp <b>pandemic-induced deterioration</b> in 2020-21 on the back of a broad-based economic recovery and <b>resulting high revenue collections</b> . During the pandemic years, states' finances were under pressure due to rising expenditures and limited revenue growth. ( <a href="#">Click here to read the article</a> )
3.	SEBI	allowed <b>Alternative Investment Funds(AIFs)</b> to participate in the <b>Credit Default Swaps(CDS)</b> market as protection buyers and sellers in a bid to facilitate the deepening of the domestic corporate bond segment. The new norms, which will come into force with immediate effect, allow business entities to hedge risks associated with the bonds market.

**Other Important Banking Related Current Affairs**

Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) account deposits is 7.2% compounded annually.

**Economy/Financial Current Affairs**

- In December 2022, the wholesale price-based inflation fell to **4.95 percent**, primarily as a result of lower costs for food items and crude oil. )
- The upcoming **Indian budget** for 2023-24 will be a challenging one for the government to follow the roadmap for **fiscal consolidation** amidst a global environment of **declining inflation**, said a top economist of **State Bank of India** in a report. For India, this could make things difficult
- to set a nominal **gross domestic product (GDP)** number significantly higher than 10 per cent, with a deflator about 3.5 per cent. But this could also mean a **higher GDP growth** than anticipated at about 6.2 per cent
- World Bank** forecast **Pakistan's economic growth** to slow further to two percent during the current year. This will mark a drop of two percentage points from its June 2022 estimates, according to the **World Bank's Global Economic**





**Prospects report.** The report said that Pakistan's economic output was not only declining itself but also bringing down the regional growth rate as well. Forecasting **Pakistan's GDP growth rate** to improve to 3.2 per cent in 2024, the report said, "Policy uncertainty further complicates the economic outlook" of Pakistan.

- **Google** is actively working on a **Soundbox for the India market**, similar to the **Paytm or PhonePe ones** that you see at your neighbourhood shop which gives a sound alert on the digital payment that has been made. The search giant is piloting a soundbox of its own in the country to alert sellers of confirmations for Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-based payments.
- **Mastercard** announced the expansion of its signature **Girls4Tech, STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education program in India. The **Girls4Tech** is supported by Mastercard Impact Fund and in partnership with the American India Foundation (AIF).
- **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited (TMB)** has bagged the **Best Small Bank award** in the Best Banks survey for the year 2022. The Best Banks survey was conducted by **Business Today- KPMG (BT-KPMG Best Banks Survey)**. The bank has won the Best Small Bank Award under the category of banks with a book size of less than Rs 1 Lakh crore.
- According to a government announcement, India's goods and services tax receipts increased 15% year over year in December to Rs 1.49 lakh crore (\$18.07 billion), suggesting robust economic activity throughout the holiday season. In November, revenue from goods and services taxes totaled Rs. 1.46 lakh crore.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** said **SBI, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank** remain **domestic systemically important banks (D-SIBs)**. D-SIBs are those interconnected entities whose failure can impact the whole of the financial system and create instability. In addition to the usual capital

conservation buffer, D-SIBs will need to maintain **additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1)**.

- **India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** processed a **record 7.82 billion transactions** in December, worth a total of **INR 12.82tn (\$174.6bn)**. This represents an increase of 7.12% in volume and 7.73% in value compared to November. On a year-on-year basis, **volume and value increased by 71% and 55% respectively**.
- **Unemployment rate in India** rose to **8.30 per cent** in December 2022, the highest in 16 months, according to data from **Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)**. It was 8 per cent in the month of November. While **urban unemployment** rose to 10.09 per cent in December, from 8.96 per cent in November, **rural unemployment** moved to 7.44% from 7.55%, the data revealed
- India's economy is expected to grow 7.0% in the current financial year, according to the first advance estimates by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**. New Delhi had pegged India's growth at **8.7%** in the last fiscal year that ended March 31, 2022.
- In a major development, **India has surpassed Japan** in terms of auto sales last year to become the **third-largest auto market globally** for the first time. India's total sales of new vehicles stood at around **4.25 million units**, based on preliminary results, topping the **4.2 million sold in Japan**.
- **Retail inflation** declined to a one-year low of 5.72 per cent in December 2022, mainly due to softening **prices of food items**.
- The phased roll-out of **E20 (20 per cent ethanol blending in gasoline)** will begin on April 1..
- The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **incentive scheme with financial outlay of Rs 2,600 crore** for the promotion of **RuPay Debit Cards** and low-value **BHIM-UPI transactions** (person-to-merchant) for the current financial year.

