



CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 1-15, 2023

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TNPSC EXAMS
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EXCELLENCE

Foot Prints

(Compilation of Current Events)

 TAMIL NADU	 STATES	 NATIONAL	 INDIA & THE WORLD	 INTERNATIONAL
 SCHEMES	 DEFENCE	 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	 EVS	 ECONOMY
 COURT VERDICTS	 CONFERENCES & SUMMITS	 AWARDS	 PERSONALITIES	 BOOKS & AUTHORS
 SPORTS	 RANKS & REPORTS	 DAYS	 OBITUARY	 NEWS OF THE MONTH
 KNOWLEDGE	 APPOINTMENTS	 COMMITTEES	 APPS / PORTALS	 MISCELLANEOUS

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TAMIL NADU

➤ **Climate Change Mitigation and Green Transition**

- ✓ The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) - has partnered with Denmark for research in climate change mitigation and green transition, which includes the development of next-generation fuels and energy systems on March 01.
- ✓ The Innovation Fund Denmark (IFD) and Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India will jointly fund the projects.
- ✓ Under the partnership, Denmark is collaborating with Tamil Nadu to establish the first offshore wind farm in the state.

➤ **Comprehensive Urban Cooling Programme**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government - has signed an MoU with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to develop a comprehensive urban cooling programme under Tamil Nadu State Action Plan on Climate Change.
- ✓ UNEP will work with the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests.
- ✓ UNEP, in collaboration with the National Institute of Urban Affairs and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, is implementing a national cooling programme to support Indian cities to implement sustainable cooling and heat resiliency strategies.

➤ **Climate Smart Villages**

- ✓ On March 3, Chief Minister - launched a pilot project to convert 10 villages in Tamil Nadu as 'climate smart villages'.
- ✓ Ten villages have already been identified near tourist spots by the Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Department to be converted into climate resilient villages in coordination with the World Resources Institute (WRI).
- ✓ The initiative will concentrate on promoting renewable energy such as solar, and treating and reusing of wastewater among other initiatives.

➤ **Keeladi Museum**

- ✓ On March 5, Chief Minister M K Stalin - inaugurated the state-of-the-art Keeladi museum in Sivaganga district, that was built at the cost of Rs.18 crore.
- ✓ The museum, which has been divided into six blocks over 31,000 sqft, will exhibit around 10,000 artefacts excavated from Keeladi, Agaram and Manalur excavation sites.
- ✓ Keeladi is a village located on the banks of the Vaigai river in the erstwhile Madurai district.

➤ **Free Training Programme**

- ✓ On March 7, Minister for youth welfare and sports Udhayanidhi Stalin - launched a free training programme under the Naan Mudhalvan scheme to help Tamil Nadu college students prepare for recruitment exams for various government jobs.
- ✓ Under the scheme, students will also be trained for IIT JEE, CLAT and other entrance tests to enable them to enrol in IITs, NITs and National Law University.
- ✓ During the event, Higher education minister K Ponmudy said the Naan Mudhalvan scheme would be extended to arts and science colleges from next academic year.

➤ **Thalikku Thangam Scheme**

- ✓ Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR and CE) department - has launched its version of 'Thalikku Thangam' scheme.
- ✓ Under the new scheme, four grams of gold 'thali' and marriage assistance, totally worth Rs.50,000, will be provided to poor couples.
- ✓ The department issued an order in this regard on February 16, as per which 13 items including thali are provided as marriage assistance.

➤ **M-Sand/Crushed Sand Policy**

- ✓ On March 9, the state government - released a new M-sand/crushed sand policy aimed at promoting their usage, regulate their quarries and prevent damage to river ecosystems.
- ✓ The policy seeks to enable M-sand/crushed sand manufacturing units in the state to become compliant with relevant statutes, rules and regulations.

➤ **Smile-School Children's Dental Care Programme**

- ✓ The health department - launched 'punnagai' (smile) oral health screening programme for students at a government school in Nandanam.
- ✓ The health department, along with the school education department, has started the programme called Smile, which will be useful for screening school children and creating awareness about oral diseases, tooth decay, gum problems and finding solutions.

