



ACSA

**AGRASEN CIVIL SERVICES ACADEMY**

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**1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

# **WEEKLY** **Current Affairs**

For

**UPSC / RPSC**

*and All Other Competitive*

**EXAMS**



- 1,300 year-old Buddhist stupa found in Odisha
- Prime Minister of India Jan Aushadhi Project
- UIDAI
- Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission
- Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD)
- SwachhSujal Shakti Samman 2023
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- World Report: India Philanthropy Report 2023

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## Current Affairs of 1 March to 7 March 2023

### 1,300 year-old Buddhist stupa found in Odisha

The Archaeological Survey of India recently discovered a 1,300-year-old Buddhist stupa near Jagannath temple located in Puri. The stupa was discovered during a mining operation. Khondalite stone is mined here. It is a metamorphic rock and was used in the construction of the Puri Jagannath temple.

#### About the Stupa

- The discovered stupa is 4.5 metres tall.
- It belongs to the 7th or 8th century
- Located in the Prabhadi site

The stupa was discovered in the Prabhadi site of Odisha. The prabhadi site is located near Lalitagiri, a major Buddhist complex. Lalitagiri has many stupas, Buddha images, and monasteries.

### India-UK Young Professionals Scheme

The UK Government recently launched the Young Professionals Scheme. Under the scheme, Indian nationals of age 18 years to 30 years can live and work in Britain for up to two years.

#### About the scheme

To avail of the benefits of the scheme, the person should be an Indian citizen, he or she should be between 18 to 30 years old, should have at least 2,350 pounds in savings

Persons entering through the scheme can set up the company. However, the equipment used in the company should not exceed 5,000 pounds. And such people cannot hire employees

The scheme is not for family members

People availing of the benefits of the scheme cannot work as sports persons

#### Observation

The scheme says Indians can live and work in "Britain". What does this mean? The names UK, England, and Britain are not the same. They denote different geographical areas. The UK is a country that comprises England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. Britain or Great Britain means England, Scotland, and Wales. It does not include Northern Ireland. When the name reads England, it does not include Scotland, Wales, or Northern Ireland.

So the scheme is not applicable to Northern Ireland. Why? There are disputes between the UK and Northern Ireland. Issues are geopolitical, trade-related, and also related to Brexit.

### Clean Plant Centres:

The Indian government plans to establish 10 Clean Plant Centres to promote domestic production of crops like apples, almonds, grapes, avocados, and blueberries, which have seen an increase in demand for imported planting materials. They will be set up under the Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Program. The centres will offer diagnostic, therapeutic, and plant multiplication services, with an overall budget of Rs 2,200 crore until 2030. These are to be established along the lines of such facilities in the USA, Israel and the Netherlands.







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The Clean Plant Centres are those places that work to improve the health of the plants. It produces healthy and disease-free plantings.

## **How are Clean Plants made?**

First, the harmful pathogens in the plant are removed. Virus-tested and disease-resistant tissues are isolated and injected into healthy plants.

## **What is AtmaNirbhar Clean Plant Program?**

The Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Program was announced in the Union Budget 2023-24. It aims to reduce the challenges of obtaining disease-free and genuine planting materials for horticultural crops in India.

Who implements AtmaNirbhar Bharat Clean Plant Program?

The National Horticulture Board will implement the program, in partnership with research organizations, agriculture universities, and private sector entities.

## **What is the need for Clean Plant Centre?**

The major challenge in horticulture is creating disease-free plantings. So far, India was importing the plantings. There was no plant centre in the country to produce healthy plantings.

## **What are the benefits of Clean Plant Centres?**

The clean plant centres will help India reduce its dependence on other countries. Usually, India buys plant materials and uses them for multiple seasons by storing the material. Now, with the plant centres, the storing period has also been reduced to just six months. Fresh plantings shall be prepared. Harvest of trees grown from stored plantings are always less as compared to that of fresh plantings.

## **Prime Minister of India Jan Aushadhi Project**

The Union Health Minister had recently announced that 9,082 JanaushadhiKendras are being operated under the PradhanMantriBhartiyaJanaushadhiPariyojana (PMBJP). The target is to increase the number to 10,000 by December 2023. Government of India launched PMBJP in November 2008 to make quality generic medicines available to all at affordable prices. The initiative involves the opening of Jan AushadhiKendras across India that offer affordable generic medicines and surgical items.

## **What is PradhanMantriBhartiya Jan AushadhiPariyojana?**

PMBJP is implemented by the Pharma and Medical Bureau of India (PMBI), formerly known as Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI). The objective of the program is to increase awareness about generic medicines and create employment opportunities by encouraging entrepreneurs to open PMBJP centres. Over the years, it has helped economically marginalized people access affordable medicines without compromising on quality.

## **What are generic medicines?**

Generic drugs are equivalent. Let's say a company invented drug A to cure disease B. The company will patent drug A and acquire the rights to market A. For the specified period, no other company will manufacture or sell drug A in the market. After a certain time period, other companies may work on drug A, learn its formula and manufacture it. The same medicine produced by other manufacturers is called a generic medicine.





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## Exercise Desert Flag VIII

Exercise Desert Flag VIII is scheduled to be conducted from February 27 to March 17 this year. It is a multilateral air exercise which includes participation from UAE, France, Kuwait, Australia, UK, Bahrain, Morocco, Spain, Republic of Korea and US. It aims at interoperability and sharing of best practices of various combat functions of different air forces. United Arab Emirates is hosting the exercise.

## India in Desert Flag Exercise VIII

The Indian Air Force contingent participating in the exercise comprises 110 air warriors along with 5 LCA Tejas and two C-17 Globemaster III aircraft. This is the first time that the LCA Tejas aircraft has been included in an international flight exercise outside India. The Indian contingent recently arrived at Al Dhafra airbase in UAE.