### Business Current Affairs

- **Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation Group (SMBC Bank)** of Japan and **Oaktree Capital Management** are among those that have submitted **expressions of interest (EOIs)** for the **strategic stake sale in IDBI Bank**.
- **Adani Enterprises** has an agreement with **Ashok Leyland, India, and Ballard Power, Canada** to launch a pilot project to develop a **hydrogen fuel cell electric truck (FCET)** for mining logistics and transportation. The collaboration between Adani Enterprises and Ashok Leyland, India, and Ballard Power, Canada marks Asia's first planned hydrogen-powered mining truck. (
- **Bharti Airtel Group** announced that it will be **investing Rs 2,000 crore** for setting up a large **hyperscale data centre in Hyderabad**.
- **Zerodha-backed GoldenPi Technologies** has become the **first online bond platform provider** to receive a **debt brokerage license** from market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)**. The Bengaluru-based fintech firm expects this development to spur greater trust in **online bonds and debentures investment space**.
- **BharatPe** received in-principle authorisation from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to operate as an **online payment aggregator (PA)**.
- India's fastest payment app **PayRup** was launched in India on 9th January 2023. PayRup is built with the finest technology of web 3.0.





- **China's Alibaba Group** sold a 3.1% stake in Indian digital payments firm **Paytm** for a total of **\$125 million** through a block deal
- **India** was among the top five markets, globally, in terms of equity fundraising.
- **PVR-Inox merger** has been approved by the **National Company Law Tribunal**.
- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has instructed members of the **Unified Payments Interface**

(UPI) ecosystem to allow non-resident account types such as **non-resident external (NRE)/ non-resident ordinary (NRO) accounts** having international mobile numbers to get onboarded and transact through UPI. To begin with, NPCI will be enabling transactions from mobile numbers having country codes of **Singapore, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar, USA, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom**, along with the current domestic country code.

**India's GDP Reports by Different Organization**

	Name of Organization	GDP Growth of India predicted
1.	World Bank	6.9
2.		

**Defense Current Affairs**

- Captain **Surbhi Jakhmola** of the Indian Army's 117 Engineer Regiment will be the first woman officer to be posted on a foreign assignment at the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**. The officer will be sent to Bhutan as part of Project Dantak. The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is an executive road construction force in India that supports the Indian armed forces.
- **21st edition** of "Varuna" the bilateral naval exercise between **India and France** commenced on the western seaboard.
- **Indian Army** has organized the second edition of the Hackathon named "**SAINYA RANAKSHETRAM 2.0**" under the aegis of HQ Army Training Command (ARTRAC). The "SAINYA RANAKSHETRAM 2.0" aims to seek solutions to operational cyber challenges and jump-start and telescope the development time for innovative solutions in the field of **Cyber Security**
- On the occasion of **Chillai Kalan** in the Kashmir Valley, 44 Bn CRPF organized a function "**Jashn – e – Chillai Kalan**" at HMT Complex, Zainakote, Srinagar.
- **DRDO** Headquarters in New Delhi has marked the **65th Foundation Day** of the Organisation, which is celebrated on 1st January every year. **DRDO** Chairman Dr S V Kamat addressed the DRDO fraternity on the occasion.
- **Captain Shiva Chauhan** from the Corps of Engineers has been posted at a frontline post in **Siachen Glacier**, in first such operational deployment of an woman Army officer at the **world's highest battlefield..**
- January.

- India will deploy a platoon of women peacekeepers to **UN Mission** in Sudan. This will be India's **largest single unit of women Peacekeepers** in a UN Mission since it deployed the **first-ever all-women contingent in Liberia in 2007**. The Indian contingent, comprising two officers and 25 Other Ranks, will form part of an Engagement platoon and specialize in Community outreach, though they will be performing extensive security-related tasks as well. The deployment in **Abyei** will also herald **India's intent of increasing significantly the number of Indian women in Peacekeeping contingents**.
- **BPCL** has announced the launch of **Low Smoke Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO)** for the Indian Army.
- **DRDO** has developed an **unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)** to carry out logistic operations in the Himalayan frontier.
- **iDEX** has signed its **50th SPRINT** contract with **Sagar Defence** for **Autonomous Weaponised Boat Swarms** for the Indian Navy.
- **Su-30MKI pilot Squadron Leader Chaturvedi** will be assigned to the **Veer Guardian 2023** in Japan.
- **India** successfully carried out a test launch of the tactical ballistic **missile Prithvi-II** from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha coast.
- "**Veer Guardian-2023**" joint air exercise between India and Japan.
- **Aadi Shaurya - Parv Parakram Ka Tribal Dance Festival** and Military Tattoo at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi on 23