➤ **All Women Production Line**

- ✓ Ashok Leyland unveils all-women production line at Tamil Nadu plant.

- ✓ Indian commercial vehicle manufacturer, Ashok Leyland, has launched an “All Women Production Line” with 100 per cent female employees at its Hosur plant in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The initiative to introduce an all-women production line is to promote women empowerment and encourage them take up roles in manufacturing industry.

- **Tamil Nadu Organic Farming Policy 2023**
- ✓ On March 14, the State government - released the Tamil Nadu Organic Farming Policy 2023 to support chemical-free organic agriculture in the state and provide safe food for the people.
- ✓ The policy is aimed strengthening organic certification system, propagation of traditional seeds and encouraging cluster-based dryland cultivation.

- **Booker prize longlist for 2023**
- ✓ Tamil writer Perumal Murugan - has been selected for the International Booker prize longlist for 2023.
- ✓ Murugan makes it to the prestigious list with his 2016 book ‘Pyre’, translated from Tamil by Aniruddhan Vasudevan.
- ✓ The book is a translation of his original Tamil work 'Pukkuli'.
- ✓ ‘Pyre’ tells the tale of an inter-caste couple who elope, setting in motion a terrifying story dealing with honour killing.

NATIONAL

➤ **8th Raisina Dialogue**

- ✓ The eighth edition of the Raisina Dialogue is to be held in March 2023. The Ministry of External Affairs is hosting the dialogue along with Observer Research Foundation.
- ✓ The dialogue is to be held on geo-strategy and geopolitics.
- ✓ The theme of Raisina Dialogue 2023 - Provocation, Uncertainty, Turbulence: Lighthouse in the Tempest.

➤ **Catch the Rain 2023 Campaign**

- ✓ The 'Catch the Rain 2023' campaign was introduced by the President 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.

➤ **India Installs World's First Bamboo Barrier**

- ✓ World's first 200-meter-long Bamboo Crash Barrier has been installed on the Vani-Warora Highway, Vidarbha, Maharashtra.
- ✓ It has been christened Bahu Balli.
- ✓ The recycling value of the bamboo barrier is 50-70%.
- ✓ The bamboo species used in the making of this barrier is Bambusa Balcoa.

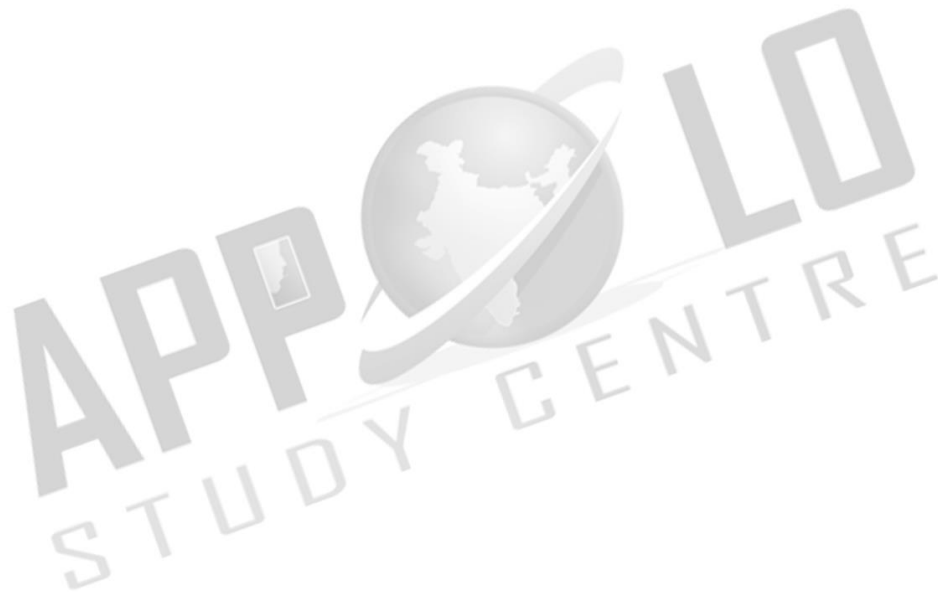
➤ **Prevention of Money Laundering Act**

