

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—MARCH 5, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- **On March 4, Chief Minister M K Stalin - released the logo of the state government's sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the official handles on social media**
- ✓ The event is aimed at creating awareness and to disseminate information on SDG related activities of the state.
- ✓ The chief minister also released books on the occasion, including one on 'Tamil Nadu Investing in the SDG 100 Initiatives'.
- ✓ These books provide information to the policy makers to monitor the programs and special initiatives.
- ✓ Another book on 'Cluster District Meeting-Localisation of SDGs' contains the details of the district-level meetings to focus on the importance of SDGs among the officers at the district and block-level
 - ✓ It also lists out the steps required to be taken to achieve the goals at the village-level.
- ✓ The 'SDG Fact Sheet' released during the occasion is useful in tracking the progress of the state with respect to the sustainable development goals
- ✓ The book on 'SDGs at Panchayat Level Thematic Approach' can be used by elected representatives, government departments, corporate and NGOs.

STATES

- **Conrad Sangma - will take the oath of office on March 7 as Meghalaya chief minister for a second consecutive term**
- ✓ State governor Phagu Chauhan invited Sangma to form the next government on March 4
- ✓ The new government will be a 32-legislator coalition of three parties—NPP, BJP, and HSPDP—and independents in the 60-member assembly.



- ✓ Sangma's National People's Party (NPP) bagged 26 seats in the elections held on February 27 and results declared on March 2
- ✓ Two MLAs each of BJP and Hill State People's Democratic Party (HSPDP), and two more independents, are supporting the coalition.
- **On March 4, the Karnataka government and Taiwanese iPhone maker Foxconn - signed a letter of intent to establish a major facility in Bengaluru.**



- ✓ The electronics manufacturing plant is expected to come up on a 300-acre site near the Bengaluru international airport.
- ✓ The total investment will be more than \$500 million, and may even exceed \$1 billion over time.
- ✓ As per the letter of intent, the proposed investment would happen between 2023 and 2027, and that the project would employ about 1 lakh people.
- ✓ Foxconn is one of the world's largest assemblers of Apple products and it is expected that the Bengaluru plant will also make Apple products.
- ✓ The proposed Karnataka investment is part of a major effort by Foxconn to move some of its manufacturing out of China, as relations between the US and China deteriorate.
- ✓ Foxconn already has a facility in Tamil Nadu that makes Apple products.
- ✓ Last year, the company, together with Anil Agarwal's Vedanta, announced plans to establish a display fabrication and semiconductor facility in Gujarat.

- ✓ The latest announcement would make Foxconn the second facility in Karnataka to make these products.
- ✓ Wistron, another Taiwanese company, has a plant in Kolar that has been manufacturing iPhones for the last five years.

NATIONAL

- **The Centre - will celebrate the fifth edition of 'Jan Aushadhi Diwas' on March 7**



- ✓ The Department of Pharmaceuticals has planned events in different cities across the country, starting with Jan Aushadhi Jan Chetna Abhiyan from March 1, to raise awareness about the Jan Aushadhi Scheme,
- ✓ The nationwide programme will comprise customised vehicles that will travel across several states and on March 7, state governments will also take part in events.
- ✓ During the week, a Jan Aushadhi Pratigya will be launched wherein 30 'Pratigya Yatra' will be carried out across 30 cities nationwide.
- ✓ To mark the occasion with women-centric beneficiaries, women doctors interacted with females on women's health issues on March 3.
- ✓ The Centre-run department of pharmaceuticals contains a total of 1,759 medicines and 280 devices, such as surgical items, oximeters, BP monitors, thermometers etc.
- ✓ The Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers
- ✓ Under this scheme, dedicated outlets known as Jan Aushadhi Kendras are opened to provide generic medicines.
- ✓ The Jan Aushadhi scheme was launched in November 2008 with the objective of having at least one Jan Aushadhi Store in each district of the country.
- ✓ The target of opening 3000 Kendras was achieved in December 2017.
- ✓ The medicines under the scheme are priced on the principle of a maximum of 50% of the average price of the top three branded medicines

