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**21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023**

## INTERNATIONAL

### 1) 'BNS Sheikh Hasina' at Pekua in Cox's Bazar

- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the first submarine base of Bangladesh 'BNS Sheikh Hasina' at Pekua in Cox's Bazar.
- Hailing the newly inaugurated naval base as an 'ultra modern submarine base', Prime Minister called the event a proud chapter in the history of Bangladesh navy.
- The government of Bangladesh is working on 'Forces Goal 2030' to transform its military force into a modern organization appropriate for the times.



### 2) G7 Summit after both had a delegation-level talk at Delhi's Hyderabad House

- Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has formally invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the G7 Summit after both had a delegation-level talk at Delhi's Hyderabad House.
- PM Modi said that PM Kishida's visit will be helpful to maintain a momentum of mutual cooperation between India and Japan.
- He pointed out the importance of leading two significant summits, G20 and G7, by respective countries. The India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership is based on our mutual democratic values and respect of the rule of law at the international platform.

### 3) 2023 World Happiness Report

- The 2023 World Happiness Report has been released, and it shows that Finland remains the happiest country in the world for the sixth year in a row.
- Denmark, Iceland, Israel, and the Netherlands are the next happiest countries, with other European countries such as Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, and Luxembourg also making the top 10. The rankings are



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based on data from the main life evaluation question in the Gallup World Poll, which measures how happy citizens perceive themselves to be.

- 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.

## NATIONAL

### 1) "Human Factors Engineering in Military Platforms"

- A two-day workshop on "Human Factors Engineering in Military Platforms" was inaugurated by the Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan on March 15 in New Delhi.
- The workshop is being organized by the Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS), which is a Delhi-based laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- The objective of the workshop is to establish a policy framework and practices that ensure the scientific implementation of Human Factors Engineering (HFE) in the defence sector, thus contributing to the vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat.'

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### 2) Africa-India Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX-2023)

- The Africa-India Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX-2023) has begun 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. The joint exercise is divided into four phases, including training of trainers, a Humanitarian Mine Action and Peace Keeping Operations Phase, and a validation exercise to assess the results of the training.
- The exercise seeks to enhance peace and security, exchange ideas, and promote a collaborative approach in capacity enhancement of African armies. Tactical drills, procedures, and the ability to operate jointly with seamless interoperability are the primary focus of the joint exercise.

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### 3) Ranveer Singh has been named India's most valuable celebrity of 2022

- According to a report by Kroll, a corporate investigation and risk consulting firm, actor Ranveer Singh has been named India's most valuable celebrity of 2022, surpassing cricketer Virat Kohli who held the top spot for five years.

- The report titled "Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2022: Beyond the Mainstream" reveals that Singh's brand value is \$181.7 million. Virat Kohli, who previously held the top spot, has fallen to the second position with a brand value of \$176.9 million, according to the Kroll report.

## STATE NEWS

### 1) World Trade Center in Kolkata

- The Merlin Group has partnered with the World Trade Centers Association to develop a World Trade Center in Kolkata that will cover an area of 3.5 million square feet.

- The project's License Agreement was signed by Scott Wang, Vice President of the World Trade Centers Association (WTCA) Asia Pacific region, and Merlin Group's Chairman, Sushil Mohta, and Managing Director, Saket Mohta.

- The project, which is being built in Salt Lake, West Bengal, is estimated to require an investment of approximately Rs 1,500 crore.

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### 2) Asia's largest 4-metre International Liquid Mirror Telescope

- Dr. Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, inaugurated Asia's largest 4-metre International Liquid Mirror Telescope at Devasthal, Uttarakhand, in the presence of Lt. Gen (Retd.) Gurmeet Singh, the Governor of Uttarakhand.

- The Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) has declared that the 4-meter International Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT) is operational and can now be used to observe the deep celestial sky.

- The telescope recorded its first light in the second week of May 2022 and is located on the Devasthal Observatory campus of ARIES in the Nainital district of Uttarakhand. ARIES is an independent institute

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under the Department of Science and Technology (DST) of the Indian Government, situated at an altitude of 2450 meters.

## APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

### 1) Arnab Banerjee

- CEAT, the tyre manufacturer, has named Arnab Banerjee as its new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) following the resignation of Anant Goenka.
- Banerjee's term as MD and CEO will commence from April 1, 2023 and last for two years, according to the company's corporate filing.
- Anant Goenka will step down from his position as MD and CEO at the end of business hours on March 31, 2023, and will take on the role of non-executive non-independent director and Vice Chairman of the company, subject to approval from members and other relevant authorities.

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### 2) Manmeet K Nanda

- Manmeet K Nanda has been appointed as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Invest India, a prestigious organization.
- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has released a statement announcing the approval of Nanda's appointment by Invest India's board, following Deepak Bagla's decision to step down.
- Nanda was previously serving as the Joint Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). Bagla resigned from his post last week, leading to the need for a new MD and CEO at Invest India.

### 3) Anup Bagchi

- The current MD & CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, N S Kannan, is set to retire from his position in June 2023 upon completion of his term.
- His successor, Anup Bagchi, who is an Executive Director at ICICI Bank, will take over as the MD & CEO for a five-year term from June 19, 2023, subject to approval from the insurance regulator. To ensure a smooth

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transition, Bagchi has been appointed as the Executive Director & Chief Operating Officer, effective from May 1, 2023, subject to necessary approvals.

- The announcement was made by ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, which stated that the board of directors approved Bagchi's appointment based on the recommendation of the board nomination and remuneration committee.

#### 4) Jayanti Chauhan

- After Tata Consumer Products Ltd withdrew from acquiring Bisleri International, Ramesh Chauhan, the chairman of the company, announced that his daughter Jayanti Chauhan will now lead the bottled water company.