- ✓ The Centre - has brought cryptocurrency trading, safekeeping and related financial services under the ambit of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.
- ✓ The Union finance ministry issued a gazette notification to this effect on March 7
- ✓ Henceforth, Crypto exchanges and intermediaries dealing with virtual digital assets (VDA) will be required to gather KYC details of their clients and users of the platform.

➤ **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)**

- ✓ India - has proposed to launch a mega global alliance 'International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)' under its leadership for the protection and support of seven big cats.
- ✓ It will work towards the protection and conservation of the seven major big cats – tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, puma, jaguar and cheetah

- ✓ The membership to the alliance will be open to 97 “range” countries, which contain the natural habitat of these big cats, as well as other interested nations, international organisations, etc.
- **World's Longest Railway Platform**
- ✓ PM Narendra Modi on 11 March 2023 inaugurated the longest railway platform in the world in Hubballi-Dharwad.
- ✓ With this, the city has registered its name in the Guinness Book of World Records for having the longest railway platform in the World at Shree Siddharoodha Swamiji station.
- ✓ The 1,507-metre-long platform has been built at a cost of about 20 crore.



INTERNATIONAL

➤ **Saudi Yoga Committee**

- ✓ Saudi Arabia - is set to introduce yoga in its universities due to its significance for mental and physical health.
- ✓ To facilitate the smooth introduction of yoga in universities, Saudi government has constituted Saudi Yoga Committee.
- ✓ The committee was striving hard as per Saudi government's 'Vision 2030' to introduce yoga to universities, emphasizing the importance of practising it for health and wellness.

➤ **High Seas Treaty**

- ✓ The United Nations - signed the first 'High Seas Treaty' to protect the ocean bodies of the world that lie outside the national boundaries.
- ✓ The high seas begin at the border of countries' exclusive economic zones, which extend up to 200 nautical miles (370 kilometers) from coastlines, thereby falling under the jurisdiction of no country.
- ✓ The treaty will create a new body to manage conservation of ocean life and establish marine protected areas in the high seas.

INDIA & OTHER COUNTRIES

➤ **Young Professionals Scheme**

- ✓ India and the UK - launched the Young Professionals Scheme on February 28.
- ✓ The establishment of the Young Professionals Program between the UK and India is regarded as a significant step in the development of the relationship between the two countries.
- ✓ The scheme is an agreement for three years, effective from March 2023.
- ✓ The scheme will allow degree-holding Indian nationals to live and work in Britain for up to two years.

➤ **Deakin and Wollongong**

- ✓ Australia-based Deakin and Wollongong - will be the first foreign universities to set up campuses in India.
- ✓ The two Australian universities will soon establish campuses in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in Gandhinagar.
- ✓ The universities will sign an agreement on setting up their campuses during Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's maiden visit to India next week.

SCHEME

➤ **VAIBHAV Fellowship Scheme**

- ✓ 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.

