

Weekly One Liners 13th to 19th March 2023

Oscars awards 2023 : Check the complete list of winners

Oscars 2023: The 95th Academy Awards (Oscars Awards 2023) are finally announced and the fans are excited to know how India fares at Oscars Awards 2023. The Academy Awards, or Oscars Awards 2023, which were originally held in 1929, recently celebrated their 95th anniversary. The Oscars Awards 2023 held on March 13 IST in Los Angeles' Dolby theatre. It was hosted by popular late night show host **Jimmy Kimmel**.

Oscars awards 2023- Here's the complete list of winners
Oscars Awards 2023 full winner list is given below.

Category	Winners
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Picture	Everything Everywhere All At Once
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Actress	Michelle Yeoh (Everything Everywhere All at Once)
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Actor	Brendan Fraser (The Whale)
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Director	Daniel Kwan and Daniel Schienert (Everything Everywhere All at Once)
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Film Editing	Everything Everywhere All at Once
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Original Song	"Naatu Naatu" (RRR)
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Sound	Top Gun: Maverick
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Adapted Screenplay	Women Talking
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Original Screenplay	Everything Everywhere All at Once - Daniel Kwan and Daniel Schienert
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Visual Effects	Avatar: The Way of Water
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Animated Feature Film	Guillermo del Toro's 'Pinocchio'
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Actress in a Supporting Role	Jamie Lee Curtis in 'Everything Everywhere All at Once'
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Actor in a Supporting Role	Ke Huy Quan in 'Everything Everywhere All at Once'
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Documentary Feature Film	'Navalny' by Daniel Roher, Odessa Rae, Diane Becker, Melanie Miller and Shane Boris
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Live Action Short Film	'An Irish Goodbye' by Tom Berkeley and Ross White

Category	Winners
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Cinematography	'All Quiet on the Western Front' by James Friend
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Makeup and Hairstyling	Adrien Morot, Judy Chin and Annemarie Bradley for 'The Whale'
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Costume Design	Ruth Carter for 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever'
Oscars Awards 2023 Best International Feature Film	'All Quiet on the Western Front' - Germany
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Documentary Short Film	'The Elephant Whisperers' by Kartiki Gonsalves and Guneet Monga
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Animated Short Film	The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Original Score	All Quiet on the Western Front
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Production Design	All Quiet on the Western Front

India 8th most polluted country in the world: Swiss firm IQAir Report

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 research shows that the PM2.5 level in the most polluted Indian cities is 53.3. 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, which was not far behind at 92.6. At the same time, 39 out of 50 cities in the list of most polluted cities are from India.

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10 most polluted countries in the world

Rank	10 most polluted countries in the world
1	Chad
2	Iraq
3	Pakistan
4	Bahrain
5	Bangladesh
6	Burkina Faso
7	Kuwait
8	India
9	Egypt
10	Tajikistan

Key points of the reports:

Australia, Estonia, Finland, Grenada, Iceland and New Zealand met the World Health Organization (WHO) PM2.5 guideline (annual average of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ or less).

Countries that meet WHO PM2.5 guideline
Australia
Estonia
Finland
Grenada
Iceland
New Zealand

'World Air Quality Report' 2022: About India

- In India, the transport industry is responsible for 20–35% of the country's PM2.5 pollution. The use of biomass fuels, industrial facilities, and coal-fired power plants are other contributors of air quality degradation.
- Among the top 50 most polluted cities worldwide, Delhi comes in at number four. The city with the highest pollution is Lahore, Pakistan, followed by Hotan, China. Rajasthan's Bhiwadi is ranked third.
- According to the data, Delhi's PM2.5 concentration is about 20 times higher than the recommended amount.
- The research makes a distinction between "big" Delhi and the capital city of New Delhi because Delhi has historically been the most polluted capital in the world. Both cities rank among the top 10, but N'Djamena, in Chad, has the dubious distinction of being the world's most polluted capital.
- Pollution levels have decreased in NCR areas including Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram, and Faridabad.
- According to the data, Gurugram had a 34% decrease in PM 2.5 levels and Faridabad saw a 21% decrease from the average levels observed in prior years.
- There has been an 8% decrease in Delhi.
- The research claims that pollution levels have significantly decreased in 31 cities, including 10 cities in Uttar Pradesh and 7 cities in Haryana.

