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31st March 2023

INTERNATIONAL

1) Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

- The UAE President, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, has appointed his brother, Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, as the Vice President of the country.
- The appointment was endorsed by the UAE Federal Supreme Council. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the current Vice President, will continue to hold the same position.
- Additionally, Sheikh Mohamed, who is also the Ruler of Abu Dhabi, has designated Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed and Sheikh Hazza bin Zayed as the Deputy Rulers of Abu Dhabi.

NATIONAL

1) Sanchar Bhawan and National Informatics Centre office in New Delhi

- India's first quantum computing-based telecom network link has been made operational between Sanchar Bhawan and National Informatics Centre office in New Delhi.
- Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced prize money of Rs 10 lakh for ethical hackers who can break the encryption of the system and also launched a hackathon challenge for anyone who can break the system developed by C-DoT, with a reward of Rs 10 lakh per break.



2) 3-Star Garbage Free rating

- During the International Zero Waste Day 2023 in New Delhi, Sh. Hardeep S. Puri, The Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, announced that 1000 cities are targeted to achieve a 3-Star Garbage Free rating by October 2024.
- The GFC-Star rating protocol, launched in January 2018 to promote a competitive and mission-driven approach among ULBs, has seen a significant increase in certification since its inception.
- The Minister commended the 'Swachhta Doots' from all over the country, praising them for being agents of change and leaders in their communities, as well as for their ability to turn challenges into opportunities























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for livelihood.

3) Next Generation Maritime Mobile Coastal Batteries

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract worth over Rs 1,700 crore with BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL) for the procurement of Next Generation Maritime Mobile Coastal Batteries (Long range) (NGMMCB-LR) and BrahMos Missiles under the Buy (Indian) Category.
- Delivery of NGMMCBs equipped with supersonic BrahMos Missiles is expected to start in 2027, and they will significantly improve the Indian Navy's ability to carry out multi-directional maritime strikes.

STATE NEWS

1) World Bank has granted a loan of USD 363 million to the state of Karnataka

- The World Bank has granted a loan of USD 363 million to the state of Karnataka in India, which will help to provide clean drinking water to two million rural households.
- The initiative aims to establish piped water connections in households throughout the state, including the construction of a drinking water distribution network and the installation of water meters. The project is set to benefit around 10 million people across all 31 districts in the state.
- The loan is part of the Karnataka Sustainable Rural Water Supply Program, which seeks to introduce policies and initiatives that will improve the operational efficiency of rural water supply services.



2) Punjab and Haryana Court

- The Punjab and Haryana Court recently utilized the assistance of an AI chatbot called ChatGPT to make a decision regarding a bail application in a criminal case, marking the first time an Indian court has done so.
- The bench, led by Justice Anoop Chitkara, requested feedback from ChatGPT during the hearing of the bail petition filed by an individual who was taken into custody in June 2020 for charges of criminal conspiracy, murder, rioting, and criminal intimidation.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESGINATIONS

1) Praveer Sinha

- Tata Power has re-appointed Prayeer Sinha as the company's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director. His re-appointment to the top post is for a period of four years from May 1, 2023, to April 30,

























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2027, subject to the approval of members of the company, Tata Power said in a regulatory filing. His present tenure as CEO and MD is scheduled to conclude on April 30, 2023.

2) Elon Musk, the CEO of Twitter

- Elon Musk, the CEO of Twitter, has achieved the highest number of followers on the platform, exceeding former US President Barack Obama, who held the record since 2020.
- According to Guinness World Records, Twitter has around 450 million monthly active users, and Elon Musk has accumulated more than 133 million followers, which accounts for about 30% of the platform's total users.
- Musk assumed the role of CEO of Twitter on October 27, 2022, with 110 million followers, and within five months, his followers increased to 133 million. Previously, he ranked third after Barack Obama and Justin Bieber in terms of the most followed Twitter users.



3) "Incredible League"

- Star Sports, which is owned by The Walt Disney Company India, has appointed Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh as its brand ambassador.
- This is a significant step for the brand as it seeks to tap into Singh's immense popularity and love for sports to reach a wider and more diverse audience that may not have previously engaged deeply with sports.
- Singh will act as the "sutradhaar" or narrator for the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League (IPL), which the company is branding as the "Incredible League". He will also participate in creating content for the IPL, which is scheduled to begin on March 31st.

