

MARCH & APRIL

Current Affair

2023

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By
Crack Notes

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SPORTS

- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, the well-known Indian doubles badminton duo, achieved their first doubles title of 2023 by winning the Swiss Open Super 300 finals.
- Jaipur is set to host the world's 3rd largest and India's 2nd largest cricket stadium after the Narendra Modi Stadium. An MoU was signed between Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) and Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) for its construction.
- Russian superstar Daniil Medvedev secured the Maiden Miami Opens Title 2023 in tennis.
- Petra Kvitová claimed the women's singles tennis title at the 2023 Miami Open.
- Max Verstappen of Red Bull won his first Australian Grand Prix 2023 in Formula One racing.
- According to the impact player rule, each team, after the toss, can designate up to five substitution players alongside their playing XI. An Impact Player can replace a member of the playing XI during the game.
- India emerged victorious in both men's and women's categories at the 4th Asian Kho Kho Championships.
- Winners of Madrid Spain Masters 2023: Men's Singles - Kenta Nishimoto (Japan), Women's Singles - Gregoria Mariska Tunjung (Indonesia).
- FIFA withdrew Peru's hosting rights for the FIFA U-17 World Cup 2023 due to discussions between FIFA and the Peruvian Football Federation.
- New Zealand's Kim Cotton became the first female umpire to officiate a men's T20I match.
- Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh claimed the title at the World Chess Armageddon Asia And Oceania Event.
- Freestyle wrestler Aman Sehrawat won India's 1st gold medal in the men's 57kg freestyle category at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2023 held in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- Suryakumar Yadav was honored as Wisden Almanack's leading T20I cricketer, and Harmanpreet Kaur became the first Indian woman to win the Cricketer of the Year award.
- The Intercontinental Cup 2023 football tournament, organized by the All India Football Federation (AIFF), will take place in Bhubaneswar, Odisha from June 9 to 18, with teams from India, Lebanon, Mongolia, and Vanuatu participating.
- Argentina was selected by FIFA to host the under-20 soccer World Cup after revoking the hosting rights from Indonesia due to a cancellation involving Israel's team.
- A multipurpose indoor stadium is being constructed in Shillong, Meghalaya, set to be the largest of its kind in the northeastern region.
- The Central University of Odisha organized the Paramparik Kreedha Mahotsava to celebrate India's sporting traditions and diversity, receiving praise from Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- The Kerala government initiated the 'One Panchayat, One Playground' project to establish high-quality playgrounds in every panchayat, aimed at rejuvenating the sports culture in the state.

- Gates named after cricket legends Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara were unveiled at the Sydney Cricket Ground.
- On Sachin Tendulkar's 50th birthday, the West Stand at the Sharjah cricket stadium was renamed the 'Sachin Tendulkar Stand.'
- Odisha FC clinched the Hero Super Cup 2023 with a 2-1 victory over Bengaluru FC.
- Young Indian racing talent Jaden Pariat, representing Argenti Motorsport, secured a podium position in the opening round of the ROKiT British F4 Championship, showcasing exceptional skills.

DEFENCE

- The 10th annual SLINEX-2023 bilateral maritime exercise between India and Sri Lanka has started in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- The sixth edition of Cope India-2023, an Air Exercise between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and United States Air Force (USAF), concluded at Air Force Stations Kalaikunda, Panagarh, and Agra.
- Romania's deputy defense minister, Simona Cojocaru, met with India's defense secretary, Giridhar Aramane, in New Delhi, during which the two countries signed their first Defense Cooperation Agreement.
- The Andaman & Nicobar Command conducted a large-scale joint military exercise named 'KAVACH'. The main objective of this joint service exercise was to improve coordination and joint warfighting capabilities across various services.
- President Droupadi Murmu took a historic flight in a Sukhoi 30 MKI fighter aircraft at the Tezpur Air Force Station in Assam. President Murmu is the third President and the second woman President to experience such a flight.
- The Department of Science and Technology Institute is partnering with the Indian Navy to develop secure maritime communications using Quantum Technology.
- The Indian Army approved the establishment of the Girls Sports Company (GSC) to recruit young athletes. Initially, athletes aged 10-16 years will be recruited in wrestling, weightlifting, boxing, and athletics, with 30 recruits in each discipline. The initiative will be funded by the Sports Authority of India (SAI).
- An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent left for France to participate in Exercise Orion at Mont-de-Marsan, a French Air and Space Force (FASF) base.
- The Indian Air Force participated in Exercise INIOCHOS-23, a multi-national air exercise hosted by the Hellenic Air Force at the Andravida Air Base in Greece.
- The Ministry of Defence (Finance) organized the International Conference on Defense Finance & Economics to facilitate discussions and collaborations among prominent policymakers, academics, and government officials from India and other countries.
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy successfully tested the Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) interceptor from a naval platform.

