



**8<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

## INTERNATIONAL

### 1) The image of King Charles III were unveiled for the first time

- New 'everyday' stamps featuring the image of King Charles III were unveiled for the first time, the latest item in Britain to get a makeover following the death of Queen Elizabeth.
- From coins and banknotes and to the official royal cypher used by the government, Britain has been slowly introducing replacements featuring the new monarch since his mother's death in September.
- The new stamp, which will go on general sale at the start of April, consists solely of the king's head and its value on a plain coloured background.

### 2) Natasha Perianayagam

- A 13-year-old girl, Natasha Perianayagam won the title of "world's brightest" student. Natasha Perianayagam, an Indian American, was named to the list compiled by the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth in the United States.
- Natasha has been listed on the "world's brightest" list, previously she also took the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth test in 2021, when she was still in the 5th grade.
- The test is a worldwide operation, with over 1500 students participating in the project across 76 countries.

### 3) India Energy Week

- Energy Efficiency Services, a joint venture of public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Power, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle Joint Business Council (IMT-GT JBC) Malaysia at India Energy Week.
- The MoU aims to promote the adoption of energy efficiency and sustainable practices in the region.
- MT-GT is positioned as part of the ASEAN building block, linking ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy with IMT-GT Sustainable Urban Development Framework 2019 – 2036.



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## NATIONAL

### 1) Supreme Court of India

- The Union government notified the appointment of five new judges to the Supreme Court. With their appointments, the number of judges in the Supreme Court will rise to 32.
- The Supreme Court of India has a sanctioned strength of thirty-four Judges and is presently functioning with twenty-seven Judges.
- Now there remain only two vacancies at the Supreme Court, which could be filled in the coming days if SC Collegium's January 31 proposal to elevate Allahabad High Court Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal and Gujarat High Court Chief Justice Aravind Kumar as SC judges, is accepted by the president.

### 2) Digital Skill initiative

- Reliance Jio in collaboration with GSMA has unveiled a nationwide Digital Skill initiative.
- This collaborative effort intends to provide rural women and people from low-income groups with training based on their specific needs.

### 3) The Yuva Sangam registration portal

- The Yuva Sangam registration portal was launched in New Delhi.
- The Yuva Sangam is an initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to build close ties between the youth of the Northeast Region and the rest of India under the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.
- Under the initiative, over 20 thousand youth will travel across the country and gain a unique opportunity for cross-cultural learning.

### 4) Indus Water Treaty agreement

- India requesting that Pakistan rework the Indus Water Treaty agreement on how the waters of the six rivers that make up the Indus Basin are shared, the Indus Water Treaty has entered choppy waters.
- While there have in the past been disagreements regarding the sharing of water, this time the dispute resolution process is under question of modifying Indus Water Treaty.

### 5) Unified Payments Interface



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- PhonePe announced the debut of a service that will enable its Indian users who are travelling overseas to pay foreign businesses using the Unified Payments Interface.
- “UPI international” enables retail locations with a native QR (quick response) code in the UAE, Singapore, Mauritius, Nepal, and Bhutan.
- Similar to how they do with overseas debit cards, users would be able to make direct payments in a foreign currency from their Indian bank. The Walmart-backed finance app PhonePe claimed to be the first to do so in India.

### 6) Pilot of Digital Rupee- Retail segment

- The Reserve Bank of India launched the first pilot of Digital Rupee- Retail segment (e₹-R) on December 01, 2022.
- This was stated by the Union Minister of State for Finance, Shri Pankaj Chaudhary, in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha.

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### 8) India is the highest milk producer in the world

- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Parshottam Rupala told Lok Sabha that India is the highest milk producer in the world contributing twenty-four per cent of global milk production in the year 2021-22.
- According to production data of Food and Agriculture Organization Corporate Statistical Database (FAOSTAT), India is the highest milk producer in the world contributing twenty-four per cent of global milk production in the year 2021-22.

### 9) Monetary Policy statement

- Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das released the Monetary Policy statement, which included the highly anticipated increase in the repo rate of 25 basis points.
- The central bank had increased the important benchmark interest rate by 35 basis points in its December monetary policy review (bps). In order to keep inflation under control, the Reserve Bank has raised the short-term lending rate by 250 basis points, including the rate in effect today.

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## STATE NEWS

### 1) Sculpture Park at Bikaner House in New Delhi

- The Sculpture Park at Bikaner House in New Delhi was inaugurated by Rajasthan Chief Secretary Usha Sharma.
- Sculpture Park showcases a fusion of modern and contemporary art and culture in the traditional setting of Bikaner House.

The Sculpture Park is a trailblazer in the national capital and offers a premier platform for emerging artists to showcase their work with ease.

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## APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

### 1) Vir Das as its Brand Ambassador

- UnCrave, the plant-based meat brand by Licious, unveiled popular comic, actor, and musician Vir Das as its Brand Ambassador.
- UnCrave understands how meat-lovers feel without meat and fulfills this gap with the most meat-like, vegetarian solution through its plant protein-based meat products.
- The actor will also do a campaign for the brand which consists of a series of films, the first of which is titled, 'Without Meat' in which, in his signature style, Das describes a life without meat.

### 2) K Satyanarayana Raju as its Managing Director and CEO of Canara Bank

- The Union Government has appointed K Satyanarayana Raju as its Managing Director and CEO of Canara Bank, with immediate effect.
- He will be replacing L V Prabhakar who demitted office on December 31, 2022. He joined the erstwhile Vijaya Bank in 1988, and rose to the level of chief general manager in Bank of Baroda. His experience has led to digital transformation of banking products and services.



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### 3) Lawyer Lekshmana Chandra Victoria Gowri

- Lawyer Lekshmana Chandra Victoria Gowri was appointed to the higher judiciary and took an oath of office as the additional judge of Madras High Court.
- Lakshmana Chandra Victoria Gowri faced opposition from a section of the legal fraternity to her following their usual practice.
- It included reading out the Warrant of Appointment issued by the President, Gowri was administered the oath of office by Acting Chief Justice of Madras High Court Justice T Raja. Besides Gowri, four others also took oath as additional judges of the High Court.

## SPORTS

### 1) Kamran Akmal has announced his retirement

- Veteran Pakistan wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. Prior to the 2023 edition of the Pakistan Super League.
- Akmal was earlier named as the batting consultant for the Peshawar Zalmi, led by Babar Azam, for the upcoming edition of the PSL.
- The 41-year-old said that he is keener on taking up managerial roles with the Pakistan Cricket Board.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

### 1) "Golden Book Awards"

- The "Golden Book Awards" is announced its winner for 2023. This prestigious event recognizes and celebrates the best book in literature.
- There were more than 75,000 books published in India and nominees include a diverse mix of literary genres, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and children's books.
- The awards are judged by a panel of literary experts, like Dr Kailash Pinjani (President Indian Authors Association), Dr Deepak Parbat (Founder of Superfast Author) & Murali Sundaram (Founder of TLC), who choose the winners based on factors such as originality, creativity, and impact on the literary world.

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