- He also stated that he has no intention of selling the business and is not currently in talks with any parties about doing so. Jayanti Chauhan is currently the vice chairperson of Bisleri and has been involved with the business for several years.

- She has been driving innovation and overseeing sales and marketing teams, with a focus on market penetration and brand value. TCPL confirmed that it has ceased negotiations with Bisleri and has not entered into any agreements for the acquisition.

### AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

#### 1) 2021 National Humanities Medals

- The White House has announced that US President Joe Biden will bestow the 2021 National Humanities Medals upon several recipients, including Indian-American actress, comedian, and writer Mindy Kaling, also known as Vera Mindy Chokalingam.

- The National Medal of Arts is the most prestigious award granted by the US government to artists, arts advocates, and organizations.

- It recognizes individuals and groups who have made outstanding contributions to the arts in America and served as role models through their exceptional accomplishments, assistance, or sponsorship.

#### 2) Aasif Sheikh

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- Aasif Sheikh, a wicketkeeper from Nepal, has been awarded the 2022 Christopher Martin-Jenkins Spirit of Cricket Award for his act of sportsmanship during a T20 international match.
- He refused to run out Ireland's Andy McBrine, who was accidentally tripped over by Kamal Airee, the bowler.
- Judges also highly commended England's Jos Buttler and Ben Stokes. In 2013, the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) and the BBC established the Spirit of Cricket Award to honor the memory of Christopher Martin-Jenkins, a former MCC president and BBC Test Match Special commentator who was dedicated to promoting the values of the sport. Recently, for the first time ever, the MCC and BBC opened up the award to public nominations. Following this, Sheikh's behavior while representing Nepal was deemed the most deserving of the award.



### 3) Sangita Kalanidhi award for 2023

- 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.
- According to the Academy's press release, Jayashri is considered as one of the leading Carnatic musicians of the present time.
- She received her initial training in Carnatic music from her parents and later studied under TR Balamani and Lalgudi G Jayaraman, a celebrated violin maestro. In addition to Carnatic music, Jayashri has also received training in Hindustani music, classical dance, and the veena.

### 4) "Geoffrey Bawa: It is Essential To Be There"

- India's External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar, inaugurated the "Geoffrey Bawa: It is Essential To Be There" exhibition at the National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi.
- The exhibition, which is a joint collaboration between the National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi, the High Commission of Sri Lanka in New Delhi, and the Geoffrey Bawa Trust, showcases the architectural works of Sri Lanka's renowned architect, the late Geoffrey Bawa.

### 5) Ratan Tata

- 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.



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- The announcement was made by Australia's Governor-General, following a recommendation by Australia's High Commissioner to India, Barry O'Farrell.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### 1) World Poetry Day 2023

- On 21 March, 2023 is celebrated as World Poetry Day 2023. Every year on March 21, people throughout the world celebrate World Poetry Day to honour an expression of language with which they can all identify. Every country's past contains poetry, which unites people through shared humanity and values.
- Even the most simple poems can spark conversation. The theme of World Poetry Day 2023 is "Always be a poet, even in prose".

### 2) International Day of Forests or World Forestry Day

- On March 21st is observed as International Day of Forests or World Forestry Day worldwide to increase awareness about the importance of forests, woodlands, and trees in our lives.
- It is important to understand the value, significance, and contributions of the forests to balancing the life cycle on earth. An issue like deforestation is also addressed on this day.
- The International Day of Forests for 2023 has adopted the theme of "Forests and health" to emphasize the interdependence between the existence of forests and our well-being. Forests play a critical role in supporting the survival of all living creatures, including humans.

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### 3) World Down Syndrome Day

- On March 21 is observed as World Down Syndrome Day worldwide, aiming to increase public awareness and show support for individuals living with this genetic condition.
- The United Nations chose this date to highlight the link between Down syndrome and the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome, which makes it unique.
- The day serves as an opportunity to educate and raise awareness about Down syndrome. This year's World Down Syndrome Day theme is 'With Us, Not For Us'.

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#### 4) International Nowruz Day 2023

- On 21 March 2023 is celebrated as International Nowruz Day 2023. Every year on March 21, the International Nowruz Day is a much-anticipated global New Year's festival that marks the spring equinox, ushering in the season of rebirth and nature's renewal.
- Almost 300 million people worldwide commemorate the international holiday that the United Nations proclaimed on March 21, also known as "Nauryz," "Navruz," or "Nowrouz," which is translated as "new day" and has a history of at least 3,000 years.

#### 5) International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

- On October 26, 1966, the UN General Assembly passed Resolution 2142 (XXI) designating March 21st as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
- This day was chosen because, in 1960, 69 peaceful protesters were killed by police in Sharpeville, South Africa, while demonstrating against the apartheid "pass laws".
- By establishing this day of commemoration, the General Assembly urged the global community to intensify its efforts to eradicate all types of racial discrimination, especially as it pertains to the struggle against apartheid in South Africa.

#### 6) World Water Day

- World Water Day is observed on March 22 each year to emphasize the significance of water and to create awareness about the global water crisis.
- The primary purpose of celebrating this day is to promote the achievement of SDG 6, which aims to provide access to clean water and sanitation for everyone by 2030. The day is dedicated to raising awareness about water-related issues, such as water pollution, water scarcity, insufficient water supply, and inadequate sanitation.
- The objective is to inspire individuals to manage freshwater resources sustainably and take necessary actions to address these issues. The focus of World Water Day 2023 is on the theme of 'Accelerating the change to solve the water and sanitation crisis'.

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