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Current Affairs – English

JANUARY'2023



**GUIDANCE BY EXPERIENCED JUDGES,
ADVOCATES AND ACADEMICIANS.....**

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PAHUJA LAW ACADEMY

CURRENT AFFAIRS

MONTHS OF JANUARY 2023

LEGAL NEWS

➤ **Supreme Court ruling on Article 19 ambit**

- The Supreme Court of India recently made a significant ruling in a case involving the fundamental right to freedom of speech.
- In a 4-1 majority decision, the Constitution Bench of the court stated that an individual can seek enforcement of this right not only against the government, but also against other citizens.
- This ruling expands the grounds for seeking protection of these rights.
- Article 19 of the Constitution of India guarantees the right to freedom of speech and expression, and is typically invoked against the state.
- Some fundamental rights, such as those prohibiting untouchability, trafficking, and bonded labor, are explicitly against both the state and other individuals.
- The recent Supreme Court ruling extends the right to free speech to include protection against private citizens.

➤ **Supreme Court on IT relief of Sikkimese women**

- The Supreme Court of India has recently ruled that the exclusion of Sikkimese women who marry non-Sikkimese men after April 1, 2008 from exemptions under the Income Tax Act is unconstitutional and amounts to gender discrimination.
- The court, in its judgment, held that this discrimination is based on gender, which is violative of Articles 14, 15, and 21 of the Constitution.
- This decision comes as a victory for women's rights and gender equality.
- In a separate opinion, Justice B.V. Nagarathna agreed that "there cannot be a discrimination vis-à-vis Sikkimese women marrying a non-Sikkimese individual, whether an Indian citizen or a foreigner, that too, on or after April 1, 2008".
- The judges noted that a woman is not a chattel and has an identity of her own, and the mere factum of being married ought not to take away that identity.

➤ **Electronic Supreme Court Reports (e-SCR) project**

- The Chief Justice of India (CJI), D Y Chandrachudh, has announced the launch of the electronic Supreme Court Reports (e-SCR) project.
- Which aims to provide free access to around 34,000 judgments of the apex court to lawyers, law students, and the general public.
- These judgments will be available on the Supreme Court's website, mobile app, and on the National Judicial Data Grid's judgment portal.
- The e-SCR project is part of the Indian judiciary's efforts towards digitization and aims to bring positive change for all stakeholders in the justice system, including litigants, members of the Bar, and judicial academies.

➤ **Supreme Court Upheld Demonetisation**

- Recently, a majority of four judges on a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court (SC) found no flaw in the government's process to demonetise Rs.500 and Rs.1000 banknotes through a gazette notification issued on November 8, 2016.
- A Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court in a 4:1 majority verdict has upheld the government's demonetisation process and has held that the decision-making process was not flawed.
- The Supreme Court's judgement came on a batch of 58 petitions that challenged the demonetisation exercise of 2016.
- The majority verdict rejected the two main contentions of the petitioners that:
 - ✓ The expression "any" in Section 26(2) of the Reserve Bank of India Act of 1934 (RBI Act), cannot be interpreted to mean "all" to empower the government to demonetise currency notes of all series of any denomination.
 - ✓ The proposal for demonetisation should be initiated by the RBI Central Board and not the Union government.
- The petitioners had also argued that the decision-making process employed while announcing demonetisation was "rushed" and "fatally flawed".
- Demonetisation
- On 8th November 2016, the Government of India announced the demonetisation of all Rs.500 and Rs.1,000 banknotes of the Mahatma Gandhi Series.

➤ **Commission for the sub-categorisation of OBCs**

- In 2017, the President of India constituted a Commission under Chief Justice of Delhi High Court Justice G Rohini.
- The main objective of the commission was to prepare a report examining the OBC subcategories in the country.
- The President formed the commission using his powers under Article 340.
- The commission was to submit its report within 12 weeks.
- The work is still pending and the commission recently got a 14th extension.
- In 2018, 10 OBC communities took 25% of the reserved quota on jobs and educational seats.
- 97% of the total seats reserved for the OBC communities had gone to these 10 communities alone.

➤ **Supreme Court Expands fundamental rights-Article 19 Ambit**

- The Supreme Court as ruled that a fundamental right under Article 19/21 can be enforced even against persons other than the State or its instrumentalities.
- It means that Not just state, even private citizens can face challenge.
- Article 19 of the Constitution of India guarantees the right to freedom of speech and expression, and is typically invoked against the state.

➤ **CJI announces launch of electronic Supreme Court Reports project**

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➤ **Major Ports Adjudicatory Board Rules, 2023**

- The Government of India legislated the Major Port Authorities Act in 2021.

- Section 54 of the act brings in the need for the constitution of an Adjudicatory Board to regulate the major ports in the country.
- Section 58 of the act gives the function of the board.
- The Government of India recently issued a notice regarding the rules of the board.

➤ **Mandatory Minimum Sentences**

- The concept of mandatory minimum sentences is common in American and Canadian legal systems. Recently, the Canadian Apex court announced that it is to stop pronouncing mandatory minimum sentences.
- Mandatory minimum sentences are judgments that do not leave discretion to the court. Meaning the punishment cannot be reduced in the future.
- The Chief Justice of India recently challenged a petition related to mandatory minimum sentences.
- The petition requested the Supreme Court to reduce the punishment of the convicts arrested in a gang rape (of a minor girl of 12 years of age).
- In 2016, Mohd. Hasim vs State of UP case of Supreme Court defined mandatory minimum as a sentence that does not leave any discretion to the court.
- MMS applies to all the offenses booked under the POCSO Act, that is, Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences Act except sexual harassment.
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🚩 **APPOINTMENT**

➤ **Capt Shiva Chouhan: First woman officer to be deployed in Siachen**

- Captain Shiva Chouhan became the first woman officer to get operationally deployed at Siachen, the world's highest battlefield.
- Before her deployment, Chouhan was put through a rigorous one-month training at the Siachen Battle School alongside other officers of the Indian Army.
- The team of Sappers led by Capt Shiva will be deployed at the post for 3 months.

➤ **Praveen Sharma appointed as Director of National Health Authority**

- Praveen Sharma has been appointed as the Director in the National Health Authority (Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- He is a 2005 batch Indian Defense Service of Engineers (IDSE) officer.
- The National Health Authority implements India's public health insurance scheme called "Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)".
- Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission was launched on 27 September 2021, by PM Narendra Modi.
- It connects digital health solutions of hospitals across the country.

➤ **Election Commission appoints Maithili Thakur as Bihar's state icon**

- Folk singer Maithili Thakur was appointed the state icon for Bihar by the Election Commission in January 2023.
- She will create awareness among the voters for their participation in the electoral process.
- This recognition will give her more impetus to spread Bihar's folk music across continents.

- She has rendered traditional folk songs of Bihar in Maithili, Bhojpuri and Hindi.
- **Pranesh M became India's 79th Grandmaster**
 - Pranesh M became India's 79th Grandmaster on 6 January 2023.
 - After beating GM Frode Olav Olsen Urkedal of Norway, Pranesh attained the required 2500 ELO ratings and won the Rilton Cup in the final round to claim the title.
 - With this, he also becomes India's first Grandmaster of year 2023.
 - In December 2022, Koustav Chatterjee became India's 78th Grandmaster.
 - **Manpreet Monica Singh sworn in as First female Sikh judge in US**
 - Indian-origin Manpreet Monica Singh became the first female Sikh judge in the US in January 2023.
 - She was sworn in as a judge of the Harris County Civil Court at Law No. 4 in Texas.
 - She has been a trial lawyer for two decades and remains involved with many civil rights organisations at the local, state and national levels
 - **Brazil appoints Sonia Guajajara as 1st minister of indigenous people**
 - Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva announced Sônia Guajajara as the first minister of the new Ministry of Indigenous People in January 2022.
 - Sônia Guajajara is widely known as the leader of the main group of Brazil's indigenous tribes and is a member of the Amazon Guajajara.
 - She was also featured in Time Magazine's annual list of the world's 100 most influential people in 2022.
 - **Captain Surbhi Jakhmola becomes 1st woman officer to be posted at BRO**
 - Captain Surabhi Jakhmola, an officer of the 117 Engineer Regiment of the Indian Army.
 - She has become the first woman officer of the Border Roads Organization (BRO) to be posted on a foreign project in January 2023.
 - She has been deployed by BRO under Project Dantak in Bhutan.
 - In order to improve border connectivity, BRO was transferred entirely to the Ministry of Defence in 2015.
 - **Janani Ramachandran becomes first LGBTQ woman of color city councillor**
 - Indian-American attorney, Janani Ramachandran has become the youngest and the first LGBTQ woman of color to take oath as the Oakland City Council member in the US state of California on 17 January 2023.
 - She currently serves on the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs.
 - She has previously served as a Commissioner at the City of Oakland Public Ethics Commission. LGBTQIA+ Community
 - ✓ LGBTQIA+ is an abbreviation for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual, and more.
 - ✓ These terms are used to describe a person's sexual orientation.
 - ✓ Indian Supreme Court, in 2018, decriminalized section 377, which titled homosexual relations as "unnatural offenses."
 - ✓ In 2015, the slogan "Drop the T" was used against transgender people worldwide.