- ✓ At present IT-enabled warehouses under the scheme are functional at Gurugram, Chennai, Guwahati and Surat
- ✓ As of February 28, 2023, 9177 Jan Aushadhi Kendras are functional across the country
- ✓ The Government has set a target to increase the number of Jan Aushadhi Kendras to 10,000 by the end of December 2023

INTERNATIONAL

- **The sacred oil which will be used to anoint King Charles at his coronation in May - has been consecrated in Jerusalem**



- ✓ The holy oil will be used to anoint Charles when he and his wife Camilla are crowned on May 6, in what is considered the most sacred part of the solemn ceremony.
- ✓ The Chrism oil has been consecrated at a ceremony in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem
- ✓ The Chrism oil will be symbolically touched to the 74-year-old monarch's head, chest and hands as part of the religious ceremony at Westminster Abbey in London during his coronation as King Charles III.
- ✓ His wife, Camilla, will also be anointed Queen Consort with the same holy oil.
- ✓ The oil was used for the coronation of the late Queen Elizabeth 70 years ago and is based on a formula used for hundreds of years
- ✓ It was pressed from olives harvested on the Mount of Olives, which plays a prominent role in the Bible, and has been perfumed with sesame, rose, jasmine, cinnamon, neroli, benzoin, amber oil and orange blossoms
 - ✓ Charles' paternal grandmother, Princess Alice of Greece, is buried at the Monastery of Mary Magdalene on the Mount of Olives.
- ✓ Charles became king on September 8 following the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, who reigned for more than 70 years.
- ✓ The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby will conduct the service during the ceremony

- **Contaminated cough syrups made by India-based Maiden Pharmaceuticals and imported into Gambia – was found to have almost certainly caused the deaths of 66 children due to acute kidney injury**
- ✓ This was revealed according to an investigation led by the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention and Gambian health authorities.
- ✓ This is the third report to link the four cough syrups made by Maiden Pharmaceuticals to the acute kidney injuries among children of the West African country between August and December last year.
- ✓ The four products are Promethazine Oral Solution, Kofexmalin Baby Cough Syrup, Makoff Baby Cough Syrup and Magrip N Cold Syrup.
- ✓ Last October, the WHO raised a medical product alert for four syrups manufactured by Haryana-based Maiden pharmaceuticals, linking it to the acute kidney injury and deaths
 - ✓ It had found diethylene glycol (DEG) and ethylene glycol (EG), two industrial chemicals, in huge quantities in the four paediatric formulations — ranging from 1.0%-21.30%.
- ✓ Maiden denied the allegations, even though its manufacturing unit in Sonapat was shut down by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation.
- ✓ A Gambian parliamentary probe had concluded that Maiden Pharmaceuticals was 'culpable' of the deaths and 'should be held accountable'.
- ✓ The Indian government, had, however, cleared the name of the firm in the incident after finding no contamination in the testing of control samples of the same batch that was exported to Gambia
- ✓ However, the WHO had refused to accept this report and issued a renewed alert against the four products in question, in January this year
- ✓ Incidentally, Maiden Pharmaceuticals has been flagged earlier also for exporting substandard medicines.
- ✓ Vietnam had blacklisted the firm in January 2011, and also 45 other Indian companies, allegedly over substandard quality of medicines.

