
UPPCS Pattern Current Affairs – Mar 2023

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National Polity & Govt Schemes

eShram portal

Important points for Prelims

Recently, the Central Government started matching the data from the eShram portal to that of the Ration Card (National Food Security Act (NFSA)) data, which is under the control of the Department of Food and Public Distribution.

- Matching of these two data sets revealed that of the 28.60 crore eShram registrants, 20.63 crore individuals have registered in the NFSA database.
- The eShram portal data was already matched with PMSYM and NCS; now it is being matched with the ration card.
- eShram portal was launched in August 2021 by the Union Labour Ministry to create a National Database for migrant or unorganized workers across India.

National Geospatial Policy 2022

Important points for Prelims

Government of India notified the National Geospatial Policy 2022 in December last year as a replacement for the National Map Policy, 2005.

- The objective of the 2022 policy is to strengthen the location-centric industry to assist with the information economy.
- The policy provides a framework for the development of a geospatial ecosystem that will facilitate the growth of the industry.
- One of the most significant aspects of the National Geospatial Policy 2022 is the government's aim to geo-reference all the land areas by March 2024.
- India is only the third country to undertake the geo-referencing of land parcels, following the United States and the United Kingdom.

Janaushadhi Kendras

Important points for Prelims

The Union Health Minister recently announced that 9,082 Janaushadhi Kendras are being operated under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).

- The Indian government launched PMBJP in November 2008 to provide quality generic medicines at affordable prices to everyone.
- This initiative involves opening Janaushadhi Kendras across India that offer affordable generic drugs and surgical items.
- PMBJP is implemented by the Pharma & Medical Bureau of India (PMBI), which was formerly known as the Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI).

Unique Identification Authority of India

Important points for Prelims

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has recently launched a new security mechanism for Aadhaar-based fingerprint authentication.

- Its aim is to ensure a fast-paced detection of spoofing attempts by making use of artificial intelligence and machine learning capabilities.
- The new mechanism uses a combination of both finger minutia and finger image to check the liveness of the captured fingerprint. This will introduce a two-factor/layer authentication, further boosting the system's security.

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

Important points for Prelims

A milestone has been achieved under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), as over 25 crore health records have been successfully linked to the Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts.

- This will help with the easy access and management of health records using any ABDM-enabled health apps.

SMART-PDS

Important points for Prelims

The Union Minister Piyush Goyal urged all states and union territories to implement the SMART-PDS to ensure the smooth operation of the public distribution system.

- The Scheme for Modernization and Reforms through Technology in Public Distribution System (SMART-PDS) was proposed by the Department of Food and Public Distribution.

VAIBHAV Fellowship scheme

Important points for Prelims

In honor of National Science Day, which is celebrated on February 28th, the Indian Government launched the VAIBHAV Fellowship scheme.

- The new initiative aims to enhance the research capability of India's higher education institutions by promoting academic and research collaborations with top-performing institutions from around the world.

Debt Forgiveness Plan

Important points for Prelims

The Debt Forgiveness Plan was announced by the Biden Government on August 24 last year.

- This plan vowed to cancel 10,000 USD of student loan debt for individuals earning less than 125,000 USD or for households earning less than \$250,000 per annum.

SAMARTH (Scheme for Capacity Building in Textiles Sector) scheme

Important points for Prelims

The SAMARTH (Scheme for Capacity Building in Textiles Sector) scheme is a demand-driven and placement-oriented umbrella skilling initiative that aims to provide incentives and create jobs in the organized textile industry and related sectors, covering the entire value chain of textiles, except spinning and weaving.

- It is implemented via Implementing Partners like state government agencies, Textile Industry/ Industry Associations and sectoral organizations of the textile ministry, like the Central Silk Board. It will be implemented until March 2024.
- The Indian Government is now planning to rope in more industry partners to boost skill development under the SAMARTH scheme.

National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke

Important points for Prelims

The Indian Government launched the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) in 2010 to prevent and control major non-communicable diseases. It focuses on strengthening infrastructure, human resource development, early diagnosis, health promotion and more. It seeks to reduce premature cancer-related mortality by 25% by 2025.

- In line with the NPCDCS, a 164-bed Super-Specialty Cancer and Research Centre are being set up in Mizoram.

The Jan Aushadhi Train

Important points for Prelims

The Jan Aushadhi Train was flagged off recently in New Delhi by union ministers Dr Mansukh Mandaviya and Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw.

- It was launched as part of the week-long celebrations commemorating the Jan Aushadhi scheme.
- This is the second such train to be flagged off to create awareness about the scheme.

Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan

Important points for Prelims

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment's flagship program, Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA), aims to raise awareness about substance abuse among youth in India, with a particular focus on higher education institutes, university campuses, schools, and community engagement.

- Recently, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and Brahma Kumaris inked a Memorandum of Understanding to make NMBA more effective and widespread.

- The program, started in 2020 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, was started with a target of 272 of the most vulnerable districts.
- It has now reached over 9.50 crore people, including 3.10 crore young individuals, in 372 districts across the country, and over 3 lakh educational institutions.

Har Payment Digital

Important points for Prelims

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched a new mission called “Har Payment Digital” as part of its efforts to make every Indian a user of digital payments.

- The initiative was launched during Digital Payments Awareness Week and aims to reinforce the ease and convenience of digital payments, while also onboarding new users. The week was celebrated by RBI between March 6, 2023, and March 12, 2023.
- Also, the central bank has started an initiative to adopt 75 villages and transform them into digital payment-enabled villages. These villages are to be adopted by payment system operators.
- The theme of 2023 Digital Payment Awareness Week was “Adopt Digital Payment and also teach others”.

Integrated Pensioners’ Portal

Important points for Prelims

Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of State, Personnel, announced that the Department of Pension & Pensioners’ Welfare has decided to create a new “Integrated Pensioners’ Portal”.

- It is developed by combining all pension portals such as Pension Disbursing Bank portals, ANUBHAV, CPENGRAMS, CGHS, etc. at the Bankers Awareness Workshop in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

Swadesh Darshan Scheme

Important points for Prelims

To address these challenges and promote sustainable tourism, the Union Ministry of Tourism launched the Swadesh Darshan Scheme (SDS) in 2014.

- In response to the criticism, the Ministry of Tourism has launched the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) programme, which seeks to develop sustainable and responsible tourist destinations.
- The SD2.0 aims to address the negative impacts of tourism and promote responsible tourism practices while also increasing private sector investments in the industry.
- Under the SD2.0 programme, the Central Government has shortlisted 30 cities from across 15 states to be developed as sustainable and responsible destinations.
- The selected cities include Dwarka and Dholavira in Gujarat, Colva and Porvorim in Goa and Nalanda and Gaya in Bihar.

Heal in India

Important points for Prelims

Heal in India is an initiative of the Indian Government aimed at promoting medical tourism in the country.

- This initiative is being led by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Ayush.
- The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) and Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC) have been working in collaboration with the Ministries to develop a 'One Step' Heal in India portal for the promotion of Medical Value Travel.
- The Ministry of Ayush developed a Central Sector Scheme called the Champion Service Sector Scheme for Medical Value Travel.

Sagar Parikrama Phase IV

Important points for Prelims

Sagar Parikrama Phase IV journey was launched on March 18.

- Its purpose is to resolve issues concerning fishermen and other stakeholders and promote their economic development through various government schemes and initiatives.
- Phase-IV of Sagar Parikrama will cover the stretches of Uttar Kannada, Udipi, and Dakshan Kannada.
- The objective of this phase is to award certificates and sanctions related to the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada scheme, KCC, and State Scheme to progressive fishermen.
- As part of Phase-IV, a song on Sagar Parikrama in Kannada will be launched.

Mukhyamantri Vriksh Sampada Yojana

Important points for Prelims

On the occasion of World Forestry Day, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel launched the Mukhyamantri Vriksh Sampada Yojana, also known as the Chief Minister Tree Wealth Scheme.

- The scheme aims to promote tree plantation across the state by providing financial assistance to farmers and landowners.

New India Literacy Programme

Important points for Prelims

The Indian Government has launched a new scheme, the New India Literacy Programme (NILP), to address the issue of adult illiteracy in the country.

- The scheme is a significant step towards empowering non-literates and enabling them to become self-sufficient.
- The NILP scheme has 5 components i.e., Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, Critical Life Skills, Vocational Skills Development, Basic Education, and Continuing Education.

Catch the Rain 2023' campaign

Important points for Prelims

The 'Catch the Rain 2023' campaign was introduced by President Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi.

- The campaign's central idea is the sustainability of drinking water sources. Addressing at the ceremony, the President stated that since
- India only has 4% of the world's water resources, water management and conservation are India's most pressing challenges.

DigiClaim

Important points for Prelims

The Agriculture Minister of India, Narendra Singh Tomar, has introduced a new platform called 'DigiClaim' on the national crop insurance portal.

- This platform is aimed at expediting the disbursement of insurance claims to farmers who have availed themselves of crop insurance.

International News Section

Deakin University of Australia

Important points for Prelims

The first foreign university to establish a campus in India will be Deakin University of Australia.

- The autonomous campus will be built in Gujarat International Financial Tec-City (GIFT) City.

Bola Tinubu

Important points for Prelims

Nigerian electoral officials announced on 1 March 2023 that the ruling party's candidate in the presidential election, Bola Tinubu, has been elected as the country's new president.

- Bola Tinubu has been associated with the 'All Progressive Congress Party' from which he has been winning elections.

Chip 4 Alliance

Important points for Prelims

Japan, the United States, South Korea and Taiwan have held the first meeting of senior officials under a new U.S.-led framework to help ensure a stable supply of semiconductors, Japan's industry ministry said.

- Officials from industry organizations in the four economies took part in the virtual conference of the "Chip 4" alliance on Feb. 16 to discuss ways to maintain supply chain resilience in times of natural disasters and other contingencies.
- In a bid to outcompete China technologically, the Biden administration launched a new dialogue forum with Japan and South Korea on friend-shoring semiconductors as it invites companies to compete for a share of the \$50 billion already approved to revitalize the U.S. chip industry.

POTS or postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome

Important points for Prelims

POTS or postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome has affected around three million Americans before Covid-19 and at least one million new patients after the pandemic. Many people are still not familiar with the disease. A study reveals that around 2% to 14% of people with covid develop POTS.

Each word of "postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome" has a meaning:

- Postural: Related to the position of your body.
- Orthostatic: Related to standing upright.
- Tachycardia: A heart rate over 100 beats per minute.
- Syndrome: A group of symptoms that happen together....

Vo Van Thuong

Important points for Prelims

- The National Assembly(NA) of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam elected Vo Van Thuong(Võ Văn Thưởng) (52 years old) as the new President of Vietnam for a term running until 2026.

High Seas Treaty

Important points for Prelims

The United Nations(UN) inked the first ‘High Seas Treaty’ in a bid to protect the ocean bodies of the world that lie outside the national boundaries and form almost two-thirds of the world’s oceans.

- The treaty is an outcome of a decade of talks on this environmental concern.
- The previous negotiations failed to conclude due to disagreements on funding and fishing rights.
- The last international agreement on ocean protection was signed 40 years ago in 1982 – the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

5th Asean-India Business Summit

Important points for Prelims

The 5th Asean-India Business Summit took place on 6 March 2023 in Kuala Lumpur. Speakers and participants from Asean and India convened to discuss how business linkages, connectivity and supply chain resilience can be enhanced through deeper ASEAN-India cooperation.

- The Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology addresses the 5th ASEAN-India Business summit
- It is being held as part of the ASEAN-India Year of Friendship to commemorate the more than three-decade-long engagement between India and the 10-member bloc in Kuala Lumpur.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani

Important points for Prelims

- Qatar’s Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani has appointed Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani as the country’s new prime minister.