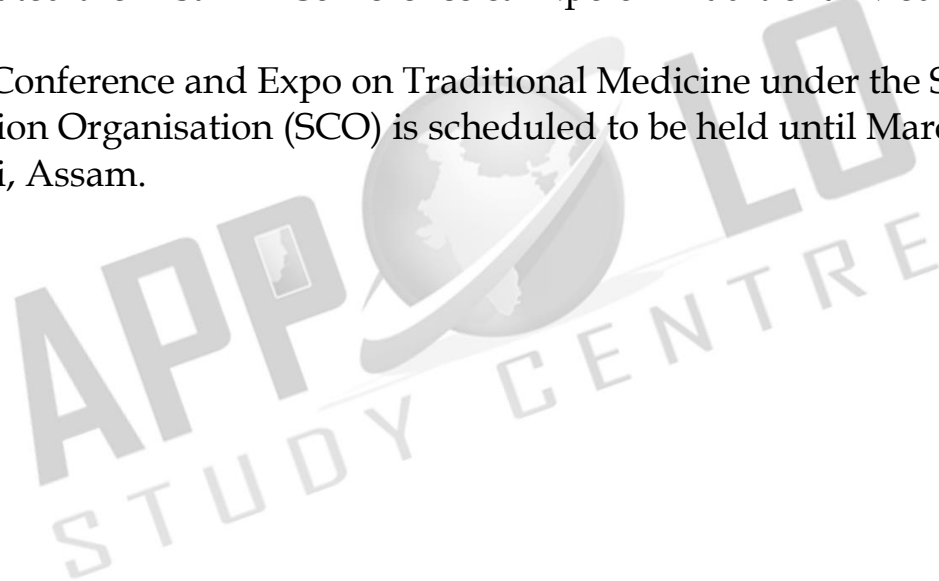
CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

➤ **Dharma Dhamma Conference**

- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu - inaugurated the 7th International Dharma Dhamma Conference in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh on March 3.
- ✓ The three-day conference with the theme 'Eastern Humanism for the New Era'.
- ✓ The conference aims to bring together religious, political and thought leaders from Dharma-Dhamma traditions to build a philosophical framework for the emerging new world order.

➤ **B2B Conference & Expo on Traditional Medicine**

- ✓ Union Minister of Ayush and Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal - inaugurated the first B2B Conference & Expo on Traditional Medicine on March 2, 2023.
- ✓ The B2B Conference and Expo on Traditional Medicine under the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is scheduled to be held until March 5, 2023, at Guwahati, Assam.



DEFENCE

➤ **Exercise Shinyuu Maitri**

- ✓ The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in Exercise Shinyuu Maitri with the Japan Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) from 1-2 March 2023.
- ✓ The exercise is being organised on the sidelines of the Indo-Japan Joint Army Exercise, Dharma Guardian.
- ✓ Dharma Guardian is being conducted from 13 February to 2 March at Komatsu, Japan.

➤ **FRINJEX-23**

- ✓ Indian Army and French Army will participate in the 'FRINJEX-23', a joint military exercise on 7- 8 March.
- ✓ The aim of the exercise is to enhance inter-operability, coordination, and cooperation between both forces.
- ✓ The theme for the exercise is based on "Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Operations in a Contested Environment". This exercise will strengthen the Indo-France strategic partnership at the tactical level.

➤ **International Maritime Exercise 2023**

- ✓ 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).

➤ **Shaliza Dhani**

- ✓ In the first command appointment for a woman officer in the Indian Air Force, Group Captain Shaliza Dhani has been selected to take over the command of a frontline combat unit in the Western sector, the IAF said on Tuesday.
- ✓ "Having been commended by the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief on two occasions, the officer is presently posted in the Operations branch of a frontline Command Headquarters.

➤ **Express 2023 (IMX/CE-23)**

- ✓ The International Maritime Exercise/Cutlass Express 2023 (IMX/CE-23) is being organized in the Gulf region from February 26 to March 16, 2023.

- ✓ The exercise aims to enhance maritime security and ensure safe sea lanes for maritime commerce, with over 50 nations and international maritime agencies participating. It is one of the largest multinational maritime exercises.
- **TROPEX-23**
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ TROPEX is being conducted in many phases to test Navy's transition from peacetime to hostilities.
- **Naval Commanders' Conference 2023**
- ✓ The first edition of the Naval Commanders' Conference 2023 – was recently held onboard India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant.
- ✓ The conference served as a platform for Naval Commanders to discuss important security issues at the military-strategic level.
- ✓ The first phase of the Commanders' Conference was held at sea, and for the first-time, onboard INS Vikrant.
- **Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX)**
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ The partnership exercise was conducted on March 10-11.
- **La Perouse**
- ✓ The third edition of the multilateral naval exercise 'La Perouse' - kicked off in the Indian Ocean on March 13.
- ✓ The biennial exercise La Perouse is conducted by the French Navy, Royal Australian Navy, Indian Navy, Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force, and the United States Navy.
- ✓ It aims to enhance maritime domain awareness and optimise maritime coordination.
- **Bold Kurukshetra**
- ✓ 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. Both armies participated in the first command post exercise in the series, which included computer war gaming and planning components at the battalion and brigade levels.