- Turkey unveiled the world's first drone carrier and largest warship, TCG Anadolu. The ship will be Turkey's first aircraft carrier with an air wing primarily composed of unmanned aircraft.
- The Philippines and the United States launched their largest-ever joint military exercises called Balikatan to counter China. The Tagalog word balikatan means "shoulder to shoulder."
- The 44 Squadron 'Mighty Jets,' a strategic lift unit of the IAF, celebrated its diamond jubilee. Raised in 1961, the squadron received the prestigious 'Battle Honour' during the 1971 war, making it the only non-fighter or bomber squadron to earn such an honor.
- Wing Commander Deepika Misra was awarded the Vayu Sena medal by IAF chief Air Marshal VR Chaudhari, making her the first woman Air Force officer to receive a gallantry award.
- NATO Allies and partners participated in the 2023 edition of the annual exercise "Locked Shields," hosted by the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence in Tallinn, Estonia. "Locked Shields" is the world's largest cyber defense exercise.
- Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane inaugurated the P8I Simulator named 'Ashok Roy Training Simulator Complex' (ARTSC) at INS Rajali, Arakkonam.
- Solar Industries Nagpur secured an order to supply the UAV 'Nagastra-1' to the Indian Army, outperforming competitors from Israel and Poland. Nagastra-1 is India's first indigenous loitering munition, capable of precisely striking enemy targets.
- The term "loitering munition" refers to Nagastra's ability to remain airborne and strike when the target is within range. It operates in a kamikaze mode, destroying both the target and itself.
- The 7th edition of the joint military exercise "AJEYA WARRIOR-23" between India and the United Kingdom is taking place at Salisbury Plains, United Kingdom.
- This biennial training event alternates between the United Kingdom and India; the previous edition was held at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand.
- Imphal, the third indigenous stealth destroyer of the Project 15B class in the Indian Navy, planned for commission later this year, underwent her maiden sea trials.

NATIONAL

- Indian Railways has achieved a significant milestone by electrifying the entire railway network in Haryana, making it the first Indian state to accomplish 100% electrification.
- 'Project Tiger,' initiated on April 1, 1973, by the Central government, is dedicated to advancing tiger conservation efforts across the nation.
- According to the 5th cycle of India's Tiger Census, the tiger population has risen by 6.74%, from 2,967 in 2018 to 3,167 in 2022.
- The Ministry of Tourism hosted the inaugural session of the 2nd Tourism Working Group Meeting under G20 in Siliguri, West Bengal.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, an institution established by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, on April 1, 1963.

- Shri Bhupender Yadav flagged off the release of white tiger cubs named "Avani" (earth) and "Vyom" (universe) in the white tiger enclosure at the National Zoological Park, New Delhi.
- Ladakh's Wood Carving secures a significant achievement as it receives its first-ever Geographical Indication (GI) tag, along with other Varanasi-based products.
- Chhattisgarh's aromatic rice variety, Nagri Dubraj, attains the distinguished Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Mircha rice, resembling black pepper grains, from Bihar's West Champaran district, is newly granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- The esteemed Gond painting from Madhya Pradesh is honored with the coveted Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- The world-renowned Basohli Painting from Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district gains official recognition through the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.
- The Geographical Indication (GI) tag is granted to the famous Cumbum Panneer Thratchai or Cumbum grapes from Tamil Nadu.
- The European Commission (EC) extends protected geographical indication (PGI) status to Kangra tea, a unique variety cultivated in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra district.
- Tamil Nadu introduces the Tamil Nadu Regional Aerial Connectivity through Helicopters (TN REACH) program, utilizing over 80 unused helipads for improved intercity and town connectivity.
- The Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre (JCBC) in Uttar Pradesh's Maharajganj district stands as the world's first conservation and breeding facility exclusively dedicated to the critically endangered Asian king vulture.
- Commemorating 50 years of Project Tiger, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), focusing on the conservation of seven significant big cat species worldwide.
- Shri Amit Shah launches the 'Vibrant Villages Programme' in Kibithoo, Arunachal Pradesh, aiming to curb migration, boost tourism, and provide urban amenities to northern border villages in three phases.
- Shri Nitin Gadkari, along with Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Shri Manoj Sinha, inspects the Zojila Tunnel, Asia's longest tunnel, aimed at providing uninterrupted connectivity to Ladakh throughout the year.
- Nepal proudly becomes a founding member of the International Big Cats Alliance, a significant step towards global big cat conservation.
- Shri Amit Shah inaugurates Kaushambi Mahotsav-2023 in Uttar Pradesh, unveiling development projects worth Rs 613 crore and setting the stage for further progress.
- The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) attains national party status as granted by the Election Commission, based on its electoral performance across four states: Delhi, Goa, Punjab, and Gujarat.