## What is the purpose of the Desert Flag exercise?

To provide operational exposure to the participating troops. Also to train them to operate in a controlled environment. The exercise offers various combat engagements. Countries share their best practices during the exercise.

## What is Desert Flag?

This is the flag that is put in front of off-road vehicles. It is widely used in dusty areas. The flag is mounted on a pole so that it stands tall and is visible above the cloud of sand. Desert flags are also called sand flags.

What is the significance of Exercise Desert Flag?

The exercise helps the participating countries to test the performance of their armed forces. War-like situations are created during military exercises. With such scenarios the soldiers get a chance to hone their fighting skills. The joint military exercise will lead to good relations between the participating countries. They will learn to defend their common interests. The Indian Ocean region is a common interest of all the participating countries. And most of the participants believe that China is the cause of trouble in the region!

## Sant Sewalal Maharaj Jayanti

Sant Sewalal Maharaj Jayanti is being celebrated at the national level for the first time. This year is the 284th birth anniversary of Saint Sewalal Maharaj. The celebrations are being organized by the Union Ministry of Culture under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. It is being organized at Dr Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.

## Who is Saint Sewalal Maharaj:

Sant Sewalal Maharaj was a spiritual leader and social reformer of the Banjara community. He is known to have traveled far and wide to try and eradicate the superstitions of the tribal community and bring about social reforms in the area. It is said that he was well versed in Ayurveda and Naturopathy.

Shri Sewalal fought for the rights of the Kshatriya Banjaras on forests in the present Karnataka-Maharashtra region. He also fought for the rights of their language and identity. He fought against the ruler of Mysore and the British rulers of the 18th century. He was the first leader to provide security and hope to the Banjaras of that time.





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He died at Ruhigarh and was buried at Pohragarh. The locations are now in Maharashtra. He worshiped Jagadamba and hence, his samadhi was built near his temple. Jagdamba Temple is one of the popular destinations of Banjaras.

## **nomad flag**

Every Banjara village in India has a saffron or white or red flag. The flag symbolizes the victory of Saint Seval. He won the battle to protect the rights and identity of the Banjaras.

## **Who are the Banjaras?**

Banjaras are not included as tribes in the Constitution of India. According to a survey conducted in 1968, there are 17 subgroups in the Banjara community. They are Dharia, Charan, Mathuria etc. The culture of Banjaras is a mixture of Marwari and Brahminical.

## **UIDAI**

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has recently introduced a new security mechanism for Aadhaar-based fingerprint authentication. It aims to ensure rapid detection of spoofing attempts by using artificial intelligence and machine learning capabilities. The new system uses a combination of both finger minutia and finger images to check the lifelikeness of the captured fingerprint. It will introduce two-factor/layer authentication, further enhancing the security of the system.

## **What is UIDAI?**

UIDAI is a statutory body established by the Government of India in January 2009. It comes under the aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. It functions on the basis of the provisions of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016.

## **world wildlife day 2023:**

World Wildlife Day is celebrated by the United Nations on 3 March. The main objective of the festival is to raise awareness about the wild flora and fauna.

## **Why is World Wildlife Day celebrated on 3 March?**

Because CITES - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora was adopted on March 3, 1973. It is a multilateral treaty. The World Wildlife Day of 2023 is special because this year CITES is celebrating its 50th anniversary. The main objective of CITES is to protect endangered plants and animals. The members of IUCN passed a resolution for the formation of CITES in 1963. CITES ensures prevention of trade in endangered plants and animals.

**Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission:** A milestone has been achieved under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), as over 25 crore health records have been successfully linked to the Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts. This will help with the easy access and management of health records using any ABDM-enabled health apps.

## **What is ABHA?**

The Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts consist of 14-digit numbers. The number is used to identify the persons and thread their health records across multiple stakeholders and systems.







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## **What is Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission?**

The ABDM was launched by the Indian Government in September 2021 to connect the digital health solutions of various hospitals with each other. It makes use of Ayushman Bharat Health Account or ABHA numbers. Its objective is to ensure ease of living and simplify hospital-related processes. It prevents the loss of medical records and increases the efficiency of healthcare services.

## **What is Windsor Framework?**

The 'Windsor Framework' introduces a green lane for goods that will stay in Northern Ireland and a red lane system for goods that will reach the European Union. It also introduces the 'Stormont Brake' that allows the lawmakers in Northern Ireland and the UK to veto any EU regulations that may adversely impact the region. The veto requires support from 30 members from at least 2 parties in Northern Ireland. The British government is then allowed to veto the legislation.

## **What are the changes introduced by Windsor Framework?**

To understand this, we first need to learn about certain political factors. Great Britain is the main island and it includes England, Wales, and Scotland. The United Kingdom includes Northern Ireland and Great Britain. Now, earlier the goods will be checked in Northern Ireland before entering Ireland. Now with the new framework, some goods are receiving exemptions from the checking.

## **What is the issue?**

The two Irelands have been disputing for a long time. They settled their disputes through the Belfast Agreement only in 1998. The agreement is also called the Good Friday Agreement.

## **What is the significance of the Windsor Framework?**

With the Windsor Framework, the UK is now out of the "Northern Ireland Protocol" issue. It was a protocol issued by the Former UK PM Boris Johnson.

## **What is Northern Ireland Protocol?**

It was a part of the Brexit agreement. According to the agreement, checks were to be conducted between Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and not between Northern Ireland and Ireland. However, there was waste of time and resources. And also taxation issues. So, a check-free agreement has been brought in.