AWARDS

➤ **FIFA Awards**

- ✓ On February 27, World Cup champion Lionel Messi - secured the FIFA's best men's player award for the seventh time in 14 years.
- ✓ After steering Argentina to World Cup glory in an epic final against Mbappe's France last year in Qatar, Messi won the best player vote against Mbappe and Karim Benzema.
- ✓ In the FIFA Awards vote, Messi had 52 points, Mbappe 44, and Benzema 34.

➤ **Porter Prize 2023**

- ✓ Porter Prize 2023 was conferred recently to the Indian Government's Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ✓ The award recognized the achievements of the ministry in the health sector, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ It recognized India's successful delivery of more than 2.5 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines and the role of stakeholders like ASHA workers.
- ✓ The Prize is named after Michael E. Porter- an economist and researcher.

➤ **Government Leadership Award 2023**

- ✓ India - has been awarded the GSMA 'Government Leadership Award 2023' for implementing best practices in telecom policy and regulation.
- ✓ The award was presented at the GSMA's Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2023 event in Barcelona.
- ✓ The GSMA's 'Government Leadership Award' recognises world-class leadership in the establishment of sound regulatory policies for mobile connectivity.

➤ **BBC Indian Sportswoman of The Year for 2022**

- ✓ Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu won the 2022 BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award on 5 March 2023.
- ✓ She becomes the first athlete to win the award twice in a row after winning for the year 2021.

➤ **Avvaiyar Award 2023**

- ✓ On March 8, Chief minister M K Stalin - presented the Avvaiyar Award 2023 to R Kamalam Chinnasami, a 90-year-old writer and social worker based in Ooty at an International Women's Day programme held at Ethiraj College for Women in Chennai.

➤ **Girl Child Empowerment Award 2022-23**

- ✓ The CM presented the Girl Child Empowerment Award 2022-23 to Class XI student M Ilampirai from Salem district for inventing new equipment to prevent deaths during repairing lifts in multi-storey buildings.

➤ **95th Academy Awards - Naatu Naatu Song**

- ✓ SS Rajamouli's RRR - has created history by becoming the first Indian feature film to win an Oscar at the 95th Academy Awards in Los Angeles, United States.
- ✓ The film's 'Naatu Naatu' soundtrack composed by MM Keeravani was awarded the Best Original Song Award.
- ✓ The song had lyrics by Chandrabose, vocals by Rahul Sipligunj and Kaala Bhairava and was shot at Mariinskyi Palace in Kyiv, Ukraine.
- ✓ Earlier, the popular song from RRR won big at the Golden Globes 2023.

➤ **The Elephant Whisperers**

- ✓ The Elephant Whisperers, a Netflix documentary Short Film from Kartiki Gonsalves and Guneet Monga, has won the 95th Academy Awards' Best Documentary Short Film Category.
- ✓ This is the first Indian film to win an Academy Award in this category.
- ✓ The movie is set in the Mudumalai National Park in Tamil Nadu.

➤ **Pacific Area Travel Writers Association (PATWA) Award**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu - bagged the Pacific Area Travel Writers Association (PATWA) international travel award at the International Travel Bourse-2023, held at Berlin, Germany.
- ✓ The state was chosen for the award under the category of the best tourist destination for heritage and culture.
- ✓ State tourism Minister, K Ramachandran was selected as the best tourism minister across the country.