**Equipment's**

EQUIPMENT	BUILDER	IMP. FACTS
K-9 Vajra	Larsen & Toubro	self-propelled howitzers, Technology transferred from South Korean defence major Hanwha Defence





EQUIPMENT	BUILDER	IMP. FACTS
'Kamla Devi'	Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)	Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) was commissioned in Kolkata, West Bengal
VSHORAD (IR Homing) missile system	DRDO	DAC cleared the proposal for
HELINA Anti-Tank Guided Missiles	Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>which will be integrated to the <b>Advanced Light Helicopter</b>. Air Force version of Helina is sometimes referred to as Dhruvastra.</li> </ul>

### Awards & Recognition

S.No.	Name of Award	Winner
1.	27 people have been awarded pravasiya Bhartiya samman	
2.	UN-Habitat's World Habitat Awards 2023	Odisha, for Jaga Mission. The Jaga mission is the land titling and slum upgrading program that aims at empowering the lives of slum dwellers
3.	Odakuzhal Award 2022	Ambikasuthan Mangad for short stories titled Pranavayu
4.	Award for Global Leadership	Chief Justice of India Dr. DY Chandrachud
5.	Overall Championship' at Padma Tarang	University of Kerala
6.	Platinum Award in the Digital Empowerment of Citizens Category in Digital India Awards 2022	e-NAM
7.	Actress <b>Aparna Sen</b> was honored with the lifetime achievement award at the opening ceremony of the 15th Edition of the Jaipur International Film Festival	
8.	UN medals.	Over 1,000 Indian peacekeepers serving with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)
9.	Golden Globes Best Original Song, Motion Picture	"Naatu Naatu," "RRR"
10.	Noted writer <b>K Venu</b> was conferred with <b>Federal Bank Literary Award 2022</b> for his autobiography 'Oranweshananthinte Katha.	
11.	Rajasthani film, <b>Naanera</b> , directed by Deepankar Prakash bagged the 'Golden Kailasha' award for the best movie at the Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival	
12.		

### Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International)

S.N	Name of Summit/Events	Venue
o.		
<b>Summits Held Nationally</b>		
1.	<b>Indian Science Congress's 108th edition</b> was officially inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University is hosting the five-day 108th session of ISC as it commemorates its centennial. He emphasised the nation's expanding energy requirements and urged the scientific community to develop any advances in the area that would help the nation.	
2.	<b>Ministry of Jal Shakti</b> organized the "1st All India Annual State Minister Conference on Water" with the theme of "Water Vision@2027" in Bhopal, MP	
3.	Geospatial Hackathon to encourage innovation and start-ups in India's geospatial ecosystem. at the event in New Delhi	
4.	The first 15 meetings of the <b>Business 20 (B20) India Inception Meeting</b> will be held in Gandhinagar	
5.	Think-20 summit under the auspices of the G20 will bring together prominent individuals from around the world to debate a range of issues, including " <b>Global Governance with LiFE, Values, and Wellbein</b>	
6.		





S.No.	Name of Summit/Events	Venue
<b>Summits Held Internationally</b>		
7.	Puducherry Lieutenant governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan said that the first G-20 meeting will be held in Puducherry	
8.	India will host 'The Voice of Global South' Summit under the theme 'Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose' envisages bringing together countries of the Global South to share their perspectives and priorities on a common platform.	
9.	10th edition of Dhaka Lit Fest (DLF), the largest international literary festival in Bangladesh, which was postponed three years in a row owing to the Covid-19.	
10.		