- Union Minister Kiren Rijiju releases the first Dogri version of the Constitution of India at the University of Jammu, emphasizing Dogri's status as an official language of the Indian union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi inaugurates the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Young Authors' Conference in New Delhi, fostering civilizational dialogue among SCO member nations through the perspectives of young scholars.
- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), founded in Shanghai on June 15, 2001, is an intergovernmental organization consisting of eight Member States: China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- Namami Gange has entered into an agreement with 49 universities to inspire the youth towards water conservation and river rejuvenation.
- The memorandum of understanding (MoU) aims to actively involve students in the mass movement for creating a sustainable ecosystem for our rivers. The theme of the initiative is 'Igniting Young Minds, Rejuvenating Rivers.'
- The Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) has achieved the 'Miniratna Category-I' status. Established in 2011, SECI serves as the primary implementing agency of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, for fulfilling the country's international commitments in the field of renewable energy.
- The Indian Institute of Petroleum, based in Dehradun and a premier research laboratory under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), launched its One Week One Lab (OWOL) campaign.
- Bengaluru is set to witness India's first post office constructed using 3D printing technology, led by Larsen & Toubro, a company experienced in 3D-printed building construction.
- Adani Power Ltd inaugurated a cutting-edge power plant in Jharkhand, with a capacity of 1,600 MW. This facility is expected to supply electricity to Bangladesh as well.
- The Government of Telangana hosted 'The Food Conclave 2023' in Hyderabad, focusing on various aspects of agriculture, edible oils, dairy, meat and poultry, and aquaculture.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the National Rozgar Mela via video conferencing, distributing approximately 71,000 appointment letters to new recruits in various government departments and organizations.
- Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi has given assent to a bill that both bans and regulates online gambling games. The bill had been passed by the Tamil Nadu government for the second time.
- The Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of National Maritime Day 2023 were held at the Domestic Cruise Terminus in Mumbai on April 5th, with the theme 'Amrit Kaal in shipping.' This day commemorates the maiden voyage of the first Indian-owned vessel, "S S Loyalty," from Mumbai to London in 1919.
- India's first semi-high-speed regional rail services have been named 'RAPIDX' by the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC). These trains will operate on the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridors, connecting key urban nodes in the National Capital Region (NCR).
- A two-part Doordarshan documentary titled 'Dharohar Bharat Ki' pays tribute to our heritage, freedom fighters who sacrificed for our independence, and the valor of those in uniform.
- The 12th Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) under India's Presidency focused on the theme of 'Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems for Healthy People and Planet.' The meeting highlighted the MAHARISHI Initiative, focusing on Millets And OtHer Ancient Grains International Research Initiative.
- India hosted the Global Buddhist Summit in New Delhi, providing a platform to discuss contemporary global challenges from a Buddhist perspective. The theme of the summit is 'Responses to Contemporary Challenges from Philosophy to Praxis.'
- WhatsApp launched a safety campaign named 'Stay Safe with WhatsApp,' aimed at educating users about product features to enhance their online safety.
- The Kolkata Metro achieved a significant milestone by completing an under-river journey, becoming India's first metro rail to do so. The metro rakes traversed an underwater tunnel beneath the Hooghly River.
- The state government of Madhya Pradesh issued a notification to include the transgender community in the list of the state's Backward Classes.
- Telangana Chief Minister unveiled a towering 125-foot statue of Dr B R Ambedkar on the banks of Hussainsagar in Hyderabad, commemorating the leader's 132nd birth anniversary. It is claimed to be the tallest statue in the country dedicated to Dr B R Ambedkar.

- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) co-organized the Digital Health Summit 2023 with the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, focusing on the theme "Building One Health Together – Improving Health Equity."
- Assam created a historic record by entering the Guinness Book of World Records with over 11,000 dancers and drummers performing the traditional 'Bihu' dance and playing the 'dhol' simultaneously at a single venue.
- Shri Amit Shah presided over a 'Chintan Shivir' of senior officers from the Ministry of Home Affairs in New Delhi. The objective was to review the ministry's work and develop an action plan to implement Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's "Vision 2047."
- Shri Narendra Modi addressed the 'Chintan Shivir' of Ministers of Youth Affairs & Sports of States/UTs in Imphal, Manipur, via video message.
- As part of the celebration of National Panchayat Raj Awards week (17th – 21st April 2023), a thematic conference on topics like "Poverty-Free and Enhanced Livelihoods Panchayat," "Socially Just & Socially Secured Panchayat," and "Panchayat with Good Governance" was held in New Delhi.
- The inauguration of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Industry Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE) took place at the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad.
- Kerala took the lead as the first state to adopt a water budget as a solution to water scarcity during summer months. The budget addresses water availability and consumption, aiding the state in effective resource management.
- Shri Amit Shah attended the first National Conference of Heads of Anti-Narcotics Task Force of States and Union Territories in New Delhi as the Chief Guest. He also released the Annual Report (Special Edition) 2022 and Drug Free India, National Resolution Booklet of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).
- The government of Uttar Pradesh launched an ambitious plan to promote the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in the state. As part of this initiative, the government aims to convert all vehicles used by government departments into EVs by 2030 in a phased manner.
- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj organized the National Conference on Child-friendly Panchayat, Women-friendly Panchayat, and Panchayat with Self-sufficient Infrastructure to celebrate National Panchayat Awards Week as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - 'Inclusive Development' (Samaveshi Vikaas).
- The India Steel 2023 event was inaugurated at the Mumbai Exhibition Centre in Goregaon, Mumbai, with Union Minister of Steel, Jyotiraditya Scindia, presiding over the proceedings. India Steel 2023 has been organized by the Union Ministry of Steel in collaboration with the Department of Commerce, Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and FICCI.
- In an unprecedented census in the country, forest officials in Odisha's Bhitarkanika have observed 179 mangrove pitta birds, known for their vibrant and exotic colors.

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has assessed and classified the species as "Near Threatened."
- The Union Cabinet, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, approved the National Quantum Mission (NQM), aimed at bolstering scientific and industrial research and development in quantum technology. With this launch, India becomes the seventh country to have a dedicated quantum mission after the US, Austria, Finland, France, Canada, and China.
- An agreement was signed between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, resolving a border dispute that had persisted for over 50 years. This agreement will lead to the settlement of 123 villages situated in shared areas between the two northeastern states.
- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) installed a signboard at the entrance of the border village Mana, labeling it as the 'First Indian Village.' Mana, previously known as the last Indian village, is located at the Indo-China border in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district.
- Bengaluru city in Karnataka experienced a rare celestial phenomenon known as 'Zero Shadow Day,' where the sun was positioned directly overhead around 12:17 pm. During this phenomenon, there were no shadows of vertically positioned objects.
- The President participated in the Gaj Utsav at Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR) in Assam to mark 30 years of Project Elephant. The objective was to raise awareness about elephant conservation, protect their habitats and corridors, and mitigate human-elephant conflicts.
- The 'Chintan Shivir' of Civil Servants was addressed by Shri Narendra Modi on the occasion of the 16th Civil Services Day 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. The Prime Minister also conferred the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration and released e-books titled 'Viksit Bharat - Empowering Citizens & Reaching the last mile Volume I and II.'
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy laid the foundation stone for the ₹4,362 crore Mulapeta Port, projected to generate direct and indirect employment for 25,000 individuals. The port is poised to play a crucial role in managing exports and imports for regions including Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha.

- The National Medical Commission granted approval for the establishment of the Nagaland Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, which will become the first medical college in the northeastern state.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, organized the Asia Pacific Leaders' Conclave on Malaria Elimination in New Delhi in partnership with the Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA). The discussions aimed at revitalizing regional momentum towards achieving an Asia Pacific free from malaria by 2030.
- Himachal Pradesh made history by becoming the first Indian state to establish a DNA database specifically for unidentified bodies.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Kochi Water Metro,' India's first water metro project in Kerala. This innovative project connects 10 islands around Kochi using battery-operated electric hybrid boats to ensure seamless connectivity with the city.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and addressed the One Earth One Health – Advantage Healthcare India – 2023 conference at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi via video conferencing.
- The state-owned railway company Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) was elevated from a 'Miniratna' category to a 'Navratna' Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE), a recognition by the Indian Government.
- NAFED, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), established the Millets Experience Centre at Dilli Haat, INA, New Delhi, with the aim of promoting awareness about millets and encouraging their adoption among the general public.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi commissioned Low Power FM Transmitters with a capacity of 100 Watt at 91 locations, adding 2 crore listeners to the All India Radio network. These transmitters have been installed in 84 districts across 20 states.
- India's first cable-stayed bridge, Anji Khad, is set to be completed in May this year. The bridge is part of a 326-km rail line connecting Udhampur to Baramulla via Srinagar, serving as a crucial link between Kashmir and the rest of India through railways.