- **Nobel Peace Prize winner and human rights activist Ales Bialiatski - was sentenced to 10 years in jail by a court in his native Belarus on March 3**



- ✓ Bialiatiski was one of three recipients of the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize in October 2022 for his work promoting human rights and democracy
 - ✓ He shared the Prize with Russian rights group Memorial and Ukraine's Center for Civil Liberties.
 - ✓ Bialiatiski remained in prison during the Nobel ceremony and his wife accepted the award in his behalf.
 - ✓ As per the court verdict, Bialiatiski was found guilty of smuggling and financing activities that "grossly violated public order"
 - ✓ Bialiatiski, 60, is a co-founder of the Viasna human rights group and has been at the centre of protests that gripped Belarus after the re-election of long-time leader Alexander Lukashenko as President in 2020.
 - ✓ After his re-election, Lukashenko unleashed a brutal crackdown on the protesters, the largest in the country's history, with more than 35,000 people arrested, and thousands were beaten by police.
 - ✓ President Alexander Lukashenko, a staunch ally of Russia, has ruled the ex-Soviet country with an iron hand for nearly 30 years since 1994.
 - ✓ Viasna took a leading role in providing legal and financial assistance to those imprisoned during the protests.
 - ✓ Bialiatiski was arrested along with two others from his organisation in 2021.
- **Saudi Arabia - is set to introduce yoga in its universities due to its significance for mental and physical health.**
- ✓ In this regard, several agreements will be signed with major universities in Saudi Arabia to support and promote yoga over the next few months
 - ✓ 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

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **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' has been organised by India Foundation in collaboration with Sanchi University of Buddhist-Indic Studies.
 - ✓ The conference will have 45 speakers in the inaugural session, a ministers' session, keynote session and five plenary sessions to discuss various sub-themes, along with 115 paper presentations by experts from India and abroad in 15 sessions
 - ✓ Fifteen countries are participating in the conference being held at the Kushabhau Thakre International Auditorium in Bhopal
 - ✓ 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.
 - ✓ Representatives from Bali, Indonesia, Thailand, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Royal Government of Bhutan are amongst the international delegates and speakers invited to the conference
 - ✓ India Foundation is a New Delhi-based independent think tank that focuses on issues, challenges and opportunities of Indian polity
- **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.
- ✓ The conference aims to promote traditional medicines at the global level and to discuss the possibilities of traditional medicine in enriching the quality of human lives.
- ✓ More than 150 delegates from 17 countries are likely to attend this first-of-its-kind four-day international summit.

- ✓ Official delegates from China, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan will be joining the conference in online mode.
 - ✓ The conference witnessed sessions like 'Regulatory Framework for Traditional Medicine Products', with detailed presentations by Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and India.
 - ✓ India assumed the Presidency of the SCO Council of Heads of State for the year 2023 on September 17, 2022, at Samarkand in Uzbekistan.
- **The Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela - was held in New Delhi from March 2 to 4, 2023**
- ✓ The event is being organized by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)
 - ✓ The theme of this year's fair is "Nutrition, Food and Environmental Protection with Shree Anna".



- ✓ Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the fair
- ✓ During his inaugural speech, the Union Minister said that, to make the small farmers prosperous, the Prime Minister has bestowed Millets with the name "Shree Anna" and has also planned several programs.
- ✓ Shree Anna is being widely promoted throughout the world through the International Year of Millets
- ✓ Tomar gave away awards to Progressive dedicated farmers and released publications during the event
- ✓ Live demonstrations of important varieties of wheat, mustard, gram, vegetables, flowers, and fruits have also been done at the fair

DEFENCE

- **The South Korean and US militaries – have decided to go ahead with the Freedom Shield exercise, a computer-simulated command post training, from March 13-23 to strengthen their defense and response capabilities.**
- ✓ The exercise will be conducted despite North Korea's threats to take unprecedented strong action against such training.