➤ **Golden & Silver Star at 'Golden City Gate Tourism Awards**

- ✓ The International Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2023 in the categories of "TV/Cinema Commercials International and Country International" were won by the Indian Ministry of Tourism and Government of India, respectively.
- ✓ On March 8, 2023, at ITB, Berlin, Shri Arvind Singh, Secretary (Tourism), Government of India, accepted the honours.

ECONOMY

➤ GST - February 2023

- ✓ The gross goods and service tax (GST) revenue collection in the month of February 2023 - stood at Rs 1,49,577 crore.
- ✓ The revenues for the month of February 2023 are 12% higher than the GST revenues in February 2022, which was Rs 1.33 lakh crore.
- ✓ Among the major states, Tamil Nadu recorded a growth of 19%, Karnataka of 18%, Maharashtra of 15%, Uttar Pradesh 14% and Gujarat of 8% in collections for February.

➤ Digital payments - \$10 trillion by 2026

- ✓ Boston Consulting Group (BCG), in collaboration with PhonePe, India's leading digital payments company, today unveiled a report titled, "**Digital payments in India: A US\$10 trillion opportunity**".
- ✓ India's digital payments market will more than triple to \$10 trillion by 2026.
- ✓ In a country witnessing rapid growth, it comes as no surprise that India also has one of the fastest-growing fintech landscapes in the world, driven primarily by the advancement in the digital payments segment.

APPOINTMENT

➤ Xi Jinping

- ✓ China's superpower Xi Jinping becomes 5-year President for the third term.
- ✓ He has been the General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party and came into power in 2012.
- ✓ Also, he served as President of the People's Republic of China.
- ✓ His ally, Li Qiang is elected as the new Premier of China along with others for Xi's Cabinet.

PERSONALITIES

➤ Rizwana

- ✓ WHO puts Kerala girl on World Hearing Day poster.
- ✓ Rizwana, an MBBS student, underwent cochlear implantation as a child; her case proves that early screening can prevent permanent disability.
- ✓ It is Ms. Rizwana's story that World Health Organisation (WHO) India has chosen to put on its poster on World Hearing Day (March 3) to send out this powerful message to millions.

➤ Surekha Yadav

- ✓ Surekha Yadav, Asia's first woman loco pilot - has now become the first female to operate the newly-introduced semi-high speed Vande Bharat Express train.
- ✓ On March 13, Surekha Yadav achieved the feat as she piloted the semi-high speed train between Solapur station and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in Mumbai.
- ✓ Hailing from Satara in the western Maharashtra region, Surekha Yadav became India's first female train driver in 1988.

➤ Colonel Geeta Rana

- ✓ Colonel Geeta Rana - has become the first woman officer to take over command of an independent field workshop in the Eastern Ladakh sector with China.
- ✓ Rana's appointment comes after the army, in February-end, began assigning women officers to command roles for the first time, outside the medical stream.
- ✓ Rana trained at the Chennai-based Officers' Training Academy, and was commissioned into the army in 2000.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

➤ **Tillyardembiids**

- ✓ Fossils of the oldest known insect and the world's first plant pollinators called "tillyardembiids" were discovered in March 2023 in Russia.
- ✓ They were discovered along the riverbank near the village of Chekarda in Russia.
- ✓ It is estimated to be around 280 million years old, predating the previously-known pollen covered insects by about 120 million years.

➤ **Megha-Tropiques-1 or MT-1**

- ✓ ISRO - successfully completed the controlled reentry for the decommissioned satellite Megha-Tropiques-1 or MT-1 on March 7.
- ✓ ISRO progressively lowered the satellite's perigee (nearest point to Earth) through a series of 20 manoeuvres, spending about 120kg fuel since August 2022.
- ✓ The latest telemetry has confirmed that the satellite re-entered the Earth's atmosphere and would have disintegrated over the Pacific Ocean.

➤ **NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)**

- ✓ On March 7, the US consulate, Chennai - said that the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) landed in Bengaluru on a US Air Force C-17 aircraft from Nasa-JPL in California.
- ✓ NISAR, an Earth-observation satellite. It is expected to be launched in January 2024 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh.