## **Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD)**

The preliminary surveys conducted by the Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) found the presence of lithium reserves in the Madhya district of Karnataka. They indicate the presence of some 1,600 tonnes of the resource in pegmatite rocks. This comes after the Central Government has started taking steps to initiate commercial exploration for the rare mineral in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

## **What are pegmatite rocks?**

Pegmatites are rare earth minerals. They are igneous rocks. Tungsten, apatite, fluorite, tourmaline, and aquamarine are some of the pegmatite rocks. They are very much similar to granite. Pegmatites are found mostly in Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Odisha.





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## What is AMD?

The AMD is the oldest unit of India's Department of Atomic Energy. It is responsible for discovering mineral deposits needed for the country's nuclear power program. Founded in 1948 as the Rare Minerals Survey Unit, it was later renamed the Raw Materials Division and the Atomic Minerals Division before taking its current name in 1998. The organization is headquartered in Hyderabad and has seven regional centres.

## What is the work of AMD?

It conducts surveys to explore raw materials required for atomic power in the country. Though the major work of AMD is to find out Uranium resources in the country, it also works to recover rare earth metals.

## Who controls AMD?

The AMD operates under the Department of Atomic Energy. It is under the direct purview of the Prime Minister of the country. PM looks after the Ministry of Atomic Energy. The AMD is one of the research wings of the Atomic Energy department. AMD headquarters is in Hyderabad, The other research wings are BARC in Mumbai, IGCAR in Kalpakkam, RRCAT in Indore, and VECC in Kolkata.

## History of AMD

The AMD started as a rare minerals survey unit in 1948. Later it was transformed into the atomic minerals division in 1958. In 1998, it became AMD.

## 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.

## Fostering Academic and Research Collaborations

The VAIBHAV Fellowship scheme will facilitate academic and research collaborations between Indian higher education institutions and leading institutions abroad. This will help to boost India's research capabilities, leading to innovative and impactful research in various fields.

The scheme will promote the mobility of faculties or researchers from overseas institutions to India, allowing them to share their knowledge and expertise with Indian researchers. The exchange will facilitate the transfer of knowledge, skills, and technology, helping to build a stronger and more vibrant research community in India.

## Eligibility Criteria for VAIBHAV Fellowship

To be eligible for the VAIBHAV Fellowship scheme, applicants must be non-resident Indians (NRIs), Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs), or Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs). They must have obtained a Ph.D./M.D./M.S. degree from a recognized university and be currently engaged in an overseas academic, research, or industrial organization with a proven R&D track record.

Applicants must also plan to work for at least one month, up to a maximum of two months, each year at an Indian research/academic institution. This commitment will allow them to contribute their expertise to Indian research and academic institutions, promoting collaboration and knowledge-sharing.





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## Benefits of the VAIBHAV Fellowship Scheme

The VAIBHAV Fellowship scheme will provide numerous benefits for both Indian and overseas researchers. Indian researchers will benefit from access to cutting-edge research techniques and technologies, as well as exposure to different research cultures and methodologies. Overseas researchers, in turn, will have the opportunity to engage with India's rich cultural heritage and learn from its diverse population.

## India Philanthropy Report 2023

The India Philanthropy Report 2023 was released by non-profit Dasra and consulting firm Bain & Company. According to this report, the contributions by ultra-high net worth individuals (UHNIs) in India to the social sector have declined by 5% in the financial year ending March 2022, when the donations made by Wipro founder chairman Azim Premji are excluded.

## What does the India Philanthropy Report say?

The report revealed that UHNIs' donations decreased to INR 3,843 crore in FY22 from INR 4,041 crore in FY21. In contrast, corporate social responsibility spending increased by 5%, amounting to INR 27,000 crore in 2021-22. Overall, India's total social sector expenditure has been seeing a 15% annual growth over the last 5 years. Most of this spending was from the government's side. The report highlights the need for private philanthropy to play a larger role in meeting the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

## Who are BandiSinghs?

There are protests in Punjab to release the Bandi Sikhs, who are prisoners. The Bandi Sikhs are in jail for more than 30 years now. They have been imprisoned for various convictions.

BandiSinghs is the common term given to Sikh prisoners who were convicted for being involved in militant activities in the Indian state of Punjab. These individuals are still incarcerated in various jails across India.

## Protests related to BandiSinghs

Activists are urging for the release of BandiSinghs since the militancy in Punjab has been wiped out in the 1990s and the convicted individuals have been spending over 3 decades in jails while suffering from physical and mental ailments. Campaigns are being conducted in Punjab to ensure the release of these prisoners.

## What is the recent protest about BandiSinghs?

The BandiSinghs issue has remained a religiopolitical issue in the state and recently, the Sikh GurdwaraParbandhak Committee launched a massive signature campaign seeking their release. The issue is popping up now for political reasons. The ShiromaniAkali Dal is allied with the SGPC and the BJP trying to woo the Punjab voters. The protest is mainly against the AAP government.

## ShiromaniGurdwaraParbandhak Committee

It is an organization that manages Gurudwaras. It looks after Gurudwaras in the states of Punjab and HP. Also, it administers the Darbar Sahib in Amritsar. It was founded by the Akali leadership in 1920. The Akali movement launched during the 1920s led to the introduction of the Sikh Gurudwara Bill in 1925. The bill put the Sikh temples in the country under the control of the ShiromaniGurdwaraParbandhak Committee.