- **Justice AK Sikri appointed Administrator of Shooting World Cup 2023**
 - Retd. Supreme Court Judge, A. K. Sikri has been appointed by the Delhi High Court as Administrator to manage the use of funds for the ISSF Shooting World Cup in 2023.
 - The world cup will take place in March 2023 in Bhopal.
 - According to the court, the administrator can enlist the services of any athlete of his choosing who has competed at the national or international level in shooting.
- **Shamalbhai B Patel appointed as chairman of Amul**
 - Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation, which markets milk and dairy products under the Amul brand announced appointment of Shamalbhai B Patel as its chairman and Valamjibhai Humbal as vice chairman.
 - Shamalbhai B Patel is chairman of Sabarkantha District Cooperative Milk Producers Union and Sabar dairy.
 - Announcement was made after an election conducted by deputy collector, Anand.
- **Naresh Lalwani takes over as new General Manager of Central Railway**
 - Naresh Lalwani has taken over as new General Manager (GM) of Central Railway.
 - He is a senior officer of the Indian Railway Engineering Service of 1985 batch.
 - Before taking over as GM, he was working as Senior Deputy GM and Chief Vigilance Officer of Western Railway.
 - He succeeds Ashok Kumar Misra, GM Western Railway who was holding the additional charge of Central Railway as well.

🚩 IMPORTANT DAYS

- **Global Family Day 2023 celebrated on January 1st**
 - Global Family Day is celebrated annually on 1 January to promote peace, love, and unity among people.
 - A book titled "One Day In Peace -January 1, 2000," published by United Nations, served as the inspiration for the concept, which was first proposed in November 1997.
 - The day was first proposed in November 1997.
- **World Braille Day Observed on 4 January**
 - World Braille Day is observed every year on January 4.
 - It is observed to raise awareness about the importance of Braille as a means of communication for visually impaired people.
 - The day commemorates the birth anniversary of French educator Louis Braille, who invented the Braille language in the year 1809.
 - Braille code is a form of written language that uses raised dots for characters.
- **World Hindi Day Celebrated on 10 January**
 - World Hindi Day is celebrated on Jan 10 every year to mark the importance and celebrate Hindi as a language.
 - It was started to mark the anniversary of the first time Hindi was spoken in the UN General Assembly in 1949.
 - On Jan 10, 2006, the World Hindi Day was celebrated for the first time.
 - In the year 1975, the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi inaugurated the first World Hindi Conference.

- **Death anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri observed on Jan 11**
 - On 11 January 1966, India's second Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri died in Tashkent, USSR (now Uzbekistan), a day after signing Tashkent Declaration with Pakistan to end the 1965 Indo-Pakistan war.
 - Shastri was the second Prime Minister of India.
 - He gave the slogan, "Jai Jawan! Jai Kissan!" during the Indo-Pak War of 1965.
 - He was awarded the Bharat Ratna posthumously in 1966.

- **Ministry of Road to observe Road Safety Week from Jan 11, 2023**
 - Ministry of Road Transport and Highways will observe Road Safety Week across the country from Jan 11, 2023
 - The aim of the programme is to propagate the cause of safer roads for all under the Swachhata Pakhwada.
 - During the week, awareness campaigns related to the causes of road accidents and measures to prevent them, Nukkad Nataks and sensitization campaigns will be conducted.

- **National Human Trafficking Awareness Day observed on January 11**
 - This day aims to raise awareness about the plight of human trafficking victims, as well as to promote and protect their rights.
 - Every year it is estimated that 225,000 people worldwide become victims of human trafficking.
 - 11 January was chosen as the date because the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, the first federal law in the United States to address modern-day slavery, was passed.

- **'Jallikattu' celebrations begin in Tamil Nadu from 14 January 2023**
 - Jallikattu is a popular bull-taming sport practised in the state of Tamil Nadu.
 - It is also known as 'Eru Thazhuvuthal' or 'Mancuvirattu'.
 - It is practised as a part of Pongal celebrations on the day of Mattu Pongal.
 - It is a sport where a bull is let loose among a crowd, and people participating are supposed to take control of the bull by holding on to its hump for as long as they can.

- **Magh Bihu or Bhogali Bihu Festival celebrated in Assam on 16 January**
 - Magh Bihu is a festival of farmers.
 - It is celebrated in the month of 'Magha' in the middle of January.
 - After the annual harvest, it is celebrated with community feasts.
 - The main attraction of this festival is food.
 - The night before 'Bhogali Bihu' which falls on 15th January is called 'Uruka' which means the night of feasts.
 - The Sun God is worshipped on this day.

- **Makar Sankranti celebrated on 15 January**
 - Makar Sankranti is a major harvest festival celebrated by Hindus across India.
 - People worship the Sun God during it.
 - It is called Sukarat in central India, Magh Bihu by Assamese, Khichdi in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Uttarayan in Gujarat and Rajasthan, and Thai Pongal or Pongal in Tamil Nadu.
 - Since 1989, the day has been observed as International Kite Festival at Gujarat's Ahmedabad.

- **23 January celebrated as Subhas Chandra Bose Birth Anniversary**
 - 23 January 2023 will be celebrated as the 126th birth anniversary of India's freedom fighter Subhas Chandra Bose.
 - He was born on January 23, 1897, at Cuttack in Odisha and his birthday is being celebrated as 'Parakram Divas' (day of valor) since 2022.
 - In 1923, he was elected the President of the All India Youth Congress and was elected President of the Haripura Congress Session in 1938.

- **The Uttar Pradesh state was formed on January 24, 1950.**
 - Under the order called United Provinces (Alteration of Name) Order 1950, the provinces in the region were grouped together to form the state of Uttar Pradesh.
 - As India hadn't become a republic then, the order was passed by the Governor General of India. India became independent in 1947.
 - However, the country took two years to frame its constitution and become a republic. So between 1947 and 1950, India still followed British Principles.
 - And therefore, there was a governor-general. Chakravarthi Rajagopalachari acted as the Governor General during this period.
 - For this reason, UP was made a state under his order.

- **National Girl Child Day celebrated on 24 January**
 - National Girl Child Day is celebrated in India every year on January 24.
 - It was initiated in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the government of India.
 - The day aims to raise awareness of the disparities that girls face in a variety of areas, including education, employment, clothing, and others.
 - The first National Girl Child was celebrated on January 24, 2008.

- **National Voters' Day observed on 25 January**
 - On January 25, National Voters' Day 2023 is observed to commemorate the founding day of the Election Commission of India.
 - Since 2011, National Voters' Day has been celebrated on January 25 every year.
 - The theme for National Voters' Day 2023 is 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure.'
 - The Election Commission of India was founded on 25th January 1950.

- **Republic Day 2023 First time events in Republic Day Parade**
 - For the first time, 12 women riders were part of the Camel Contingent of the Border Security Force.
 - The "Daredevils" Motor Cycle Riders from the Corps of Signals were co-led by a woman officer.
 - Agniveers were part of the parade for the first time.
 - Narcotics Control Bureau showcased a tableau for the first time.
 - Navy's IL-38 was showcased for the first and last time.

- **International Customs Day observed on 26 January**
 - World Customs Organisation (WCO) marks International Customs Day on 26th January every year.
 - The occasion commemorates the WCO's maiden session held in 1953 in Brussels, Belgium.
 - Theme for 2023 is 'Nurturing the next generation: Promoting a culture of knowledge-sharing and professional pride in Customs.'
 - It is dedicated to the Customs authorities and their contribution to the world trade.

➤ **75th Death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi: 30 January 2023**

- Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated on this day in 1948 at Birla House (now Gandhi Smriti), New Delhi.
- He was assassinated by Nathuram Godse.
- The day is also observed as Martyrs' Day.
- Mahatma or Mohandas Gandhi was born on 2 October 1869 in Porbandar, Kathiawar Agency, British Raj.
- Notable work: The Story of My Experiments with Truth.

 **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

➤ **New members join United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**

- Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, and Switzerland officially began their two-year term as non-permanent members of the UNSC.
- The five latest members are replacing India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico and Norway.
- Their terms ended on December 31, 2022.
- The other current two-year members are Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and United Arab Emirates.
- The UNSC is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations and is charged with ensuring international peace and security.
- The UNSC is composed of 15 members, with 5 permanent members (USA, UK, France, Russia, and China) and 10 non-permanent members.

