

26th and 27th March 2023

NATIONAL

1) "Call Before You Dig"

- Prime Minister Modi has recently launched an app called "Call Before You Dig" to prevent uncoordinated digging that can cause damage to underground utility assets, such as optical fibre cables.

The app has been developed jointly by the Department of Telecommunications and the Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics, which operates under the Gujarat government.
Its primary aim is to protect the country's underground public infrastructure.

2) Vedic Heritage portal in New Delhi

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Vedic Heritage portal in New Delhi. The primary aim of the portal is to communicate the messages enshrined in the Vedas and make it more accessible to the common people.

- According to Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy, the Vedic Heritage portal now has audio-visual recordings of the four Vedas. These recordings contain over 18,000 mantras of the four Vedas, with a total duration of over 550 hours.



3) 'Anywhere Cashless,'

- ICICI Lombard General Insurance has introduced an industry-first feature for health insurance policyholders called 'Anywhere Cashless,' which allows them to receive cashless facilities at any hospital, regardless of whether or not it is currently part of ICICI Lombard's hospital network.

- However, the hospital must agree to accept the cashless facility for this feature to apply. ICICI Lombard General Insurance is a leading insurance company in India that provides a range of insurance products, including health insurance, motor insurance, travel insurance, and home insurance.





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4) Silicon Valley Bridge Bank in the United States

- First-Citizens Bank and Trust Company, based in Raleigh, North Carolina, has entered a purchase and assumption agreement with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) to acquire all loans and deposits of the recently failed Silicon Valley Bridge Bank in the United States.

- The FDIC established Silicon Valley Bridge Bank, National Association after the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation closed down Silicon Valley Bank.

5) National E-Governance Services Limited

- YES Bank has collaborated with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) to issue its first electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG).

- The integration of their digital document execution (DDE) platform has made it possible to completely digitize the previous paper-based process of issuing and maintaining Bank Guarantees.

- This includes the digital stamping and signing, which has significantly reduced the time it takes to issue Bank Guarantees.



6) 'Vayu Prahar'

Recently, during the on-going tensions between India and China at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Indian Army and Air Force carried out a 96-hour joint exercise named 'Vayu Prahar' in the eastern region.
The exercise aimed to develop plans to achieve synergy in multi-domain operations by using air and land forces.

- It was conducted in the second week of March, and its primary objective was to enhance coordination between the Army and Air Force for effective operations in a multi-domain battlefield.

7) 36 satellites belonging to the UK-based OneWeb group company

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched its heaviest rocket, LVM3, for the sixth consecutive time from the Sriharikota spaceport.





- The rocket successfully placed 36 satellites belonging to the UK-based OneWeb group company into their intended orbits.

- The launch took place at 9 a.m. from the second launch pad situated approximately 135 kilometres away from Chennai, following a 24.5-hour countdown. This marks the 18th launch for the OneWeb Group, while it is ISRO's second mission of 2023, with the SSLV/D2-EOS07 mission in February being the first.

STATE NEWS

1) "Gymnothorax Tamilnaduensis"

- A team of scientists from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has discovered a new species of Moray Eel fish from the Cuddalore coast in Tamil Nadu.

- The new species has been named "Gymnothorax Tamilnaduensis" after Tamil Nadu and has been given the common name of "Tamil Nadu brown moray eel".

- A team of scientists from the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) have discovered a new species of moray eel fish in the Cuddalore coast, which has been named Gymnothorax Tamilnaduensis or Tamil Nadu brown moray eel.



2) Aravalli Green Wall Project

At an event held in Tikli Village, Haryana to commemorate the International Day of Forests, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, unveiled the Aravalli Green Wall Project, which aims to green the 5 km buffer area around the Aravalli Hill Range in four states.
The Aravalli Green Wall Project is a significant undertaking aimed at afforesting the 5 km buffer zone around the Aravalli Hill Range in Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi.

3) Manjamma Jogati

- The Election Commission (EC) in the Indian state of Karnataka has selected Manjamma Jogati, a transgender folk dancer, as a poll icon to encourage more members of the transgender community to register and vote.





- Alongside Jogati, several other individuals, including cricketer Rahul Dravid and Jnanapeeth awardee Chandrashekar Kambar, have also been chosen as poll ambassadors.

SPORTS

1) Women's Premier League

- In the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2023 final, held at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai, the Mumbai Indians won against the Delhi Capitals by seven wickets.