## What do the protestors want?







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According to the protestors, the prisoners have spent more than 30 years in jail. During the punishment period, they faced several hardships. So the protestors are asking the Government of Punjab to release those prisoners who are physically and mentally unfit

## SwachhSujal Shakti Samman 2023

The Ministry of Jal Shakti is commemorating International Women's Day by honouring women who have contributed to various programs of the Ministry through the SwachhSujal Shakti Samman 2023. The award will recognize women for their exceptional contributions to the Swachh Bharat Mission – Grameen (SBM-G), JalJeevan Mission (JJM), and National Water Mission (NWM) under various categories.

### What is the purpose of SwachhSujal Shakti Samman?

The objective of SwachhSujal Shakti Samman is to emphasise the outstanding efforts of women in the water sector and encourage others to work towards a water-secure future. This event will bring the accomplishments of women at the grassroots level to the forefront and provide them with national leadership connections.

### Who presented the SwachhSujal Shakti Samman?

President of India. The President mentioned the Nobel Laureate Michael Kremer in her address while conferring the prizes. Michael Kremer is an American economist who won the Nobel prize in economics. According to him, India can save the lives of 1.36 lakhs of children by providing safe drinking water. This is one of the reasons the Government of India came up with the JalJeevan Mission. The mission is kind of an improvisation of the National Water Mission.

## National Water Mission in the Award Ceremony

Also during the event, the Jal Shakti Abhiyan – Catch the Rain 2023- 4th in the series- and on the theme of 'Source Sustainability for Drinking Water'. The SoPs on Source Sustainability, under the National Water Mission, were also released.

### National Water Mission

It was launched in 2011. The main objective of the National Water Mission is to conserve water and reduce wastage. It aims to tackle climate change. The tagline of the National Water Mission is "Catch the rain, where it falls and when it falls".

### What is YDB-60?

The Indian Navy has received the first fully indigenized fuze YDB-60 for the underwater anti-submarine warfare rocket RGB-60. The fuze was manufactured by the private Indian Industry M/s Economic Explosives Limited (EEL) which is based in Nagpur.

### Significance of the procurement

This marks the first time that the Indian Navy has procured an underwater ammunition fuze from an Indian private manufacturer. It is a major boost for the self-reliance of the Indian defence sector. The use of simulated dynamic trial facilities during the development and manufacturing process is also a noteworthy achievement.





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## Who received YDB-60?

Vice Admiral SN Ghormade, Vice Chief of Naval Staff, received the first consignment of the fuze from the CMD of EEL, Nagpur. The technical assistance was provided by the Indian Navy's Directorate General of Naval Armament (DGONA) and Directorate General of Naval Armament Inspection (DGNAI).

## What is a Fuze?

It is part of the weapon or ammunition that initiates its function. In torpedoes, the function is to explode. Fuze may have electronic or mechanical parts. There are different types of fuze namely artillery fuze, hand grenade fuze, aerial bomb fuze, landmine fuze, naval mine fuze, etc. Apart from this, there are time fuze, impact fuze, proximity fuze, barometric fuze, combination fuze, etc.

## Initiation of the YDB-60

The demand for grants to obtain the YDB-60 fuze was placed in the Standing Committee on Defence 2014-15. The demand was placed for both Medium Range Chaff Rocket and also for the RGB-60, the anti-submarine rocket. RGB-60 has received its fuze.

## Mental State of the World Report:

The third annual mental state of the world report was released recently by a non-profit called Sapien Labs. The report is based on the survey of over 4 lakh participants across 64 countries.

## What does the report say?

According to this report, the COVID-19 pandemic has detrimental effects on mental health and interpersonal relationships. The report's mental health quotient found that, on a 300-point scale, the score of mental health fell by 33 points on average over the two years of the COVID-19 pandemic. This decline is yet to improve. It found that mental health challenges are more likely among young adults. Individuals between ages 18 and 24 have lower "social self", which measures how an individual perceives themselves and their ability to maintain a meaningful relationship. Compared to those aged 75 years and above, young adults are less likely to have close friends. The report also noted that family relationships are declining across the world. Those with no close friendships and poor family relationships are 10x more likely to have poor mental health, according to the report.

## Mental Health Quotient

The report used the Mental Health Quotient to learn about the mental health of people in different countries. The quotient was calculated based on an online survey. The participants were randomly picked from India, Spain, France, Arab countries, North Africa, Germany, and other western countries.

## What did the report say about India?

In terms of deterioration in social self, India topped the list. Social self means building relationships with others, empathizing, and communicating. Indians have become very bad at building social relationships after COVID. The MHQ of India was 58.8.

## Performance of the world countries

Tanzania had good mental health and topped the list with an MHQ of 93.6. Panama, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic were in the second, third, and fourth places respectively. The score of the USA was 67.9, Australia: 54.4, Germany: 65.9, France 74.1, UK: 46.2.





The report did not include any details about China!

## **Bulgaria's Liberation Day**

Bulgaria celebrates its Liberation Day/ Unification Day on March 3 each year. The day marks Bulgaria's freedom from Ottoman rule after almost five centuries of control. The day is observed to honour the Bulgarian volunteers who fought alongside Russian and Romanian soldiers in the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878 to free their country from Ottoman oppression. On Liberation Day, a military parade is organized in the capital city of Sofia. The wreath-laying ceremony is held at the Monument to the Unknown Soldier.

## **History of Bulgaria**

Bulgaria's history can be traced back to the First Bulgarian Empire, which was formed in 681 A.D. The empire came under Ottoman rule in 1396. Two uprisings against Ottoman control in 1875 and 1876 resulted in the signing of the Treaty of San Stefano on March 3, 1878, and the recognition of Bulgaria as an independent state.

## **National Safety Day 2023**

National Safety Day is celebrated annually on March 4 across India. It aims to raise awareness about the importance of health and safety at workplaces and create a culture of safety among the general public.