Mount Merapi

Important points for Prelims

Mount Merapi, one of the world’s most active volcanoes, erupted, spewing out smoke and ash that covered villages near the crater.

- There were no immediate reports of casualties, the the National Disaster Mitigation Agency said.
- The images broadcasted shows ash-covered houses and roads at a village near the volcano, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

CO2 graveyard Project

Important points for Prelims

Denmark inaugurates a project to store carbon dioxide 1,800 metres beneath the North Sea, the first country in the world to bury CO2 imported from abroad.

- The CO2 graveyard, where the carbon is injected to prevent further warming of the atmosphere, is on the site of an old oil field.
- Led by British chemical giant Ineos and German oil company Wintershall Dea, the “Greensand” project is expected to store up to eight million tonnes of CO2 per year by 2030.

Kermadec Islands

Important points for Prelims

An earthquake of 7.1 magnitude struck the New Zealand’s Kermadec Islands region, the US Geological Survey (USGS) said.

- The earthquake was estimated at a depth of 10 km (6.21 miles). The US Tsunami Warning System has issued a tsunami warning following this earthquake.

Resolution to recognize the McMahon Line as the international boundary

Important points for Prelims

A bipartisan resolution was passed by the US, formally recognizing the McMahon Line as the international boundary between China and India’s Arunachal Pradesh.

- The resolution rejected China’s claim that the state belongs to its territory and instead acknowledged Arunachal Pradesh as an integral part of India.
- Furthermore, the resolution expressed support for India’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Egypt has become a member of the BRICS New Development Bank

Important points for Prelims

After President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi visited India as a chief guest for the Republic Day celebrations, Egypt has become a member of the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB).

- Egypt officially joined the NDB on February 20, with a formal notification issued on March 22.
- The African-Arab nation intends to enhance its infrastructure, and NDB funding can make a significant contribution toward achieving this goal.

Saudi Arab to join Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Important points for Prelims

The Saudi Arabian government has taken a significant step towards joining the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), a regional alliance dominated by China and Russia.

- During a cabinet meeting presided over by King Salman bin Abdulaziz, a memorandum was approved to initiate dialogue with the SCO.
- The decision to pursue membership was reportedly raised during a visit to Saudi Arabia by Chinese President Xi Jinping in December of last year.

Economy News Section

Global Recession likely in 2023

Important points for Prelims

According to the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR), a global recession will start in 2023.

- A global recession is predicted by other agencies as well to begin in 2023. New borrowing costs put in place to fight inflation cause several economies to shrink.
- The report predicts that India's economy will reach \$10 trillion by 2035 and rank third globally by 2032.
- Since the US is one of the great superpowers, a mild or deeper recession will eventually have worldwide repercussions.
- Given that Indian businesses had significant outsourcing agreements with US clients, a slowdown in the US economy was undoubtedly terrible news for India.

Moody's macro-outlook for G20 economies

Important points for Prelims

Moody now expects India's real GDP growth to be 5.5% in 2023, up from the earlier projection of 5%, and to be 6.5% in 2024.

- The upward revisions for India also incorporate a significant increase in capital expenditure budget allocation to Rs 10 lakh crore (3.3% of GDP) for fiscal year 2023-24, up from Rs 7.5 lakh crore for the fiscal year ending in March 2023.
- Moody's has published its macro-outlook for G20 economies and has made upward revisions to its 2023 growth forecasts for the US, the euro area and China.
- Additionally, the credit rating agency has raised growth projections for India, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye.

Net national income

Important points for Prelims

India's per capita income in nominal terms doubled to Rs 1,72,000 since 2014-15 when the Narendra Modi-led NDA came to power but uneven income distribution remains a challenge.

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- As per the National Statistical Office (NSO), the annual per capita (net national income) at current prices is estimated at Rs 1,72,000 in 2022-23, up from Rs 86,647 in 2014-15, suggesting an increase of about 99 per cent
- In real terms (constant prices), the per capita income has increased by about 35 per cent from Rs 72,805 in 2014-15 to Rs 98,118 in 2022-23.
- Average growth of India's per-capita income in real term for the period from 2014 to 2019 was 5.6 per cent per annum.

Hindu growth rate

Important points for Prelims

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the third quarter (October-December) of the current fiscal slowed to 4.4% from 6.3% in the second quarter (July-September) and 13.2% in the first quarter (April-June).

- This has attracted the attention of former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Raghuram Rajan, who said India is “dangerously close” to the Hindu growth rate due to subdued private sector investment, high-interest rates, and slowing global growth.
- The Hindu rate of growth is a term used to describe India's low rate of economic growth for a prolonged period. It generally shows that the country is satisfied with the slow growth rate.
- The term was first used by the late economist Raj Krishna in 1978 to refer to the low rate of economic growth in the pre-liberalization era. Krishna explained it against the backdrop of socialist economic policies.
- It must be noted that the slow growth rate is called the Hindu rate of growth only if it is persistent and is accompanied by low per-capita GDP, with population growth factored in

AIS for Taxpayer App

Important points for Prelims

On March 22, the Income Tax Department launched a mobile application called “AIS for Taxpayer” that enables taxpayers to view their tax-related information in the Annual Information Statement (AIS) or Taxpayer Information Summary (TIS).

- The app has become essential and beneficial since starting from the new financial year on April 1, Form 26AS will only show information related to tax deducted at source (TDS) and tax collection at source (TCS).

Finance Bill 2023

Important points for Prelims

The Lok Sabha passed the Finance Bill 2023, which implements tax proposals for the upcoming fiscal year, without any discussion.

- The Finance Bill 2023 includes several amendments, such as the taxation of mutual funds having less than 35% AUM in domestic equity as short-term capital gains and the provision

of enhanced tax benefits to offshore banking units operating in GIFT City, which will receive a 100% deduction on income for 10 years.

- Additionally, the tax on royalty or technical fee earned by foreign companies has been increased from 10% to 20%.
- Other amendments include the formation of a committee to address the pension system's needs, and a proposal for marginal relief to limit the tax one pays to the income that exceeds Rs. 7 lakh.
- The Bill also proposes that all Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS) payments made through credit cards for foreign tours be considered under LRS and be subject to Tax Collection at Source (TCS).

Ecology & Environment News Section

State of India's Environment report 2023

Important points for Prelims

Recently, State of India's Environment report 2023 was launched by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) and DTE (Down to Earth) magazine, covering an extensive gamut of subject assessments, ranging from climate change, agriculture and industry to water, plastics, forests and biodiversity.

- The report is the annual publication, focusing on climate change, migration, health and food systems. It also covers biodiversity, forest and wildlife, energy, industry, habitat, pollution, waste, agriculture and rural development.
- CSE is a public interest research and advocacy organisation based in New Delhi.
- Over 30,000 water bodies have been encroached on in the country and India is generating 150,000 tonnes of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) every day — more than half of which is either dumped in landfills or remains unattended.
- Four years and 11 months is the average duration of life lost to air pollution in India.
- Rural India is losing more years due to air pollution-related health issues than the urban belt.
- Rural India needs 35 % more community health centers.
- Environmental crimes continue unabated — courts need to decide on 245 cases every day to clear the backlog.
- Between January and October 2022, India witnessed extreme weather events on 271 days.
- These extreme weather events claimed over 2,900 lives.
- Over the past five years, India's overall global rank in meeting the United Nations-mandated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has slipped by nine places — ranking 121 in 2022.
- India ranks below four south Asian countries — Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Nepal.
- India is facing challenges in 11 of the 17 SDGs, including SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 3 (good health and wellbeing), SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 11 (Sustainable cities).

- While the magnitude of the problem related to Plastic Waste remains gargantuan, a plethora of policies and urgency are on the right path.
- Cities are becoming waste-wise, learning to segregate at source, minimise plastics and reuse reprocess waste into wealth.
- In agriculture, strong evidence is emerging of the efficacy of traditional and regenerative farming methods.
- On the issue of forests and biodiversity, losses of forests are a dark truth, but at the same time more and more communities are demanding rights over forests – what is more, these rights are being granted.

Recommendations

- We need to have a common minimum programme that brings all countries together on the only issues that matter for humanity: how to avert the existential crisis we face today and how to build a just and inclusive world order.
- In fact, the pandemic treaty is a welcome development in this direction.

Borthekera

Important points for Prelims

Borthekera, also known as *Garcinia pedunculata*, is a medicinal plant commonly found in Assam.

- The plant is related to the popular tropical fruit, mangosteen.
- The dried pulp of the ripe fruit from Borthekera has been used for centuries for both medicinal and culinary purposes.
- Recently, researchers at the Scientists of Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST) found that this plant has heart-protective properties.

World Wildlife Day

Important points for Prelims

World Wildlife Day is celebrated on March 3 by the United Nations. The main objective of the celebrations is to increase awareness of wild flora and fauna

- The theme of World Wildlife Day 2023 is Partnerships for wildlife conservation.

Methane Global Tracker report

Important points for Prelims

The Methane Global Tracker report is the annual report released by the International Energy Agency.

- According to the latest report, fossil fuel companies released 120 million metric tonnes of methane into the atmosphere last year. This is just a slight decline from the unprecedented record created in 2019.

Key Findings of the Report

- 40% of the methane emissions are from the energy sector
- 260 billion cubic metres of natural gas is wasted through methane leaks every year
- Fossil fuel companies are putting in very small efforts to tackle the problem
- We have to reduce natural gas wastage by 75% to lower the global temperature

Methane Initiatives

- Global Methane Pledge: It was announced by the US and EU. It aims to reduce methane emissions by 30% in 2030 as compared to 2020.
- MARS: MARS is Methane Alert and Response System. It integrates data related to methane emissions. It was launched by the United Nations Environment Programme. It is a satellite-based monitoring programme.

Sea ice

Important points for Prelims

Antarctica's sea ice is rapidly shrinking due to global warming. A new report suggested that it is likely to shrink to a record low, falling to its lowest extent in more than four decades of satellite record keeping. The ice is likely to shrink further until March.

- Frozen sea water is called sea ice.
- Sea ice covers 12% of the world's oceans and 7% of the earth's surface. Most of the sea ice is in the Arctic Ice Pack and Antarctic Ice Pack.
- The Antarctic Sea ice is in the southern ocean. It extends to the north in the winter. During summer, it falls back to the coastline due to the melting of the ice.

Arribada

Important points for Prelims

The mass nesting of Olive Ridley turtles, also known as arribada, happened in February this year – a month earlier than the previous year's nesting season.

- Experts suggest that suitable climatic and beach conditions such as the softness of the sand and more space on the beach could be the reasons for the early nesting.
- The Odisha government imposed a ban on fishing activities on the beach to protect the turtles during this period.

Tillyardembiids

Important points for Prelims

Fossils of the oldest known insect and the world's first plant pollinators called tillyardembiids were discovered recently in Russia.

- They were found along the riverbank, close to the village of Chekarda in Russia.
- Tillyardembiids are earwig-like insects with flattened bodies.

Phyllurus fimbriatus

Important points for Prelims

Phyllurus fimbriatus, a new species of gecko, has been discovered on an uninhabited Queensland Island of Australia.

- It was found by Associate Professor Conrad Hoskin during a four-day survey of Scawfell Island, about 50 km offshore from Mackay in north Queensland.

lasticosis

Important points for Prelims

Scientists from Australia and the UK have discovered a new fibrotic disease called “Plasticosis” in birds.

- This disease is caused by the consumption of plastics, which leads to long-term inflammation and the formation of scar tissue in the digestive system of birds.

Yellowstone National Park

Important points for Prelims

Yellowstone National Park in the US, which celebrated its 151st anniversary recently, is considered the first national park in the world.