**List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports)**

S.No.	Name	Organization	Important facts
1.		Reporters without borders	1668 journalist killed
2.		Avtar	Chennai is India's top city for women's employment. Pune, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Mumbai are the next best cities for women's employment.
3.		Power Grid Corporation of India	ranked 1st in Services Sectors across categories Gross Block, Value Addition, Net Profit, Net Worth, Dividend Declaration, and Contribution to the Central Exchequer and has also been ranked 3rd among the Top 10 profit-making Closes.
4.	Delhi		most polluted city in India in 2022
5.	Henley Passport Index	Henley & Partners	Indian passport was ranked 85 <sup>th</sup> , Japan rank 1
6.	Survival of the Richest: The India Supplement"	Oxfam India	The richest one per cent of Indians own over 13 times more wealth than the bottom 50 per cent,. The top five per cent own 61.7 per cent of the total wealth, nearly 20 times more than the 3 per cent owned by the bottom half. wealth inequality gets denser on the top. More than half of the wealth of the top 10 per cent of richest Indians is owned by the top 1 per cent. The combined wealth of India's 100 richest persons reached Rs 54.12 lakh crore in 2022. The total wealth of the 10 richest Indian stood at Rs 27.52 lakh crore in 2022, a 32.8% rise from 2021.
7.	Global Firepower Index		ranks the countries based on their potential military strength. India is ranked fourth in the index. The Global Firepower Index ranked 145 countries. The countries were evaluated based on prolonged offensive and defensive military campaigns. The Global Firepower Index, 2022, puts the US at the top, Russia at the second spot, China at No. 3, and India at No. 4
8.	IT Services 25'	UK-based consultancy Brand Finance	Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys grew their brand value to retain their positions as the second and third most valuable IT services brands. Accenture retained the top slot for the fifth year straight, with a brand valued at \$39.8 billion. It is the strongest IT services brand in the ranking with a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 87.8 out of 100 and a corresponding AAA brand rating
9.			Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan with his more than three decades of work in the film industry has garnered millions of fans all over the world and an estimated net worth of ₹627 million (\$770 million), making him the richest actor in Asia and fourth richest actor all over the world. Beating fellow immensely famous and cult actors like Tom Cruise, Jackie Chan, and George Clooney, Shah Rukh Khan took the fourth position in the list of eight richest actors of the world released by World of Statistics





S.No.	Name	Organization	Important facts
10.	Richest actor list	by World of Statistics	Bollywood actor <b>Shah Rukh Khan</b> with his more than three decades of work in the film industry has garnered millions of fans all over the world and an estimated net worth of ₹627 million (\$770 million), making him the richest actor in Asia and fourth richest actor all over the world. Beating fellow immensely famous and cult actors like <b>Tom Cruise, Jackie Chan, and George Clooney, Shah Rukh Khan</b> took the fourth position in the list of eight richest actors of the world released
11.	Global Risks Report 2023	World Economic Forum	The world faces a set of risks that feel both wholly new and eerily familiar. It explores some of the most severe risks we may face over the next decade. As we stand on the edge of a <b>low-growth and low-cooperation era</b> , tougher trade-offs risk eroding climate action, human development and future resilience.

**Books & Authors**

Name of Book	Author
"Breaking Barriers: The Story of a Dalit Chief Secretary"	Kaki Madhava Rao
"The World: A Family History of Humanity"	Simon Sebag Montefiore
'Human Anatomy' in Hindi Manav sharir Rachna Vigyan	Dr AK Dwivedi
Ambedkar: A Life	Shashi Tharoor
"Revolutionaries: The Other Story of How India Won Its Freedom,"	Sanjeev Sanyal
"Roller Coaster: An Affair with Banking"	Tamal Bandyopadhyay
'Njaan Sakshi'	K.K. Abdul Gaffar's
Jadunama	Arvind Mandloi
"Braving A Viral Storm: India's Covid-19 Vaccine Story"	Aashish Chandorkar and Suraj Sudhir
"Revolutionaries- The Other Story of How India Won Its Freedom"	Sanjeev Sanyal
Irrfan Khan: A Life in Movies	Shubhra Gupta
'Come! Let's Run'	Ma. Subramanian, released by Krishnamachari Srikanth. The Tamil version of the same book titled 'Odalam Vanga'

**Sports Current Affairs**

Cricket {National Game of: Australia, Bermuda, England, Jamaica No. of Players: 11

Important Terms associated: Arm ball, Beamer, Bottom hand, Bouncer, Cameo, Carrom ball, Chinaman, Flick, Free hit, Glance, Googly, Hat-trick, Hit wicket, Leg bye, Nelson, Night watchman, Pinch hitter, Sweep, Upper Cut.}