INTERNATIONAL

1. Finland became the 31st NATO member following Turkey's approval. Norwegian company Norled successfully launched the world's first ferry powered by liquid hydrogen. The vessel, named MF Hydra, operates as a hybrid using both batteries and a liquid hydrogen fuel cell.
2. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi received an invitation to attend France's Bastille Day parade scheduled for July 14th. The parade commemorates the nation's military and its achievements.
3. The Italian government announced its intention to prohibit the use of the English language and impose heavy fines on individuals and organizations that continue to use it. This announcement closely follows the ban on ChatGPT, a language model developed by OpenAI.
4. India has been elected to the UN Statistical Commission, with a four-year term beginning in 2024. Established in 1947, the Commission makes decisions on global statistical activities, establishes statistical standards, and develops and implements concepts and methods.
5. The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).
6. The United Kingdom agreed to join the CPTPP, becoming the first new member and the first European country to do so.
7. Data from the National Securities Depository revealed that in the fiscal year 2022-23, overseas capital flows into Indian capital markets originating from Mauritius experienced the sharpest decline, while Norway and Singapore gained popularity.
8. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar inaugurated the 'Tulsi Ghat Restoration Project' in Varanasi during his visit to Uganda's Kampala.
9. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported the first human death from the H3N8 subtype of avian influenza in China. However, the strain is not transmissible between humans.
10. The United States emerged as India's largest trading partner in FY23 with a trade volume of \$128.55 billion, while China held the second position.
11. Dr. Jaishankar virtually inaugurated the Buzi Bridge, constructed as part of the 132 km Tica-BuziNova-Sofala Road project. The bridge was built by India and stands as a symbol of India-Mozambique solidarity and friendship.
12. According to recent figures released by the Indian Ministry of Commerce, the UAE maintained its position as the second most significant export destination for India during the financial year 2022-23, while the US remained in the first position.
13. India will chair the Commonwealth group on reform of financial architecture. The ministers have appointed India as the chair and Nigeria as the deputy chair of the Finance Ministers Working Group for a Commonwealth Call for Reform of the Global Financial Architecture.
14. Syria has become the world's largest narcostate, generating a majority of its foreign currency earnings from the production and export of Captagon, a highly addictive amphetamine known as "poor man's coke."

15. Neeli Bendapudi, an academic of Indian origin, has been selected as one of the five co-chairs of an Association of American Universities (AAU) task force aimed at enhancing research and academic collaborations between higher education institutions in the United States and India.
16. Elon Musk announced plans to launch an AI platform called "TruthGPT" to compete with the current offerings from Microsoft and Google.
17. The inaugural session of the "India-Russia Business Dialogue" 2023 took place in New Delhi, attended by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov.
18. India will host the SCO Summit in New Delhi on July 3–4, marking Russian President Vladimir Putin's first visit to India since the conflict in Ukraine.
19. Shri Nitin Gadkari addressed the 'INTERALPIN 2023 Fair,' the Leading International Trade Fair for Alpine Technologies in Innsbruck, Austria. The fair brings together key industry players, service providers, and decision-makers from the Cable Car industry.
20. India has overtaken China to become the world's most populous nation with 142.86 crore people, according to the latest United Nations data.
21. India launched Operation Kaveri to evacuate its nationals from Sudan, which has witnessed deadly fighting between the country's army and a paramilitary group.
22. India, Iran, and Armenia have formed a new trilateral partnership to deepen regional relations. During the trilateral meeting, participants also discussed the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), a freight corridor connecting India, Iran, and Russia.
23. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi expressed gratitude to Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese for hosting the next Quad Summit in Sydney, Australia.
24. Dubai-based airline Emirates unveiled Sara, the world's first robotic check-in assistant.
25. IIT Madras is set to establish its first international campus in Tanzania, becoming the first IIT campus in Africa. Classes are scheduled to commence in October, according to its director, V Kamakoti.
26. Japan's Health Ministry approved the country's first abortion pill, a significant advancement for reproductive rights.
27. The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) announced plans to introduce a gold-backed digital currency to combat the devaluation of the Zimbabwean currency.
28. The city of Ayodhya has been selected for a two-year pilot project focused on producing biodiesel from waste. Belgium-based company Vito is expected to initiate the project in Ayodhya soon.
29. India and the United Kingdom signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for collaboration on science and innovation. The agreement was formalized during the UK-India Science Innovation Council meeting.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