- According to the survey, there has been an increase in pollution in 38 cities and towns overall compared to the national average over the previous years.
- The survey placed Kolkata as the most polluted of the six major cities, followed by Delhi. Chennai, on the other hand, was said to be the cleanest, with pollution there "only" 5 times the WHO-recommended safe threshold. Since 2017, pollution levels in the major cities of Hyderabad and Bengaluru have been higher than average.

ICC Player of the Month for February

The winners of the **ICC Player of the Month awards for February 2023** have been revealed by the International Cricket Council (ICC), with **Ashleigh Gardner** of Australia being awarded the ICC Women's Player of the Month and **Harry Brook** of England recovering the ICC Men's Player of the Month titles. The outcomes of the ICC Player of the Month Awards for February are a carbon copy of those from December 2022, when both winners received their first awards following successful months for their respective teams in both the short and long formats of the game.

ICC Women's Player of the Month, February 2023: Ashleigh Gardner

Following a string of brilliant performances that helped Australia successfully defend their Women's T20 World Cup title in South Africa, **Ashleigh Gardner** is named the ICC Women's Player of the Month for February. She continued to solidify her position as the top-ranked T20I all-rounder in the MRF Tyres ICC Women's Player Rankings by taking consistent wickets and contributing with significant runs throughout the match, and she eventually capped a fruitful campaign with the Player of the Tournament award. Gardner defeats Nat Sciver of England and Laura Wolvaardt of South Africa, both of whom were nominated for outstanding performances and two other ICC Women's T20 World Cup stars, to win the award.

ICC Men's Player of the Month, February 2023: Harry Brook

Brook wins his second award as the ICC Men's Player of the Month after once again showcasing his burgeoning reputation in international cricket. The prolific hitter has excelled across all formats, and recent Test matches for a resurgent England have shown just how high his potential is. Brook's quick and gutsy strokeplay was a feature, exciting spectators in a thrilling Test series, scoring big again in New Zealand last month.

In order to win his second ICC Men's Player of the Month title, Brook defeated fellow nominees Ravindra Jadeja and Gudakesh Motie. He joins Pakistan's Babar Azam, the 2022 ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year, as the only players to receive the honour twice.

TIME list of World's Greatest Places of 2023 Released, 2 Indian Places Makes the list

2 Indian places grabs spot in list of World's Greatest Places of 2023

India's **Mayurbhanj** and **Ladakh**, which have been chosen for their endangered tigers and historic temples, as well as their adventures and cuisine, respectively, are two of the 50 locations which are featured in the **TIME Magazine's list of World's Greatest Places in 2023**. Check out the entire **TIME Magazine's list of World's Greatest Places of 2023**.

TIME magazine's list of World's Greatest Places of 2023: Key Points

- As **TIME Magazine** revealed its list of the "**World's Best Places of 2023**," the Mayurbhanj region of Odisha and the Union Territory of Ladakh both made the cut.
- Although the travel industry is back in full force in 2023, it was noticed that there have been some significant changes in the way and places we visit.
- The magazine asked its global network of journalists and contributors for suggestions of locations, keeping an eye out for those offering novel and interesting experiences, in order to construct this list of the World's Best Places.
- The senior editor at TIME, **Emma Barker Bonomo**, was reported by CNN as saying that the list highlights two current major trends in travel: sustainability and authenticity.
- Many of the places on this list are figuring out ways to allow tourists to visit with less of an impact on the environment.
- And many have catered to tourists' yearning for distinctive, regional encounters by providing native-led tours or carefully selected homestays.

TIME list of World's Greatest Places of 2023

Below is the list of **TIME Magazine's list of World's Greatest Places of 2023**:

- Tampa, Florida
- Willamette Valley, Oregon
- Rio Grande, P. R.
- Tucson, Arizona
- Yosemite National Park, California
- Bozeman, Montana
- Washington, D.C.
- Vancouver, Canada
- Churchill, Manitoba
- Dijon, France
- Pantelleria, Italy
- Naples, Italy
- Aarhus, Denmark
- St. Moritz, Switzerland