## **Why is National Safety Day celebrated?**

The National Safety Day commemorates the establishment of the National Safety Council (NSC) of India – a non-profit, non-governmental organization – in 1966. The NSC, established as a public trust under the 1950 Bombay Public Trust Act, focuses on human health safety, road safety and environmental safety protocols. It was observed for the first time in 1972.

## **The theme of National Safety Day 2023**

"Our Aim – Zero Harm". It focuses on the importance of the complete elimination of occupational hazards. The major occupational hazards are physical hazards, chemical hazards, biological hazards, physical safety hazards, and ergonomic risk factors.

## **What is SAMARTH Scheme:**

The SAMARTH (Scheme for Capacity Building in Textiles Sector) scheme is a demand-driven and placement-oriented umbrella skilling initiative that aims to provide incentives and create jobs in the organized textile industry and related sectors, covering the entire value chain of textiles, except spinning and weaving. It is implemented via Implementing Partners like state government agencies, Textile Industry/ Industry Associations and sectoral organizations of the textile ministry, like the Central Silk Board. It will be implemented until March 2024.

## **Why is SAMARTH Scheme in News?**

The Indian Government is now planning to rope in more industry partners to boost skill development under the SAMARTH scheme. This initiative is part of the steps taken by the government to make the textile sector worth 250 billion USD by the end of this decade from the present 150-155 billion USD.

## **Recent Achievements in the scheme**







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Around 92,000 weavers and artisans received jobs under this scheme. The scheme has penetrated more than 28 states and union territories. 1.5 lakh beneficiaries have been provided training under the scheme. The target of beneficiaries is 3.47 lakh beneficiaries.

## **How is the scheme being implemented?**

To implement the scheme the textiles ministry has partnered with more than 116 textile industries and associations. The scheme is a part of the Broad Skilling Policy Framework adopted by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

## **Objective**

The scheme aims to incentivise and support the efforts of the industrial sector in generating employment opportunities in the textile sector. It also aims to increase the productivity of the present workers in the textile sectors such as handicraft, jute, silk, and handloom.

## **5th Jan AushadhiDiwas**

The 5th Jan AushadhiDiwas is organized across India based on the theme “Jan Aushadhi – SastibhiAcchibhi”. It was organized from March 1 to 2 this year. It kicked off with the Jan Aushadhi Jan ChetnaAbhiyan across India. It was organized by the Union Health Ministry in collaboration with the Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India and states and union territories.

## **About the 5th Jan AushadhiDiwas**

The event has witnessed the organization of more than 34 PratigyaYatras across India, with 8 of them led by Members of Parliament on the first day. Over 5,000 citizens, including doctors, have committed to using generic medicines on the MyGov platform. Jan AushadhiPratidyaYatra, Pad Yatra was also carried out. The main objective of the divas is to spread awareness of generic medicines and also about PMBJP.

## **PradhanMantriBhartiyaJanaushadhiPariyojana**

The PradhanMantriBhartiyaJanaushadhiPariyojana was launched in November 2008 by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers. There is 9,082 PM BhartiyaJanaushadhiKendras as of January 31, 2023.

## **Objectives**

The main objective of the PMBJP is to ensure that citizens have good access to quality medicines. It aims to create awareness about generic medicines. There is an age-old custom among doctors in India of not recommending generic medicines. The current ruling government wanted to change this. And PMBJP was one of the initiatives that works to change this custom. It also generates employment by opening PMBJP Kendra.

How are medicines procured in PMBJP?

Medicines are procured from private manufacturers and also from the CPSUs. After procuring the medicines are tested in NABL-approved laboratories. After their approval, the medicines are distributed to the PradhanMantriJanushadhi Kendra.

## **CBIP Award 2022:**





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CBIP Award 2022 was conferred recently to NTPC Limited for the 'Outstanding Contribution in Power Generation'. The award recognizes the role of Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Station – the largest power station in India – in efficiency and high-level power generation.

## **When was the CBIP Award presented?**

The award was conferred on the occasion of the CBIP Day, to individuals and institutions in recognition of their outstanding contributions in the fields of water, power and renewable energy development. The Central Board of Irrigation and Power is an Indian government institute set up in 1927. It provides services related to the fields of power, water resources and renewable energy sectors.

## **What is CBIP?**

CBIP is the Central Board of Irrigation and Power. It was established in 1927. It works in the areas of renewable energy, power, and water resources. It monitors research projects. Some of the research projects monitored by CBIP are Research Scheme on Plasticulture Development, Research Scheme on Flood Control, and Research Scheme Applied to River Valley Projects. Apart from this, CBIP also publishes international journals. The most popular CBIP journal is the Water and Energy International Journal.

## **Why was NTPC awarded?**

In recent years, the performance of the company has shot up tremendously. The company is the leading power generator in India. In February 2023, the S&P ranked NTPC as the world's Number 1 power producer. The company contributes 25% of the total power generated in the country. The company was awarded for the following reasons:

NTPC takes control of the underperforming power stations in the country and converts them into profit-making assets. For instance, after the NTPC undertaking, the Unchchar Power Station is running successfully and is now generating 420 MW of power. The Talcher power station is generating 460 MW of power. And the Tanda Power station is generating 440 MW of power. These three power stations were running at loss. They started showing improvements after NTPC took control.

## **Jan Aushadhi Train:**

The Jan Aushadhi Train was flagged off recently in New Delhi by union ministers Dr MansukhMandaviya and ShriAshwiniVaishnaw. It was launched as part of the week-long celebrations commemorating the Jan Aushadhi scheme. This is the second such train to be flagged off to create awareness about the scheme.