- The park, spanning over 9,000 sq km across Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho, was established by the US Congress in 1872 with the Yellowstone National Park Protection Act.

International Big Cat Alliance

Important points for Prelims

India has proposed the creation of a new global alliance called the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) to protect seven major big cats, namely- tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, puma, jaguar and cheetah.

- The IBCA will be open to 97 countries and organizations interested in protecting these animals.

Global Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Infrastructure

Important points for Prelims

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has introduced the Global Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Infrastructure, which aims to provide standardized and real-time tracking of greenhouse gases.

- The new platform integrates space-based and surface-based observing systems to improve the measurement of planet-warming pollution and inform policy decisions.

Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin

Important points for Prelims

The Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin (*Sousa chinensis*) is a species of humpback dolphin that lives in the coastal waters of the eastern Indian and western Pacific Oceans.

- It is commonly known as the Chinese white dolphin in some regions.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) meeting

Important points for Prelims

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is set to organize meeting in Switzerland to finalize the Synthesis Report, which will summarize the findings of the IPCC's previous five reports and address policy-relevant scientific questions related to climate change.

- The report will emphasize meeting the 1.5-degree Celsius target as the main global goal.
- The Synthesis Report is expected to provide a non-technical summary of the previous reports, which were released during the sixth assessment cycle since 2018.

Freddy

Important points for Prelims

In February and March 2023, the world witnessed the remarkable persistence of a tropical cyclone named Freddy.

- The storm crossed the Indian Ocean over a span of more than five weeks, causing severe damage and destruction in its path.
- Freddy was classified as the fourth named storm of the 2022-23 Australian region cyclone season and the second very intense tropical cyclone of the 2022-23 South-West Indian Ocean cyclone season

Green Deal Industrial Plan

Important points for Prelims

The European Union (EU) has recently announced two major pieces of legislation that are part of its Green Deal Industrial Plan – the Net Zero Industry Act (NZIA) and Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA).

- The aim of these measures is to promote green manufacturing and reduce the EU's reliance on imports.

Background radiation

Important points for Prelims

Background radiation refers to the radiation emitted from natural sources such as rocks or mountains.

- A recent study conducted by scientists at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) found that certain areas in Kerala are experiencing nearly three times more background radiation than previously assumed.
- The higher radiation levels in Kollam, a district in Kerala, are attributed to the presence of monazite sands that are high in thorium, a natural radioactive element.

Aravalli Green Wall Project

Important points for Prelims

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On March 25th, 2023, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, inaugurated the Aravalli Green Wall Project.

- The project aims to green the 5 km buffer area around the Aravalli Hill Range in four states – Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Delhi.
- The project was launched on the International Day of Forests and is a part of the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation Through Forestry Interventions.
- The Aravalli Green Wall Project aims to improve the ecological health of the Aravalli range, prevent land degradation, combat desertification, improve biodiversity, mitigate climate change, and promote sustainable development.

Urban Climate Film Festival

Important points for Prelims

The National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), a Central Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, is organising the Urban Climate Film Festival under the CITIIS program.

- The festival aims to create wider awareness of the impact of climate change on life in cities and engage the public in the dialogue on sustainable urban development.
- The National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), a Central Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, is organising the Urban Climate Film Festival under the CITIIS program.

New Guinea singing dog

Important points for Prelims

The New Guinea singing dog is also known as the New Guinea Highland dog.

- It is a dog species found in the New Guinea Highlands on the island of New Guinea.
- This breed is one of the few considered “barkless” and known for its unusual “yodel”-like style of vocalizing, hence its common name of “singing dog.”

Science & Technology News Section

CE-20 cryogenic engine

Important points for Prelims

The CE-20 cryogenic engine, which will power the nation's rocket for the third moon mission, Chandrayaan-3, had a flight acceptance hot test that was successfully completed, according to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

- The LVM3-M4 rocket's cryogenic upper stage will be powered by the CE-20 cryogenic engine, according to the space agency.
- On February 24, a 25-second hot test was performed at the ISRO Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.

NASA's Crew-6 mission

Important points for Prelims

SpaceX launched NASA's Crew-6 mission to orbit en route to the International Space Station, with a Russian cosmonaut and United Arab Emirates astronaut joining two NASA crewmates for the flight.

- The SpaceX launch vehicle, consisting of a Falcon 9 rocket topped with an autonomously operated Crew Dragon capsule called Endeavour, lifted off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida.
- The mission is launching 2 US astronauts, one Russian Cosmonaut, and a UAE astronaut. This is Crew Dragon's fourth flight.

Fifth layer of the planet Earth

Important points for Prelims

Researchers trying to uncover the secrets of Earth's geology have revealed the fifth layer of the planet. Seismic waves generated by earthquakes have revealed new insights about the deepest parts of Earth's inner core.

- The fifth layer is made of iron and nickel, the same materials that comprise the rest of the inner core.
- The team of researchers from the Australian National University measured the speeds at which these seismic waves penetrate and pass through the Earth's inner core.

NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR) satellite

Important points for Prelims

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has received the NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR) satellite from the U.S. space agency.

- A US Air Force C-17 aircraft carrying the NASA-ISRO synthetic aperture radar (NISAR) has landed in Bengaluru.

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- NISAR was envisioned by NASA and ISRO eight years ago in 2014 as a powerful demonstration of the capability of radar as a science tool and help us study Earth's dynamic land and ice surfaces in greater detail than ever before.
- NISAR is a Low Earth Orbit observatory jointly developed by NASA and ISRO

H3N2

Important points for Prelims

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), H3N2 is a variant of the common flu. Seasonal influenza is an acute respiratory infection caused by influenza viruses that circulate in all parts of the world, says WHO.

- These are classified into various subtypes. Currently circulating in humans are subtype A (H1N1) and A (H3N2) influenza viruses.

GPT4

Important points for Prelims

GPT4, the most recent release of OpenAI's large language model, which powers popular apps like ChatGPT and the new Bing, has been announced.

- According to San Francisco-based research company OpenAI, GPT-4 is more advanced than the previous version and has been trained on more data, costing more to operate.
- As per the company GPT4 "can tackle challenging issues with better accuracy" and is "more creative and collaborative than ever before."

INDIAai

Important points for Prelims

INDIAai (The National AI Portal of India), INDIAai is a joint venture by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY), National e-Governance Division (NEGD), and National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) that aims to prepare India for an AI future.

- It is a central knowledge hub on artificial intelligence and allied fields for everyone, including entrepreneurs, students, professionals, and academics.
- The platform aims to create a unified AI ecosystem for driving excellence and leadership in India's AI journey.

India's first quadruped robot and wearable exo-skeleton

Important points for Prelims

Swaya Robotics, a Hyderabad-based company, has partnered with two DRDO labs, the Research and Development Establishment in Pune (R&DE) and Defence Bio-engineering & Electro Medical Laboratory in Bengaluru (DEBEL), to create India's first quadruped robot and wearable exo-skeleton.

- The company has designed both robots to serve multiple purposes in industries and healthcare, and they are dual-use robots.

Bard

Important points for Prelims

Bard is a chat service developed by Google that utilizes artificial intelligence to engage in conversations with users. Unlike ChatGPT, which relies on its internal knowledge, Bard draws information from the internet to provide relevant responses.

- Bard is based on the Language Model for Dialogue Application (LaMDA), Google's own conversational AI chatbot.
- It will give in-depth, conversational and essay-style answers just like ChatGPT does right now.

Bing Image Creator

Important points for Prelims

Microsoft has announced the deployment of Bing Image Creator to Bing preview users via Bing chat, as well as the availability of the feature in Microsoft Edge for both desktop and mobile users worldwide in English.

- The company also revealed that it plans to integrate Image Creator into Edge via the new Bing button in chat mode in the preview version of the browser.
- With Image Creator, users can generate images based on their descriptions, including additional context such as location or activity, and select an art style.

XBB1.16

Important points for Prelims

India has seen a surge in daily Covid-19 infections, with 349 cases of the newly detected XBB1.16 variant, which may be responsible for the recent increase in cases.

- According to data from the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG), Maharashtra has the highest number of XBB1.16 variant cases with 105 cases, followed by Telangana with 93 cases, Karnataka with 61 cases, and Gujarat with 54 cases

LVM3

Important points for Prelims

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

3D paper-based microfluidic device

Important points for Prelims

In just 30 seconds, a cost-effective and portable 3D paper-based device developed by researchers at IIT Madras can detect milk adulteration.

- 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.
- Dr. Pallab Sinha Mahapatra, an Associate Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at IIT Madras, along with Research Scholars Mr. Subhashis Patari and Dr. Priyanka Datta, led this research.
- The 3D paper-based microfluidic device comprises a middle layer with a sandwich structure, a top cover, and a bottom cover.

The Space Systems Design Lab

Important points for Prelims

India has established a new design lab in Ahmedabad that aims to facilitate space sector start-ups in converting their inventive concepts into practical models at a faster pace.

- The Space Systems Design Lab, run by the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe), has advanced analysis and simulation software, such as mission simulation, spacecraft and payload modeling and optimization, and ground station and launch vehicle avionics.

Defence News Section

Exercise Shinyuu Maitri

Important points for Prelims

The Indian Air Force (IAF) participated in Exercise Shinyuu Maitri with the Japan Air Self-Defence Force (JASDF).

- The Exercise Shinyuu Maitri is being organized on the sidelines of the Indo-Japan Joint Army Exercise, Dharma Guardian, which was conducted from 13 February 2023 to 02 March 2023 at Komatsu, Japan.
- The Indian Air Force is participating in Exercise Shinyuu Maitri 23 with one C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.

INS Trikand

Important points for Prelims

The Indian warship INS Trikand has arrived in Bahrain for her first participation in the International Maritime Exercise organised by the US-led Combined Maritime Forces, a 34-nation naval group.

- INS Trikand hosted Rear Adm Jean Michel Martinet of the French Navy, who is also the Vice Commander of IMX23 & Commander Task Force (East).
- The Captain of INS Trikand also called on Ambassador of India to Qatar, Piyush Srivastava.

FRINJEX-23 Indo-France Joint Military Exercise

Important points for Prelims

On March 7 and 8, 2023, the Indian Army and the French Army hold their first joint military exercise, FRINJEX-23, at Pangode Military Station in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

- The two armies are participating in this format for the first time, with each contingent consisting of a Company Group from the French 6th Light Armoured Brigade and Indian Army personnel stationed in Thiruvananthapuram.

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Raising Day

Important points for Prelims

Every year on March 10, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Raising Day is observed to mark the CISF's founding in 1969.

- The Ministry of Home Affairs' top-tier central armed police force, the CISF, is in charge of providing security protection for several public sector organisations, airports, seaports, power plants, and other significant infrastructure projects across the nation.
- This year, the 54th CISF Raising Day celebrated to appreciate the efforts and contributions of Central Industrial Security Force.

Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise for 2023

Important points for Prelims

The Indian Navy's exercise, called the "Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise for 2023" (TROPEX-23), culminated in the Arabian Sea after running for four months from November 2022 to March 2023.

- TROPEX-23 witnessed the participation of approximately 70 Indian Navy ships, six submarines and over 75 aircraft
- ROPEX is being conducted in many phases to test Navy's transition from peacetime to hostilities.

Maritime Partnership Exercise

Important points for Prelims

- Indian Navy's indigenously built guided missile frigate, INS Sahyadri participated in a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with French Navy (FN) ships FS Dixmude, a Mistral Class Amphibious Assault Ship and FS La Fayette, a La Fayette Class Frigate, in the Arabian Sea.

La Perouse

Important points for Prelims

The Indian Ocean Area will host the third edition of the multilateral exercise La Perouse.