- Barcelona, Spain
- Timisoara, Romania
- Sylt, Germany
- Berat, Albania
- Budapest, Hungary
- Vienna, Austria
- Brisbane, Australia
- Kangaroo Island, Australia
- Dominica
- Mexico City, Mexico
- Guadalajara, Mexico
- Torres del Paine National Park, Chile
- Pantanal, Brazil
- Medellín, Colombia
- Ollantaytambo, Peru
- Roatán, Honduras
- **Ladakh, India**
- **Mayurbhanj, India**
- Kyoto, Japan
- Nagoya, Japan
- Isan, Thailand
- Phuket, Thailand
- Jeju Island, South Korea
- Luang Prabang, Laos
- Giza and Saqqara, Egypt
- Chyulu Hills, Kenya
- Musanze, Rwanda
- Rabat, Morocco
- Dakar, Senegal
- Loango National Park, Gabon
- Freetown Peninsula, Sierra Leone
- The Red Sea, Saudi Arabia
- Aqaba, Jordan
- Jerusalem, Israel
- Sharjah, UAE
- Tuamotu Archipelago, French Polynesia



National Affairs

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will visit **Karnataka** and dedicate the **Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway** to the country. The 118-km-long project will cut the distance between **Bengaluru** and **Mysuru's** travel time from nearly three hours to just over 75 minutes. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** dedicated World's longest railway platform of 1.5 kilometres at Sri Siddhaarooda railway station in **Hubballi** in the state of **Karnataka**. The world's longest railway platform will cater to the transportation needs of the **Hubballi-Dharwad region** and will help in enhancing the operational capacity of the yard. Furthermore, it will enable the operations of trains in both directions. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The first methanol-powered buses in Bengaluru will be unveiled by Union Minister for Road and Transport, Nitin Gadkari. The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), NITI Aayog, Indian Oil Company (IOC), and Ashok Leyland are working together to carry out the initiative, which aims to lower the level of pollutants. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Environmental, Social, and Governance Law (ESG)** issues have become a significant area of concern for businesses, governments, and individuals around the world. **India** is no exception to this trend, with the country's corporate sector and regulators increasingly focused on ESG-related matters. As we enter 2023, it is worth taking a closer look at the state of **Environmental, Social & Governance Law India 2023** (ESG law in India) and what the future holds for this rapidly evolving area. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- According to railways and telecom minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, the first bullet train in India will begin service in August 2026. The project will stimulate the economy because several of the suppliers to the project have begun receiving export orders. The government intends to start operating the first bullet train in August 2026. The goal is to run the bullet train on a larger section in 2027. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **AAHAR 2023**: The objective of Aahar 2023, which was put together with the help of the Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries, the **Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**, and other organisations, is to showcase the hospitality industry's potential and showcase technologies, goods, and services to both domestic and foreign consumers. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Indian Railways** has set a target of becoming a '**net-zero carbon emitter**' by 2030, said Union Railways Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. The Railways plans to achieve this ambitious target in two steps: A complete transition to electric trains by December 2023 and powering the trains and stations primarily through non-renewable sources by 2030. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare **Narendra Singh Tomar** on 15 March 2023, inaugurated "**AgriUnifest**" in Bengaluru, Karnataka. It is a 5-day cultural program, organized by Bangalore Agricultural University in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). More than 2500 students from 60 State Universities/Central Universities have participated. ([Click here to read the article](#))

States in the News

- **In Nagpur, Maharashtra**, a new project known as "**beggar-free city**" has been launched. Amitesh Kumar, the Nagpur City commissioner of police, announced that notification 144 CrPC has been issued in this regard. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Ganesh Joshi**, the state's agriculture minister, said that **Uttarakhand** launched the country's first "**Resham Keet Bima**" programme to safeguard its sericulturists. 200 sericulturists from five blocks in four districts—Dehradun, Haridwar, Udham Singh Nagar, and Nainital—received insurance in the first phase of the pilot project, which started in Uttarakhand. This insurance protected them from the effects of climate change, water scarcity, and other dangers. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The government of **Uttarakhand** has approved a 10% horizontal reservation for statehood campaigners in state government positions. Under the direction of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, the decision was made during a cabinet meeting held in Bhararisain. ([Click here to read the article](#))