➤ **China's population falls for first time since 1961**

- China's population has fallen for the first time in 60 years, with a national birth rate of 6.77 births per 1,000 people.
- The death toll in China is more than the number of children born.
- According to China's National Bureau of Statistics, China's population declined by roughly 850,000 to 1.41175 billion at the end of 2022.
- Negative population growth has now started in China.

➤ **UNGA adopts Indian co-sponsored resolution on education**

- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 18 Jan 2023 adopted a resolution titled 'Education for Democracy' that reaffirms the right of everyone to education.
- The resolution, which was co-sponsored by India, recognizes that "education for all" contributes to the strengthening of democracy.
- This resolution also reaffirms the right of everyone to education. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- The United Nations General Assembly is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations.
- It serves as the main policymaking, and representative organ of the UN.

➤ **Lula da Silva sworn in as the President of Brazil for the 3rd time**

- Lula da Silva sworn in as the President for the third time on 1 January 2023 for a 4 year term.
- He defeated the incumbent president Jair Bolsonaro.
- Lula is a trade unionist.
- Geraldo Alckmin was sworn in as the Vice President of Brazil.
- Lula had previously led the country from 2003 to 2010.

- **India becomes 3rd largest auto market globally, surpasses Japan**
 - As per Nikkei Asia report, India is now the world's third-largest auto market.
 - India has surpassed Japan, which is currently placed fourth.
 - China continued to lead the global auto market and the US remained second.
 - Vehicles powered by gasoline, including hybrid vehicles, accounted for most of the new autos sold in India in 2022.

- **India takes over leadership of the Asian Pacific Postal Union**
 - India will take over the leadership of the Asian Pacific Postal Union from January 2023.
 - Dr. Vinaya Prakash Singh will assume the charge of Secretary General of the Union during India's four year tenure there.
 - Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU) is an intergovernmental organisation comprising 32 member countries in the Asia-Pacific region.
 - It is headquartered in Bangkok, Thailand.
 - It is the only restricted union of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in the region, which is a specialised agency of the United Nations.

- **Miss USA R'Bonney Gabriel crowned the new Miss Universe**
 - R'Bonney Gabriel was named the winner of the 71st annual Miss Universe pageant on 15 January 2023.
 - In second place was Miss Venezuela Amanda Dudamel, followed by Miss Dominican Republic Andreína Martínez.
 - She is also the first Filipina American to win Miss USA.
 - This year's Miss Universe pageant allowed married women and mothers to compete for the first time in its 70-year history.

- **Australia introduces Punjabi language for its school students**
 - The Australian government announced adopting Punjabi as the newest language for its school students in January 2022.
 - It was announced after a 2021 census showed that it was the fastest-growing language in Australia with more than 239,000 people using it at home, an increase of over 80 percent from 2016.
 - Tamil, Hindi, and Korean languages were already added to the curriculum in 2021.

- **15th India-UK Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) held in New Delhi**
 - The Consultations were held on Jan 16, 2023 in New Delhi.
 - India and the UK shared a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, with the adoption of Roadmap 2030 for Future Relations.
 - They discussed issues like trade and economic cooperation, defence and security etc.
 - Both sides agreed to maintain regular exchanges at political and senior official levels and hold the next FOC in London in 2024.

- **UNESCO's World Heritage Sites**
 - A World Heritage Site is a place that is listed by UNESCO for its special cultural or physical significance.
 - The list of Heritage Sites is maintained by the international 'World Heritage Programme', administered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.
 - Treaty called Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted in 1972, is guiding force behind this.

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialised agency of United Nations aimed at promoting world peace and security through cooperation in education, arts, and culture.

➤ **US President nominates Julie Turner as North Korea human rights envoy**

- US President Joe Biden has nominated Julie Turner as special envoy for human rights in North Korea.
- The post was empty since 2017.
- She is a long-time diplomat and current director of Office of East Asia and the Pacific in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor at Dept of State.
- She has previously worked on North Korean human rights as a special assistant in the envoy's office.

➤ **Canada to commercialise world's first photonic-based Quantum Computer**

- Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced to commercialise the world's first photonic-based, fault-tolerant quantum computer, in January 2023.
- The investment of 40 million Canadian dollars will enable Xanadu Quantum Technologies Inc. to develop the quantum computer which will help solve complex data problems and could be used in finance, transportation, and health.

 **NATIONAL NEWS**

➤ **Kerala's Kollam becomes first constitution literate district in India**

- This achievement is the result of a 7-month-long constitutional literacy campaign.
- It was launched jointly by the Kollam Administration and Kerala Institute of Local Administration to create awareness about the laws of the country and the rights of citizens.
- Under this campaign, more than 7 lakh families of the district are being educated on the basic principles of the Constitution.

➤ **President Murmu to address 31st Foundation Day of NCW**

- President Droupadi Murmu will address the 31st Foundation Day of the National Commission for Women (NCW) in New Delhi on 31 January 2023.
- The theme of the programme is 'Sashakt Nari Sashakt Bharat.'
- The theme is aimed at acknowledging the stories of women who have excelled their journey to leave a mark.
- NCW was founded in January 1992 as a statutory body under the NCW Act, 1990.
- It is the statutory body of the Government of India.
- It advises the government on all policy matters affecting women. • It was established on 31 January 1992 under the provisions of the Indian Constitution, as defined in the 1990 National Commission for Women Act.

➤ **8th India International Science Festival (IISF) to be organized**

- The festival will be organised from 21-24 Jan'23 in MANIT, Bhopal.
- The 8th IISF will be jointly organized by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Ministry of Science and Technology and Vigyan Bharati.
- Theme is "Moving towards Amrit Kaal with Science, Technology and Innovation".
- IISF is being organized annually since 2015.
- It showcases and celebrates the fruits of science and technology.

➤ **CGI recognized as a Top Employer 2023 in India**

- CGI has been certified as a Top Employer 2023 in India for the third year in a row for its positive workplace culture and planning.
- It was recognized by the 'Top Employers Institute program', which certifies organizations based on the participation of their HR Best Practices Survey.
- Founded in 1976, CGI is among the largest independent business consulting services firms in the world.

➤ **Kollam: India's First Constitution Literate District**

- In a historic achievement, the Indian district of Kollam has become the country's first constitution literate district.
- The announcement was made by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
- The district's success is the result of a seven-month campaign launched by the Kollam district panchayat, District Planning Committee, and the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) to educate citizens about the country's laws and their rights.

➤ **Wayanad becomes first district to provide basic documents to tribals**

- Kerala's Wayanad became the first district in India to provide basic documents to all tribal people, in January 2023.
- It will provide facilities such as Aadhaar cards, ration cards, birth/death certificates and health insurance.
- It has achieved this by providing basic documents to as many as 64,670 tribal beneficiaries as part of the Akshaya Big Campaign for Document Digitisation campaign.

➤ **Aska police station of Odisha becomes country's number 1 station**

- Aska police station in Ganjam district of Odisha was awarded number one police station.
- The award was given during DGSP/IGSP conference held on 20 Jan'23, in New Delhi.
- Aska station got this title in the annual ranking of police stations for year 2022.
- Gangapur police station in Odisha's Ganjam was awarded 2nd best.
- Banbasa station of Uttarakhand's Champawat got 3rd place.

 **STATE NEWS**

➤ **Vishakhapatnam to be named Andhra Pradesh's new capital**

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy announced that the city of Vishakhapatnam is going to be the capital city of the state.
- State govt. plans to construct 3 capitals — Amaravati as Legislative capital, Vishakhapatnam as Executive capital, and Kurnool as Judicial capital.
- State govt. wants to decentralise administration with 3 capitals along the South Africa model.

➤ **First-ever National Genome Editing and Training Centre inaugurated**

- National Genome Editing and Training Centre (NGETC) was inaugurated at National Agri-food Biotechnology Institute (NABI) Mohali in Punjab in Jan 2023.
- NGETC will cater to the regional needs for adoption of various genome editing methods.
- The center will help in improving crops in present climate scenarios and making them more tolerant to changing environmental conditions.

➤ **Vidisha: 1st for on ground deployment of innovative 5G use cases**

- Vidisha, an aspirational district of Madhya Pradesh became the first ever district in India for on ground deployment of innovative 5G use cases offered by startup.

