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30th March 2023

INTERNATIONAL

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.



NATIONAL

1) Reserve Bank of India

- The central board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) chaired by Governor Shaktikanta Das, conducted its 601st meeting in Hyderabad to assess the current global and domestic economic conditions, along with the accompanying difficulties.
- According to a statement released by the RBI, during its meeting, the board evaluated the global and domestic economic scenario, as well as the associated obstacles, taking into account the influence of current global geopolitical events.
- Additionally, the board deliberated on the RBI's undertakings during the ongoing 2022-23 accounting year, and approved the budget for the upcoming 2023-24 accounting year.

2) National Payments Corporation of India

- Starting from April 1, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has implemented interchange fees of up to 1.1 percent for prepaid payment instruments used in merchant UPI transactions.
- The fee, ranging from 0.5 percent and based on the merchant category code, will be charged for UPI payments exceeding ₹2,000 made to online merchants, large merchants, and small offline merchants.

























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- The purpose of imposing an interchange fee is to compensate for the expenses incurred by payment service providers in handling, verifying, and approving transactions.

3) ASSOCHAM Annual Session 2023

- -During the ASSOCHAM Annual Session 2023, Mr. Piyush Goyal, who serves as the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Textiles, declared that India's merchandise and services exports are expected to surpass US\$ 760 billion in the present fiscal year, which will end on March 31, 2023.
- Despite the global economic downturn, rising inflation, and high-interest rates, Mr. Goyal highlighted India's successful performance. He also stated that exports increased from US\$ 500 billion in 2020-21 to US\$ 676 billion in 2021-22.



4) Herbalife, a leading global nutrition company

- Herbalife, a leading global nutrition company, has teamed up with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to become an official partner of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) for the 2023 season.
- This partnership brings together two strong brands that share a passion for sports. The IPL is a beloved cricket tournament for fans in India and around the world, while Herbalife is known for providing highquality, science-based nutrition products that help athletes perform at their best. The TATA IPL 2023 is set to take place in India from March 31 to May 28, 2023.

5) INS Chilka, located in Odisha

- On a recent occasion, 2,585 Agniveers, including 272 women from the Indian Navy, successfully completed their training at INS Chilka, located in Odisha.
- The parade was reviewed by the Chief of the Naval Staff, Adm R Hari Kumar, and also attended by PT Usha, a Member of Parliament, and notable sports personality Mithali Raj, along with eminent naval veterans.
- Khushi Pathania, a 19-year-old from Pathankot, was honored with the General Bipin Rawat Trophy for Best Female Agniveer at the first passing out parade of Agniveers held at INS Chilka.















6) IIT Madras can detect milk adulteration

- In just 30 seconds, a cost-effective and portable 3D paper-based device developed by researchers at IIT Madras can detect milk adulteration.
- This device is unlike traditional laboratory-based methods and can be used at home with just one millilitre of the liquid sample needed for testing.
- The device is capable of identifying various commonly used adulterating agents, including but not limited to detergents, soap, hydrogen peroxide, urea, starch, salt, and sodium-hydrogen-carbonate.

7) Passport Index

- According to the latest update from the Passport Index, India's Mobility Scores have decreased, resulting in the country experiencing the largest global drop on the Index this year.
- Prior to the pandemic in 2019, India had a mobility score of 71, which increased to 73 in 2022 as the postpandemic wave of increasing mobility took effect. However, as of March 2023, its mobility score has dropped to 70.
- This decline has occurred despite record increases in mobility as the global and national economies reopened after the pandemic. India's ranking has fallen by six places in 2023, resulting in an individual ranking of 144 compared to 138 in 2022.



STATE NEWS

1) "Spring Fiesta"

- To commemorate the 69th anniversary of its official inauguration by Vice President Dr. S Radhakrishnan on March 29, 1954, the National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi will host its first-ever "Spring Fiesta" in 2023.
- The event will feature over 50 stalls set up on the museum lawns by individuals from various backgrounds who specialize in areas such as handicrafts, ceramics, indigenous art, fashion, and more. These enthusiastic participants will display and sell their wares at the event.