## **What is the purpose of the Jan Aushadhi Train?**

The train, Chhattisgarh Samparkranti Express, seeks to raise awareness about Jan Aushadhi Generic medicines that are available through more than 9,000 Kendras spread across India. It is wrapped with the branding of the Jan Aushadhi scheme. It will travel to more than 4 states, including Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, over 2 months. It will cover 1,278 km.

## **Jan Aushadhi Day**

It is commemorated on March 7 every year. The main purpose of the day is to spread awareness of the PradhanMantriBhartiya Jan AushadhiPariyojana. The scheme focuses on increasing the usage of generic medicines.





## Why should we promote generic medicines?

Generic medicines are less expensive and therefore are highly affordable to BPL families. Unfortunately, trust in generic medicines is very less. Doctors are hesitant to recommend generic medicines. This is because; medical experts always use techniques and products that have proven history.

## Current Affairs Quiz : 1 March TO 7 March 2023

1. HUID Number, which was seen in the news, is associated with which element/product?

- [A] Rice [B] Cotton  
[C] Gold [D] Lithium

Correct Answer: C [Gold]

EXP-Hallmark Unique Identification (HUID) number is a unique 6-digit alphanumeric code consisting of numbers and letters. It is stamped manually on a piece of jewellery to ensure purity and fitness of gold via third party assurance to the customers. The Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution announced that the sale of gold jewellery and gold artefacts without the HUID number is prohibited in India from April 1, 2023.

2. Which institution has designed the 'Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS)'?

- [A] HAL [B] DRDO  
[C] BEL [D] ISRO

Answer: B [DRDO]

EXP-The Indian Army has proposed the acquisition of an indigenous Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) to fill critical capability gaps in high altitude regions. The ATAGS has been designed by the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) to replace the current 155 mm artillery system in service, the Bofors towed guns.

3. As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report for 2021-22, what is the employment fraction in the farm sector?

- [A] 26.5 % [B] 32.5 %  
[C] 45.5 % [D] 55.5 %

Answer: C [45.5 %]

EXP-The recently released annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report for 2021-22 shows that the farm sector employs a significant proportion of the labor force in India, at 45.5%. Structural transformation in economics is the shift in labor force from agriculture to high-productivity sectors like manufacturing and modern services. It is expected to result in increased productivity and higher incomes.

4. Which organisation released the 'Women, Business and the Law Index'?

- [A] World Bank  
[B] World Economic Forum  
[C] International Monetary Fund  
[D] Asian Development Bank

Answer: A [World Bank]

EXP-According to the recently released Women, Business and the Law Index by the World Bank, although most countries have implemented laws to ensure gender equality, there is still a significant gap between men and women in terms of legal rights and provisions.

India's score in the index on the life cycle of a working woman is at 74.4 out of a possible 100. As per the report, the laws affecting the Indian working woman's pay and pension do not provide for equality with Indian men.







# AGRASEN CIVIL SERVICES ACADEMY, JAIPUR

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5. Which country has claimed to have discovered around 8.5 million metric tons of lithium ore?

- [A] Australia    [B] Iran
- [C] Israel        [D] UAE

Answer: B [Iran]

EXP-Iran has claimed to have discovered a lithium deposit in the western province of Hamedan. It is found to contain around 8.5 million metric tons of lithium ore. Lithium is a soft, silver-white metal belonging to the alkali metal group of elements. It is highly reactive and flammable, and it is stored in mineral oil or other liquids to prevent it from reacting with moisture or air. It is commonly used in rechargeable batteries for electronic devices and EVs.

6. What is the theme of National Safety Day 2023?

- [A] Our Aim – Zero Harm
- [B] Our Aim- Zero Accident
- [C] Health and Safety
- [D] Elimination of Occupational Hazard

Answer: A [Our Aim – Zero Harm]

EXP:The National Safety Day is celebrated on March 4 across India every year. It aims to raise awareness about the importance of health and safety at workplaces and create a culture of safety among the general public. The National Safety Day commemorates the establishment of the National Safety Council (NSC) of India in 1966. It was observed for the first time in 1972. The theme for National Safety Day 2023 is 'Our Aim – Zero Harm'.

7. 'SAMARTH scheme', which was seen in the news, is associated with which Ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Textiles
- [B] Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- [C] Ministry of Home Affairs
- [D] Ministry of Defence

Answer: A [Ministry of Textiles]

EXP:The SAMARTH (Scheme for Capacity Building in Textiles Sector) scheme is an umbrella skilling initiative that aims to provide incentives and create jobs in the textile industry.

It will be implemented until March 2024. The Indian Government is planning to rope in more industry partners to boost skill development under the SAMARTH scheme. This initiative is part of the steps taken by the government to make the textile sector worth 250 billion USD by the end of this decade from the present 150-155 billion USD.

8. Which institution released the 'Mind the Gender Gap' Report?

- [A] SEBI
- [B] CFA Institute
- [C] Oxfam International
- [D] Amnesty International

Answer: B [CFA Institute]

EXP:The report titled 'Mind the Gender Gap' was released recently by the CFA Institute. It is created based on the data from BRSR (Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report) disclosures.

The BRSR framework was released in 2021 by SEBI as a set of sustainability disclosure mechanism for private companies. According to the Mind the Gender Gap report, women's participation rate in finance and related sectors is low in India. Only 21.7 percent of women are employed in financial services companies and only 15.9 percent are employed in key managerial positions.

9. Central Board of Irrigation and Power (CBIP) award was conferred on which institution?





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- [A] REC [B] NTPC  
[C] ONGC [D] GAIL

Answer: B [NTPC]

EXP: Central Board of Irrigation and Power (CBIP) Award 2022 was conferred recently to NTPC Limited for the Outstanding Contribution in Power Generation.