➤ **Mimeusemia ceylonica**

- ✓ Researchers - have spotted *Mimeusemia ceylonica*, a rare moth species, for the first time in India in Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli districts in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The findings are based on moth surveys conducted twice a month since 2018.
- ✓ According to the researchers, George Hampson recorded *Mimeusemia ceylonica* at Thirukonamalai in Sri Lanka in 1893 and it was not recorded elsewhere across the world since then.

➤ **Influenza Subtype H3N2**

- ✓ The first recorded death from H3N2 this year was of an 82-year-old man in Karnataka's Hassan district.
- ✓ H3N2 is a non-human influenza virus that normally circulates in pigs and has infected humans.
- ✓ This virus is known to be a subtype of Influenza A virus.

REPORT

➤ **'Indian States' Energy Transition'**

- ✓ Karnataka and Gujarat – were ranked as the top states in the country that have made maximum progress towards clean electricity transition.
- ✓ This is based on a new report on India's energy transition, prepared by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) along with EMBER.
- ✓ The report – 'Indian States' Energy Transition' – has analysed 16 states, which together account for 90% of India's annual power requirement.

➤ **Landslide Atlas Report**

- ✓ The two hill districts of Rudraprayag and Tehri in Uttarakhand - have been ranked first and second respectively among 147 districts from across the country which have the "maximum exposure to landslide risk in the country".
- ✓ This was revealed in the 'Landslide Atlas' report prepared by National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- ✓ The Landslide Atlas of India used the satellite data of ISRO to map all seasonal and event-based landslides like the Kedarnath disaster in 2013 and landslides triggered due to Sikkim earthquake in 2011.

RANKING

➤ **Academic Freedom Index Report**

- ✓ India's academic freedom index - is in the bottom 30% among 179 countries, according to the Academic Freedom Index report.
- ✓ The indicators include freedom to research and teach; freedom of academic exchange and dissemination; institutional autonomy of universities; campus integrity; and the freedom of academic and cultural expression.
- ✓ India was behind immediate neighbours Nepal (0.86), Pakistan (0.45) and Bhutan (0.46) and before Bangladesh (0.25) and junta-ruled Myanmar (0.01).

➤ **Electoral Democracy Index 2023**

- ✓ India ranks 108 in the Electoral Democracy Index of the V-dem Democracy report 2023.
- ✓ In 2022, India's ranking was 100th position in Electoral Democracy Index (EDI). This report has named India as one of the top 10 autocratising countries in the last 10 years. India has been ranked 97 in the Liberal Democracy Index.
- ✓ India has been placed in the bottom 50 percent of the LDI index. Denmark is in the first position with a score of 0.89 in the Liberal Democracy Index.

➤ **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**

- ✓ India remained the world's top arms importer, according to a report released by Stockholm-based defence think-tank SIPRI on March 13.
- ✓ India retained its top position among 167 major arms importers with 11% share.
- ✓ According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the five largest arms importers in the world during 2018-22 were India (11%), followed by Saudi Arabia (9.6%), Qatar (6.4%), Australia (4.7%) and China (4.7%).

➤ **World Air Quality Index 2022**

- ✓ The Swiss-based company IQAir has released World Air Quality Index for the year 2022 where it has ranked India in the 8th position, earlier it was fifth.
- ✓ African country Chad acquires the first position as it is the world's most polluted country in the world.
- ✓ India and Pakistan are on alert as they have the most polluted cities in the world amid depleting environmental conditions across the globe.

IMPORTANT DAYS

➤ **World Seagrass Day 2023 - March 01**

- ✓ World Seagrass Day is celebrated annually on 1st March to raise awareness about seagrass and its important functions in the marine ecosystem.
- ✓ The seagrasses are grass-like plants that live close to the sea.
- ✓ They are the only flowering plant to grow in the marine environment. They act as the best carbon sink and provide food for marine life.