- The Delhi Capitals chose to bat first after winning the toss, and set a target of 132 runs. In response, the Mumbai Indians achieved the target by scoring 134/3 in 19.3 overs.

- Nat Sciver-Brunt played exceptionally well and remained unbeaten after scoring 60 runs off 55 balls, while the team's captain Harmanpreet Kaur contributed 37 runs off 39 balls. The Harmapreet Kaur-led side scripted history by becoming the winners of the 2023 edition of the tournament.

2) 13th edition of the IBA Women's World Boxing Championship

- India emerged as a dominant force at the 13th edition of the IBA Women's World Boxing Championship 2023, held in New Delhi.

- The event concluded with four Indian female boxers securing gold medals in different weight categories. Saweety Boora, Nitu Ghanghas, Nikhat Zareen, and Lovlina Borgohain were the top performers in their respective categories, contributing to India's historic success in the competition.

- This was the second time India achieved such a remarkable feat, the first being in the 2006 event. The 13th edition of the Women's World Boxing Championship 2023 was organised by the International Boxing Association (IBA) and took place from March 15 to March 26, 2023.



BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1) Titled 'Azaad'

- Ghulam Nabi Azad, a former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Minister, has written an honest and forthright autobiography, which will be launched in New Delhi on April 5.

- Titled 'Azaad', the book chronicles Azad's political journey and provides insights into the significant political changes that India has undergone over the past five decades.





- Published by Rupa Publications India, 'Azaad' is a candid account of Azad's life and career, including his interactions with influential leaders in India and around the world.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1) M T Vasudevan Nair

- The highest civilian honor in Kerala, the "Kerala Jyothi," was awarded to the writer M T Vasudevan Nair. The second-highest award, "Kerala Prabha," was shared by actor Mammootty, former civil service officer T Madhava Menon, and writer Omchery NN Pillai.

- Arif Muhammad Khan, the Governor of Kerala, has presented the inaugural edition of the "Kerala Puraskarngal" awards, which recognize individuals who have made notable contributions to various aspects of social life.

- The awards were presented in three categories – "Kerala Jyothi," "Kerala Prabha," and "Kerala Shri.

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IMPORTANT DAYS

1) "Give an Hour for Earth"

- Every year, people from all around the world participate in a global event known as "Earth Hour," which aims to raise awareness about the challenges of climate change and promote energy conservation. During this event, organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), participants turn off all lights and electrical appliances in their homes and offices for an hour.

- The WWF hopes to mobilize as many people as possible to "Give an Hour for Earth" and create the largest hour of support and solidarity for the cause. Earth Hour is an annual event that takes place on the last Saturday of March.

- This year, on March 25 at 8.30 pm local time, individuals, communities, and businesses around the world are being encouraged to turn off their lights for one hour and engage in activities that benefit the environment.





2) World Theatre Day

- Every year on March 27, World Theatre Day is celebrated worldwide to promote the significance of theatrical forms. Theatre not only provides entertainment but also serves as an art form that educates and inspires individuals.

- Many plays are performed on a variety of topics, including social issues, entertainment, and comedy. This day aims to increase public understanding of the importance of theatre in our lives. World Theatre Day promotes the importance of theatre to the public and encourages people to participate in theatre events. It serves as a reminder of the significant role that theatre plays in our communities, and how it contributes to our cultural heritage. Overall, World Theatre Day is a celebration of the power of theatre and its ability to transform and enrich our lives.

- The theme of World Theatre Day is "Theatre and a Culture of Peace" set by the International Theatre Institute.



3) Purple Day of Epilepsy

- The Purple Day of Epilepsy is an international day of awareness dedicated to raising understanding and reducing the social stigma associated with epilepsy, a neurological condition.

- It is celebrated annually on March 26 with the goal of educating people about epilepsy, recognizing the signs of a seizure, and offering support to those who are impacted by it.

- The primary aim of Purple Day is to promote greater knowledge and empathy towards epilepsy and those living with it, with the ultimate aim of creating a more inclusive society.

4) The Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling Against Racism and Racial Discrimination

- The Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling Against Racism and Racial Discrimination is an annual event that is observed from March 21 to 27.



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- The purpose of this week is to oppose human rights violations, injustices, and racial discrimination that people face around the world. The week-long event highlights the importance of working towards achieving racial equality in all nations.

- It is a time to promote greater understanding and respect among all people, regardless of their race or ethnicity, and to reaffirm the commitment to the principles of equality, justice, and human dignity for all.





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