The award recognizes the role of the largest power station in India- Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Station, in efficient and high-level power generation. The award was conferred on the occasion of the CBIP Day. CBIP is an Indian government institute set up in 1927. It provides services related to the fields of power, water resources and renewable energy sectors.

10. Which institutions released the report titled 'More than a billion reasons: The urgent need to build universal social protection'?

- [A] World Bank- ILO  
[B] UNICEF- ILO  
[C] UNESCO- ILO  
[D] World Bank – UNICEF

Answer: B [UNICEF- ILO]

EXP: A report titled "More than a billion reasons: The urgent need to build universal social protection" was released recently by the International Labour Organization and UNICEF.

It revealed that only 26.4% of children between the ages of 0 and 15 are protected by social welfare programs. The report also found that 1.77 billion children aged 0 to 18 years do not have access to child or family cash benefits.

11. As per the 'Indian States' Energy Transition' report, which states made the most progress in transition to clean electricity?

- [A] Karnataka and Gujarat  
[B] Telangana and Tamil Nadu  
[C] Gujarat and Punjab  
[D] Haryana and Himachal Pradesh

Answer: A [Karnataka and Gujarat]

EXP:

Karnataka and Gujarat are among the major states making the most progress in transition to clean electricity.

This is according to a new report on 'Indian States' Energy Transition', prepared by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) along with EMBER. The report has analysed 16 states, which together account for 90% of India's annual power requirement.

12. Which Union Ministry launched the 'Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC)'?

- [A] Ministry of Finance  
[B] Ministry of Electronics and IT  
[C] Ministry of Home Affairs  
[D] Ministry of Defence

Answer: B [Ministry of Electronics and IT]

EXP: The Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar launched the Grievance Appellate Committee. It is a faceless dispute resolution mechanism that makes digital platforms accountable to Digital Nagriks. The mechanism is an important part of the overall framework of making the internet Open, Safe, Trusted and the digital platforms accountable.





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13. Which bank has completed the acquisition of Citigroup's India consumer business?

- [A] HDFC Bank
- [B] Axis Bank
- [C] ICICI Bank
- [D] Yes Bank

Answer: B [Axis Bank]

EXP: Axis Bank completed acquisition of Citigroup's India consumer business for an overall consideration of ₹11,603 crore.

The Private sector lender completed acquisition of Citibank's consumer business and non-banking financial company (NBFC) consumer business. The sale excludes Citi's institutional client businesses in India.

14. Which country announced the Indo-Pacific tech envoy?

- [A] UK
- [B] USA
- [C] Australia
- [D] Germany

Answer: A [UK]

EXP:

India and UK launched the India-Britain exchange scheme during the G20 Foreign Ministers' meeting.

British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly also announced the creation of the UK's first Tech Envoy to the Indo-Pacific region, which will boost ties with India as a priority. He will discuss progress on the UK-India 2030 Roadmap with Indian External Affairs Minister.

15. Which city is the host of the 'G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting (FMM)'?

- [A] Mumbai
- [B] Chennai
- [C] New Delhi
- [D] Ahmedabad

Answer: C [New Delhi]

EXP: G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting (FMM) is scheduled to take place in physical format in New Delhi under India's presidency.

The G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting (FMM) is one of the largest gatherings of foreign ministers hosted by any G20 Presidency. The 9 guest countries of the meeting are Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and the UAE.

16. Which Ministry implements the 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana'?

- [A] Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers
- [B] Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- [C] Ministry of Rural Development
- [D] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

Answer: A [Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers]

EXP: The Indian government launched Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP). in 2008 to provide quality generic medicines at affordable prices to everyone.

It is implemented by the Pharma & Medical Bureau of India (PMBI), which was formerly known as the Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI), under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers. Union Health Minister recently announced that 9,082 Janaushadhi Kendras are being operated under PMBJP.







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17. Dibrang Multipurpose Project, India's largest-ever hydropower project, is being set up in which state?

- [A] West Bengal
- [B] Arunachal Pradesh
- [C] Sikkim
- [D] Uttarakhand

Answer: B [Arunachal Pradesh]

EXP: Dibrang Hydropower Project, which was approved by the Central Government recently, is India's largest-ever hydropower project.

It is being set up close to China's border on the Dibrang River, in Arunachal Pradesh's Lower Dibrang Valley District. This project will be developed by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) with an estimated cost of 319 billion INR.

18. The 'Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD)' has found the presence of lithium reserves in which state?

- [A] Karnataka
- [B] Madhya Pradesh
- [C] Assam
- [D] Gujarat

Answer: A [Karnataka]

EXP:

The preliminary surveys conducted by the Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) found the presence of lithium reserves in Mandya district of Karnataka.

The Central Government has started taking steps to initiate commercial exploration after lithium reserves were discovered earlier in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The AMD is the oldest unit of India's Department of Atomic Energy.

19. When is the 'National Science Day' celebrated every year?

- [A] February 21
- [B] February 24
- [C] February 28
- [D] March 3

Answer: C [February 28]

EXP: National Science Day is celebrated in India on February 28th every year to mark the discovery of the Raman Effect by Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman.

It was observed for the first time in 1927. The day celebrates the contributions of scientists and creates awareness about the importance of science in everyday life. This discovery of Raman Scattering won Raman the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930, making him the first Indian to receive a Nobel Prize in a scientific field.

20. The United Kingdom signed 'Windsor Framework' with which institution?

- [A] ISA                      [B] EU
- [C] G-20                    [D] G-7

Answer: B [EU]

EXP: The United Kingdom signed a deal regarding post-Brexit trade rules for Northern Ireland, with a view to remove the border between Britain and Northern Ireland running through the Irish Sea.