- The Royal Australian Navy, French Navy, Indian Navy, Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force, Royal Navy, and United States Navy will all have people, ships, and essential helicopters participating in this event.

Operation Bold Kurukshetra

Important points for Prelims

Operation Bold Kurukshetra, a bilateral armour training exercise, was held from March 6–13, 2023, in Jodhpur Military Station in India.

- It was the 13th iteration, and the Singapore Army and Indian Army both took part.

Exercise Sea Dragon 23'

Important points for Prelims

- The Indian Navy deployed a P8I aircraft to Guam, USA, on March 14, 2023, to participate in the third edition of 'Exercise Sea Dragon 23', a coordinated multi-lateral Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) exercise for Long Range MR ASW aircraft organized by the US Navy.

President's Colour in honor of its outstanding services

Important points for Prelims

The Indian Navy's top gunnery school, INS Dronacharya, will be presented with the President's Colour in honor of its outstanding services.

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- President Droupadi Murmu will be conferring the award as the highest recognition bestowed upon a unit by the President, who serves as the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, for its exceptional service to the country.

AFINDEX-2023

Important points for Prelims

The Africa-India Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX-2023) was held in Pune with the participation of 100 participants from 23 African countries, including Botswana, Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Zambia, among others.

- The exercise aims to improve interoperability and operational readiness for UN peacekeeping missions, and focuses on Humanitarian Mine Action and Peace Keeping Operations.

Most silent ship in the country

Important points for Prelims

Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), a shipbuilding company in India, has launched INS Androth, a vessel claimed to be the "most silent ship in the country" for the Indian Navy

- The vessel is the first in a series of eight anti-submarine warfare shallow-watercraft to be delivered to the navy.
- The ships will be used for patrolling, search and rescue operations, and other military missions.

Konkan 2023

Important points for Prelims

The annual bilateral maritime exercise called Konkan 2023 was conducted between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy from 20th to 22nd March 2023 off the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea.

- The Royal Navy is the United Kingdom's naval warfare force.
- The exercise involved INS Trishul, a guided missile frigate, and HMS Lancaster, a Type 23 guided missile frigate, and aimed to improve cooperation and learn best practices through various maritime drills.

Agniveers

Important points for Prelims

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.

Important Person Place & Events In News

IPS officer Rashmi Shukla named Director-General of SSB

Important points for Prelims

Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, Rashmi Shukla has been appointed as the Director-General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

- SSB is the border-guarding force deployed along Nepal and Bhutan border.
- Rashmi Shukla, a 1988 batch IPS officer of the Maharashtra cadre, was posted with the Central Reserve Police (CRPF).

Colonel Geeta Rana

Important points for Prelims

Colonel Geeta Rana of the Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers has taken over command of an independent field workshop in the Eastern Ladakh region with China after the Indian Army recently approved women officers for command posts. She is the first woman officer to do so.

- The Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers' Colonel Geeta Rana is the first female officer to assume control of an Independent Field Workshop in a remote and forward area in Eastern Ladakh.

Lionel Messi

Important points for Prelims

The captain of the Argentina football team Lionel Messi recently won the Best FIFA Men's player award.

- It is one of the prestigious awards for sports personalities, especially for those in the football game. The award is presented by FIFA.

Bola Tinubu

Important points for Prelims

Bola Tinubu recently became the president-elect of Nigeria, beating his rival, Atiku Abubakar.

- The country's current president, Muhammadu Buhari, will step down after serving two terms.
- Tinubu is a Muslim from the southern Yoruba community.

Shaliza Dhami

Important points for Prelims

Group Captain Shaliza Dhami has made history as the first woman officer in the Indian Air Force (IAF) to be appointed as the leader of a frontline combat unit in the Western sector.

- She will be in charge of a missile squadron, marking a significant milestone in the IAF's history.

Ram Chandra Poudel

Important points for Prelims

- On March 8th, 2023, Ram Chandra Poudel, a veteran Nepali Congress leader and former Deputy Prime Minister, was elected as the new President of Nepal.

Basava

Important points for Prelims

Basava, also known as Basavanna, was a 12th-century CE Indian statesman, philosopher, poet, Lingayat social reformer, and Hindu Shaivite social reformer.

- He was born in a small village called Basavana Bagewadi in modern-day Karnataka.
- Basava is known for his social awareness campaigns through his poetry, popularly known as Vachanaas, which were written in Kannada.

10th Khalkha Jetsun Dhampa Rinpoche

Important points for Prelims

- The Dalai Lama recently recognized an eight-year-old Mongolian boy as the reincarnation of the 10th Khalkha Jetsun Dhampa Rinpoche, one of the most important spiritual leaders in Tibetan Buddhism.

Santh Sevalal Maharaj Jayanti

Important points for Prelims

Santh Sevalal Maharaj Jayanti is being observed at the national level for the first time. This year marks the 284th birth anniversary of Santh Sevalal Maharaj.

- The celebrations are being organized by the Union Ministry of Culture under the aegis of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. It is being held at Dr Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.
- Santh Sevalal Maharaj was a spiritual leader and a social reformer of the Banjara community.
- He is known to have travelled afar to dispel and eradicate superstitious beliefs of the tribal community and brought about social reforms in the region. He was said to be well-versed in Ayurveda and Naturopathy.

7 National Highway projects Inauguration

Important points for Prelims

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Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated 7 National Highway projects worth Rs 2,444 crore, totaling 204 km in Rewa, Madhya Pradesh.

- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari informed that with the construction of the Churhat tunnel and bypass, the length between Rewa to Sidhi has decreased by 7 km.
- The Minister informed that the movement of vehicles in the Rewa-Sidhi section will be facilitated by the construction of the tunnel, white tigers, and other wild animals, and the entire forest ecosystem will be protected.
- With the construction of the Devtalab-Naigarhi road, the connectivity of Rewa district with Prayagraj and Varanasi will be easy.
- Nitin Gadkari noted that with the construction of the Satna-Bela four-lane road, connectivity will become easier for the coal, cement, and diamond industries in the region.

Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela

Important points for Prelims

The Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela is organized every year by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) and this year it was held in New Delhi from 2nd to 4th March 2023.

- The Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar.
- This time the theme of the fair is “Nutrition, Food and Environmental Protection with Shree Anna”.

International Yoga Festival 2023

Important points for Prelims

The International Yoga Festival 2023 was held in Rishikesh from 1st March to 7th March 2023.

- The International Yoga Festival 2023 is the main attraction of Bharat Parv this year.
- The six-day event of the International Yoga Festival 2023 promotes the rich heritage and diverse natural wonders of the state.

Yuva Utsava-India@2047 launched Pan-India

Important points for Prelims

Yuva Utsava-India@2047 launched by Anurag Singh Thakur, the Union Minister for Youth Affairs, Sports, Information, and Broadcasting, from IIT Ropar in Punjab.

- On this occasion, Shri Anurag Thakur also unveiled the Yuva Utsava Dashboard.
- Via its leading youth organisation Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports is putting on the “YUVA UTSAV- India @2047” programme in every district of the nation.

Swachhotsav

Important points for Prelims

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Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched 'Swachhotsav', a three-week women-led swachhata campaign under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban).

- Series of events and activities will be organized across cities to celebrate women from all walks of life.
- The campaign aims to recognise and celebrate the transition from women in sanitation to women-led sanitation.
- A series of events and activities will be organised across cities to celebrate women from all walks of life, who will provide leadership in making the mission of garbage free cities (GFC) a success.

World's longest railway platform

Important points for Prelims

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated World's longest railway platform of 1.5 kilometres at Sri Siddhaarooda railway station in Hubballi in the state of Karnataka.

- The inauguration of the platform was done during the PM's Karnataka visit in the presence of Union Minister Pralhad Joshi.
- It is to be noted that Indian Railways, South Western Railway Zones Hubballi is now registered in the Guinness Book of World Records for having the longest platform.

First methanol run buses

Important points for Prelims

The first methanol-powered buses in Bengaluru was unveiled by Union Minister for Road and Transport, Nitin Gadkari.

- The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTTC), NITI Aayog, Indian Oil Company (IOC), and Ashok Leyland are working together to carry out the initiative, which aims to lower the level of pollutants.

Environmental, Social & Governance Law India 2023

Important points for Prelims

In recent years, Environmental, Social, and Governance Law (ESG) issues have become a significant area of concern for businesses, governments, and individuals around the world.

- India is no exception to this trend, with the country's corporate sector and regulators increasingly focused on ESG-related matters.
- As we enter 2023, it is worth taking a closer look at the state of Environmental, Social & Governance Law India 2023 (ESG law in India) and what the future holds for this rapidly evolving area.
- Environmental law has been a key area of focus for regulators in India for decades.

ATL Sarthi

Important points for Prelims

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Atal Innovation Mission is establishing Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATLs) in schools across India to foster curiosity, creativity, and imagination in young minds; and inculcate skills such as design thinking mindset, computational thinking, adaptive learning, physical computing, etc.

- As of date, AIM has funded 10,000 schools to establish Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs).
- ATL Sarthi is an initiative in this direction. As the name suggests, Sarthi is a charioteer and ATL Sarthi will enable the ATLs to be efficient and effective.

AAHAR 2023

Important points for Prelims

The objective of Aahar 2023, which was put together with the help of the Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries, the Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), and other organizations, is to showcase the hospitality industry's potential and showcase technologies, goods, and services to both domestic and foreign consumers.

- The greatest four-day culinary event in India is called Aahar 2023, where wholesalers, caterers, hoteliers, and restaurant owners gather to source the best food, hospitality, and equipment as well as to assess industry trends.

Indian Railways to become a 'net-zero carbon emitter'

Important points for Prelims

Indian Railways has set a target of becoming a 'net-zero carbon emitter' by 2030, said Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

- The Railways plans to achieve this ambitious target in two steps: A complete transition to electric trains by December 2023 and powering the trains and stations primarily through non-renewable sources by 2030.

AgriUnifest

Important points for Prelims

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar on 15 March 2023, inaugurated "AgriUnifest" in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

- It is a 5-day cultural program, organized by Bangalore Agricultural University in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- More than 2500 students from 60 State Universities/Central Universities have participated.

Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks

Important points for Prelims

Government, Ministry of Textiles, has issued a notification to set up 7 Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks with a total outlay of Rs. 4,445 crore

- Seven sites were chosen out of 18 proposals for PM MITRA parks which were received from 13 States.

- The Parks will come up in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- These are aimed at helping India to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 9: “Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”.

70-feet tall statue of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar

Important points for Prelims

On April 13, a 70-feet tall statue of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar will be unveiled in Latur city, Maharashtra.

- The unveiling ceremony will take place in the presence of Union ministers Kiren Rijiju and Ramdas Athawale, along with other dignitaries such as former Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis and state minister Sanjay Bansode.

International Telecommunication Union Area Office and Innovation Centre

Important points for Prelims

On March 22, the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, inaugurated the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Area Office and Innovation Centre in the country.

- At an event held in New Delhi, he also launched the Bharat 6G Vision Document, as well as the 6G Research and Development Test Bed and the Call Before U dig App.
- ITU, a specialized agency of the United Nations for information and communication technologies, has its headquarters in Geneva and operates a vast network of regional, field, and area offices.

Green Tug Transition Programme

Important points for Prelims

India is aiming to become a leader in the global shipbuilding industry by launching the Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP) and setting a goal of becoming a ‘Global Hub for Green Ship’ building by 2030.