- In Cricket, **India** scripted history by defeating **Sri Lanka** by the largest ever margin of 317 runs in the third and final ODI in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**. With this, India also clean swept the series by 3-0. Previous record of a win by a largest ever margin was with the **New Zealand, for 290-run win over Ireland in 2008**
- Star cricketer **Virat Kohli** became the fifth-highest run-scorer in history of ODI cricket, overtaking Sri Lankan legend **Mahela Jayawardene** to enter into top-five. At the time of becoming the fifth-highest run-scorer, Virat had 12,652 runs in 268 ODIs at an average of 57.78, with 45 tons and 65 half-century. His best score in the format is 183
- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has announced that **Viacom 18** have grabbed the media rights

for the upcoming **Women's IPL** for a whopping **Rs 951 crore** for five years,

- Hashim Amla** ended his 22-year playing career, with his legacy secure as one of **South Africa's all-time cricketing greats**





- The **Rwanda** fast bowler, **Geovanis Uwase** has been suspended by ICC from bowling in international cricket with immediate effect after her action was found illegal at **Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup**.
- Indian batter **Shubman Gill** has smashed three sixes on the trot to reach his double hundred (**208 off 149 with 45-19 and 6s-9**) and become only the eighth and the youngest player (23 years) in ODI history. He also became the fastest Indian to complete **1000 runs in ODIs as he reached the mark in 19 innings**, surpassing the likes of Virat Kohli and Shikhar Dhawan
- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** announced that **Yo-Yo Test and DEXA** will be a part of the selection criteria..
- Saurashtra's **Jaydev Unadkat** made a slice of **Ranji Trophy history**, becoming the first bowler to take a hat-trick in the opening over.
- Australia's **Belinda Clark** has become the first female cricketer to have a statue cast in her honour, a bronze sculpture of the trailblazing former captain unveiled outside **Sydney Cricket Ground**.
- **Dwayne Pretorius** Proteas all-rounder has retired from international cricket.
- **Suryakumar Yadav** has become the fastest player to reach **1,500 runs** in T20 International cricket.
- **Harry Brook** received the ICC Men's Player of the Month award after a blistering run of scores that helped England claim a historic World Test Championship (WTC) series victory in Pakistan.
- Australia's **Ashleigh Gardner** bagged the ICC Women's Player of the Month award for her contributions with bat and ball in the T20I series against India.

**Important Terms associated: tennis**

- **Sania Mirza** announces her retirement.
- **Novak Djokovic** has defeated America's **Sebastian Korda** in a nerve-racking final to win the Adelaide International men's singles title.
- At Adelaide International 1, **Aryna Sabalenka** won the women's singles by defeating Linda Noskova of the Czech Republic.

**Football {National Game of: Brazil, Italy, Germany, Israel, Mauritius, Poland No. of Players: 11**

**Important Terms Associated: Back Pass, Corner Kick, Free Kick, Dribble, Futsal, Header, Kick off, Banana Kick, Toe Poke, Throw-in, Bicycle Kick}**

- **Gareth Bale** has announced his retirement from professional football at the age of 33.
- France team captain **Hugo Lloris** has announced his decision to retire from international football at the age of 36
- **Barcelona** have won the **Spanish Super Cup** for the first time since the competition was revamped and moved to Saudi Arabia with a 3-1 victory over **Real Madrid**

**Hockey**

- Hockey **Haryana's** women's team won the **Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Women's Under 18** Qualifiers after defeating **Madhya Pradesh** (2-0) in the final at Bhubaneswar.
- In Hockey, **Madhya Pradesh** defeated Odisha 6-5 to clinch **Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Men's Under-18** Qualifiers title in Bhubaneswar.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik **inaugurated** one of the largest hockey stadiums in India in Rourkela ahead of the Men's Hockey World Cup 2023. Built at an estimated cost of **₹261 crore**, the stadium, located in **Sundargarh district**, has been christened as **Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium Complex**. It has been built in **50 acres** in a **record 15 months-time with a seating capacity of 20,000**. The stadium also has practice centres adjacent to it with certified turfs and lighting. The State has also built a **World Cup village**, which has 225 rooms to house the players and officials, within nine months.
- **'Hockeyverse'** a new metaverse product which Hockey India claims marks a first for a national sports federation, has been launched across the governing body's social media platforms and is designed to enhance the tournament experience for fans around the world.