International Affairs

- **Indonesia's Mount Merapi**, one of the world's most active volcanoes, erupted, spewing out smoke and ash that covered villages near the crater. There were no immediate reports of casualties, the the National Disaster Mitigation Agency said. The images broadcasted shows ash-covered houses and roads at a village near the volcano, in Yogyakarta. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. Silicon Valley Bank, the nation's **16th largest bank**, collapsed on Friday, forcing a government takeover and calling into question the fate of almost \$175 billion in customer deposits. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. The **CO2 graveyard**, where the carbon is injected to prevent further warming of the atmosphere, is on the site of an old oil field. Led by British chemical giant Ineos and German oil company Wintershall Dea, the "Greensand" project is expected to store up to eight million tonnes of CO2 per year by 2030. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- An **earthquake** of 7.1 magnitude struck the New Zealand's Kermadec Islands region, the US Geological Survey (USGS) said. The **earthquake** was estimated at a depth of 10 km (6.21 miles). The US Tsunami Warning System has issued a tsunami warning following this earthquake. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The US Senate Committee has announced the appointment of **Eric Garcetti** as the new **US Ambassador to India**. Despite being nominated by President **Joe Biden** almost two years ago, Garcetti's appointment had been pending until now. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Recently, at the **United Nations Least Developed Countries (LDC) Summit** that concluded on March 9 in **Doha, Qatar**, the landlocked Himalayan kingdom of **Bhutan** will no longer be on the list of LDCs and will become only the seventh country to graduate from the list. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A bipartisan resolution was passed by the US, formally recognizing the **McMahon Line** as the international boundary between **China and India's Arunachal Pradesh**. The resolution rejected China's claim that the state belongs to its territory and instead acknowledged Arunachal Pradesh as an integral part of India. Furthermore, the resolution expressed support for India's sovereignty and territorial integrity. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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**. Ukrainians accuse Russia of attempting genocide against them and seeking to destroy their identity — partly through deporting children to Russia. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, and his Bangladesh counterpart **Sheikh Hasina**, will inaugurate the **India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline** via video conference. It is first such pipeline through which refined diesel will be supplied to Bangladesh from India. The project is built under grant assistance from the government of India. ([Click here to read the article](#))



Agreements/MoUs Signed

- 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). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on March 15 said that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Central Bank of United Arab Emirates** for promoting innovation in financial product and services. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. The government has allocated Rs. 6322 crores to boost the steel sector and generate an investment of about Rs. 30,000 crores, creating an additional capacity of approximately 25 million tonnes of specialty steel over the next five years. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Books and Authors