- The GTTP will start with the production of Green Hybrid Tugs, which will run on Green Hybrid Propulsion systems, and eventually switch to alternative fuel sources like Methanol, Ammonia, and Hydrogen.
- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal has inaugurated the National Centre of Excellence in Green Port & Shipping (NCoEGPS) set-up in Gurugram, Haryana, and the Green Tugs will begin operating in major ports by 2025.
- By 2030, it is expected that 50% of all Tugs will be converted into Green Tugs, resulting in a significant reduction in emissions and contributing to the country’s sustainable development goals.

Sagar Manthan

Important points for Prelims

The Real-time Performance Monitoring Dashboard of MoPSW called 'Sagar Manthan' was virtually launched by Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal.

- The digital platform is designed to have all integrated data related to the ministry and other subsidiaries.
- The inauguration ceremony was attended by MoS, MoPSW Shri Shripad Y. Naik, MoS, MoPSW Shri Shantanu Thakur and other officials from the ministry.

Call Before You Dig

Important points for Prelims

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.

Vedic Heritage portal

Important points for Prelims

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.
- The portal will act as a one-stop solution for anyone who wants to search for information about the Vedic heritage, making it easier for them to understand the messages and teachings of the Vedas.

Vrihattar Bharat

Important points for Prelims

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) Member Secretary Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi informed that IGNCA is currently working on a project titled "Vrihattar Bharat".

- It aims to document the cultural linkages of India with 40 other countries, including Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, and Mongolia.

Whitefield (Kadugodi) to Krishnarajapura Metro Line

Important points for Prelims

The Whitefield (Kadugodi) to Krishnarajapura Metro Line was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who expressed his happiness in a tweet.

- The Prime Minister launched the 13.71 km extension project of Reach-1 under Bangalore Metro Phase 2, which runs up to Krishnarajapura Metro Line.

Statues of Lord Basaveshwara ji and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda ji

Important points for Prelims

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah unveiled the statues of Lord Basaveshwara ji and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda ji at the State Assembly premises in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

- Lord Basaveshwara and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda are two prominent historical figures from Karnataka, a state in southern India.
- These statues will continue to give Basavanna ji and Kempegowda ji's message of social justice, democracy, good governance and development to those who get elected in the assembly.

India's first quantum computing-based telecom network Link

Important points for Prelims

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.

Jan Aushadhi Diwas

Important points for Prelims

The 5th Jan Aushadhi Diwas is organized across India based on the theme "Jan Aushadhi – Sasti bhi Acchi bhi". It was organized from March 1 to 2 this year.

- It kicked off with the Jan Aushadhi Jan Chetna Abhiyan across India. It was organized by the Union Health Ministry in collaboration with the Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India and states and union territories.
- The event has witnessed the organization of more than 34 Pratigya Yatras across India, with 8 of them led by Members of Parliament on the first day.

Awards Reports & Rankings

The Academic Freedom Index report

Important points for Prelims

The Academic Freedom Index report evaluates academic freedom in 179 countries by analyzing five indicators, including the freedom to teach and research, academic exchange and dissemination, university autonomy, campus integrity, and academic and cultural expression.

- According to the report released on February 2, 2023, India scored 0.38 on a scale of 0 (low) to 1 (high), which is lower than Pakistan's score of 0.43 and the United States' score of 0.79.
- There is a lack of legal framework. India has to bring in strict laws against attacks on academic freedom.

Indian States' Energy Transition" Report

Important points for Prelims

The "Indian States' Energy Transition" Report was released recently by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and EMBER.

- The report tracks 4 dimensions- decarbonization, the performance of the power system, the readiness of the power ecosystem and policies and political commitment.
- According to this report, Karnataka and Gujarat are leading the way in India's transition to clean electricity.
- Karnataka is the only state that scored well across all four dimensions of clean electricity transition and has proactive policies for open access, solar park development and public awareness.
- Meanwhile, Gujarat scored just behind Karnataka in decarbonising its electricity sector.
- Other states like Haryana and Punjab are also taking major steps in the electricity transition.

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) update

Important points for Prelims

The latest El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) update from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) predicts that there is a 93% chance that one of the years until 2026 will become the hottest year on record due to an impending El Niño.

- This global phenomenon results in warmer-than-normal sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, weakening the trade winds above the sea surface and affecting different regions worldwide.
- This is expected after 3 consecutive years of La Nina- an unusual occurrence.
- In its latest estimations, WMO has also reinforced the UK Met Agency's forecast of a 50% chance of Earth reaching 1.5°C above the pre-industrial average in the next few years, leading to unprecedented heatwaves and climate impacts around the world.

The India Philanthropy Report 2023

Important points for Prelims

The India Philanthropy Report 2023 was released by non-profit Dasra and consulting firm Bain & Company.

- According to this report, the contributions by ultra-high net worth individuals (UHNIs) in India to the social sector have declined by 5% in the financial year ending March 2022, when the donations made by Wipro founder chairman Azim Premji are excluded.

Report by the International Energy Agency

Important points for Prelims

According to the CO2 Emissions in 2022 Report by the International Energy Agency released on March 2, 2023, global energy-related CO2 emissions increased by less than 1% in 2022.

- This is despite many countries shifting from natural gas to coal as an energy source.
- This was due to the increased use of clean energy technologies such as solar, wind, EVs, heat pumps, and energy efficiency, which helped to limit the impacts of coal and oil use amid the global energy crisis.
- The report highlights that this rise in emissions was significantly lower than the exceptional increase of over six per cent in 2021. It recommended stronger steps to accelerate the clean energy transition to achieve energy and climate goals.

Mind the Gender Gap Report

Important points for Prelims

The report titled “Mind the Gender Gap” was released recently by the CFA Institute.

- It is created based on the data from BRSR (Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report) disclosures.
- According to the Mind the Gender Gap report, women’s participation rate in finance and related sectors are low in India.
- Only 21.7 per cent of women are employed in financial services companies and only 15.9 per cent are employed in key managerial positions.
- The ratio of women to men was 0.97.

Landslide Atlas of India

Important points for Prelims

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) recently released the Landslide Atlas of India, which identifies landslide hotspots in the country.

- The Atlas includes a database of landslide-prone regions of India based on events during 1998 – 2022, mainly along the Himalayas and the Western Ghats.
- Notably, India is among the top 5 most landslide-prone countries in the world.

- The Atlas revealed that Rudraprayag and Tehri Garwhal districts of Uttarakhand have the highest landslide density in the country.
- The western Himalayan region is the most vulnerable to landslides.
- Among the 10 most landslide-prone districts, four are in flood-prone areas of Kerala, two in Jammu and Kashmir, and two in Sikkim. After the Himalayas, the Western Ghats has high landslide density.

Women, Business and the Law Index

Important points for Prelims

According to the recently released Women, Business and the Law Index by the World Bank, although most countries have implemented laws to ensure gender equality, there is still a significant gap between men and women in terms of legal rights and provisions.

- India scored 74.4 out of a total possible 100. Unfortunately, India's score was less than that of other countries such as Ghana, Zimbabwe, Nepal, and Congo.

World Air Quality Report

Important points for Prelims

The fifth World Air Quality Report by IQAir shows that India is still facing a severe air pollution crisis.

- The report revealed that 39 Indian cities were among the world's 50 most polluted cities based on PM2.5 levels in the air.
- Delhi was ranked fourth on the list of the world's most polluted cities, and it was also the most polluted metropolitan city in the world.
- Bhiwadi in Rajasthan was the most polluted city in India and the third most polluted city in the world with an annual average PM2.5 level of 92.7.
- Apart from Delhi and Bhiwadi, many other Indian cities dominated the list of the world's most polluted cities. These cities included Patna, Muzzaffarnagar, Dharbanga, Noida, Gurgaon, Bulandshahr, Meerut, Charkhi Dadri, Jind, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, and Hisar.

Women and Men in India 2022 report

Important points for Prelims

The Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the Women and Men in India 2022 report on March 16, 2023.

- The report revealed that India's sex ratio, or the number of females per 1,000 males, is expected to improve from 943 in 2011 to 952 by 2036.
- The report noted that the sex ratio at birth increased by three points to 907 in 2018-20 from 904 in 2017-19.
- The Women and Men in India 2022 report revealed that women are severely lagging behind men in labor force participation rates.

The Deforestation Report

Important points for Prelims

The Deforestation Report by Utility Bidder has revealed that India has seen the highest surge in deforestation in the past 30 years.

- The country lost 384,000 hectares (ha) of forests between 1990 and 2000, but the figure rose to 668,400 ha between 2015 and 2020.
- This trend makes India the second-largest country with deforestation after Brazil.
- The report highlights that cattle rearing and oil seed cultivation are the leading causes of global deforestation.

Pathways to Atmanirbhar Bharat

Important points for Prelims

The study titled “Pathways to Atmanirbhar Bharat” was released recently by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and The India Energy and Climate Center (IECC).

- According to this report, India has an opportunity to achieve energy independence by 2047 through investments in clean energy technologies.

World Water Development Report 2023

Important points for Prelims

According to the United Nations World Water Development Report 2023, India is expected to be the most severely affected nation by water scarcity by 2050.

- The report highlights that approximately 80% of people living under water stress are in Asia, specifically northeast China, India, and Pakistan.
- The projected global urban population facing water scarcity is expected to increase from 933 million in 2016 to between 1.7-2.4 billion people by 2050, with India being projected to be the most severely affected.

Technology and Innovation Report 2023

Important points for Prelims

- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has warned that green technologies, such as artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, and electric vehicles, may deepen global economic inequality.

World Happiness Report

Important points for Prelims

The annual World Happiness Report, published by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, has just been released, and it reveals that Finland remains the happiest country in the world for the sixth consecutive year.

- The report ranked the top 10 happiest countries, with Finland in the lead followed by Denmark, Iceland, Israel, and the Netherlands. Other European countries such as Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, and Luxembourg also made the top 10.

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- India's position in the World Happiness Report has improved from 136 to 126, although it is still behind its neighboring countries such as Nepal, China, and Bangladesh.

QS World University Rankings

Important points for Prelims

The QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023, released on March 29th, 2023, has ranked over 1,600 universities from around the world, evaluating their performance across 51 subjects.

- Indian universities have made significant progress this year, with 44 courses from Indian universities ranked among the global top 100.
- Indian universities have excelled in Computer Science, Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Business Studies, and Physics.
- In the dentistry program, the Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences had the best performance globally, achieving a perfect score in citations per paper and H-index.
- IIT Delhi's Electrical Engineering program broke into the top 50 categories globally in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023.
- Jawaharlal Nehru University's Sociology program took 68th place, showing a rise of 33 places.

Electoral Democracy Report

Important points for Prelims

India has now been ranked at the 108th spot globally for electoral democracy, far behind nations like Tanzania, Bolivia, Mexico, Singapore, and even Nigeria, which comes in at a modest 91st spot by V-Dem Institute in its Electoral Democracy Report for 2023.

- This ranking may come as a shock to many, but it is also far below nations like Tanzania, Bolivia, Mexico, Singapore, and even India.

SIPRI report 2023

Important points for Prelims

India is still the world's largest importer of military equipment, despite an 11% decline in arms purchases between 2013–17 and 2018–22, according to a study by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri).

- The report is released at a time when India has intensified its efforts to become self-reliant in the defence manufacturing sector.

Literacy Report

Important points for Prelims

According to the data shared by the Ministry of Education, Bihar (61.8 %) has the lowest literacy, followed by Arunachal Pradesh (65.3 %) and Rajasthan (66.1 %).

- Kerala has the highest literacy rate in India at 94%, followed by Lakshadweep at 91.85% and Mizoram at 91.33%.

Brand Finance 2023 rankings

Important points for Prelims

- Reliance Jio has climbed up to number two rank — up from fifth place last year — in a list of the top 10 strongest telecom brands in the world.