- It is a joint initiative by Vidisha District Administration and Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), Department of Telecommunications (DoT) under the guidance of Additional Secretary (Telecom) and Administrator USOF.
- **Kerala becomes country's first fully digital banking state**
- Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan on Jan 7, 2023, declared Kerala as the first state in the country to go fully digital in its banking service.
 - This achievement was possible due to social interventions through local self-government institutions along with infrastructure development and technological advances.
 - Kerala has received 3Digital India awards for its advancement in digital sector.
- **MP CM Shivraj Singh unveils mascot, torch of Khelo India Youth Games**
- The anthem, mascot, and a 'smart torch' for the fifth edition of the youth games were unveiled by MP chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Bhopal on 7 January 2023.
 - A drone show was organized forming a sprinting cheetah, maps of India and Madhya Pradesh, and 'Khelo India Youth Games 2022'.
 - The Games will be organized in eight districts of Madhya Pradesh from January 30.
- **Rajasthan becomes first state to implement blindness control policy**
- Rajasthan has become the first state to implement a policy to control blindness, with the objective of ensuring the "right to sight", on 14 January 2023.
 - Under the policy, a massive drive will be undertaken in the state to reduce the rate of blindness.
 - The prevalence rate of blindness, which was 1.1% in 2020, will be brought down to 0.3%, through the policy.
- **Hyderabad to host India's first Fourth Industrial Revolution centre**
- The World Economic Forum (WEF) has chosen Hyderabad in Jan 2023, to set up its Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution focused on healthcare and life sciences.
 - Centre for the 4th Industrial Revolution (C4IR) will be an autonomous organization that will focus on healthcare and life sciences.
 - C4IR is the 18th center to join the 4th Industrial Revolution Network of Telangana Forum.
- **Madhya Pradesh Global Investors Summit**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually inaugurate the 7th edition of 'Invest Madhya Pradesh-Global Investors Summit', a flagship event of the Madhya Pradesh state government.
 - The theme of the two-day summit is 'Madhya Pradesh-The Future Ready State', showcasing the state's industrial ecosystem and promoting its policies to attract investment and spur growth.
 - The virtual event will also feature addresses from leaders of Guyana and Suriname, as well as India's Union Commerce and Industry Minister.
- **"UP Global City" Campaign Launched in Uttar Pradesh**
- The Uttar Pradesh government has launched a 100-day "UP Global City" campaign in advance of the Global Investors Summit and G20 summit.
 - The campaign aims to bring urban areas in the state up to global standards, with a focus on improving urban facilities, air quality, cleanliness, and beautification, as well as proper garbage disposal.
 - The campaign will be implemented in all 762 urban bodies in the state.

- **UP govt launches campaign to empower underprivileged girls**
 - Uttar Pradesh government has launched a campaign, 'Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan' to make daughters of the underprivileged classes capable and self-reliant.
 - The campaign will work in association with an NGO, under the Aarohini Initiative Training Program for the safety and security of girls in all 746 Kasturba Gandhi Residential Girls Schools in the state.
 - It will be implemented in three phases.
- **UP govt to host 7th edition of Nature and Bird Festival in February**
 - Uttar Pradesh is set to host the 7th edition of the UP Nature and Bird Festival on 1-3Feb'23 at Vijaysagar Bird Sanctuary in Mahoba district.
 - The festival aims to inspire and accelerate nature-based ecotourism and appreciation of biodiverse-rich wildlife reserves and sanctuaries of Uttar Pradesh.
 - The main focus area of the festival is 'Ecotourism for nature conservation'.
- **Himachal Pradesh targets to be first 'green energy state' by 2025**
 - The Himachal Pradesh government has announced to make the state the first Green Energy State by the end of 2025.
 - It will achieve the target by harnessing hydro, hydrogen, and solar energy and switching to green products.
 - The state is projected as a Power State in the country.
 - The state govt would also invest in solar plants and will install 500 MW solar projects during the year 2023-24.
- **Ernakulam: First District to register 10,000 new MSMEs**
 - Ernakulam has become first district in Kerala to register more than 10,000 new MSMEs.
 - Kerala launched the Enterprises Campaign during its 2022-23 budget.
 - It was held in different parts of the state under the tagline "My Enterprises, Nations Pride".
 - Also, Kerala declared financial year 2022-23 as the Year of Enterprises.
 - Because of these efforts, number of MSME in Kerala has increased.
- **Gujarat and Rajasthan Emerge as Top Investment Destinations in India**
 - According to data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), Gujarat has surpassed all other Indian states in attracting new investments from both domestic and foreign corporations.
 - Fresh investments worth Rs 3.98 trillion were announced for Gujarat during the financial year (FY) 2022, representing a 273 percent increase over the FY 2021 figure of Rs 2.91 trillion.
 - Rajasthan, on the other hand, emerged as the second most attractive destination for investments in India in FY 2022.
 - Interestingly, the state witnessed the highest rate of growth during the period, soaring by almost 535 percent and attracting new investments worth Rs 2.37 trillion.

INDEX AND REPORTS

➤ **Henley Passport Index 2023**

- According to the latest Henley Passport Index, Japan has retained its position as the most favourable passport in the world, allowing visa-free entry to 193 global destinations.
- which the country tops for the fifth consecutive year.
- Singapore and South Korea came in a joint second on the ranking, followed by Germany and Spain, and then a slew of other European nations.
- The Indian passport was ranked 85th.

➤ **According to World Bank report Pakistan is South Asia's weakest economy**

- World Bank forecast Pakistan's economic growth to slow further to two percent during 2023.
- This will mark a drop of two % points from its June 2022 estimates.
- The reason behind this is unprecedented floods, depleting forex reserves, food shortages, and poverty.
- It forecast Pakistan's GDP growth rate to improve to 3.2% in 2024, which would be lower than earlier estimate of 4.2%. Know About: World Bank.
- It is an international financial institution that provides loans and other forms of assistance to developing countries

➤ **Annual Death Penalty Report, 2022**

- The National Law University was established under the NLUA Act of 2007. Project 39A is a group associated with the university and it recently released a report called the Annual Death Penalty Report, 2022.
- According to the report, the number of death penalty prisoners in India increased to 539 in 2022. It was 490 in 2021.
- 3% of death rows were judged by trial courts.
- SC pronounced 11 death penalty judgments and High Courts in the country pronounced 68 death sentences.
- Of all the crimes, sexual violence received the maximum death penalty. Almost one-third of the capital punishments were for sexual violence.
- No death sentences were pronounced in the courts of J&K, Delhi, Telangana, and Manipur.
- Two out of every 165 death sentences were pronounced on women.
- India has 539 death-sentenced prisoners as of 2022. This is a 40% increase as compared to the numbers in 2015.
- UP had the highest death sentences followed by Gujarat and Jharkhand.

➤ **WEF published 18th edition of Global Risks Report 2023**

- Global Risks Report 2023 is an annual report published by the World Economic Forum.
- It tracks global risk perceptions among risk experts and world leaders in business, government, and civil society.
- 2023's report has highlighted the cost of living crisis as the biggest short-term risk facing the world right now,
- Climate change has been termed as the biggest long-term threat.

➤ **Delhi Most Polluted City in India in 2022**

- An analysis of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) air quality data by the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) tracker has been released.

- As per the NCAP Tracker based on annual PM2.5 levels measured by the CPCB, Delhi has earned the dubious tag of being India's most polluted city in 2022.
- The NCAP tracker is a joint project of the Carbon Copy portal and Maharashtra-based Respirer Living Sciences.
- This analysis has been released to mark four years of the launch of the NCAP.
- NCAP was launched in 2019 by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to improve air quality through a city-specific action plan.

➤ **Global Fire Power Index 2023**

- Global Firepower Index is a rating of the military forces of all countries on the planet.
- Index puts the US at the top, Russia at the second spot, China at No. 3, and India at No. 4.
- A rating of 0.000 is the perfect score, which no country so far has attained.
- The smaller the score value, the more powerful is the fighting capability.
- Index does not take into account nuclear capabilities.

➤ **All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2020-2021 released**

- It was released by Ministry of Education.
- Ministry is conducting it since 2011, covering all higher educational institutions located in Indian Territory.
- Total enrollment in higher education has increased to nearly 4.14 crin 2020-21 from 3.85 crin 2019-20.
- Female enrolment has increased to 2.01 cr from 1.88 crin 2019-20.
- UP is top State in terms of number of student enrolled.

➤ **Shah Rukh Khan ranks third on world's richest actors' list**

- As per a recent list released by the World of Statistics in January 2023, Shah Rukh Khan is the third richest actor in the world with his net worth at \$770 million.
- The list is led by Seinfeld star Jerry Seinfeld and Tyler Perry with \$1 billion.
- They are followed by Dwayne Johnson, with \$800 million.
- Shah Rukh Khan is the only Indian on the list.