1. ISRO, along with DRDO and the Indian Air Force, successfully carried out the Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission (RLV LEX) at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR), Chitradurga, Karnataka.
2. NASA has selected the first woman and first Black astronauts for the Artemis II lunar flyby mission. Christina Koch will become the first woman astronaut assigned to a lunar mission, while Victor Glover will be the first Black astronaut on such a mission. They will join Reid Wiseman and Jeremy Hansen to orbit the Moon late next year or early in 2025.
3. Skyroot Aerospace, a Hyderabad-based startup, has accomplished a successful test-firing of an advanced fully 3D-printed cryogenic engine.
4. Chinese company Space Pioneer successfully launched its Tianlong-2 rocket into orbit from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center. This marks the first time a liquid-fueled rocket has been launched into orbit by a Chinese aerospace firm, and the first time a startup has successfully reached orbit on its maiden attempt.
5. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has collaborated with the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-Bombay) to develop a touchless biometric capture system.
6. NASA has deployed the Tropospheric Emissions Monitoring of Pollution (TEMPO) instrument to monitor air pollutants and their emission sources from space more comprehensively than ever before.
7. The Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE), a European Space Agency (ESA) mission, has successfully launched from Europe's Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana. JUICE will explore Jupiter and three of its icy moons: Europa, Callisto, and Ganymede. The mission will take nearly eight years to reach the largest planet in the solar system.
8. IIT Indore, in collaboration with NASA-Caltech and the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, has developed an affordable camera setup capable of capturing multispectral images of four chemical species in a flame using a single DSLR camera.
9. NASA's Lucy mission is embarking on a 12-year journey to observe nine Jupiter Trojans and two main belt asteroids, making it the first-ever mission to visit them. Despite being over 330 million miles (530 million kilometers) away from the spacecraft, Lucy captured views of four Jupiter Trojan asteroids.
10. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is preparing to launch Singapore's TeLEOS-2 satellite from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. The launch will be conducted by ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). TeLEOS-2 is an Earth Observation Satellite weighing 741 kg with a synthetic aperture radar capable of providing data in 1-meter resolution.
11. Kenya's inaugural operational Earth observation satellite, "Taifa-1," was successfully launched into space using a rocket from Elon Musk's SpaceX. The launch occurred from Vandenberg Base in California.

12. China has achieved a significant milestone by successfully launching the Fengyun-3 meteorological satellite using the Chang Zheng-4B carrier rocket from the Jiuquan Cosmodrome in Gansu Province.
13. ISRO's PSLV-C55 rocket successfully placed two Singapore satellites, TeLEOS-2 and Lumelite-4, into a low-earth orbit from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota.
14. The Indian Government has approved the construction of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) project. This initiative aims to detect gravitational waves from the universe and will be situated in the Hingoli district of Maharashtra. The project will be developed by the Department of Atomic Energy and the Department of Science and Technology, in collaboration with the U.S. National Science Foundation and various national and international research institutions.