The 'Windsor Framework' is set to replace the Northern Ireland Protocol, which had created political and economic issues between the UK and the EU after Brexit.





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21. Which state is the host of the 'Global Responsible Tourism Summit'?

- [A] Sikkim [B] Kerala  
[C] Goa [D] Himachal Pradesh

Answer: B [Kerala]

EXP: Kerala entered into an agreement with UN Women, to boost women-friendly activities in the State's tourism sector. It was signed during the first-ever Global Responsible Tourism Summit in Kumarakom, Kerala.

A memorandum of understanding agreed to work towards promoting gender-inclusive tourism sites in the State. It seeks to provide training stakeholders who include young representatives and civil organisations.

22. What is the rank of India in the International Intellectual Property Index 2023?

- [A] 26 [B] 32  
[C] 42 [D] 55

Answer: C [42]

EXP: India ranks 42nd among 55 leading global economies in the International Intellectual Property Index report released by the U.S. Chambers of Commerce.

India was at the 40th rank in the year 2021. The report covers patent and copyright laws, ability to monetise IP assets and the ratification of international agreements. Morocco and Thailand at 2.5% each and Vietnam at 2.02% had the largest improvements in their overall score.

23. Which neighbouring country of India signed MoU with ISA to increase use of solar energy?

- [A] Sri Lanka  
[B] Nepal  
[C] Bangladesh  
[D] Myanmar

Answer: C [Bangladesh]

EXP: The government of Bangladesh signed an agreement with the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to increase the use of solar energy in the country.

The agreement is to be implemented by December 2026. Bangladesh has set up a target of generating 40 percent of its total energy through renewable sources by 2041. It aims to produce 4000 MW of solar power by the end of 2030.

24. As per IMF, which country has the potential to contribute 15 per cent of the global growth in 2023?

- [A] China [B] India  
[C] Brazil [D] France

Answer: B [India]

EXP: As per the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, India has the potential to contribute 15 per cent of the global growth in 2023.

On the sidelines of the G20 meeting in Bengaluru, the IMF chief also said that India should completely focus on structural reforms, and make more opportunities for women. For FY 2023-24, IMF had projected 6.1 per cent GDP growth for India.

25. Dharoi wetland, where a bird survey was conducted recently, is located in which state?

- [A] Gujarat  
[B] Karnataka  
[C] Tamil Nadu  
[D] Kerala

Answer: A [Gujarat]





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EXP:The second edition of the two-day Bird Survey Dharoi 2023 was recently conducted at the Dharoi wetland in Gujarat.

The wetland spreads over 107 square kilometres in north Gujarat. Dharoi reservoir was created by damming Sabarmati and Harnoi rivers in 1978 as a major irrigation scheme. The maiden Dharoi Bird Survey, 2022, recorded 193 species out of the 616 found in Gujarat.

26.Which city is the host of 'International Bio-resource Conclave & Ethno-pharmacology Congress 2023'?

- [A] Mumbai [B] Imphal  
[C] Kolkata [D] Bengaluru

Answer: B [Imphal]

EXP:The 'International Bio-resource Conclave & Ethno-pharmacology Congress 2023' commences in Imphal.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated the International Biotech Conclave. For the first time since Independence, North East Region is organizing an International Conference on Biotechnology. Over 700 International and National delegates representing over 35 countries participated in the conference.

27.Which city is the host of the W20 Inception Meeting under India's G-20 Presidency?

- [A] Chennai  
[B] Kochi  
[C] Aurangabad  
[D] Bhubaneswar

Answer: C [Aurangabad]

EXP:W20 (Women 20) is an official engagement group under the G20 which was established during the Turkish presidency in 2015.

Aurangabad hosted the W20 Inception Meeting and this will be followed by two other W20 International meets at Jaipur, Rajasthan in April and at the W20 Summit in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu in June.

28.Which city has been renamed as 'Chatrapati Sambhajnagar'?

- [A] Pune  
[B] Aurangabad  
[C] Nashik  
[D] Ahmed Nagar

Answer: B [Aurangabad]

EXP:After receiving the no-objection letter from the Union Home Ministry, the Government of Maharashtra issued the notification to change the name of Aurangabad city to Chatrapati Sambhajnagar and Osmnabad city to Dharashiv.

Aurangabad is a city in Maharashtra state, which is known for 17th-century marble Bibi ka Maqbara shrine, styled on the Taj Mahal. Aurangabad Caves comprise ancient, rock-cut Buddhist shrines.

29.Which institution launched India's first municipal bond index?

- [A] RBI  
[B] SEBI  
[C] BSE  
[D] NSE

Answer: D [NSE]

EXP:National Stock Exchange (NSE) launched India's first municipal bond index, the India Municipal Bond Index (IBMX).







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The Nifty India Municipal Bond Index was launched at a SEBI workshop on Municipal Debt Securities at Bengaluru. It tracks the performance of municipal bonds issued by Indian municipal corporations across maturities and having investment grade credit rating.

30. Which is the first platform to launch 'UPI LITE payments'?

- [A] Google Pay
- [B] Mi Pay
- [C] Paytm Payments Bank
- [D] Airtel Payments Bank

Answer: C [Paytm Payments Bank]

EXP: Paytm Payments Bank has become the first platform to launch UPI LITE payments, to enable quick and seamless transactions of up to Rs 200 without having to enter a PIN to make a payment.

UPI LITE is enabled by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and it aids users to carry out multiple small-value UPI transactions without using a PIN.

# ACSA