Recently, the 33rd edition of Human Rights Watch's World Report was released. This edition reviews human rights practices in close to 100 countries.

- The World Health Organization recently released a report on "Global Trans – Fat Elimination".
- WHO started trans-fat elimination in 2018.
- 2023 was the set year of the target to completely eliminate Trans fats.
- Tran's fats are unsaturated fats. Increased consumption of Trans fats leads to heart diseases and bad cholesterol.

➤ **UN World Economic Situation and Prospects 2023 Report**

- Ukraine – Russia war is creating energy crises, increasing inflation, and causing debt issues all over the world.
- Amidst these conditions and climate emergencies, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs launched the "World Economic Situation and Prospects" report or simply the World Economy Report.
- The report says that the economic growth of the world is slowing down.
- It is to reach 1.9% in 2023 from 3% in 2022.

➤ **Rule of Law Index**

- After the World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business' rankings, the government has turned its attention to scoring better in the Rule of Law Index (ROLI).
- India has been ranked 77th out of 140 countries in 2022 by the World Justice Project (WJP)
- The Rule of Law Index (ROLI) is released by the World Justice Project (WJP), a US-based civil society group.
- It rates countries based on accountability of executives and respect for fundamental rights of people.
- The index is prepared by examining these four principles through eight factors: constraints on government powers, absence of corruption, open government, fundamental rights, order and security, regulatory enforcement, civil justice, and criminal justice.

➤ **India to become \$26 trillion economy by 2047 According to EY report**

- The Indian economy will become \$26 trillion economy by 2047, the 100th year of its independence, according to an EY report released in Jan 2023.
- As per report, the country's per capita income would cross \$15,000, making it among the top developed economies.
- The report, India@100: Realizing the potential of a \$26 trillion economy, was launched by Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

➤ **Jio is India's strongest brand, ranked ninth globally: Report**

- Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio is strongest brand in India and ranked 9th among the world's strongest brands, according to a report published by Brand Finance.
- This makes 'Jio' ahead of brands like EY, Coca Cola, and Porsche, and behind the likes of Google, YouTube, and Instagram.
- The report titled 'Global 500 -2023' is published annually and ranks world's most valuable and strongest brands.

➤ **Mukesh Ambani is No.1 among Indians on Brand Guardianship Index 2023**

- Mukesh Ambani has been ranked No.1 among Indians and second globally on the Brand Guardianship Index 2023.
- Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang and Reliance Industries Ltd's Mukesh Ambani are ranked first and second respectively in the Index.
- Microsoft's Satya Nadella, who topped in 2022, is at number three.
- Adobe's Shantanu Narayen and Google CEO Sundar Pichai are ranked fourth and fifth.

➤ **Chennai, Southern cities have highest rates of women employment**

- According to a survey by Avtar, a company that specializes in workplace inclusion, Chennai is India's top city for women's employment.
- Pune, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Mumbai are the next best cities for women's employment.

 **SPORTS**

➤ **2023 Men's FIH Hockey World Cup**

- The 2023 Men's FIH Hockey World Cup will be the 15th edition of the Men's FIH Hockey World Cup.
- This quadrennial world championship for men's national field hockey teams is organized by the International Hockey Federation.
- It will be held at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar and at Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium in Rourkela, India from 13 to 29 January 2023.

➤ **Australian Open 2023**

- The 2023 Australian Open was a Grand Slam-level tennis tournament held from 16–29 January 2023.
- It was the 111th edition of the Australian Open
- Men's Singles winner – Novak Djokovic
- Women's Singles winner – Aryna Sabalenka
- Men's Doubles winner – Rinky Hijikata and Jason Kubler
- Women's Doubles winner – Barbora Krejčíková and Katerina Siniakova
- Mixed Doubles winner – Luisa Stefani and Rafael Matos

➤ **J&K's Falak Mumtaz won gold medal at 23rd National Sqay Championship**

- Falak Mumtaz, an 11-year-old girl from Jammu and Kashmir bagged a gold medal in the 23rd National Sqay Championship in January 2023.
- The championship was organized by the SQAY Federation of India at Indoor Stadium Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu.
- Jammu and Kashmir bagged 1st place in the overall medal tally while Andhra Pradesh bagged 2nd place and Odisha was in 3rd place.
- Sqay is a Kashmiri martial arts form of sword-fighting.
- Modern Sqay is a combination of karate and taekwondo.

➤ **Denmark's Viktor Axelsen wins Men's Singles at Malaysia Open 2023**

- Two-time world champion and defending Olympic champion Victor Axelsen (Denmark) has won the men's singles title in Malaysia Open Badminton 2023, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in Jan 2023.
- Victor won the tournament for the 2nd time in a row by defeating Japan's Kodai Naraoka.
- Akane Yamaguchi of Japan won the women's singles title by defeating world number four Ahn Se-young of South Korea.

➤ **India won Inaugural Women's U -19 T20 World Cup**

- In the first edition of the Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup, India defeated England by seven wickets to win the tournament.
- For the first time the Indian women's team has been successful in winning any ICC tournament.
- Indian player Shweta Sehrawat scored the most runs in the Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup 2023. She scored 292 runs in 6 matches.
- Player of the match in the final - Tita Sadhu.

➤ **Koustav Chatterjee becomes India's 78th Grandmaster**

- Koustav Chatterjee became India's 78th Grandmaster.
- He is also the tenth GM from West Bengal.
- Koustav earned his first GM norm in October 2021 at a Grandmasters' chess tournament in Bangladesh.
- He got his second GM norm at the Asian championship in the first week of November 2022.

➤ **Netherlands record biggest-ever victory in Hockey World Cup history**

- Three-time champion Netherlands registered a record-breaking 14-0 win over Chile to secure a direct qualification into the quarter-finals at the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup on 19 Jan 2023.
- Australia previously held the record for the largest margin (12-0) of victory in a hockey World Cup match against S. Africa.
- Netherlands' Jip Janssen and Thierry Brinkman scored a hat-trick in the match.

- **Pranesh M became India's 79th Grandmaster**
 - Pranesh M became India's 79th Grandmaster, having completed his three norms prior to this event.
 - IM Pranesh M emerged as the winner of the Rilton Cup, the first tournament of the FIDE Circuit.
- **AIFF announces Kerala as host for Super Cup in April 2023**
 - The All India Football Federation (AIFF) announced Kerala as the host for the Super Cup 2023, which will take place from April 8-25, 2023.
 - The matches will be held in two of the three cities of Kochi, Kozhikode, and Thiruvananthapuram.
 - All 11 teams of the Indian Super League and the winner of the 2022-23 I-League will get direct entry into the group stage.
- **Suryakumar Yadav named ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year 2022**
 - Indian cricketer Suryakumar Yadav has been selected as the ICC T20 Cricketer of the Year for the year 2022 for his stellar performance.
 - Suryakumar Yadav scored 1164 runs in 31 T20 matches played in 2022.
 - India's Renuka Singh become the recipient of ICC Emerging Women's Cricketer of the Year Award.
 - Australia's Tahlia McGrath has been awarded ICC T20 Women's Cricketer of the Year award.
- **Germany won the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 title**
 - Germany won the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 title.
 - Germany defeated Belgium 5-4 in a shootout in the final played at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar on 29 January 2023.
 - Niklas Wellen of Germany was awarded the Best Player of the tournament award.
 - While Vincent Vanasch of Belgium was awarded the Best Goalkeeper award.
 - Maximum Team Goals Award: Netherland.

SCHEME

- **MAARG PLATFORM**
 - The Union Commerce and industry minister will launch the mentorship, advisory, assistance, resilience and growth (MAARG) platform on 16th January 2023 in New Delhi.
 - It is the National Mentorship Platform by Start-up India to help and guide new start-ups to grow and flourish.
 - It is a one-stop platform to facilitate mentorship for start-ups across diverse sectors, functions, stages, geographies, and backgrounds.
 - Nodal Ministry: Launched by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **Govt to hand over 1,000 sites to private sector under Monument Scheme**
 - The government will hand 1,000 monuments to the private sector for their upkeep under the Monument Mitra Scheme, announced by the Minof Culture in Jan 2023.
 - The Ministry of Tourism has transferred the scheme to the Ministry of Culture.
 - The government has set the target to hand over 500 sites under the revamped Monument Mitra Scheme by the end of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav on 15 August 2023. Monument Mitra Scheme

- Launched in September 2017, it is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), and State/UTs governments.

➤ **‘She Feeds the World’ programme in India'**

- She Feeds the World' program has been launched by PepsiCo Foundation, philanthropic arm of PepsiCo and CARE, in India.
- Aim of programme is to strengthen the role of small-scale women producers through sustainable training and economic support.
- Programme will be implemented in Coochbehar and Alipurduar districts of West Bengal.
- This programme aims to improve the status of over 48,000 women.