- Supreme Court Judge Justice **V. Ramasubramanian** has released a book titled India's Struggle for Independence – Gandhian Era. The book, authored by **P. Jyothimani**, former Judge, Madras High Court, and G. Balan, former professor of history, Pachaiyappa's College, and published by Vanathi Pathipagam, was released at an event held at the University of Madras. The book covers aspects such as the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi as of the date. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Rachna Biswat Rawat**, a journalist and writer from India, has recently written a book called "**Bipin: The Man Behind the Uniform.**" The book is published by Penguin Veer, a Penguin Random House imprint, and focuses on the life, personality, and principles of General Bipin Rawat. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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**. This publication offers comprehensive information on various topics, such as political participation, employment, and health, while also providing gender-disaggregated data that can help us understand the differences between various groups of men and women living in rural and urban areas across different regions of India. It is a valuable resource for gaining insights into gender-related issues in India. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The book "**Snakes In the Ganga: Breaking India 2.0**" authored by **Shri Rajiv Malhotra and Mrs. Vijaya Viswanathan** has received considerable recognition in India. It sheds light on the various threats to India's national security from the United States, which is not typically perceived as a major risk by the average Indian. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- India's digital payments landscape has witnessed phenomenal growth over the past five years. As per the report, India's digital payments market is at an inflection point and is expected to increase more than **threefold** from the current **US\$3 trillion to US\$10 trillion by 2026**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Finance Ministry** has tweaked the **anti-money laundering law** by bringing **cryptocurrencies** and other virtual digital assets trade under its ambit. This means that **exchanges, custodians, and wallet providers, among others in crypto-related trade, will fall under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act**. The government has imposed money laundering provisions on cryptocurrencies or virtual assets as it looks to tighten oversight of digital assets. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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**. The initiative to introduce an all-women production line is to promote women empowerment and encourage them take up roles in manufacturing industry. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** granted an 'Infrastructure Finance Company (IFC)' status to Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (**IREDA**), a company statement said. It was earlier classified as an 'Investment and Credit Company (ICC)'. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. The pharmaceutical giant said it will pay \$229 in cash for each share of **Seagen Inc**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. In January, the **WPI inflation** figure was 4.73 per cent. This is the lowest since January 2021 when the WPI inflation was 2.51 per cent. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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**. The deal, announced nearly three months ago, will help Reliance strengthen its wholesale format and cement its position as the biggest player in India's burgeoning retail industry with stores spanning electronics, groceries and fashion. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. SBI said the issue attracted overwhelming response from investors with bids of **Rs 4,537 crore** and was oversubscribed by about 2.27 times against the base issue of Rs 2,000 crore. The total number of bids were 53 indicating wider participation. The investors were across provident and pension funds and insurance companies. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **IDFC Mutual Fund** has rebranded itself as **Bandhan Mutual Fund**. The change in name will be effective from March 13. All the schemes of the fund house will be renamed to replace the word 'IDFC' with the word 'Bandhan'. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has permitted banks from **18 countries** to open Special Vostro Rupee Accounts (SVRAs) to settle payments in rupees, the government said. Speaking in Rajya Sabha, Union Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat **Kishanrao Karad** said that 60 such approvals have been given by the RBI. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Microsoft** strikes a deal to make **Xbox** PC video games available on the **Boosteroid** cloud gaming platform, its latest move to appease antitrust regulators scrutinising its purchase of game maker Activision Blizzard. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Suryoday Small Finance Bank** announced the launch of '**Blossom Women's Savings Account**' with 7 percent per annum interest rate with monthly interest credit. In addition to this, specially designed RuPay Platinum Debit Card offering discount on shopping and online purchases will also be available with the account, **Suryodaya Small Finance Bank** said. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **IDFC FIRST Bank**, a private sector bank in India, has become the official banking partner of the **Mumbai Indians**, a franchise cricket team that competes in the Indian Premier League (IPL). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** has launched the **"Learning Science via Standards"** initiative to promote science learning among school students. This program aims to improve students' learning outcomes in science and promote an interest in science education by providing them with access to national and international standards related to science. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- To leverage the reach of UPI and the strength of credit card products, **Canara Bank** in collaboration with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched the Rupay Credit Card through UPI using the BHIM app. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. As part of the 'Startup Ecosystem Banking' the Bank has put in place a dedicated team for startups that serves them through an extensive network of branches. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- According to data from the **Reserve Bank of India**, the country's **foreign exchange reserves** declined by **\$2.397 billion to \$560 billion** as of March 10, 2023. This marks a three-month low for India's foreign exchange reserves after they had increased for the first time in five weeks to \$562.40 billion as of March 3. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** approved the merger of **HDFC Ltd and HDFC Bank**, which is considered to be the largest merger in the history of corporate India. The merger will create a massive banking entity by combining India's largest housing finance company with the country's largest private lender. Prior to this, HDFC Ltd had already received approval from various regulatory bodies and stock exchanges for the merger. Shares of both companies were trading higher on the BSE during late trading hours. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Organisation 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, according to its latest interim outlook report titled "Fragile Recovery." ([Click here to read the article](#))