AWARDS

1. The President of India presented the Padma Awards 2023, which included 6 Padma Vibhushan, 9 Padma Bhushan, and 91 Padma Shri Awards.
2. Dr. Nitya Abraham, an Indian-American physician and professor, received the Young Urologist of the Year Award from the American Urological Association (AUA).
3. Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao, an Indian-American statistician, was honored with the 2023 International Prize in Statistics, often referred to as the Nobel Prize in statistics.
4. Bharat Biotech was recognized with the Best Production/Process Development award at the World Vaccine Congress 2023 held in Washington, USA, as part of the Vaccine Industry Excellence Awards.
5. Polish President Andrzej Duda bestowed the Order of the White Eagle upon President Volodymyr Zelensky during his visit to Warsaw.
6. Nilesh Bhagwan Sambre, the founder of Jijau Educational and Social Foundation, was awarded the "Maratha Udyog Ratna" at the "Maratha Entrepreneurs Conference 2023."
7. Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister, presented the 'Maharashtra Bhushan' Award to Dattatreya Narayan Dharmadhikari, also known as Appasaheb Dharmadhikari.
8. Shah Rukh Khan and 'RRR' director SS Rajamouli have been featured in Time Magazine's annual list of the 100 Most Influential People of 2023, making them the only two Indians on the list.
9. Nandini Gupta from Rajasthan was crowned Femina Miss India World 2023 in a grand ceremony, making her the winner of the 59th edition of the beauty pageant.
10. President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, presented National Panchayat Awards and inaugurated the National Conference on Incentivization of Panchayats in New Delhi.
11. Raj Subramaniam, the CEO of FedEx and an Indian-American, was honored with the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman award.

12. Former Chancellor Angela Merkel received Germany's highest Order of Merit, the Grand Cross award, from President Frank-Walter Steinmeier.
13. Renowned singer Asha Bhosle was honored with the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar award, established by the Mangeshkar family and trust in memory of Lata Mangeshkar.
14. The National COVID-19 Vaccination Programme of the Union Health Ministry received the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2022 under the Innovation (Centre) category.
15. Sonam Wangchuk, Founder-Director of Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL), was conferred with the prestigious Santokbaa Humanitarian Award.
16. At the 16th Civil Services Day Celebration, Prime Minister Narendra Modi awarded the Excellence in Public Administration-2022 award to the PM Gati Shakti national master plan in the 'Innovation (Central)' category.
17. Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL), a Maharatna CPSU of the Ministry of Power, Government of India, was honored with the Global Gold Award by The Green Organization at the Green World Awards 2023 function held in Miami, USA.
18. The 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award was personally presented to Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama by members of the award foundation at his residence after 64 years.
19. Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, received Australia's highest civilian honor, the Order of Australia, for his efforts in strengthening India-Australia bilateral relations.
20. Alessandra Korap, an indigenous Mundurucu woman from the Brazilian Amazon, was recognized with a 2023 Goldman Environmental Prize, which acknowledges grassroots environmental activists from around the world.
21. Shakira, the renowned Colombian singer, will be honored with the prestigious 'Latin Women of the Year' award at the inaugural Latin Women in Music gala hosted by Billboard. She is known as the 'Queen of Latin Music' for her exceptional contributions spanning over three decades.
22. Neeli Bendapudi, the Indian American president of Penn State University, will receive this year's prestigious Immigrant Achievement Award for her contributions to higher education in the US.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Vice Admiral Suraj Berry has taken on the role of Chief of Personnel of the Indian Navy.
2. Vice Admiral Atul Anand has assumed the position of Director General Naval Operations (DGNO).
3. Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh has officially taken up the role of Vice Chief of Naval Staff.
4. Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan has assumed the position of Controller of Personnel Services in the Indian Navy.

5. JioCinema, a digital streaming platform, has announced Indian cricket team captain Rohit Sharma as its new brand ambassador.
6. Pankaj Singh has been elected unopposed as the president of the Cycling Federation of India (CFI).
7. Star Sports, owned by The Walt Disney Company, has appointed cricketer Rishabh Pant as its latest brand ambassador.

BOOKS

1. "Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origins of Empire" is a book penned by Nandini Das, a professor of English Literature at the University of Liverpool.
2. Boria Majumdar, a renowned sports historian and popular TV show host, unveiled a new book titled 'Sachin@50 – Celebrating A Maestro' on the occasion of legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar's 50th birthday.
3. Jaidip Mukerjee, a distinguished tennis player, launched his autobiography titled "Crosscourt" in the presence of prominent Indian tennis players like Ramesh Krishnan and Somdev Devvarman.
4. Amitav Ghosh's upcoming non-fiction book 'Smoke and Ashes' is set to be released in July 2023. The book offers a blend of memoir, travelogue, and a deep exploration of the economic and cultural history of opium.
5. Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated a book titled 'Reflections,' authored by Shri Narayanan Vaghul, in Mumbai.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

1. The Ministry of Rural Development has signed MoUs with 19 'Captive Employers' to train and place 31,000 rural youths under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY).
2. 'Captive Employers' refer to companies or industries that select rural youths, provide them with skills, and deploy them in their own establishments, sister-concerns, or subsidiaries.
3. The Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, introduced the "Sagar Setu" mobile application for the National Logistics Portal Marine. The app offers features like login, service catalogue, Letter of Credit, bank guarantee, certification, and track & trace.
4. RBI is set to launch a new secured web-based portal called "PRAVAAH" (Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation And Authorisation) to simplify and streamline application processes.
5. The government implemented changes to the pricing model of domestic natural gas based on recommendations from the Kirit Parikh committee. The new system will announce prices monthly and link them to 10% of the international price of the Indian crude basket.