➤ **RBI- Integrated Ombudsman Scheme**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the Annual Report of the Ombudsman Schemes for April 01, 2021 – March 31, 2022.
- The Scheme was framed by the Reserve Bank in exercising the powers conferred on it under Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- The Scheme integrates the existing three Ombudsman schemes of RBI namely,
 - ✓ the Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006;
 - ✓ the Ombudsman Scheme for Non-Banking Financial Companies, 2018; and
 - ✓ the Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions, 2019.
- In addition to integrating the three existing schemes, the Scheme also includes under its ambit Non-Scheduled Primary Co-operative Banks with a deposit size of ₹50 crore and above.
- The Scheme adopts the ‘One Nation One Ombudsman’ approach by making the RBI Ombudsman mechanism jurisdiction neutral.

➤ **India and UK launch Young Professionals Scheme**

- The governments of India and the UK on January 9, 2023 launched Young Professionals Scheme.
- The scheme allows up to 3,000 degree-holding citizens aged between 18 and 30 to live and work in each other’s countries for a period of 2 years.
- The scheme was announced in November 2022 at the G20 summit in Bali, is part of the India-UK Migration and Mobility MoU signed in May 2021.

 **AWARDS**

➤ **17th Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award 2023**

- The PBSA is the highest honor conferred on overseas Indians during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention every year.
- Govt names 27 overseas Indians for Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards
- The 17th edition of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention will be held at Indore in Madhya Pradesh during Jan 8-10, 2023.
- The award is presented by the President of India to NRIs, Persons of Indian Origin, or organizations established and run by them in recognition of their outstanding achievements.
- The recipients were chosen by a jury-cum-awards committee chaired by the vice-president.
- Guyana’s President Mohamed Irfaan Ali, DSB Group CEO Piyush Gupta are among 27 recipients of the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award.

➤ **Padma Awards 2023**

- The Padma awards are announced every year on the eve of Republic Day.

- The awards are presented by the President of India.
- Padma Awards are one of the highest civilian honors of India announced annually on the eve of Republic Day after the Bharat Ratna.
- A total of 106 Padma Awards with six Padma Vibhushan, nine Padma Bhushan, and 91 Padma Shri conferred across various categories.
- Dilip Mahalanabis (Medicine), Samajwadi Party founder and former UP CM Mulayam Singh Yadav (Public Affairs), and architect Balakrishna Doshi have been picked to be awarded Padma Vibhushan posthumously.
- Among the nine people to be awarded Padma Bhushan are S L Bhyrappa in Literature; Kumar Mangalam Birla in Trade & Industry; Deepak Dhar in Science & Engineering; Vani Jairam in Art; Swami Chinna Jeeyar in Others –Spiritualism.
- Ninety-one other people, who have selected for Padma Shri, are physician Ratan Chandra Kar (Medicine), Hirabai Lobi (Social Work), Tula Ram Upreti (Agriculture) etc.
- The Award seeks to recognize achievements in all fields of activities or disciplines where an element of public service is involved.
- The total number of awards to be given in a year (excluding posthumous awards and to NRI/foreigners/OCIs) should not be more than 120.

➤ **President Droupadi Murmu confers Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar**

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on 23 January 2023.
- The awards have been conferred upon 11 children for their exceptional achievement in six categories, which include Art, Culture, Bravery, Innovation, Social Service, and Sports.
- Each awardee has received a medal, a cash prize of one lakh rupees, and a certificate.

➤ **Jindal Steel & Power wins prestigious Golden Peacock CSR Award**

- Leading steelmaker Jindal Steel & Power has been awarded the prestigious Golden Peacock Award 2022 for its excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility activities in the Steel Sector, on 13 Jan 2023.
- The steelmaker was selected by the Award Jury headed by Former Chief Justice of India M.N. Venkatachaliah.
- The company is now aligned with 16 out of 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG).

➤ **Dr Prabha Atre conferred with Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia Award**

- Hindustani vocalist Dr Prabha Atre was conferred with the Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Dr Atre was presented with a citation and Rs 1 lakh.
- She is an Indian classical vocalist from the Kirana Gharana.
- She has been awarded all three of the Padma Awards by the Government of India.
- She also won Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1991.

➤ **Writer K Venu receives Federal Bank Literary Award 2022**

- Writer K Venu won first-ever Federal Bank Literary Award 2022 for his autobiography 'Oranweshanantinte Katha'.
- This is the first-ever literary award constituted by the Federal Bank.
- By constituting the award, Federal Bank aims to celebrate the diversity of contemporary literature and recognise writers for their cultural contributions.

- **Nepalese ophthalmologist Dr Sanduk Ruit wins Bahrain's ISA Award**
 - Himalayan Cataract Project Co-Founder and noted Nepali ophthalmologist Dr Sanduk Ruit has won the ISA Award 2021-22 for Service to Humanity in Jan 2023.
 - He is fondly called "God of Sight" for saving the sight many people.
 - He is a recipient of the Padma Shri award, the National Order of Merit of Bhutan and the Ramon Magsaysay Award.
 - In 2016, he was awarded the 'Asian Game Changer Award.'
- **CJI DY Chandrachud to be Conferred with “Award for Global Leadership”**
 - The President of India will confer the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, 2023 to 11 children at an Award ceremony in Delhi.
- **Govt announces Subhash Chandra Bose Disaster Management Award 2023**
 - The Centre has selected the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) and the Lunglei Fire Station, Mizoram, for the Subhash Chandra Bose Disaster Management Award 2023 for their work in disaster management.
 - OSDMA was established in 1999.
 - The award carries a cash prize of Rs 51 lakh in the case of an institution and Rs 5 lakh and a certificate in the case of an individual.
- **Defence Minister felicitates 25 Awardees of ‘Veer Gatha 2.0’ contest**
 - Defence Minister Rajnath Singh felicitated the 25 winners of Veer Gatha 2.0 at an event organised in New Delhi on 25 January 2023.
 - Veer Gatha 2.0 was jointly initiated by the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Education as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
 - The contest aimed to inspire school children, by making them aware with stories of war heroes and brave hearts.
- **M. Yeoh becomes first Asian to bag Oscar nomination for Best Actress**
 - Michelle Yeoh became the first Asian to bag an Oscar nomination for Best Actress for her movie "The 'Everything Everywhere All at Once", in January 2023.
 - Malaysian descent, Michelle Yeoh has also won the Golden Globe Award in the Best Actress category for her performance in the movie 'Everything Everywhere All at Once.'
 - She was also nominated for the Gotham Independent Film Awards 2022.

🇮🇳 **BANKING, ECONOMY AND FINANCE**

- **India's unemployment rate reaches highest level in 16 months-CMIE**
 - According to data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), India's unemployment rate reached 8.30% in December 2022, the highest level in 16 months.
 - This marks an increase from 8.00% recorded in Nov.
 - Urban unemployment rate also saw a rise.
 - Rural unemployment rate saw a slight decrease.
 - Haryana recorded highest unemployment rate at 37.4%, while Odisha had lowest at 0.9%.
- **India to remain fastest-growing major economy in the world**
 - International Monetary Fund (IMF) in January update of World Economic Outlook has said that India to remain the fastest-growing major economy in the world despite global headwinds.

- It said that India will grow at 6.1% in 2023 before picking up to 6.8% in 2024 fuelled by resilient domestic demand.
 - Growth in emerging and developing Asia is expected to rise at 5.3% in 2023 and 5.2% in 2024.
- **India's Inflation will fall to 5% in 2023, 4% in 2024**
- The International Monetary Forum recently released the World Economic Outlook.
 - According to the report, the Inflation in India is to reduce to 6.8% in March 2023.
 - Further by the end of 2023, the inflation will reduce to 5%. In 2024, Indian Inflation will be 4%.
 - The report also said that global inflation is to reduce to 6.6% in 2023. It was 8.8% in 2022.
- **Budget Session of Parliament begins on 31 Jan'23**
- The session commenced with the address by President Droupadi Murmu to the joint sitting of both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha in the Central Hall.
 - The Economic Survey was tabled in both Houses on the first day of the session on 31 Jan'23.
 - The Union Budget 2023-24 will be presented on 1 Feb'23.
 - Budget session will continue till 6 April'23.
 - It will have 27 sittings spread over 66 days.
 - Union Budget is also known as the Annual Financial Statement.
 - Article 112 of the Constitution of India lays down that it is a statement of the estimated expenditure and receipts of Government for a particular year.
- **Economic Survey 2022-23**
- Economic Survey is presented a day before the Budget session.
 - Finance Ministry prepares the survey.
 - The survey says that in 2024, India's GDP will be in the range of 6% to 6.8%.
 - Public digital platforms played a major role in increasing economic growth in 2022.
 - The performance of the Indian Rupee was better compared to the other developing economies.
 - The Economic Survey of 2022-23 says that the Government of India is to focus on the following reforms:
 - ✓ Ease of living for the public
 - ✓ Deliver governance efficiently and gain the trust of the citizens
 - ✓ Develop partnerships with the private sector to develop the economy
 - ✓ Increase the production from the agricultural sector
 - India has been called third largest economy in PPP (purchasing power parity) terms, and fifth largest economy in terms of exchange rate.
- **UN cuts India's Economic Growth Forecast by 20 bps to 5.8% for 2023**
- The forecast was made in United Nations' (UN) World Economic Situation and Prospects 2023 report.
 - The effect of tighter monetary policy and weak global demand has been cited as reason behind this cut.
 - Growth in India is expected to remain strong at 5.8%, albeit slightly lower than the estimated 6.4% in 2022, as higher interest rates and a global slowdown weigh on investment and exports.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