- ✓ The training would focus on North Korean aggression, lessons learned from recent conflicts and the changing security environment.
- ✓ During the exercises, the allies will also conduct a number of large-scale joint field training, called Warrior Shield FTX, to improve their operation execution capabilities
- ✓ North Korea test-fired more than 70 missiles last year, the most ever for a single year.
- ✓ Many of the missiles tested nuclear-capable weapons designed to strike the U.S. mainland and South Korea.
- ✓ South Korea and the United States have been expanding their military exercises in the face of evolving North Korean nuclear threats

BUSINESS/ECONOMY

- **Adani Group flagship, Adani Enterprises (AEL) - has been declared as a preferred bidder for a bauxite block in Odisha.**
- ✓ The Ballada bauxite block in Odisha's Koraput district has resources of more than 22 million tonnes.
- ✓ AEL has routed the bauxite bid through its 100% subsidiary Mundra Aluminium.
- ✓ The Odisha government has issued a letter of intent with respect to the Ballada bauxite block to its arm Mundra Aluminium.
- ✓ This will help the conglomerate enter the aluminium sector in the country, where the leading players are Kumar Mangalam Birla-owned Hindalco, Anil Agarwal-controlled Vedanta, and state-owned enterprise Nalco.
- ✓ Bauxite is a type of aluminium ore and is one of the main sources to create the metal.
- ✓ Last August, group chairman Gautam Adani announced a proposed investment of Rs 57,575 crore to set up an alumina refinery in the vicinity of bauxite reserves and an iron ore project in Odisha.

AWARDS

- **The Union Health Ministry - has been awarded the Porter Prize 2023 for successfully combating the Covid-19 crisis.**
- ✓ The prize was announced at The India Dialog, organized by Institute for Competitiveness (IFC) and US Asia Technology Management Center (USATMC) at Stanford University last month.
- ✓ The award was presented to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) in the virtual presence of Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya
- ✓ The theme of the two-day conference was The Indian Economy 2023: Innovation, Competitiveness and Social Progress.
- ✓ The prize recognizes the strategy followed by the government of India in managing Covid-19, the approach and involvement of various stakeholders, especially the involvement of ASHA workers in the industry to create PPE kits

- ✓ The award presenters elaborated on three cornerstones of India's strategy -- containment, relief package, and vaccine administration.
 - ✓ Porter Prize is named after US citizen Michael E Porter, an economist, researcher, author, advisor, speaker and teacher.
 - ✓ His research has received numerous awards and Porter is the most cited scholar today in economics and business
- **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 is an association representing mobile operators and the global mobile industry, and the organiser of the MWC.
- ✓ The GSMA's 'Government Leadership Award' recognises world-class leadership in the establishment of sound regulatory policies for mobile connectivity

SPORTS

- **The inaugural Women's Premier League (WPL) - kicked off at DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on March 4**



- ✓ In the first match of the league, Mumbai Indians crushed Gujarat Giants by 143 runs to stamp their authority with an all-round show
 - ✓ The five teams taking part in the inaugural edition of WPL are Mumbai Indians (MI), Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), Delhi Capitals (DC), UP Warriorz (UPW) and Gujarat Giants (GG).
 - ✓ India captain Harmanpreet Kaur has been named as MI captain while opener Smriti Mandhana will lead RCB's women's team.
 - ✓ Australian skipper Meg Lanning will be the captain of Delhi Capitals, while Beth Mooney has been named as captain for Gujarat Giants and Australian wicketkeeper and batter Alyssa Healy is leading UP Warriorz.
 - ✓ The Women's Premier League will be held from March 4 to 26, with all matches being played at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai and the Dr DY Patil Sports Academy in Navi Mumbai.
 - ✓ The tournament final will be played at the Brabourne Stadium, Mumbai, on March 26.
- **Karnataka – defeated first-time finalists Meghalaya 3-2 to emerge champions at the 76th National Football Championship for the Santosh Trophy at the King Fahd International Stadium in Riyadh on March 4.**



- ✓ Karnataka last won the title 54 years ago and they became the first to win the national championship on foreign soil.
 - ✓ The semi-finals and final of the oldest national championship was played outside the subcontinent for the first time after the All India Football Federation (AIFF) signed a MoU with the Saudi Arabia Football Federation.
- **The national level ultra cycling race, Race Across India – has commenced in Srinagar recently on March 1**
- ✓ The race has been termed Asia's first longest ultra-cycling race which is recognized by the World Ultra-Cycling Association (WUCA), the highest authority in ultra-cycling events.