Awards and Honors

'BS Banker of the Year 2022'

Important points for Prelims

Sashidhar Jagdishan, managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of HDFC Bank, has been chosen as the Business Standard Banker of the Year 2022.

- This award is given to him for his successful navigation of technology-related challenges while maintaining the bank's strong performance.

Porter Prize 2023

Important points for Prelims

Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry has received the Porter Prize 2023.

- It recognized the government's strategy in managing COVID-19, also the approach, and involvement of various stakeholders especially involvement of ASHA workers in the industry to create PPE Kits.
- The prize was announced during The India Dialog at Stanford University. The country's contribution in developing and manufacturing vaccines was also lauded.
- The theme of the two-day conference was The Indian Economy 2023: Innovation, Competitiveness and Social Progress.

PEN/Nabokov Award

Important points for Prelims

Vinod Kumar Shukla has won the PEN/Nabokov Award for Achievement in International Literature for lifetime achievement in literature, one of the most coveted literary prizes worldwide, after decades of composing acclaimed novels like Naukar Ki Kameez (1979) and poetry collections like Sab Kuch Hona Bacha Rahega (1992).

- The award is conferred annually by PEN America.

Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023

Important points for Prelims

The "Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023", organized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti to honour the women champions of rural water and sanitation sector, was graced by the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu.

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- The event also saw the launch of Jal Shakti Abhiyan – Catch the Rain 2023 and release of National Water Mission's (NWM) SoPs on Source Sustainability by Minister of Jal Shakti Sh. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.
- Union Minister also presented President the first copy of the 'Swachh Sujal Shakti Ki Abhivyakti' – a compendium of case stories from SBM (G), JJM and NWM.
- The theme is 'Source Sustainability for Drinking Water'.

'BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year

Important points for Prelims

Tokyo Olympic Games silver-medallist weightlifter Mirabai Chanu has bagged the 2022 'BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year' award after a public vote.

- The 28-year-old weightlifter from Manipur became the first athlete to win the award twice in a row after bagging it in 2021 as well.
- Table tennis player Bhavina Patel won the 'BBC Para Sportswoman of the Year' award, a category introduced this year.
- Former captain of the Indian women's hockey team Pritam Siwach was conferred with the 'BBC Lifetime Achievement Award' for her contribution to Indian sports and for inspiring generations of players.
- Boxer Nitu Ghanghas was chosen as the 'BBC Emerging Player of the Year'.
- The women's lawn bowls team of Lovely Choubey, Rupa Rani Tirkey, Pinki and Nayanmoni Saikia, which won gold at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, India's first-ever medal in the sport was given the 'BBC Changemaker of the Year Award'.

Vyas Samman

Important points for Prelims

- Pagalkhana, a 2018 satirical novel by renowned Hindi author Dr. Gyan Chaturvedi, has been chosen for the 32nd Vyas Samman.

Governor of the Year" for 2023

Important points for Prelims

Shaktikanta Das, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, has been honored with the title "Governor of the Year" for 2023 by Central Banking, an international economic research journal.

- The publication praised Das for his steady leadership during challenging periods, including the collapse of a significant non-banking company, the initial and second waves of the COVID-19 pandemic, and inflationary pressures due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Saraswati Samman award

Important points for Prelims

- The KK Birla Foundation has announced that Tamil writer Sivasankari will be the recipient of the prestigious Saraswati Samman award for the year 2022, for her 2019 memoir, Surya Vamsam.

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Honorary Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia

Important points for Prelims

- Ratan Tata, an Indian industrialist and philanthropist, has been named an Honorary Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO) for his outstanding contributions to the Australia-India bilateral relationship, specifically in the areas of trade, investment, and philanthropy.

Sangita Kalanidhi award

Important points for Prelims

- The Music Academy has announced that the Sangita Kalanidhi award for 2023 will be presented to Bombay Jayashri, a Padma Shri awardee and renowned Carnatic vocalist.

Padma Awards 2023

Important points for Prelims

The Government of India has announced the Padma Awards 2023 Winners List. According to the Padma Awards website, the Padma Awards are India's highest civilian honors after the Bharat Ratna, seeking to "recognize achievements in all fields of activities or disciplines where an element of public service is involved".

Padma Vibhushan 2023 Winners List

| S. No | Name | Field | State / Country |
|-------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| 1 | Shri Balkrishna Doshi (Posthumous) | Others – Architecture | Gujarat |
| 2 | Shri Zakir Hussain | Art | Maharashtra |
| 3 | Shri S M Krishna | Public Affairs | Karnataka |
| 4 | Shri Dilip Mahalanabis (Posthumous) | Medicine | West Bengal |
| 5 | Shri Srinivas Varadhan | Science & Engineering | United States of America |
| 6 | Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav (Posthumous) | Public Affairs | Uttar Pradesh |
| 7 | Shri S L Bhyrappa | Literature & Education | Karnataka |
| 8 | Shri Kumar Mangalam Birla | Trade & Industry | Maharashtra |
| 9 | Shri Deepak Dhar | Science & Engineering | Maharashtra |
| 10 | Ms. Vani Jairam | Art | Tamil Nadu |
| 11 | Swami Chinna Jeeyar | Others – Spiritualism | Telangana |
| 12 | Ms. Suman Kalyanpur | Art | Maharashtra |
| 13 | Shri Kapil Kapoor | Literature & Education | Delhi |
| 14 | Ms. Sudha Murty | Social Work | Karnataka |
| 15 | Shri Kamlesh D Patel | Others – Spiritualism | Telangana |
| 16 | Dr. Sukama Acharya | Others – Spiritualism | Haryana |
| 17 | Ms. Jodhaiyabai Baiga | Art | Madhya Pradesh |
| 18 | Shri Premjit Baria | Art | Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu |
| 19 | Ms. Usha Barle | Art | Chhattisgarh |

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| | | | |
|----|---|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 20 | Shri Munishwar Chanddawar | Medicine | Madhya Pradesh |
| 21 | Shri Hemant Chauhan | Art | Gujarat |
| 22 | Shri Bhanubhai Chitara | Art | Gujarat |
| 23 | Ms. Hemoprova Chutia | Art | Assam |
| 24 | Shri Narendra Chandra Debbarma (Posthumous) | Public Affairs | Tripura |
| 25 | Ms. Subhadra Devi | Art | Bihar |
| 26 | Shri Khadar Valli Dudekula | Science & Engineering | Karnataka |
| 27 | Shri Hem Chandra Goswami | Art | Assam |
| 28 | Ms. Pritikana Goswami | Art | West Bengal |
| 29 | Shri Radha Charan Gupta | Literature & Education | Uttar Pradesh |
| 30 | Shri Modadugu Vijay Gupta | Science & Engineering | Telangana |
| 31 | Shri Ahmed Hussain & Shri Mohd Hussain (Duo) | Art | Rajasthan |
| 32 | Shri Dilshad Hussain | Art | Uttar Pradesh |
| 33 | Shri Bhiku Ramji Idate | Social Work | Maharashtra |
| 34 | Shri C I Issac | Literature & Education | Kerala |
| 35 | Shri Rattan Singh Jaggi | Literature & Education | Punjab |
| 36 | Shri Bikram Bahadur Jamatia | Social Work | Tripura |
| 37 | Shri Ramkuiwangbe Jene | Social Work | Assam |
| 38 | Shri Rakesh Radheshyam Jhunjhunwala (Posthumous) | Trade & Industry | Maharashtra |
| 39 | Shri Ratan Chandra Kar | Medicine | Andaman & Nicobar Islands |
| 40 | Shri Mahipat Kavi | Art | Gujarat |
| 41 | Shri M M Keeravaani | Art | Andhra Pradesh |
| 42 | Shri Areez Khambatta (Posthumous) | Trade & Industry | Gujarat |
| 43 | Shri Parshuram Komaji Khune | Art | Maharashtra |
| 44 | Shri Ganesh Nagappa Krishnarajanagara | Science & Engineering | Andhra Pradesh |
| 45 | Shri Maguni Charan Kuanr | Art | Odisha |
| 46 | Shri Anand Kumar | Literature & Education | Bihar |
| 47 | Shri Arvind Kumar | Science & Engineering | Uttar Pradesh |
| 48 | Shri Domar Singh Kunvar | Art | Chhattisgarh |
| 49 | Shri Risingbor Kurkalang | Art | Meghalaya |
| 50 | Ms. Hirabai Lobi | Social Work | Gujarat |
| 51 | Shri Moolchand Lodha | Social Work | Rajasthan |
| 52 | Ms. Rani Machaiah | Art | Karnataka |
| 53 | Shri Ajay Kumar Mandavi | Art | Chhattisgarh |
| 54 | Shri Prabhakar Bhanudas Mande | Literature & Education | Maharashtra |
| 55 | Shri Gajanan Jagannath Mane | Social Work | Maharashtra |
| 56 | Shri Antaryami Mishra | Literature & Education | Odisha |
| 57 | Shri Nadoja Pindipapanahalli Munivenkatappa | Art | Karnataka |
| 58 | Prof. (Dr.) Mahendra Pal | Science & Engineering | Gujarat |
| 59 | Shri Uma Shankar Pandey | Social Work | Uttar Pradesh |
| 60 | Shri Ramesh Parmar & Ms. Shanti Parmar (Duo) | Art | Madhya Pradesh |
| 61 | Dr. Nalini Parthasarathi | Medicine | Puducherry |
| 62 | Shri Hanumantha Rao Pasupuleti | Medicine | Telangana |
| 63 | Shri Ramesh Patange | Literature & Education | Maharashtra |

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| | | | |
|-----|---|------------------------|-------------------|
| 64 | Ms. Krishna Patel | Art | Odisha |
| 65 | Shri K Kalyanasundaram Pillai | Art | Tamil Nadu |
| 66 | Shri V P Appukuttan Poduval | Social Work | Kerala |
| 67 | Shri Kapil Dev Prasad | Art | Bihar |
| 68 | Shri S R D Prasad | Sports | Kerala |
| 69 | Shri Shah Rasheed Ahmed Quadri | Art | Karnataka |
| 70 | Shri C V Raju | Art | Andhra Pradesh |
| 71 | Shri Bakshi Ram | Science & Engineering | Haryana |
| 72 | Shri Cheruvayal K Raman | Others – Agriculture | Kerala |
| 73 | Ms. Sujatha Ramdorai | Science & Engineering | Canada |
| 74 | Shri Abbareddy Nageswara Rao | Science & Engineering | Andhra Pradesh |
| 75 | Shri Pareshbhai Rathwa | Art | Gujarat |
| 76 | Shri B Ramakrishna Reddy | Literature & Education | Telangana |
| 77 | Shri Mangala Kanti Roy | Art | West Bengal |
| 78 | Ms. K C Runremsangi | Art | Mizoram |
| 79 | Shri Vadivel Gopal & Shri Masi Sadaiyan (Duo) | Social Work | Tamil Nadu |
| 80 | Shri Manoranjan Sahu | Medicine | Uttar Pradesh |
| 81 | Shri Patayat Sahu | Others – Agriculture | Odisha |
| 82 | Shri Ritwik Sanyal | Art | Uttar Pradesh |
| 83 | Shri Kota Satchidananda Sastry | Art | Andhra Pradesh |
| 84 | Shri Sankurathri Chandra Sekhar | Social Work | Andhra Pradesh |
| 85 | Shri K Shanathoiba Sharma | Sports | Manipur |
| 86 | Shri Nekram Sharma | Others – Agriculture | Himachal Pradesh |
| 87 | Shri Gurcharan Singh | Sports | Delhi |
| 88 | Shri Laxman Singh | Social Work | Rajasthan |
| 89 | Shri Mohan Singh | Literature & Education | Jammu & Kashmir |
| 90 | Shri Thounaojam Chaoba Singh | Public Affairs | Manipur |
| 91 | Shri Prakash Chandra Sood | Literature & Education | Andhra Pradesh |
| 92 | Ms. Neihunuo Sorhie | Art | Nagaland |
| 93 | Dr. Janum Singh Soy | Literature & Education | Jharkhand |
| 94 | Shri Kushok Thiksey Nawang Chamba Stanzin | Others – Spiritualism | Ladakh |
| 95 | Shri S Subbaraman | Others – Archaeology | Karnataka |
| 96 | Shri Moa Subong | Art | Nagaland |
| 97 | Shri Palam Kalyana Sundaram | Social Work | Tamil Nadu |
| 98 | Ms. Raveena Ravi Tandon | Art | Maharashtra |
| 99 | Shri Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari | Literature & Education | Uttar Pradesh |
| 100 | Shri Dhaniram Toto | Literature & Education | West Bengal |
| 101 | Shri Tula Ram Upreti | Others – Agriculture | Sikkim |
| 102 | Dr. Gopalsamy Veluchamy | Medicine | Tamil Nadu |
| 103 | Dr. Ishwar Chander Verma | Medicine | Delhi |
| 104 | Ms. Coomi Nariman Wadia | Art | Maharashtra |
| 105 | Shri Karma Wangchu (Posthumous) | Social Work | Arunachal Pradesh |
| 106 | Shri Ghulam Muhammad Zaz | Art | Jammu & Kashmir |

Wildlife Conservation Award 2023

Important points for Prelims

Jammu and Kashmir has awarded wildlife conservationist Aliya Mir for her exceptional efforts in conservation.