- **Shashi Tharoor's new book 'Ambedkar: A Life' released**
 - Parliamentarian and author, Shashi Tharoor's latest book Ambedkar: A Life was launched at the Kitaab Kolkata event in January 2023.
 - In this book, Tharoor tells Ambedkar's story with great lucidity, insight, and admiration.
 - The author traces the arc of the great man's life from his birth into a family of Mahars in the Bombay Presidency on 14 April 1891 to his death in Delhi on 6 Dec 1956.
- **A new book "India's Knowledge Supremacy: The New Dawn" released**
 - A book titled "India's Knowledge Supremacy: The New Dawn" written by Dr Ashwin Fernandes, released in January 2023.
 - It was launched by Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan.
 - The book focuses on India's knowledge supremacy, journey showcasing changing trends in newly emerging India.
 - It is written by Dr Ashwin Fernandes, who heads QS Rankings in Middle East, Africa and South Asia
- **Abdul Gaffar's autobiography 'Njaan Sakshi' released by MS Dhoni**
 - Professor K.K. Abdul Gaffar's autobiography, 'Njaan Sakshi' was released by cricketer MS Dhoni in January 2023.
 - The book was introduced by senior journalist T.A. Shafi.
 - The autobiography provides insight into Prof. Gaffar's journey and how educators and students have changed over time.
 - Professor Gaffar served as the principal of the Engineering College in Bhatkal, Karnataka.
- **Former CJI Ranjan Gogoi releases book titled 'Diary No.1'**
 - Former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi released a book written by Assam CM Chief Minister's Diary No.1'.
 - It contains the account of events of the first year in office of Assam Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma.
 - Ranjan Gogoi is presently a member of Rajya Sabha.
 - He had served as the 46th Chief Justice of India for 13 months from 2018 to 2019.
- **"Jadunama" A book written on writer-lyricist Javed Akhtar released**
 - Jadunama, a book written on veteran writer-lyricist Javed Akhtar, was released on January 9 2023.
 - The author of the book is Arvind Mandloi.
 - The name of the book is Jadunama as 'Jadu' was the childhood name of Javed Akhtar.
 - The book is about Javed's struggle since childhood to become what he is today and to create a hallmark of success in everything he does.
- **Dr AK Dwivedi's book 'Human Anatomy' released by Governor of MP**
 - Governor of Madhya Pradesh Mangubhai Patel in Jan 2023 released a medical book 'Human Anatomy' in Hindi Manav Sharir Rachna Vigyan.
 - The book has been written by Dr Ashvini Kumar Dwivedi - a Homeopathic Physician and teacher.
 - This book has been published by Madhya Pradesh Hindi Granth Academy.
 - The Foreword has been written by Dr. Mohan Yadav, Minister of Higher Education in MP Government.

- **Prince Harry released his Memoir titled “Spare”**
 - Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, a member of the British royal family, has released his memoir titled “Spare” in January 2023.
 - The book was written with the assistance of American novelist J. R. Moehringer.
 - The book is published by Transworld Publishers Ltd, a division of Penguin Random House.
 - He announced that his memoir will be used to support British charities.
- **A book titled 'Coaching Beyond' by R. Kaushik, R. Sridhar released**
 - A book titled ‘COACHING BEYOND: My Days with the Indian Cricket Team’, authored by R. Kaushik & R. Sridhar, was released in Jan2023.
 - The book reflects on R. Sridhar’s seven-year coaching tenure with the Indian cricket team as its fielding coach.
 - R. Kaushik is also the co-author of V.V.S Laxman’s autobiography, 281 And Beyond, as well as, Gundappa Vishwanath’s autobiography, Wrist Assured.

DEFENCE

- **Veer Guardian 2023-Joint exercise between India and Japan concludes**
 - It was held between Indian Air Force (IAF) and Japan Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) as the first bilateral air exercise at Hyakuri Air Base in Japan.
 - It was the first time when an Indian Air Force woman fighter pilot was part of Indian contingent for aerial wargames in a foreign land.
 - It was held from 12 to 26 Jan'23.
 - IAF contingent comprised four Su-30 MKI, two C-17 & one IL-78 aircraft.
- **Captain Surbhi Jakhmola becomes 1st woman officer to be posted at BRO**
 - 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.
- **Avani Chaturvedi to pilot Sukhoi fighter jet**
 - Su-30MKI pilot Squadron Leader Chaturvedi will be assigned to the Veer Guardian 2023 in Japan.
 - First female fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force (IAF), squadron commander Avani Chaturvedi, will participate in the inaugural air exercise Veer Guardian 2023.
 - For the first time, female officers would be travelling abroad to represent the nation.
 - The goal of the exercise is to improve air defence cooperation between Japan and India.
- **India Deploys Its “Largest Single Unit of UN Women Peacekeepers”**
 - 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.

➤ **DRDO celebrated its 65th foundation day on 1st January 2023**

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is a premier defence research and development agency under the Ministry of Defence.
- It was set up in 1958.
- Since inception, DRDO has made several breakthroughs in developing critical technologies.
- DRDO's first project for the Indian military was surface-to-air missiles-Project Indigo.
- Headquarters -New Delhi
- Chairman -Samir V Kamat Kerala CM inaugurates Indian Library Congress in Kannur, Kerala.

✚ SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

➤ **Samudrayaan Mission**

- It is India's first unique manned ocean mission.
- It is a part of the Rs 6000-crores Deep Ocean Mission.
- The mission is aimed at sending three personnel to 6000-metre depth in a vehicle.
- The manned submersible will allow scientific personnel to observe and understand unexplored deep-sea areas by direct intervention.

➤ **UK to be country Partner for BioAsia 2023**

- Hyderabad is the Cybercity of India.
- The Genome Valley, the first world-class Biotech cluster in India was established in the cyber city.
- Today, the State Government of Telangana, along with the Union Government, and several other international organizations organize the BIO ASIA forum in the Genome Valley.
- The forum is one of the largest international biotech forums in the world.
- And several leading biotech companies look forward to it. In 2023, India joins hands with the UK government in hosting the forum.
- This year, the forum is to focus on the MSME sector.

➤ **Draft Online Gaming Policy**

- The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has released the Draft Rules for Online Gaming, which have been introduced as an amendment to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.
- These proposed rules aim to regulate the online gaming industry in India and ensure a safe and fair gaming ecosystem for users.

➤ **India's First Green Hydrogen Blending Project**

- NTPC Limited and Gujarat Gas Limited (GGL) have commissioned India's first green hydrogen blending project in the piped natural gas (PNG) network of NTPC Kawas township, Surat.
- The project, which aims to supply H₂-NG (natural gas) to households in the Kawas township, was made possible through the electrolysis of water using power from a 1 MW floating solar project.
- The first molecule of green hydrogen from the project was set in motion by P. Ram Prasad, head of the project Kawas, in the presence of other senior executives of NTPC Kawas and GGL.

➤ **Space X Launched First 54 Starlink v2.0 satellites Into Space**

- It was launched by SpaceX Falcon 9 launch vehicle.
- Satellites were launched into low Earth Orbit.
- The SpaceX Falcon 9 was launched on 28th December 2022.
- It took place from the SLC-40 launch pad of the US Air Force Base at Cape Canaveral.
- Starlink satellites aims to provide internet in various parts of the world.

 **SUMMIT AND CONFERENCE**

➤ **108th Indian Science Congress to be held in Nagpur**

- The 108 Indian national Science Congress will be organised by the Indian Science Congress Association from 3-7 January 2023 at the Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University.
- The theme of the 108th Indian Science Congress 2023: Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment.
- 107 Indian Science Congress 2022 was held in Bangalore.