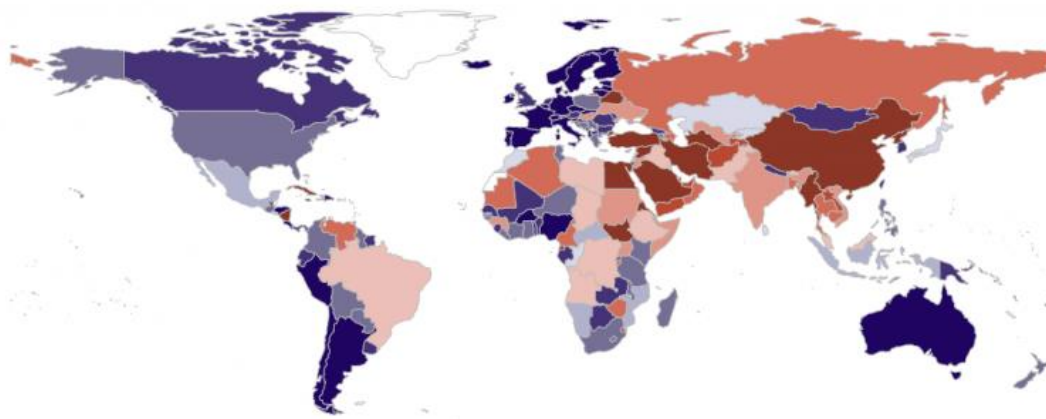
- ✓ It will be the longest cycling race in the country, with solo and relay teams participating from different corners of the country and the world
- ✓ The 3651-kilometer-long race with a total elevation gain of 18950 metres will start from Srinagar, J&K and end in the southern tip of the Indian Peninsula, Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ It will span across 12 states and over 20 major cities and will be completed in 12 days