➤ **World Civil Defence Day 2023 - March 01**

- ✓ World Civil Defence Day is observed on 1st March to raise awareness about the importance of civil defence measures in protecting people and their property from natural disasters, accidents, and other emergencies.
- ✓ The theme for this year is “Uniting the world’s leading specialists for the safety and security of future generations”.

➤ **Zero Discrimination Day 2023 - March 01**

- ✓ On Zero Discrimination Day, 1 March, we celebrate the right of everyone to live a full and productive life and live it with dignity.
- ✓ Zero Discrimination Day is helping to create a global movement of solidarity to end all forms of discrimination.
- ✓ On Zero Discrimination Day this year, under the theme “Save lives: Decriminalise”.

➤ **World Wildlife Day - March 03**

- ✓ World Wildlife Day is celebrated every year to raise awareness about various issues that impact the wildlife and to help conserve them.
- ✓ The 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) designated March 3 as World Wildlife Day on December 20, 2013.
- ✓ The theme for this year's World Wildlife Day is “Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation”.

➤ **World Hearing Day 2023 - March 03**

- ✓ World Hearing Day is observed every year on March 3 to raise awareness about hearing care. It is being observed since 2007.
- ✓ The World Health Organization chose the theme “Ear and hearing care for all” for World Hearing Day 2023.

➤ **National Security Day 2023 – March 04**

- ✓ India celebrates National Security Day on March 4 every year. Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas is another name for it, and it is a holiday honouring the Indian Security Forces.
- ✓ The National Safety Council of India announced the theme for this year to be 'Nurture young minds – Develop safety culture'.

➤ **National Safety Day 2023 – March 04**

- ✓ National Safety Day is observed on March 4 annually with an in aim to promote safe working environment and ensure safety of people in all aspects.
- ✓ This year will mark the onset of the 52nd National Safety Day.
- ✓ The theme for 2023 National Safety Day is 'Our Aim – Zero Harm'.

➤ **World Obesity Day 2023 – March 04**

- ✓ World Obesity Day is observed on March 4 every year to promote practical solutions and help people achieve and maintain a healthy weight while undertaking proper treatment.
- ✓ Around the world, approximately 800 million people are living with the disease.
- ✓ World Obesity Day returns on 4 March 2023 with the theme: 'Changing Perspectives: Let's Talk About Obesity'.

➤ **International Day for Disarmament & Non-Proliferation Awareness 2023 – March 05**

- ✓ Observed on 5 March, the International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness plays a role in deepening the global public's understanding about how disarmament efforts contribute to enhancing peace and security, preventing and ending armed conflicts, and curbing human suffering caused by weapons.

➤ **International Women's Day: March 08**

- ✓ International Women's Day is observed on 8 March every year.
- ✓ Theme 2023 - "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality".
- ✓ On March 8, 1975, the United Nations celebrated its first official International Women's Day during International Women's Year.

➤ **International Kidney Day – March 09**

- ✓ The day is observed every year to raise awareness about the importance of kidneys for good health and to minimise the prevalence and effect of renal disease.
- ✓ It is observed across the world every year on the second Thursday of March.

- ✓ Theme 2023 - "Kidney Health for All - Preparing for the unexpected, supporting the vulnerable".

- **International Day Of Mathematics: March 14**
 - ✓ International Day Of Mathematics is observed every year on 14 March.
 - ✓ It is also known as PI day.
 - ✓ The theme for 2023 is Mathematics for Everyone.
 - ✓ It also coincides with the birth anniversary of scientist Albert Einstein.

- **International Day Of Action For Rivers: March 14**
 - ✓ International Day Of Action For Rivers is observed every year on 14 March.
 - ✓ It aims to raise awareness about the importance of rivers and the need to protect them from various threats.

- **World Consumer Rights Day - March 15**
 - ✓ The day is observed every year in order to raise awareness about consumer rights and promote consumer protection.
 - ✓ The date was chosen to commemorate the historic speech given by US President John F. Kennedy in 1962 to the US Congress to uphold consumer rights.
 - ✓ Theme 2023 - 'Empowering Consumers Through Clean Energy Transitions.'

