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16th March 2023

INTERNATIONAL

1) An earthquake of 7.1 magnitude struck the New Zealand's Kermadec Islands

- 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.
- Reports in the New Zealand media are suggesting issuance of relevant rescue measures to prevent further mishappenings. However, the National Emergency Management Agency (Nema) and the Bureau of Meteorology confirmed there was no tsunami threat to mainland New Zealand and Australia.

2) Eric Garcetti as the new US Ambassador to India

- The US Senate Committee has announced the appointment of Eric Garcetti as the new US Ambassador to India. Despite being nominated by President Joe Biden almost two years ago, Garcetti's appointment had been pending until now.
- Eric Garcetti served as the President of the City Council of Los Angeles for four consecutive terms and is known to be a close acquaintance of President Biden.
- He has also emerged as a leader within the Democratic Party. However, Garcetti's tenure as mayor of Los Angeles lasted for nine years and was not without controversy. In 2020, there was a controversial incident that occurred during his time in office.

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NATIONAL

1) Atal Tinkering Laboratories

- 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).

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2) AAHAR 2023

- 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 organisations, is to showcase the hospitality industry's potential and showcase technologies, goods, and services to both domestic and foreign consumers.

3) Green National Highway Corridors Project

- The Government of India and the World Bank have signed an agreement for the Green National Highway Corridors Project, with loan assistance of \$500 million against total project cost of \$1,288.24 million (Rs 7,662.47 crore).
- An aggregate length of 781 km will be constructed in the states of Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

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4) Microsoft strikes a deal to make Xbox PC video games

- Microsoft strikes a deal to make Xbox PC video games available on the Boosteroid cloud gaming platform, its latest move to appease antitrust regulators scrutinising its purchase of game maker Activision Blizzard. The US tech giant said the 10-year agreement would also include Activision Blizzard titles like the popular Call of Duty franchise if or when the acquisition gets approved.
- Microsoft aims to boost its firepower in the booming videogaming market against leaders Tencent and Sony, and lay the base for its investment in metaverse.
- Also, Microsoft has been announcing new partnerships as it tries to persuade regulators in the U.S. and Europe to allow the \$69 billion all-cash transaction to go through.

5) Special Vostro Rupee Accounts

- The Reserve Bank of India has permitted banks from 18 countries to open Special Vostro Rupee Accounts to settle payments in rupees, the government said.

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- Speaking in Rajya Sabha, Union Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad said that 60 such approvals have been given by the RBI.

- These 18 nations include Botswana, Fiji, Germany, Guyana, Israel, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Oman, Russia, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda and the United Kingdom.

6) 'Blossom Women's Savings Account'

- Suryoday Small Finance Bank announced the launch of 'Blossom Women's Savings Account' with 7 percent per annum interest rate with monthly interest credit.

- In addition to this, specially designed RuPay Platinum Debit Card offering discount on shopping and online purchases will also be available with the account, Suryodaya Small Finance Bank said.

- The new Mahila Savings Account can be operated through the bank's 571 banking outlets and digital banking platform.

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7) India's retail inflation for February

- India's retail inflation for February slows down to 6.44 percent as against 6.52 percent in January 2023, according to data published by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on March 13.

- While the CPI in January stood at 6.52 percent, the same for December 2022 was at 5.72 percent. In November, it was 5.88 percent and 5.59 percent in October 2022.

8) 'Exercise Sea Dragon 23'

- 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.

- The exercise, scheduled from March 15 to March 30, 2023, will focus on coordinated ASW tactics among the participating countries and will involve advanced ASW drills.

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9) OpenAI, GPT-4

- 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.”
- In assignments involving creative and technical writing, GPT-4 can generate, revise, and iterate with users. The new launched model can react to both text and graphics.

Targeting Govt Job in 2023?

SSC CALENDAR 2023

Combined Graduate Level Examination, 2023	Tier-I (CBE)*	01/Apr/2023 (Saturday)	01/May/2023 (Monday)	Jun-Jul, 2023
Combined Higher Secondary Level Examination, 2023	Tier-I (CBE)*	09/May/2023 (Tuesday)	08/Jun/2023 (Thursday)	Jul-Aug, 2023
Multi Tasking (Non-Technical) Staff, and Havaladar (CBIC & CBN) Examination-2023	Tier-I (CBE)*	14/Jun/2023 (Wednesday)	14/Jul/2023 (Friday)	Aug-Sep, 2023
Sub-Inspector in Delhi Police and Central Armed Police Forces Examination, 2023	Tier-I (CBE)*	20/Jul/2023 (Thursday)	13/Aug/2023 (Sunday)	Oct/2023
Junior Engineer (Civil, Mechanical, Electrical and Quantity Surveying & Contracts) Examination, 2023	Paper-I (CBE)*	26/Jul/2023 (Wednesday)	16/Aug/2023 (Wednesday)	Oct/2023

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10) Gaganyaan program

- The Gaganyaan program aims to demonstrate India’s capability to launch humans into Low Earth Orbit using an Indian launch vehicle and bring them back safely.
- The program includes four abort missions, with the first scheduled for May 2023. The program also includes several test vehicle missions and an uncrewed mission planned for 2024.