**Badminton / Boxing/ Wrestling/Weightlifting**

**Akane Yamaguchi and Viktor Axelsen** won the **Malaysia Open Super 1000 women's and men's singles titles** in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Sports Events |Tournaments Current Affairs  
Other Sports Current Affairs**

- Former World rapid champion **K. Humpy** produced a superlative performance to claim India's first-ever silver medal from the **World blitz chess championship** that concluded in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Humpy defeated China's Zhongyi Tan
- **Koustav Chatterjee** became India's 78th **Grandmaster**. He is also the tenth GM from West Bengal
- **Pranesh M** became India's 79th Grandmaster. IM Pranesh M emerged as the winner of the **Rilton Cup, the first tournament of the FIDE Circuit.**
- **Anahat Singh** won the Girl's U-15 squash title at **British Junior Open Tournament**.
- **Khelo India Senior Women National Kho Kho league** is to take place at Chandigarh University, Punjab.
- **Falak Mumtaz**, an 11-year-old girl from Jammu and Kashmir has bagged a gold medal in **National Sqay Championship**.





**Science & Technology**

- The sole centre in India with a focus on healthcare and life sciences will be created in **Hyderabad** as the **World Economic Forum Centre** for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR Telangana)
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- The first instance of **solo electromagnetic waves** has been discovered by Indian researchers. The results were established using information from the **Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN)** mission of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- **P. Sreekumar**, the Satish Dhawan Professor at the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** and advisor to its space science programme, stated that the organisation has not yet received approval from the Indian government for the Venus mission and that, as a result, the mission may be delayed until **2031**. **Shukrayaan I**, the ISRO Venus mission, was scheduled to launch in **December 2024**.
- The entire country will be covered by **Doppler Weather Radar Network** by 2025 to help predict extreme weather events more accurately, **union minister Jitendra Singh** said, speaking at the foundation day of **India Meteorological Department**. Four new radars were added recently taking the number from 33 to 37. They include two at **Murari Devi and Jot in Himachal Pradesh**, and one each at **Banihal Top in Jammu and Kashmir and Surkandaji in Uttarakhand** covering a radius of 100 km.
- **NASA** announced that the **James Webb Space Telescope** has discovered its first new exoplanet. Researchers have labelled the planet as **LHS 475 b**, and it's roughly the same size as Earth. Located just 41 light-years away, the planet orbits very close to a red dwarf star and completes a full orbit in just two days.
- **MSN Group** launched the 'world's first' generic **Palbociclib** tablets indicated for advanced **breast cancer** therapy under the brand **Palborest**.
- **Astronomers from McGill University** in Canada and the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** in Bengaluru have used data from the **Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT)** in **Pune** to detect a radio signal originating from **atomic hydrogen** in an extremely distant galaxy. (
- **NASA-JAXA Geotail spacecraft** have signed off, after the failure of the spacecraft's remaining data recorder. Since its launch on **July 24, 1992, Geotail orbited Earth**, gathering an immense dataset on the structure and dynamics of the magnetosphere, Earth's protective magnetic bubble.
- **ISRO, National Centre for Earth Sciences (NCES), and the Andhra University (AU)** have researched and concluded that constant rip current zones at blue flag-certified **Rushikonda beach** and **RK Beach** have become a danger to the beach visitors. Between 2012 to 2022, over **200 people** drowned in the sea at various beaches in and around Visakhapatnam and 60 percent of deaths occurred in **RK Beach**.
- Union Minister **Dr Jitendra Singh** today inaugurated "**National Genome Editing & Training Centre**" at **National Agri-food Biotechnology Institute (NABI)** Mohali, Punjab. The Minister also, at the same time, inaugurated a **4-day International Conference on Food and Nutritional Security 2023: - iFANS**
- **National Council of Science Museums** hosted **Astro Tourism - A Sky Gazing** event at Delhi's India Gate in collaboration with the **Nehru Memorial Museum and Library**.
- **Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL)** has invented a "System and Method for Controlling Generation and Movement of Fugitive Dust" and obtained a patent for the same.
- A '**green**' comet from the outer solar system will pass through our area of space for the first time in 50,000 years this month.
- **IG Drones in Odisha's Sambalpur** has developed a **5G-enabled drone** that is capable of vertical take-off and landing.
- **Airtel**-backed **OneWeb** successfully launched and deployed 40 satellites onboard a **SpaceX** launcher

**Schemes/ Apps**

Name	Ministry	Year	Purpose
<b>Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)</b>	<b>Ministry of Rural Development</b>	<b>2011</b>	The <b>Prajwala Challenge</b> has been launched to invite ideas, solutions, and actions that can transform rural development. It will provide a platform where <b>ideas are invited from individuals</b> , social enterprises, start-ups, the private sector, civil society, community-based organizations, academic institutions, incubation centers, investors, etc having the potential to transform the rural economy
<b>"VIRAASAT"</b>	<b>Ministry of Textile</b>		<b>Celebrating 75 handwoven Saris of India</b>