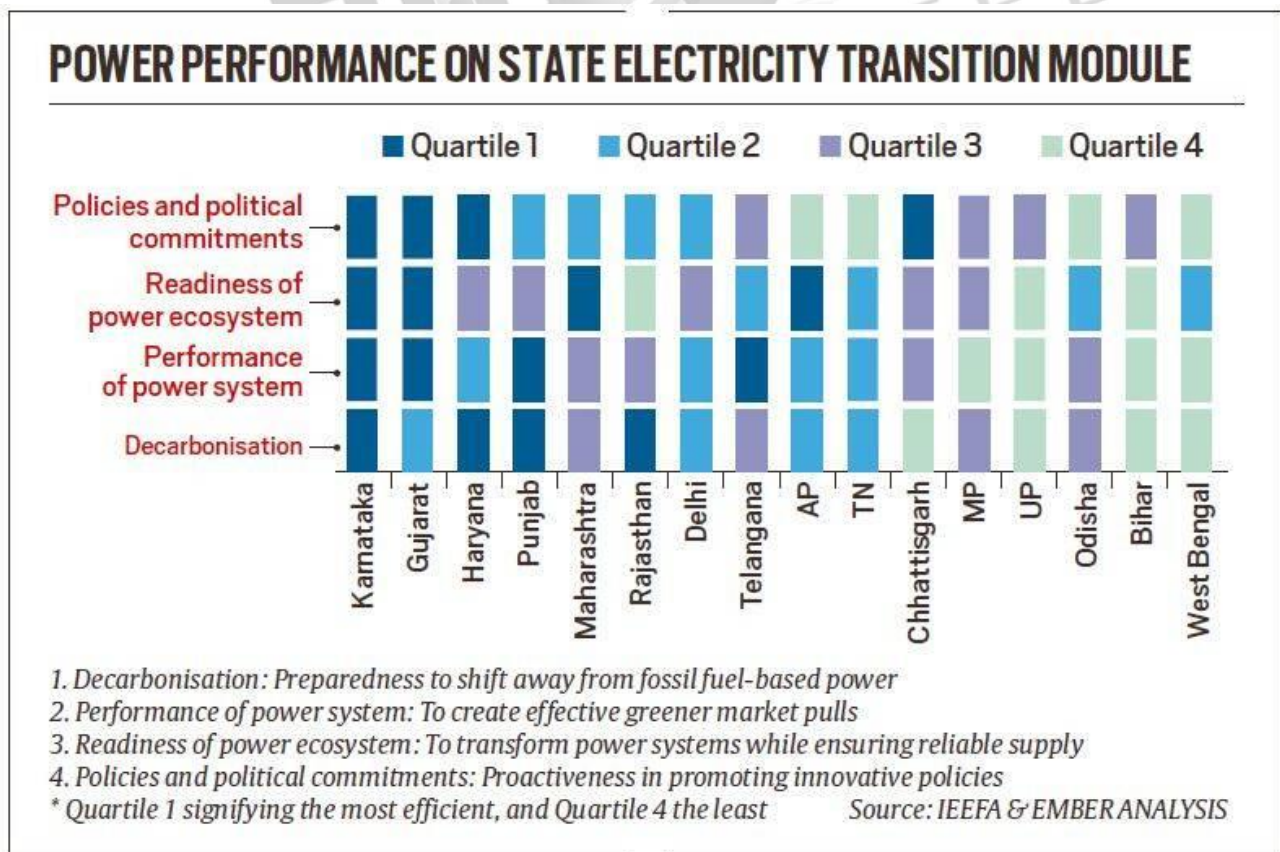
- ✓ India's first differently-abled Super Randonneur, Olympic triathlete, and silver medallist at Para Cycling Championship 2022, Geeta S Rao is participating in this year's race
- ✓ Rao, who has polio in her left leg, will be riding the cycle only with one leg power and push.
- ✓ She is the only woman taking part in this cycling race.

RANKINGS

- India's academic freedom index - is in the bottom 30% among 179 countries, according to the Academic Freedom Index report



- ✓ The report provides an overview of academic freedom by assessing five indicators.
 - ✓ 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
 - ✓ The index is based on assessments by more than 2,197 country experts from around the world.
 - ✓ As per the report, India had received a score of 0.38 in a table of 0 to 1, where 1 is the highest academic freedom
 - ✓ 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).
 - ✓ The country fared poorly in campus integrity, institutional autonomy and academic and cultural expression related to political issues.
 - ✓ The country's freedom index score was high in the past, ranging from 0.60-0.70 between 1950 and 2012, except from 1974-1978
 - ✓ Only five small countries, representing 0.7% of the global population, improved their rankings.
- **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.
- ✓ The report has measured the performance of these states in terms of four dimensions - decarbonisation, performance of the power system, readiness of the power ecosystem, and policies and political commitments.
- ✓ Based on this analysis, the report devises a scoring system — States' Electricity Transition, or SET — which measures performance of different states in the transition to clean electricity.
- ✓ As per the report, Karnataka is the only state that scored well across all four dimensions of clean electricity transition identified in this study
- ✓ States like West Bengal, Bihar and UP are lagging far behind in the field in terms of clean energy transition

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Hearing Day - March 3



- ✓ The day is observed every year to raise awareness of hearing loss and to promote ear and hearing care.
- ✓ Theme 2023- 'Ear and hearing care for all! Let's make it a reality'
- ✓ The day was commemorated for the first time in 2007 under the name 'International Ear Care Day'
- ✓ Later, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared World Hearing Day in 2016
- ✓ WHO will release a new training handbook called the 'Primary ear and hearing care training manual' on this day.
- ✓ According to WHO, by 2050, about 2.5 billion people are projected to face some degree of hearing loss.