Appointments/Resignations

- Former Infosys President **Mohit Joshi** has been appointed as the company's **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** for a term of 5 years, beginning on December 20, 2023, and ending on December 19, 2028, according to IT services provider Tech Mahindra (both days inclusive). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- For a period of three months beginning March 14, the Center has chosen **Siddhartha Mohanty** as the interim chairman of the Life Insurance Company of India (**LIC**). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Tim Mayopoulos**, the former CEO of **Fannie Mae**, was appointed by the **Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)** to lead **Silicon Valley Bank**. He takes over after the startup-focused lender was shut down by regulators as a result of a run on its deposits, which left it with insufficient capital. For more than six years prior to joining fintech Blend, Mayopoulos was the CEO of mortgage financier Fannie Mae. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Amitava Mukherjee**, NMDC Director (Finance), has been given the additional responsibility of **Chairman-Cum-Managing Director**. Mukherjee, an Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS) officer from the 1995 batch, has a Master's in Commerce from Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya in Bilaspur and is also a Cost Accountant. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **She Changes Climate campaign**: 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. On International Women's Day, the global non-profit organization "She Changes Climate" unveiled a new campaign called "Embrace Equity" with the goal of amplifying women's voices regarding the effects of climate change." ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. He has also been named to the board of directors of HON as of March 13. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Rajesh Gopinathan**, the Managing Director and CEO of **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)**, has announced his decision to resign from his position in order to pursue other interests. Gopinathan has been with the company for more than two decades. TCS's board of directors has approved his request to step down and has appointed **K Krithivasan** as CEO-designate, effective from March 16, 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Viacom18** has appointed **MS Dhoni** as its brand ambassador to promote digital sports viewing. Dhoni will collaborate with Viacom18 to encourage fans to watch their favorite sports on digital platforms. He will participate in various network initiatives and feature in JioCinema's upcoming TATA IPL campaign, along with promoting the brand on his social media accounts. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. Mohanty, a former executive director of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), previously served as a member of PFRDA. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Defence News

- **Indian Navy's** indigenously built guided missile frigate, **INS Sahyadri** participated in a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with **French Navy (FN)** ships FS Dixmude, a Mistral Class Amphibious Assault Ship and FS La Fayette, a La Fayette Class Frigate, in the **Arabian Sea**. The partnership exercise was conducted on March 10-11. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- On March 13 and 14, 2023, the Indian Ocean Area will host the **third edition of the multilateral exercise La Perouse**. Every two years exercise La Perouse, an exercise run by the French Navy, aims to improve maritime domain awareness and maritime cooperation among the participating navies in the Indo-Pacific region. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. Both armies participated in the first command post exercise in the series, which included computer wargaming and planning components at the battalion and brigade levels. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The Indian Navy** deployed a P8I aircraft to Guam, USA, on March 14, 2023, 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. The exercise, scheduled from March 15 to March 30, 2023, will focus on coordinated ASW tactics among the participating countries and will involve advanced ASW drills. ([Click here to read the article](#))

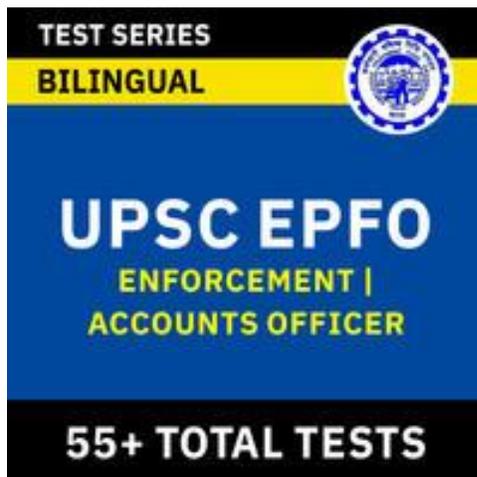
- The Indian Navy's top gunnery school, **INS Dronacharya**, will be presented with the **President's Colour** in honor of its outstanding services. **President Droupadi Murmu** will be conferring the award as the highest recognition bestowed upon a unit by the President, who serves as the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, for its exceptional service to the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Vyas Samman 2022: Pagalkhana**, a 2018 satirical novel by renowned Hindi author **Dr. Gyan Chaturvedi**, has been chosen for the **32nd Vyas Samman**. Dr. Chaturvedi's Pagalkhana (mental hospital) was chosen for the prestigious Vyas Samman by a selection committee led by distinguished author Prof. Ramji Tiwari. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Skytrax**, a **UK-based consultancy**, awards airports worldwide with the prestigious **World Airport Awards** based on customer surveys. For the fifth year in a row, **Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA)** has been the best airport in the South Asian region. The IGIA is an international airport and has received this recognition due to its excellent facilities and services provided to customers. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. This award is one of the most esteemed recognitions in Indian literature, and comes with a cash prize of Rs 15 lakh, a plaque, and a citation. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- **Knight Frank**, a global real estate consultancy, released its **Wealth Report 2023**, which provides insights into the trends and performance of the prime residential property market across the world. Among Indian respondents, the consultant said 88 per cent saw a rise in UHNWI's (ultra-high-net-worth individuals) wealth in 2022. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The celebration of **Yoga Mahotsav 2023** marks the official beginning of the 100-day countdown to **International Yoga Day 2023** and to sensitize and motivate the masses to participate in Yoga centric activities to widen the horizons of Yoga. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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 research shows that the PM2.5 level in the most polluted Indian cities is 53.3. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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)**. The report is released at a time when India has intensified its efforts to become self-reliant in the defence manufacturing sector. This year's defence budget included about Rs 1 lakh crore for domestic purchases, compared to Rs 84,598 crore, Rs 70,221 crore, and Rs 51,000 crore in the three years prior. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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%. ([Click here to read the article](#))