- Aliya is the first woman from Jammu and Kashmir to work for Wildlife SOS and is the first woman in the region to receive this honour.
- She received the award from Lt. Manoj Sinha at the World Forestry Day celebrations hosted by the Jammu and Kashmir Collective Forests.

Sports Authors & Books

Player-of-the-Year award by the Asian Chess Federation

Important points for Prelims

Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh has been honoured with Player-of-the-Year award by the Asian Chess Federation (ACF) for clinching the gold medal with a record-breaking score of 9/11 in the 44th Chess Olympiad at Mahabalipuram.

- Gukesh became only the sixth Indian to break the 2700 Elo-rating mark, and the youngest Grandmaster from the country to be rated above 2700.

AFI National Jumps Competition

Important points for Prelims

Tamil Nadu's Jeswin Aldrin broke the national record in the men's long jump in the second AFI National Jumps Competition.

- Jeswin Aldrin, 21-year-old, leaped 8.42 meters to take over the previous mark of 8.36 meters set by India teammate M Sreeshankar at the Federation Cup in Kozhikode in April 2022.

Santosh Trophy 2023

Important points for Prelims

Karnataka ended their 54-year wait to win the Santosh Trophy national football championship, beating Meghalaya 3-2 in a pulsating final at the King Fahd International Stadium in the Saudi Arabia capital.

- Services beat Punjab 2-0 in the playoff to finish third.

Bahrain Grand Prix 2023

Important points for Prelims

Max Verstappen won the season-opening Bahrain Grand Prix from pole position, leading almost the entire race as he opened the defense of his back-to-back Formula One titles.

- It was the first time he had won in Bahrain and also the first time he had triumphed in a Formula One opener.

IBA Women's World Boxing Championship 2023

Important points for Prelims

The Indira Gandhi Sports Complex in New Delhi will host the IBA Women's World Boxing Championship 2023 from March 15–26. Mahindra has been named the title sponsor of this competition by the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), while MC Mary Kom and Bollywood actor Farhan Akhtar have been named as brand ambassadors.

- The third time in history, India is serving as the host country. The BFI's goal of promoting female boxing involvement will be greatly enhanced by the appearance of Marykom and Bollywood superstar Farhan Akhtar.

Irani Cup 2022/23

Important points for Prelims

In the final of the Irani Cup 2022/23, Team Rest of India secured their 30th title win in the Indian domestic tournament, continuing their dominant performance.

- They defeated Madhya Pradesh by 238 runs. Yashasvi Jaiswal, who showcased brilliant batting skills across both innings, was adjudged the Player of the Match.
- He smashed a double century and a century in the two innings, contributing significantly to ROI's victory.
- The Irani Cup, named after the late Z. R. Irani, was introduced in 1959-60 and is a traditional five-day match played between the Ranji Trophy winners and a Rest of India team.

ATP Masters 1000 title

Important points for Prelims

Rohan Bopanna, a 43-year-old Indian tennis player, and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden have become the oldest duo to win an ATP Masters 1000 title.

- They won the men's doubles final at the Indian Wells Masters 2023 tournament in California by defeating the top-seeded team of Wesley Koolhof and Neil Skupski.

Rani's Girls Hockey Turf

Important points for Prelims

Rani Rampal, a prominent player on the Indian hockey team, has achieved a significant milestone as the first woman in the sport to have a stadium named after her. The MCF Rae Bareilly has renamed the hockey stadium to 'Rani's Girls Hockey Turf' in her honor.

- Earlier this year, Rani Rampal made a successful comeback to the Indian hockey team during the tour of South Africa, where she was selected as one of the 22 players in the squad.

WPL 2023 Final

Important points for Prelims

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- 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.

Vedanta's Hindustan Zinc Limited

Important points for Prelims

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.

Lashinda Demus

Important points for Prelims

Lashinda Demus, a runner from the United States, has been awarded an Olympic gold medal at the age of 40, more than a decade after the 2012 London Games.

- This came after the International Olympic Committee stripped Natalya Antyukh, the original gold medalist in the 400-meter hurdles, of her title due to her involvement in the Russian doping scandal.

Important Books and Authors March 2023

| | |
|--|---|
| Phoolange" | Lekhnath Chhetri |
| Pyre' | Perumal Murugan's |
| Azaad | Ghulam Nabi Azad's |
| Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj | Shrimant Kokate's |
| A Matter Of The Heart: Education In India" | Anurag Behar |
| Snakes In The Gang | Shri Rajiv Malhotra And Mrs. Vijaya Viswanathan |
| "Women And Men In India 2022 | Rao Inderjit Singh |
| "Bipin: The Man Behind The Uniform | By Rachna Biswat Rawat |
| As Good As My Word" | KM Chandrasekhar |

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mundaka Upanishad | Dr. Karan Singh, |
| India's Vaccine Growth Story' | Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya |

Imp Days of the Month

1 March-Zero Discrimination Day

Important points for Prelims

Zero discrimination day is observed on 1 March to signify the importance of equality.

- All people of the nation has the right to live their life with dignity.
- The theme for Zero Discrimination Day for this year is "Save lives: Decriminalize."

1 March-World Civil Defense Day

Important points for Prelims

To create awareness among people about civil protection, and civil defense, World Civil Defense Day is celebrated.

- This helps people to protect themselves in the time of emergency situations.

3 March-World Wildlife Day

Important points for Prelims

To aware people of the flora and fauna, World wildlife day is marked every year on 3 March.

- This day is celebrated globally on 3rd March and is closely aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 12 that is Life without water, which focuses on marine species and highlights the problems, critical issues of marine wildlife to our everyday life.
- The theme of World Wildlife Day 2023 is "Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration".

8 March-International Women's Day

Important points for Prelims

To promote gender equality and show respect to women, International Women's Day is observed internationally.

- This day marks the growth of women and their rise in the particular field they are working in.
- For the United Nations, the 2023 theme for International Women's Day is "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality," highlighting gender gaps in STEM education and careers — and calling attention to the online harassment many women face.

10 March-CISF Raising Day

Important points for Prelims

Under an act of parliament on 10 March 1969, a central industrial security force was established.

- The main aim was to provide better protection and security to the industrial undertakings of the country.
- Every year 10 March is marked as CISF Raising Day. The vision of CISF is to provide protection and security.

14 March - International Day of Action for Rivers

Important points for Prelims

Every year on 14 March, the International Day of Action for Rivers is observed to raise voice to protect rivers and demand for improving the policies for Rivers.

- It is a day to educate one another about the threats facing our rivers and to find solutions.

15 March-World Consumer Rights Day

Important points for Prelims

To aware the people of the nation about their rights, World Consumer Rights Day is commemorated.

- The theme of World Consumer Rights Day 2023 is "Empowering Consumers Through Clean Energy Transitions."

16 March-National Vaccination Day

Important points for Prelims

National Vaccination Day is to highlight the importance of vaccination. The first dose of the oral polio vaccine was given on 16 March 1995.

- The vaccine is essential to eradicate a disease completely from the earth.
- This year 2023, the National Vaccination Day 2023 theme is "Vaccine Prevents the Unwanted".

18 March-Ordnance Factories Day

Important points for Prelims

India's oldest ordnance factory was set up on 18 March 1802 at Cossipore, Kolkata.

- Every year on this day exhibitions are held all across India displaying guns, rifles, artillery, and ammunition.

20 March – International Day of Happiness

Important points for Prelims

International Day of Happiness is observed every year on 20 March. Since 2013, the United Nations has celebrated this day to recognize the importance of happiness in the lives of people around the

world. The UN launched the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 to end poverty, reduce inequality and protect our planet which are the three key aspects that lead to well-being and happiness.

20 March – World Sparrow Day

Important points for Prelims

World Sparrow Day is celebrated across the world on 20 March to raise awareness about the conservation of sparrows.

- This day also celebrates the relationship between people and sparrows; spreads a love for sparrows, awareness about their importance in our lives, etc.

21 March - World Forestry Day or International Day of Forests

Important points for Prelims

On 21st March, World Forestry Day or International Day of Forests is celebrated every year to raise public awareness about the values, significance, and contributions of the forests to balance the life cycle on the earth.

- In 1971, World Forestry Day was established at the 23rd General Assembly of the European Confederation of Agriculture.

22 March – World Water Day

Important points for Prelims

On 22 March, World Water Day is observed annually to raise awareness about the importance of freshwater and advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

- It was recommended to celebrate in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro.
- And then, in 1993 the first World Water Day is celebrated.

23rd March - Martyr's Day

Important points for Prelims

Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas is observed in India on several dates. March 23 is remembered as the day when three brave freedom fighters, namely Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar, were hanged by the British.

- Also, January 30th is observed as Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas in the memory of Mahatma Gandhi.

24 March-World Tuberculosis Day

Important points for Prelims

To educate people about TB and its impact, World Tuberculosis Day is celebrated. For the first time, the day was marked on 24 March 1982.

- Dr. Robert Koch discovered the Tuberculosis Bacillus virus.
- This year theme was Yes! We can end TB!

Uttar Pradesh Special News Section

Regional film city in Gorakhpur

Important points for Prelims

The state is preparing to open a regional film city in Gorakhpur in Purvanchal along with the Film City in Noida.

- According to the information, Mumbai-based businessman Atul Garg has signed an MoU with the state government for the Regional Film City. Under the MoU, businessman Atul Garg will invest Rs 500 crore.
- It has now been decided to make Regional Film City in Gorakhpur only after the filming of the most expensive film in Bhojpuri language.

Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to the Gond caste

Important points for Prelims

In March 2, 2023, Uttar Pradesh Social Welfare Minister Asim Arun said that after the notification was issued by the Center, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to issue certificates granting Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to the Gond caste in four more districts of the state Sant Kabir Nagar, Kushinagar, Chandauli and Bhadohi .

- In this, Gonds (Dhuriya, Nayak, Ojha, Pathari and Rajgond) have been included in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Uttar Pradesh.
- Based on this, along with Mirzapur and Sonbhadra, Scheduled Tribe certificates will be issued to these castes living in four more districts of Sant Kabir Nagar, Kushinagar, Chandauli and Bhadohi.