➤ **India to host Voice of Global South Summit**

- India will host a special virtual Summit on 12-13 Jan 2023 called 'Voice of Global South Summit'.
- Theme of the Summit is 'Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose'.
- Addressing at the summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told leaders of developing countries that “your voice is India’s voice” and “your priorities are India’s priorities”.
- The summit is India's attempt to provide a common platform to discuss concerns affecting developing countries.
- More than 120 countries have been invited to participate in this summit.
- The initiative is inspired by PM Modi's vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas...and philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

➤ **India to hold first Y20 Summit**

- The first-ever Y20 (Youth 20) Summit is to be held in India on the sidelines of the G20 Summit.
- It will focus on themes of the future of work; climate change and disaster risk reduction; peacebuilding and reconciliation; and youth in democracy.
- Youth 20 (Y20) is the official youth engagement group of G20.
- India is hosting the Y20 summit for the first time.
- It provides a platform that allows youth to express their vision and ideas on the G20 priorities.
- It will focus on global youth leadership and partnership.
- It is a unique opportunity to allow the youth to provide constructive policy inputs and to utilise the platform to voice their opinions to the world audience.

➤ **World Economic Forum 2023 Summit to begin on January 16**

- The 53rd edition of the annual World Economic Forum Summit would be held in Davos, Switzerland from January 16 to 20, 2023.
- A delegation of Indian Ministers Union ministers including Ashwini Vaishnaw, Mansukh Mandaviya, Smriti Irani, and RK Singh would be present during the event.
- The theme of the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2023 meeting is 'Cooperation in a fragmented world'.

- **Global Investors Summit**
 - The Global Investors Summit will take place from February 10-12, 2023 in Lucknow.
 - It will bring together business delegations, corporate and industry leaders, policy makers, academia, and political and government leadership from around the world.
 - The UP government has set a target of making the state a USD 1 trillion economy in the next five years and summit is a step in this direction.
- **Parliament to hold P-20 Conference of Parliament Speakers**
 - The Parliament of India will hold the P-20 Conference of the Parliament Speakers of the G-20 nations in 2023.
 - India will try to effectively resolve global issues through this platform.
 - In 2022, Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla attended the 8th G20 Parliamentary Speaker's Summit and the P-20 conference in Jakarta, Indonesia.
 - G-20 countries account for 80% of global GDP and 75% of global trade.
 - The Indian Parliament is a bicameral legislature consisting of two houses; the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.
- **Indo-French Strategic Dialogue**
 - The first All India Annual State Ministers' Conference on Water began in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
 - The inter-state water disputes between several states are going on harming the water sharing scenarios.
 - Water is a State Subject: Although water is a state subject, it was the responsibility of all to make water a subject of collaboration, coordination, and cooperation between states.
 - Theme of Conference is 'Water Vision @ 2047'.
 - It is an important dimension of the journey of 'Amrit Kaal' for the next 25 years.
- **International Financial Architecture Working Group meet**
 - The first International Financial Architecture Working Group meeting of G-20 under the chairmanship of India will be held in Chandigarh.
 - This G-20 finance track focuses on strengthening international financial architecture.
 - It will also aim to address various challenges faced by vulnerable countries.
 - Around 100 delegates from G-20 member nations, invited countries and international organizations will participate in the two-day meeting.
 - Discussions during the two-day meeting will be jointly moderated by the Ministry of Finance and the Reserve Bank of India, as well as by the co-chairs of the International Financial Architecture Working Group, - France and South Korea.
 - The meeting will also focus on finding ways to maximize aid to poor and vulnerable countries.
- **G-20 Infrastructure Working Group Meeting held in Pune**
 - The first G20 Infrastructure Working Group (IWG) meeting under G20 India Presidency will take place in Pune, Maharashtra on 16th -17th January 2023.
 - The meeting will be joined by the IWG member countries, guest countries and international organizations.
 - The Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, and Government of India will host the two-day IWG meetings, along with Australia and Brazil as the co-chairs.
 - The first IWG meeting in Pune would be attended by 65 delegates across the G20 membership, invitee countries and International Organizations.
 - Theme: Financing Cities of Tomorrow: Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable.

- The theme will focus on various facets of making cities economic centres of growth, financing urban infrastructure, building future-ready urban infrastructure, directing fiscal investments for unlocking private financing for energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable infrastructure and mitigating social imbalances.

➤ **The first meeting of the Youth 20 Group will be held in Guwahati**

- The first meeting of the Youth-20 Group will be held in Guwahati from 6-8 February, 2023.
- The Youth 20 (Y20) Summit is being hosted by India for the first time on the sidelines of the G20 Summit.
- The meeting will focus on five themes of the Future of Work –climate change and disaster risk reduction, peacebuilding and reconciliation, democracy and youth in health, well-being and sport.

➤ **Tourism Ministry to organize 1st Global Tourism Investors Summit**

- Ministry of Tourism is organizing the 1st Global Tourism Investors Summit from 10 to 12 April '23 in New Delhi.
- The aim is to bring together global business leaders and policymakers to understand and explore Tourism Business opportunities in India.
- In this regard, Ministry organized a Roadshow on 17 Jan '23 in Chandigarh.
- It focused on promoting India as an investment destination for tourism.

 **Miscellaneous**

➤ **205th anniversary of the Battle of Koregaon Bhima celebrated**

- It was the 205th anniversary of the Battle of Koregaon Bhima.
- The battle of Bhima Koregaon was fought on January 1, 1818, between Peshwa Bajirao II and British army commanded by Captain F F Staunton of the East India Company.
- The battle was a part of the Third Anglo-Maratha War.
- The British army was largely dominated by Mahars -the most populous of the Dalit sub-castes in Maharashtra.
- The Dalit-dominated British Army had defeated the Peshwa army.

➤ **1st All India State Ministers Conference on Water is being organized**

- Ministry of Jal Shakti is organizing the “1st All India Annual State Ministers Conference on Water”.
- The theme will be “Water Vision@2047”.
- Water Vision@2047 is part of PM’s India@2047 plan.
- It is being organized in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh on 5th & 6th January, 2023.
- It aims to address the challenges of water security India faces.
- PM has also proclaimed a ‘5P’ mantra for sustainability.

➤ **Kerala enters Guinness Book of World Records for goals scored**

- Kerala has entered the Guinness Book of World Records by taking 4,500 penalty kicks in 12 hours.
- The Department of Sports and Youth Affairs organized the event to set the Guinness record for a Dream Goal penalty shootout organized in Manjeri, Kerala.
- Former Indian player U. Sharafali took the inaugural kick.
- Minister for Sports V. Abdurahiman took the last penalty kick of the record.

- **PM Narendra Modi announces 'Aarogya Maitri' for medical supplies**
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a new 'Aarogya Maitri' project for developing nations, on 13th January 2023.
 - Under this project, India will provide essential medical supplies to any of the developing countries affected by natural disasters or humanitarian crises.
 - During the Covid pandemic, India's 'Vaccine Maitri' initiative supplied vaccines made in India to over 100 countries.

- **The world's oldest person, Lucile Randon passes away**
 - The world's oldest person, French nun Lucile Randon, passed away in January 2023 at the age of 118.
 - She was born on 11 February 1904 in Southern France.
 - In the year 2022, the world's oldest person Ken Tanaka of Japan died.
 - He was 119 years old.
 - Guinness World Records officially recognized her status in April 2022.

- **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Dhaka Marathon 2023**
 - Dhaka Marathon 2023 was held in Bangladesh's capital city Dhaka on 20 Jan'23.
 - Champion of the marathon in the male category: Kenyan runner Stanley Kiprotich Bett.
 - Champion in the women's sprint category: Bashanke Imoshe Billo (Ethiopia).
 - South Asian category: Bangriya Bharatsinh from India won.
 - South Asian female marathon runner category: Pushpa Bhandari from Nepal won.

- **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)**
 - It is implemented by the National Ganga Council for Rejuvenation, Protection, and Management of River Ganga.
 - It was established on 12th August 2011 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 as a registered society.
 - It aims to reduce pollution and rejuvenation of the river Ganga by adopting a river basin approach to promote inter-sectoral coordination for planning and management.

- **Important amendments of the Constitution**
 - 7th Amendment Act, 1956: Provision of having a common High Court for two or more states was introduced.
 - 25th Amendment Act, 1971: Fundamental Right to Property was curtailed
 - 26th Amendment Act, 1971: Privy purse abolished
 - 42nd Amendment Act, 1976: Mini Constitution of India
 - 73rd Amendment Act, 1992: Panchayati Raj
 - 74th Amendment Act, 1992: Urban local bodies
 - 101st Amendment Act, 2016: GST.

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