4) Sumil Vikamsey

- Sumil Vikamsey, who is currently the CEO of Cash Business at Hitachi Payment Services, has been appointed as the new Managing Director of the company.
- He will take over from Rustom Irani, who is retiring on March 30 after being associated with the organisation since 2011. Vikamsey will also be inducted into the company's board from April 1, 2023.

























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 During his tenure at Hitachi Payment Services, Vikamsey has been responsible for various functions including finance, strategy, development, analytics, white-label ATM programme, and allied business domains. Irani will continue to be associated with the company as an advisor.

5) Niranjan Gupta

- The Board of Hero MotoCorp announced the appointment of Niranjan Gupta as the new Cheif Executive Officer (CEO) of the company, effective from May 1.
- Gupta, who currently serves as the CFO and Head of Strategy and M&A, will be elevated to the new role. Meanwhile, Pawan Munjal will remain the Executive Chairman and Whole-time Director on the Board.



SPORTS

1) Vedanta's Hindustan Zinc Limited

- Vedanta's Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Rajasthan Cricket Association to build the world's third-largest cricket stadium in Chonp village, Jaipur.
- This project involves an investment of INR 300 crore, making it one of the largest corporate investments in India's sports infrastructure. The stadium will be named the Anil Agarwal International Cricket Stadium, Jaipur.

2) Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty

- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, the popular Indian doubles badminton pair, secured their first doubles title of 2023 by winning the Swiss Open Super 300 finals.
- They were the second seeds in the tournament and played exceptionally well in the final match, winning the first set 21-19.
- Although their opponents, Ren Xiang Yu and Tan Qiang from China, put up a good fight to take the game into a deciding set, Satwiksairaj and Chirag held their nerve and won the second set 24-22, closing out the match in 54 minutes. Overall, it was a clinical and impressive performance by the Indian pair.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1) 52nd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council













- During the 52nd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva, Switzerland, a book entitled "War and Women" was launched.
- The author, Dr M A Hasan, presented the book, which highlights the suffering of Bengali women who were victims of sexual violence perpetrated by the Pakistan Army during the 1971 war. The event was organized by the Bangladesh Freedom Fighters Sansad in Europe, and it was considered a significant moment for raising awareness about the issue.

2) "Why Can't Elephants be Red??"

- Vani Tripathi Tikoo, an actor and member of the Indian censor board, has written her debut children's book titled "Why Can't Elephants be Red??" published by Niyogi Books.
- The book is about a two-and-a-half-year-old girl named Akku who is imaginative, adventurous, and growing up in Gurgaon and Singapore



IMPORTANT DAYS

1) World Backup Day

- World Backup Day is an annual event that takes place on March 31st to raise awareness about the importance of data backup and protection.
- The day encourages individuals and organizations to take proactive steps to safeguard their data and prevent the loss of important information due to hardware failure, cyberattacks, or other unforeseen events. World Backup Day was first observed on March 31, 2011, as an initiative of a digital strategy and consulting firm called Ismail Jadun.
- The goal was to raise awareness about the importance of data backup and protection and to encourage individuals and organizations to take proactive steps to safeguard their data.

























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2) Transgender Day of Visibility

- Transgender Day of Visibility is an annual holiday observed on March 31st to celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of transgender people, as well as to raise awareness of the discrimination and violence faced by the transgender community worldwide.
- Transgender Day of Visibility is an important opportunity to celebrate the diversity of gender identities and expressions and to promote understanding and acceptance of the transgender community.

3) International Day of Drug Checking

- The International Day of Drug Checking is an annual event that has been observed since 2017 on March 31st. The purpose of the day is to educate people about drugs and their effects and to promote harm reduction initiatives to reduce the risks associated with drug use.
- The main objective is to raise public awareness about the availability of drug checking services and organizations worldwide.
- The day emphasizes the importance of harm reduction actions related to drugs and aims to decrease drug-related risks.



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96409 99900 | 96039 97479 | 99859 99900