Vidhan Bhavan

Important points for Prelims

Uttar Pradesh will soon get the gift of a new Vidhan Bhavan on the lines of the country's new Parliament Building (Central Vista). Members of the 18th Legislative Assembly will get a chance to sit in the new Assembly.

- It will be fully eco-friendly, earthquake resistant and equipped with modern facilities.
- The Uttar Pradesh government aims to hold at least one session of the 18th Assembly in the new Vidhan Bhavan. The new Vidhan Bhavan will be constructed according to the growing needs.

- It is noteworthy that the current Vidhan Bhavan is about 100 years old. Its foundation was laid on December 15, 1922, by the then Governor Sir Spencer Harcourt Butler. The building was completed in about six years and was inaugurated on February 21, 1928.

Five learning centers For Villagers

Important points for Prelims

Five learning centers will be set up in Bareilly division of the state, in which training will be given to the villagers at the village level.

- In order to strengthen the villagers at the economic level, five model panchayat houses of the four districts of Bareilly division are being made learning centres.
- Under this, learning centers will be set up one each in Bareilly, Pilibhit and Badaun and in two-gram panchayats of Shahjahanpur.
- Villagers will be taught the nuances of farming and becoming entrepreneurs at the learning center.

UP State Local Bodies Dedicated Backward Classes Commission

Important points for Prelims

UP State Local Bodies Dedicated Backward Classes Commission, set up to fix reservation for backward classes in the civic elections, submitted a report to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

- People had filed a petition in the court objecting to the reservation list issued by the Urban Development Department for the municipal elections.
- On this basis, the High Court had directed to conduct elections without reservation.
- The government went to the Supreme Court against this decision.
- The Supreme Court had directed the government to form a commission and prepare a report by March 31 after surveying the districts, but this report has been submitted to the government about 22 days before the deadline.
- The state government had On December 28, 2022, constituted a five-member commission under the chairmanship of retired High Court Judge Ram Autar Singh.

Seed processing and storage facility

Important points for Prelims

The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the seed processing and storage facility of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) at the Indian Grassland and Grassland Research Institute, Jhansi.

- Women farmers conference was also organized on this occasion.

Four new private universities

Important points for Prelims

On March 10, 2023, the Uttar Pradesh government gave permission to open four new private universities in the state.

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In the cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, it has been decided to issue letters of intent to four new private universities.

- These universities include Varun Arjun University Shahjahanpur, T.S Mishra University Lucknow, Farukh Hussain University Agra and Vivek National University Bijnor.

Shastrarth

Important points for Prelims

Dr. Aruney Mishra, Chairman of the Department of Sanskrit at wing Ewing Christian College (ECC), a constituent college of Allahabad University, Uttar Pradesh, has created an online game app for learning Sanskrit, which is named 'Shastrarth'.

- The Shastrartha app will not only useful for learning Sanskrit in sports but also for preparing competitive exams.

Uttar Pradesh Township Policy-2023

Important points for Prelims

The Uttar Pradesh government is going to amend several rules to meet the residential needs of the people in the cities. For this, the proposed Uttar Pradesh Township Policy-2023 was presented before Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Key highlights of the new policy:

- DM's permission is not required for taking land belonging to SC/ST.
- Horizontal development will be promoted on the lines of Chandigarh.
- There will be enough footpaths for pedestrians.
- Rough or unused land will be made a green belt.
- Parking facilities near parks, shopping complexes and police stations.
- Use of treated water for horticulture in parks and green belts.
- Net zero waste is required to be followed in relation to solid waste disposal.

Childcare leave - CCL

Important points for Prelims

All India Service officers (IAS Uttar Pradesh government, IPS and IFS) to provide two years have given their consent to the proposal of the Central Government (730 days) childcare leave - CCL who are performing the responsibility of single parents.

- Male guardian is included as unmarried, widowed or divorced. This facility will be available in situations like education or illness of two children up to 18 years of age.
- A senior central government official said that the misuse of this leave had increased. The proposed change will discourage its unnecessary use.

State's bus stands on the lines of airports

Important points for Prelims

The Uttar Pradesh government will develop the state's bus stands on the lines of airports.

- For this purpose, the selection process for five bus stands under the PPP model has been facilitated by private developers in the first phase under the development plan of 23 bus stands.
- The Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) has received an investment proposal of Rs 1000 crore to upgrade these five bus stands on the lines of airports.
- The five bus stands which have been selected to be developed on the lines of the airport by the developers are- Kaushambi Bus Station, Lucknow's Vibhuti Khand Bus Station, Prayagraj's Civil Lines Bus Station, Ghaziabad's Old Bus Station and Agra Fort Bus Station.

Samagra Shiksha

Important points for Prelims

To improve the level of basic education in Uttar Pradesh, the state government has given a new target to the Basic Education Department, under which 44,000 primary schools in the state will have to attain the status of accomplished schools by the end of this year.

- It is noteworthy that the Nipun Bharat Mission aims to ensure that every child in the country compulsorily acquires foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of grade 3 by 2026-27.
- The Mission, which has been launched under the aegis of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha, will focus on providing access and retention of children in the foundational years of schooling.

New jails in many districts of Uttar Pradesh

Important points for Prelims

In a high-level meeting, the Uttar Pradesh Prison Administration and Reforms Department informed that in view of the overcrowded number of prisoners in the state's jails, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to construct new jails in many districts.

- For the construction of new jails in the state, 11 such districts of the state have been identified, where there is no jail at present.
- According to the information, new jails will be built in Amethi, Mahoba, Kushinagar, Chandauli, Auraiya, Hathras, Hapur, Sambhal, Amroha, Bhadohi and Shamli.

71st All-India Police Athletics Championship

Important points for Prelims

On 21 March 2023, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the 71st All-India Police Athletics Championship in the state capital Lucknow. This championship will run till 25 March.

- On this occasion, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that after 10 years the state has got an opportunity to organise the All-India Police Athletics Meet. The Border Security Force (SSB) has started for this event.

18 ancient and historical sites of the state Declared protected

Important points for Prelims

UPPCS Pattern Current Affairs – Mar 2023

Tourism and Culture Minister of Uttar Pradesh Jaiveer Singh said that the state government has issued a notification declaring 18 ancient and historical sites of the state as protected.

- Among the 18 monuments or sites declared protected by the State Archaeological Department, Jhansi-based Shivalaya, ancient Kolhu Kush Madiya, Champatrai's palace, post-medieval fort Banjaro's temple, Ber, Pisanari Dayi Mud, Pathamarhi, Tehrauli fort, Digara Garhi and Ram Janaki temple are included.
- Similarly, Kot Tila in Sant Kabir Nagar district, Rani's pond in Prayagraj, ancient Vishnu temple built by Ishtika, Gangola Shivala, Shiv Tandav in Mahoba district, Khankra Math, ancient Shiv temple in Farrukhabad district and Shiva temple (Tixi Temple) in Etawah have been declared protected.

One World TB Summit - 2023

Important points for Prelims

On 24 March 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the One World TB Summit - 2023 at the Rudraksha Convention Center in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

- The One World TB Summit - 2023 was attended online by several state governors, several state health secretaries and managing directors of the National Health Mission.
- The Prime Minister released the 'Annual India TB Report 2023', a compilation of the country's efforts towards making India TB free by 2025.
- The Prime Minister also launched the TB-Free Panchayat Initiative to leverage the support of over 2.5 lakh gram panchayats to raise awareness about TB.
- Karnataka and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir were honored in the States/UTs category and Nilgiris (Tamil Nadu), Pulwama (Jammu and Kashmir) and Anantnag (Jammu and Kashmir) were given district level awards.

Animal Health and Disease Control Scheme

Important points for Prelims

On 26 March 2023, Union Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Minister Parshottam Rupala and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath flagged off 520 mobile veterinary units and toll-free helpline-1962 at a cost of Rs 201 crore under 'Animal Health and Disease Control Scheme' from Lucknow.

- The Union Minister said that India ranks No. 1 in milk production in the world and Uttar Pradesh ranks No. 1 in India. The reason why India is at the forefront of the world is because of Uttar Pradesh being at the top position in India.

Scrap policy Implementation

Important points for Prelims

The State Transport Department has sent a proposal to the government to implement the scrap policy based on the standards of the Ministry of Steel, Government of India, under which the state has been sent from April 1, 2023. The junk policy will come into force.

- It is known that after the central government, this junk policy is also being implemented in Uttar Pradesh.
- So far, work has started on 12 scrap centers in the entire state. All are private operators.

22 proposals Approved

Important points for Prelims

In the cabinet meeting chaired by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on 29 March 2023, 22 proposals were approved including the revised proposal of OBC reservation for the state body elections.

- Proposals have been approved to change the rules of one-time exemption of duty on electric vehicles and on the vehicles which are to be scrapped in registered vehicle scrapping facilities. Vehicles have also been given the facility to obtain fitness certificates in any district.
- Under the Swami Vivekananda Youth Empowerment Scheme, the final bid document has been approved in the cabinet meeting to distribute free tablets to 10 lakh youth and smartphones worth 25 lakh. This scheme has been implemented for five years.
- Sugarcane farmers of the state will now get more subsidies for soil treatment and purchase of chemicals in their fields. Under this proposal, sugarcane cultivation (Pedi) management and soil treatment were integrated. Earlier, sugarcane cultivation (Pedi) management and soil treatment were two different subjects. Along with this, the rate of subsidy has been fixed at 50 percent of 1800 per acre i.e. 900 rupees. Earlier it used to be minimum Rs 150 per acre and maximum Rs 500 per acre.
- The distillery will be set up at Mohiuddinpur sugar mill of Uttar Pradesh State Sugar Corporation located in Meerut district. This distillery with a capacity of 60 thousand litres per day will be based on B-heavy molasses.
- New plants will be set up at Gajraula Cooperative Sugar Mill in Amroha district. In this mill, a new plant will be set up to expand the crushing-pressing capacity from 2500 tonnes per day to 4900 tonnes per day.
- In order to increase the birth rate of cow progeny and mostly cows in the state, artificial insemination will be further promoted among cattle rearers. The state government has further reduced the rate of levy of graded semen given to cattle rearers from the Animal Husbandry Department for such artificial insemination. Now its levy rate has been increased to Rs 100 per dose in all the districts.
- Focusing on green energy, the state government will develop Green Corridor-2 in the state to reduce the dependence on coal for power generation in the coming days, under which 4000 MW solar plants will be set up in Bundelkhand.
- Many solar parks will be built under the solar projects to be set up. In this, 600 MW solar parks will be built in Chitrakoot, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Jalaun.
- Cashless facility up to Rs 5 lakh has been allowed for the amount spent annually on the treatment of 11,000 sports persons registered in different districts of the state by including them in the 'MukhyaMantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan'. For the first time, 11,000 registered players have been included in this scheme.

- The proposal to set up the State Urban Digital Mission (SUDM-UP) was approved to provide better online facilities of civic bodies to the urban people.
- The state government will start 'Nishadraj Boat Subsidy Scheme' for the fishermen and boatmen community. Under the scheme, subsidies will be given to the eligible beneficiaries to buy boats without engines, including nets and life jackets. The benefit of the scheme will be given on priority to Antyodaya card holders, homeless and Kevat Mallah community people.

Robot developed at AKTU

Important points for Prelims

On 30 March 2023, Anuj Sharma, Associate Dean of the Innovation & Incubation Center of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU) said that AKTU has developed a robot that can be guided using the fingers of both hands using machine learning techniques.

- The technology has been developed by Anuj Sharma, Associate Dean, Innovation & Incubation Center of AKTU and his student team.
- This technology has been developed with the help of computer vision and artificial intelligence.