

15th March 2023

INTERNATIONAL

1) Denmark inaugurates a project

- Denmark inaugurates a project to store carbon dioxide 1,800 metres beneath the North Sea, the first country in the world to bury CO2 imported from abroad.
- The CO2 graveyard, where the carbon is injected to prevent further warming of the atmosphere, is on the site of an old oil field.
- Led by British chemical giant Ineos and German oil company Wintershall Dea, the "Greensand" project is expected to store up to eight million tonnes of CO2 per year by 2030.

NATIONAL

1) The government intends to start operating the first bullet train in August 2026

- According to railways and telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, the first bullet train in India will begin service in August 2026.
- The project will stimulate the economy because several of the suppliers to the project have begun receiving export orders.
- The government intends to start operating the first bullet train in August 2026. The goal is to run the bullet train on a larger section in 2027.



2) Environmental, Social, and Governance Law issues

- In recent years, Environmental, Social, and Governance Law issues have become a significant area of concern for businesses, governments, and individuals around the world.
- India is no exception to this trend, with the country's corporate sector and regulators increasingly focused on ESG-related matters.























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- As we enter 2023, it is worth taking a closer look at the state of Environmental, Social & Governance Law India 2023 (ESG law in India) and what the future holds for this rapidly evolving area.

3) India's Wholesale price index

- India's Wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation eased below the 4 per cent-mark in February and was recorded at 3.85 per cent, data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry showed. In January, the WPI inflation figure was 4.73 per cent.
- This is the lowest since January 2021 when the WPI inflation was 2.51 per cent. According to the data released, the decline in the rate of inflation in February is primarily due to the fall in prices of crude petroleum & natural gas, non-food articles, food products, minerals, computer, electronic & optical products, chemicals & chemical products, electrical equipment and motor vehicles, trailers & semi-trailers.



4) Competition Commission of India

- Competition Commission of India said that it has cleared Reliance Industries Ltd's Rs 2,850 crore acquisition of the Indian business of German retailer Metro AG.
- The deal, announced nearly three months ago, will help Reliance strengthen its wholesale format and cement its position as the biggest player in India's burgeoning retail industry with stores spanning electronics, groceries and fashion.

5) Bandhan Mutual Fund

- IDFC Mutual Fund has rebranded itself as Bandhan Mutual Fund. The change in name will be effective from March 13.
- All the schemes of the fund house will be renamed to replace the word 'IDFC' with the word 'Bandhan'. The rebranding includes a change of the name and the logo.
- According to the fund house, the name and ownership change will have no bearing on the investment strategy and processes of the schemes.















6) State Bank of India

- State Bank of India has raised Rs 3,717 crore through its third Basel III compliant Additional Tier 1 bond issuance in the current financial year at coupon rate of 8.25 per cent.
- SBI said the issue attracted overwhelming response from investors with bids of Rs 4,537 crore and was oversubscribed by about 2.27 times against the base issue of Rs 2,000 crore.
- The total number of bids were 53 indicating wider participation. The investors were across provident and pension funds and insurance companies.

7) Operation 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 wargaming and planning components at the battalion and brigade levels.
- Participants in the exercise, which was held by the Indian Army, included members of the 42nd Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment, as well as an Indian Army Armoured Brigade.



8) "Shared Buddhist Heritage"

- With a focus on India's civilizational connections with the SCO states, the two-day international conference of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on "Shared Buddhist Heritage" was launched at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- This historic gathering brings together Central Asian, East Asian, South Asian, and Arab nations to discuss "Shared Buddhist Heritage" and is the first of its kind.
- It takes place under India's leadership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) (from September 17, 2022, to September 23, 2023) for a year.















9) World Health Organization

- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), H3N2 is a variant of the common flu. Seasonal influenza is an acute respiratory infection caused by influenza viruses that circulate in all parts of the world, says WHO.
- These are classified into various subtypes. Currently circulating in humans are subtype A (H1N1) and A (H3N2) influenza viruses.

10) SpaceX launched a Falcon 9 rocket

- SpaceX launched a Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station with 40 more internet satellites for rival OneWeb, followed by the landing of the rocket's first stage booster back at the Florida spaceport.
- The two-stage Falcon 9 lifted off from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida at 2:13 p.m. EST (1913 GMT).
- The rocket's first stage came back to Earth right on schedule, touching down on a landing pad at Cape Canaveral about 7 minutes and 50 seconds after launch.



11) 'Global Air Quality'

- According to the 'Global Air Quality' study published by the Swiss company IQAir, India fell from the fifth to the eighth most polluted nation in the world in 2022.
- The research shows that the PM2.5 level in the most polluted Indian cities is 53.3. The two Indian cities that made the list of the most polluted cities in the world are Bhiwadi, which is a suburb of Delhi, and Delhi, which was not far behind at 92.6.
- At the same time, 39 out of 50 cities in the list of most polluted cities are from India.























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STATE NEWS

1) "Resham Keet Bima"

- Ganesh Joshi, the state's agriculture minister, said that Uttarakhand launched the country's first "Resham Keet Bima" programme to safeguard its sericulturists.
- 200 sericulturists from five blocks in four districts—Dehradun, Haridwar, Udham Singh Nagar, and Nainital—received insurance in the first phase of the pilot project, which started in Uttarakhand.
- This insurance protected them from the effects of climate change, water scarcity, and other dangers.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESGINATIONS

1) Tablesh Pandey and M. Jagannath

- Tablesh Pandey and M. Jagannath have been appointed as the managing directors of the Life Insurance Company (LIC).
- Tablesh Pandey will take over on April 1, 2023, and M. Jagannath will start working on March 13, 2023. Raj Kumar and BC Patnaik are the two managing directors that left the company this week. There are currently four managing directors at LIC.



2) Amitava Mukherjee

- Amitava Mukherjee, NMDC Director (Finance), has been given the additional responsibility of Chairman-Cum-Managing Director.
- Mukherjee, an Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS) officer from the 1995 batch, has a Master's in Commerce from Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya in Bilaspur and is also a Cost Accountant.
- His leadership enabled the timely completion of NMDC Steel Ltd's demerger from NMDC Ltd. His areas of expertise are project management, digital initiatives, and policy formulation.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1) International Day of Mathematics, also known as Pi Day





















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- Every year on March 14, the International Day of Mathematics, also known as Pi Day, is observed to honour the mathematical constant Pi, which expresses the proportion of a circle's circumference to its diameter.
- The value for Pi is 3.14. Every year, all nations are welcome to take part in events that are open to the public and students in schools, museums, libraries, and other locations. At its 205th meeting, the Executive Council of UNESCO declared March 14 to be the International Day of Mathematics.
- According to the celebration's official website, the theme for Pi Day 2023 is "Mathematics for Everyone," which was suggested by Marco Zarco Rotairo of Trece Martires City National High School in the Philippines.

2) International Day to Fight Islamophobia

- In 2022, the United Nations established the International Day To Fight Islamophobia, which is observed annually on March 15 across 140 nations.
- March 15 was selected as the date because it marks the anniversary of the Christchurch mosque massacres, which left 51 people dead.
- The UN has approved a resolution designating March 15 as the International Day to Fight Islamophobia, which was put forth by Pakistan and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

3) International Consumer Rights Day

- Every year on March 15, the International Consumer Rights Day is observed with the goal of promoting consumer protection and increasing global knowledge of consumer rights.
- The day is also used to raise awareness of global market inequities. The yearly celebration of cooperation among the global consumer movement.
- On this day, consumers everywhere promote their fundamental rights, call for their protection and observance, and denounce unfair trade practises.