2) Great Indian Bustard

























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- In order to conserve and protect the Great Indian Bustard, which is considered one of the largest flying birds in the world, the Government of India is implementing various measures throughout the country.
- However, apart from certain regions in Rajasthan and Gujarat, the bird has disappeared from 90% of its original habitat. The International Union for Conservation of Nature has classified the species as "critically endangered".

3) Global Data

- A recent report by Global Data suggests that the fixed communication services revenue of India is set to experience a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6.4%, with an estimated increase from \$10.2 billion in 2022 to \$13.9 billion in 2027.
- The growth will be mainly driven by the fixed broadband segment, which is predicted to see solid growth in broadband subscriptions, especially fibre broadband. The study also forecasts a decline in fixed voice services revenue, which is expected to drop at a CAGR of 1 per cent over 2022-2027.
- This is due to the decrease in circuit-switched subscriptions and a decline in fixed voice ARPU levels.



APPOINTMENTS AND RESGINATIONS

1) Ajay Singh

- Ajay Singh, the chief of SpiceJet, has become the new President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).
- He has replaced Sumant Sinha, who completed his tenure as Managing Director of Renew Power. Sanjay Nayar, the Founder and Chairman of Sorin Investment Fund, has been appointed as the new Senior Vice-President of ASSOCHAM.

SPORTS

1) Ferguson led Manchester United to 13 Premier League

- On March 29, the Premier League inducted former Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson and ex-Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger into its Hall of Fame.
- This is the first time that managers have been included in this prestigious list. The two managers had a fierce rivalry during the 1990s, with a combined 16 English top-flight titles to their names.















- Ferguson led Manchester United to 13 Premier League titles during his 26-year reign, while Wenger won three Premier League titles and seven FA Cups with Arsenal during his 22-year tenure. The Premier League Hall of Fame was launched in 2021 to honour players who have made an exceptional contribution to the league.

2) Shakib Al Hasan

- Shakib Al Hasan has surpassed Tim Southee to become the leading wicket-taker in T20I cricket during the second T20I match against Ireland in Chattogram.
- With 136 wickets in T20I at an average of 20.67 and an economy rate of 6.8, Shakib is considered as one of the best all-rounders in T20 cricket.
- He has also scored 2339 runs at a strike rate of 122.33 in T20I. Shakib made his debut in T20I against Zimbabwe in 2006 and has played 114 matches since then, featuring in all seven editions of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup.



BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1) "Phoolange"

- Penguin Random House India (PRHI) has announced that the English translation of the Nepali novel "Phoolange" will be released on April 17th.
- The book is written by Lekhnath Chhetri, a writer based in Darjeeling, and focuses on the failed Gorkha movement for a separate state.
- The original Nepali version of the novel was shortlisted for the Madan Puraskar, which is Nepal's most prestigious literary award, in 2021.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- 1) Lifetime achievement award by the University of Texas at Dallas
- Naveen Jindal has been awarded a lifetime achievement award by the University of Texas at Dallas for his accomplishments in industry, politics, and education.

























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- Jindal, who graduated from the University in 1992, received the award in a ceremony. This award is the highest recognition given to an alumnus by the University of Texas, Dallas and is presented to those whose contributions have positively impacted society. Aziz Sancar, a Nobel Laureate, was the first person to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the University of Texas at Dallas.

2) Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi

- The Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi has announced the fellowships, awards, and Gurupuja Puraskaram of the year 2022.
- Theatre person Gopinath Kozhikode, music director P.S. Vidyadharan, and Chenda/Edakka artist Kalamandalam Unnikrishnan have been selected for the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi fellowships for their contribution to the respective fields.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1) International Day of Zero Waste every year starting from 2023

- On December 14, 2022, the United Nations General Assembly acknowledged the significance of zerowaste programs and announced that March 30 would be celebrated as the International Day of Zero Waste every year starting from 2023.
- International Day of Zero Waste will encourage sustainable consumption and production practices and enhance understanding of the ways zero-waste efforts help to achieve the goals of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.