Sports News

- **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 by the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), while **MC Mary Kom** and Bollywood actor **Farhan Akhtar** have been named as brand ambassadors. The third time in history, India is serving as the host country. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Gianni Infantino** was re-elected as **FIFA president until 2027** by acclamation, after highlighting his strong financial performance as a reason for keeping a CEO in their position for life. The decision was made by the congress of 211 member federations, who have seen their annual funding from FIFA increase from \$250,000 to \$2 million since Infantino's first win in 2016. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The news is about the **Indian Premier League (IPL) team Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB)** partnering with Equitas Small Finance Bank as their banking partner for the IPL 2023 season. This partnership means that Equitas Small Finance Bank will provide a range of banking services to RCB, including salary accounts, forex, and other related financial services. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In the final of the Irani Cup 2022/23, **Team Rest of India** secured their 30th title win in the Indian domestic tournament, continuing their dominant performance. They defeated **Madhya Pradesh** by 238 runs. Yashasvi Jaiswal, who showcased brilliant batting skills across both innings, was adjudged the Player of the Match. He smashed a double century and a century in the two innings, contributing significantly to ROI's victory. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Schemes and Committess News

- 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') to provide **financial assistance to veteran artists** of the country of the age of 60 years and above in the form of monthly artists' pension. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **The Research, Education and Training Outreach (REACHOUT)** scheme is a program launched by the Indian government to promote research, education and training in the country. The Indian Ministry of Earth Sciences has initiated the REACHOUT Scheme to advance research, education, and training in the realm of Earth Sciences. The program aims to encourage collaboration between academic institutions, industry, and government to improve the quality of education and research in India. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Science and Technology News

- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **GPT4**, the most recent release of **OpenAI's** large language model, which powers popular apps like **ChatGPT** and the new **Bing**, has been announced. According to San Francisco-based research company **OpenAI**, **GPT-4** is more advanced than the previous version and has been trained on more data, costing more to operate. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Gaganyaan program aims to demonstrate India's capability to launch humans into Low Earth Orbit using an Indian launch vehicle and bring them back safely. The program includes four abort missions, with the first scheduled for May 2023. The program also includes several test vehicle missions and an uncrewed mission planned for 2024. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. The company has designed both robots to serve multiple purposes in industries and healthcare, and they are dual-use robots. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Important Days News

- Every year on **March 14**, people throughout the world mark the **International Day of Action for Rivers** to bring attention to how important rivers are to our daily lives. The theme of the 2023 International Day of Action for Rivers is "**Rights of Rivers**," which calls for the designation of rivers as a national treasure. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Every year on March 14, the **International Day of Mathematics**, also known as Pi Day, is observed to honour the mathematical constant Pi, which expresses the proportion of a circle's circumference to its diameter. According to the celebration's official website, the theme for Pi Day 2023 is "**Mathematics for Everyone**," which was suggested by Marco Zarco Rotauro of Trece Martires City National High School in the Philippines. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Every year on **March 15**, the **International Consumer Rights Day** is observed with the goal of promoting consumer protection and increasing global knowledge of consumer rights. World Consumer Rights Day 2023's theme is "**Empowering Consumers Through Clean Energy Transitions**." ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In 2022, the **United Nations** established the **International Day To Fight Islamophobia**, which is observed annually on **March 15** across 140 nations. March 15 was selected as the date because it marks the anniversary of the Christchurch mosque massacres, which left 51 people dead. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In India, **National Vaccination Day** is held on **March 16** each year, also known as "**Polio Ravivar**," to raise awareness and promote vaccination against polio. National Vaccination Day is an annual event observed in various countries to promote vaccination and increase public knowledge about its significance. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Sleep Day** is an annual event observed on the Friday before the Spring Vernal Equinox to raise awareness about the significance of sleep. This year, it falls on **March 17, 2023**. The World Sleep Society has announced the theme for this year's Sleep Day as '**Sleep is Essential for Health**'. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Every year on **March 18th**, **Global Recycling Day** is celebrated to increase people's comprehension about the harmful effects of plastic on the environment. This day also promotes recycling as a crucial concept and encourages people to organize events throughout the year to spread awareness about this cause. (The theme of Global Recycling Day 2023 is "**Creative Innovation**". ([Click here to read the article](#)))
- In India, **Ordnance Factory Day** is celebrated annually on **March 18th**, marking the establishment of the first Ordnance factory by the British in Cossipore, Kolkata, in 1801 during colonial rule. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Obituaries