6. The Prime Minister of India praised the "Abhilekh Patal" portal, which provides access to over 1 crore pages of historical records from the National Archives.
7. The Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Mr. Pushkar Singh Dhama, launched the "A-HELP" (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production) program in the state. Trained A-HELPS will contribute to preventing animal diseases, artificial insemination, tagging animals, and providing animal insurance.
8. Shri Parshottam Rupala launched the "Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative (APPI)" and the World Bank funded Animal Health System Support for One Health (AHSSOH) project under the National One Health Mission.
9. Himachal Pradesh launched the Sanjeevani Project, aimed at uplifting the livelihood of small dairy farmers and livestock owners by providing convenient and high-quality livestock care services at their doorstep using telemedicine and technology.
10. The Ministry of Rural Development's Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) launched the "Sangathan Se Samridhhi" campaign, aiming to mobilize 10 crore women from eligible rural households.
11. Shri Arjun Munda, Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, launched the Central Sector Scheme "Marketing and Logistics Development for Promotion of Tribal Products from North Eastern Region (PTP-NER)" in Manipur.
12. Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launched the SATHI (Seed Traceability, Authentication and Holistic Inventory) Portal and Mobile App, a centralized online system for seed traceability and authentication.
13. Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the YUVA PORTAL in New Delhi, aimed at connecting and identifying potential young startups. He also introduced the One Week – One Lab programme.
14. Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh launched the "Sangathan Se Samridhhi" campaign to empower marginalized rural households by ensuring eligible rural women are included in Self Help Groups (SHGs).
15. The Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) helpline of the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare received over 100,000 calls since its launch in October 2022.
16. Union Minister Smt Smriti Irani opened the Mahila Samman Saving Certificate Account, promoting women's empowerment through post offices.
17. The Jal Shakti Ministry launched PRAYAG, a real-time monitoring center for planning and monitoring projects, river water quality, etc., during the 11th meeting of the Empowered Task Force of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).
18. The World Health Organization (WHO) launched the Preparedness and Resilience For Emerging Threats (PRET) Initiative, aimed at providing guidance on responding to respiratory pathogens like influenza or coronaviruses.

RANKS & REPORTS

1. Hurun Research Institute's Global Unicorn Index 2023 reveals that India has emerged as the third-largest hub with 68 unicorns.
2. For the fourth consecutive year, Rajasthan has topped the country in terms of generating persondays under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.
3. India has climbed six positions on the World Bank's Logistic Performance Index (LPI) 2023, now securing the 38th rank among 139 countries in the index.
4. This marks a significant improvement from its previous rankings of 44th in 2018 and 54th in 2014.
5. According to Stanford University's AI Index report, India is ranked fifth globally in terms of investments received by startups offering AI-based products and services in 2022.
6. India ranks fourth in global military expenditure, as per the SIPRI Report released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).
7. The report's theme is "Military Spending across the Globe."
8. The top five ranks are occupied by the United States, China, Russia, India, and Saudi Arabia.
9. The Ministry of Jal Shakti released the report of its first-ever water body census, providing crucial insights into the country's water resources. The report enumerates over 24 lakh water bodies.
10. The report reveals that West Bengal has the highest number of ponds and reservoirs.
11. Andhra Pradesh holds the highest number of tanks.
12. Tamil Nadu boasts the highest number of lakes.
13. Maharashtra takes the lead in water conservation schemes

OBITUARIES

1. Former India all-rounder Salim Durani has passed away at the age of 88.
2. Veteran actor Mamukkoya has passed away at the age of 76 years.
3. Former Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal has passed away at the age of 95.
4. Noted actor and theatre artist Uttara Baokar has passed away at the age of 79. In 1984, she received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, India's National Academy for Acting.
5. Keshub Mahindra, the Chairman Emeritus of Mahindra & Mahindra and India's oldest billionaire, has passed away at the age of 99.
6. Renowned short story writer and novelist Sarah Thomas has passed away at the age of 89.
7. Jharkhand Education Minister Jagarnath Mahto has passed away at the age of 56.