Name	Ministry	Year	Purpose
National Green Hydrogen Mission	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	2021	energy-independent before completing 100 years
'Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND)'	I&B Ministry	2023	Under the scheme, eight lakh DD Free Dish DTH set top boxes (STBs) will also be distributed to people living in remote, tribal, LWE, border areas and 'aspirational' districts
Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY)	Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution	2023	free foodgrains will be provided under PMGKAY for the year 2023 to all PHH and AAY beneficiaries, as per entitlement under NFSA
MAARG (Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience, and Growth)	Commerce Ministry	2023	a portal to facilitate mentorship for <a href="#">start-ups</a>
'Aarogya Maitri'		2023	India will provide <b>essential medical supplies</b> to any developing country affected by natural disasters or humanitarian crisis
National Urban Technology Mission	ministry of housing and urban affairs		is able to infuse <b>technological improvements</b> in <b>municipal providers and infrastructure</b> of 4,500 city native bodies within the nation. the approval of the <b>expenditure finance committee (EFC)</b> pegs the mission outlay at <b>₹15,000 crore for 5 years</b> .
Padho Pardesh Interest Subsidy Scheme	Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA)		has discontinued the scheme of interest subsidy on education loans for overseas studies for students belonging to minority communities All banks were notified by the Indian Banks' Association last month about the discontinuation of the <b>from 2022-23</b> . The scheme so far was being implemented through Canara Bank, the designated nodal bank
Womaniya Government eMarketplace	GeM + self-employed women's association, Bharat ngo	2019	To promote women entrepreneurs

### Committees in News

- Under its campaign of **Nirogi Rajasthan**, Rajasthan Chief Minister **Ashok Gehlot** has implemented the policy for Blindness Control with the objective of '**Right to Sight**'. With this, **Rajasthan** has become the **first state to have such a policy**. This policy has been brought with an aim to bring light in the lives of more than **3 lakh people** suffering from **visual impairment in the State**.

### Important Days

Date	Day & Theme
January 1	Global Family Day
January 4	World Braille Day
January 6	World Day of War Orphans
January 9	Pravasi Bharatiya Divas or NRI Day
January 10	World Hindi Day or Vishwa Hindi Diwas
January 12	National Youth Day
10-16 <sup>th</sup>	Startup India Innovation Week
January 2023	
11th to 17th	Road Safety Week
January 2023	
14th January	The Armed Forces Veterans Day since 1953
15th January	Indian army day
16th January	National Startup Day
19 <sup>th</sup> Jan	18th National Disaster Response Force day





**Obituaries (National/International)**

Person Died	Profession/Famous In?
<b>Politician (National-International)</b>	
1 Sharad Yadav	Politician
2 Keshari Nath Tripathi	Governer
3 Mukarram Jah Bahadur	last Nizam of Hyderabad
4	
<b>'Singer/Musician (National-International)</b>	
5 Sumitra Sen	Rabindra Sangeet exponent
6 Ray Cordeiro,	Guinness Book of Records as the world's longest-working DJ.
7	
<b>Actor/Director/Producer (National-International)</b>	
8 Gina Lollobrigida	Italian film legend
<b>Author/Journalist/Activist/Painter (National-International)</b>	

Person Died	Profession/Famous In?
<b>Sportsmen/Sportswomen (National-International)</b>	
9 Gianluca Vialli	Footballer
<b>Others (National-International)</b>	
1 Pope Benedict XVI	Religion
1 R Krishnakumar	Businessman
1 Walter Cunningham	Astronaut
1 Ronald E. Asher	linguist and educator specialised in Dravidian languages
1 Dr Tehemton Erach Udawadia	'father of laparoscopic surgery in India'
1 AD Damodaran	scientist
1 Lucile Randon	oldest person, French nun: also known as Sister Andre

**Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners**

- Union Minister of State for Culture **Arjun Ram Meghwal** handed over the 9th to 10th century Nataraja Idol of the Archeological Department official in Chittorgarh Fort in **Rajasthan**. Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal noted that there are only 13 idols of ancient importance that could be brought to India by the year 2023 but after 2014, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** brought 229 idols to India.
- Regional carrier **Flybig** commenced its services from **Itanagar to Guwahati**. The Flybig carrier has commenced flights from Hollongi in Arunachal Pradesh to Guwahati in Assam. With this, Itanagar becomes the 10th destination on the Flybig network while the third destination in Arunachal Pradesh alone
- Italian man, **Michele Santelia** has achieved a world record by typing copies of 81 books backwards, a technique that he calls 'mirror writing', as per a report by the **Guinness World Records (GWR)**. For the purpose of this record, the books must be typed using 'mirror writing', such that the result is the mirror image of any given language's normal writing.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF) has listed **Neelakurinji** under Schedule III of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**. As per the order, those uprooting or destroying the plant will be fined **Rs 25,000** and imprisoned for three years, furthermore, cultivation and possession of Neelakurinji are not permitted.
- The **Archeological Survey of India (ASI)** of the Patna circle has unearthed 1200 years old two miniature votive stupas near the Sarai Tila mound on the "**Nalanda Mahavihara**" grounds in the Nalanda district.
- A team of astronomers led by scientists at the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics** and their international collaborators decided to study the most massive globular cluster system in our galaxy, **Omega Centauri**. They have detected strange hot stars in the cluster using the Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (UVIT) image on AstroSat. They have found that these hot stars emitted much less ultraviolet radiation than expected from theoretical models and in comparison, with stars of another **globular cluster, M13** has similar overall properties.
- India's first underwater metro service, **The Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation (KMRC)** said that the East-West Metro Corridor project, is expected to be completed by **December 2023**. With this, another feather is being added to the crown of Kolkata Metro, the first metro railway in the country. Kolkata Metro, which started its journey in 1984, is being expanded to cover the whole city and its outskirts. The underwater metro, which will be running through the Hoogly river will connect the twin cities of Howrah and Kolkata.
- Union Home and Cooperation Minister **Amit Shah** inaugurated **Mega Dairy** at Mandya in Karnataka. The mega dairy inaugurated at a cost of Rs 260 crore would process 10 lakh liters of milk per day and the will have the capacity to increase it upto 14 lakh liters per day. 10 lakh liters of milk is processed, prosperity reaches the homes of lakhs of farmers. There are 15,210 village level cooperative dairies in Karnataka, in which about 26.22 lakh farmers deliver their milk daily and through 16 district level dairies, Rs 28 crore is deposited into the accounts of 26 lakh farmers every day.





- 50 electric buses were launched in Delhi with support under the **FAME India Phase II scheme** of the Ministry of Heavy Industries. In 2019, the government approved Rs 10,000 crore for a period of three years. Out of total budgetary support, about 86 percent of the fund has been allocated for incentives so as to create demand for electric vehicles.
- **Ghaziabad-Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay section** (762 KM) becomes the longest fully **automatic block signalling section** of Indian Railways. In order to increase line capacity to run more trains on existing High Density Routes of Indian Railways, Automatic Block Signalling (ABS) is a cost effective solution. Indian Railways has been rolling out Automatic Block signalling on a mission mode.
- The TRF came into existence in **2019** as a proxy outfit of the **Lashkar-e-Taiba**, a proscribed terrorist organisation. Home Ministry said that TRF is recruiting youth through online mediums for the furtherance of terrorist activities. Centre has declared The Resistance Front (TRF) as a terrorist organisation under the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, UAPA**.
- The **Ministry of Culture** has informed the parliament that fifty of India's 3,693 centrally protected monuments have been missing. The submission of the missing report was done by the Ministry of Culture on **8th December** 2022 to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism, and Culture as part of a report titled '**Issues relating to Untraceable Monuments and Protection of Monuments in India.**' Many monuments and sites were lost to activities like **urbanization**, the construction of dams and reservoirs, and even encroachment. **14 Monuments** have been lost due to rapid urbanization; 12 monuments are submerged by reservoirs while 24 are untraceable. There are total of 50 monuments missing.
- Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying Parshottam Rupala inaugurated 29 **Mobile Veterinary Units (MVU)** and a Centralized call center in **Thiruvananthapuram**. It is a major step for benefit of the livestock farmers in Kerala.
- **The International Kite Festival 2023** has began on 8 January in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**. The festival is being organised by Gujarat Tourism on the G20 theme of '**One Earth, One Family, One Future**'.
- **MS Dhoni** and drone market **Garuda Aerospace** have launched a surveillance drone named '**Droni.**' Droni is a battery-operated quadcopter surveillance drone.
- **Vidisha**, became the first district ever in India for on-ground implementation of groundbreaking **5G** use cases proposed by startups
- "**Soul of Steel**" a new challenge to test **high-altitude endurance** will be launched in India. Spearheaded by venture **CLAW Global**, it will take place in **Uttarakhand**.