- **Sameer Khakhar**, an experienced actor who had worked in theater, television, and movies, has passed away. He is most remembered for his portrayal of the character "Khopdi" in the popular TV series "Nukkad." Sameer Khakhar's career spanned across various genres of entertainment, but his performance as Khopdi was particularly notable, earning him recognition and praise from audiences. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- **The Vande Bharat Express** is now being driven by **Surekha Yadav**, the first female locomotive pilot in Asia. From **Solapur to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminal (CSMT)** in Maharashtra, Yadav ran the Vande Bharat Express. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Connaught Plaza in Delhi will host a **Flower Festival** beginning from, March 11. It aims to emphasise the diversity of **G20** participants and invited nations. **Japan, Singapore, and the Netherlands are among the G20 nations taking part.** The objective of the festival is to showcase the vibrancy and colourful display of G20 members and guest countries. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has unveiled **Rs 1,18,500 crore** budget for Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory for the next financial year. The total budget estimates for the fiscal is Rs. 1,18,500 crore, of which developmental expenditure is of the order of Rs. 41,491 crore. The capital component of the budget has increased substantially. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Static Takeaways

- LIC Founded: 1 September 1956;
- LIC Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Silicon Valley Bank Headquarters: Santa Clara, California, United States;
- Silicon Valley Bank President: Gregory W. Becker;
- Silicon Valley Bank Founder: Roger V Smith;
- Silicon Valley Bank Founded: 1983;
- FDIC Founder: Franklin D. Roosevelt;
- FDIC Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States.
- Lt. Governors & Administrators: Manoj Sinha
- The Organization of Islamic Cooperation Founded: 25 September 1969;
- The Organization of Islamic Cooperation Headquarters: Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- Uttarakhand Founded: 9 November 2000;
- Uttarakhand Chief minister: Pushkar Singh Dhami;
- Uttarakhand Official tree: Rhododendron arboreum;

- Uttarakhand Capitals: Dehradun (Winter), Gairsain (Summer).
- NMDC Headquarters: Hyderabad;
- NMDC Founded: 1958.
- Honeywell International HON Founded: 1906, Wabash, Indiana, United States;
- Honeywell International HON Founder: Mark C. Honeywell;
- Honeywell International HON Headquarters: Charlotte, North Carolina, United States.
- FIFA Founded: 21 May 1904;
- FIFA Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland.
- IDFC FIRST Bank Headquarters: Mumbai;
- IDFC FIRST Bank CEO: V. Vaidyanathan (19 Dec 2018-);
- IDFC FIRST Bank Parent organization: Infrastructure Development Finance Company;
- IDFC FIRST Bank Founded: October 2015.
- Bureau of Indian Standards Director General (DG): IAS Pramod Kumar Tiwari;
- Bureau of Indian Standards Founded: 23 December 1986;
- Bureau of Indian Standards Headquarters: Manak Bhawan, Old Delhi.
- Viacom18 Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Viacom18 Founded: November 2007;
- Viacom18 CEO: Jyoti S. Deshpande.
- HDFC Ltd Founder: Hasmukhbhai Parekh;
- HDFC Ltd Founded: 1977;
- HDFC Ltd Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Indian Ordnance Factories Founded: 1712;
- Indian Ordnance Factories Headquarters: Ayudh Bhawan, Kolkata;
- Indian Ordnance Factories Director General: Sanjeev Kishore.
- Indian Ordnance Factories Founded: 1712;
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- Indian Ordnance Factories Director General: Sanjeev Kishore.