11) India is still the world’s largest importer of military equipment

- 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.

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- This year's defence budget included about Rs 1 lakh crore for domestic purchases, compared to Rs 84,598 crore, Rs 70,221 crore, and Rs 51,000 crore in the three years prior.

STATE NEWS

1) Uttarakhand has approved a 10% horizontal reservation for statehood campaigners

- The government of Uttarakhand has approved a 10% horizontal reservation for statehood campaigners in state government positions.
- Under the direction of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama, the decision was made during a cabinet meeting held in Bhararisain.
- The decision on the reservation to Statehood activists assumes significance since the governor had returned the bill granting 10 per cent reservation to the statehood activists in the past.
- The statehood activists are not getting the benefit of reservation in government jobs for the past 12 years.

Targeting Bank Job in 2023?

IBPS CALENDAR 2023

(1) **RRBs – CRP RRB-XII (Office Assistants) and CRP RRB-XII (Officers)**

Preliminary Examination	Office Assistants and Officer Scale I : 05.08.2023, 06.08.2023, 12.08.2023, 13.08.2023 and 19.08.2023.
Single Examination	Officers Scale II & III : 10.09.2023
Main Examination	Officer Scale I : 10.09.2023 Office Assistants : 16.09.2023

(2) **PSBs – CRP CLERK-XIII, CRP PO/MT-XIII & CRP SPl-XIII**

	Clerks	Probationary Officers	Specialist Officers
Preliminary Examination	26.08.2023 27.08.2023	23.09.2023 30.09.2023	30.12.2023 31.12.2023
Main Examination	02.09.2023 07.10.2023	01.10.2023 05.11.2023	28.01.2024

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APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

1) Shreya Ghodawat

- The Climate entrepreneur Shreya Ghodawat has been appointed as India's ambassador for She Changes Climate– a global campaign driving awareness of the crucial role of women in accelerating just climate action.

- On International Women's Day, the global non-profit organization "She Changes Climate" unveiled a new campaign called "Embrace Equity" with the goal of amplifying women's voices regarding the effects of climate change".

2) Vimal Kapur

- Honeywell International HON announced that company current president and chief operating officer, Vimal Kapur, will succeed Darius Adamczyk as the new chief executive officer (CEO), effective Jun 1. He has also been named to the board of directors of HON as of March 13.

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- He has 34 years of experience working for Honeywell across multiple business models, sectors, geographic locations, and economic cycles.

- “The adoption of Accelerator and standardisation of global business models to enable maximal performance in each business segment” will be Kapur’s primary areas of attention as CEO.

SPORTS

1) Ashleigh Gardner and Harry Brook

- The winners of the ICC Player of the Month awards for February 2023 have been revealed by the International Cricket Council (ICC), with Ashleigh Gardner of Australia being awarded the ICC Women’s Player of the Month and Harry Brook of England recovering the ICC Men’s Player of the Month titles.

- The outcomes of the ICC Player of the Month Awards for February are a carbon copy of those from December 2022, when both winners received their first awards following successful months for their respective teams in both the short and long formats of the game.

2) Indian Premier League team Royal Challengers Bangalore partnering

- The news is about the Indian Premier League team Royal Challengers Bangalore partnering with Equitas Small Finance Bank as their banking partner for the IPL 2023 season.

- This partnership means that Equitas Small Finance Bank will provide a range of banking services to RCB, including salary accounts, forex, and other related financial services.

- This partnership campaign will be aimed to communicate that Equitas has been playing a progressive role in transforming the lives of individuals through their lending and social responsibilities of ‘beyond banking’. At present, Equitas has 10 branches across Bengaluru serving over 1.7 lakh customers with 170 employees.

3) Gianni Infantino was re-elected as FIFA president until 2027

- Gianni Infantino was re-elected as FIFA president until 2027 by acclamation, after highlighting his strong financial performance as a reason for keeping a CEO in their position for life.

- The decision was made by the congress of 211 member federations, who have seen their annual funding from FIFA increase from \$250,000 to \$2 million since Infantino’s first win in 2016.

OBITUARY

1) Sameer Khakhar has passed away

- Sameer Khakhar, an experienced actor who had worked in theater, television, and movies, has passed away. He is most remembered for his portrayal of the character “Khopdi” in the popular TV series “Nukkad.”

- Sameer Khakhar’s career spanned across various genres of entertainment, but his performance as Khopdi was particularly notable, earning him recognition and praise from audiences.

- His death is a loss to the industry and those who appreciated his talents as a versatile performer.



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