

Weekly One Liners 20th to 26th of March 2023

Global Terrorism Index – India ranked 13th, topped by Afghanistan

Afghanistan remains the country most impacted by **terrorism** for the fourth consecutive year, despite attacks and deaths falling by 75 per cent and 58 per cent, respectively, the **tenth Global Terrorism Index (GTI) report** showed. **India** ranked 13th on the index, marking only a marginal decrease from the previous year. In spite of being among the 25 worst-hit nations on the index, Indian respondents desisted from selecting war and terrorism as the biggest threat to their daily safety.

What Is Global terrorism index(GTI):

- The **Global Terrorism Index** is an annual ranking produced by the **Institute for Economics and Peace**. As even the definition of terrorism is hotly debated, it is essential to highlight that the methodologies used to measure terrorism are also contested.
- The Global Terrorism Index ranks **163 countries** on four indicators weighted over five years. These four factors are: the number of terrorist incidents per year, the number of fatalities caused by terrorists per year, the number of injuries caused by terrorists per year, and total property damage caused by terrorism per year.
- The index provides a comprehensive summary of the key global trends and patterns in terrorism since 2000. It produces a composite score in order to provide an ordinal ranking of countries on the impact of terrorism.
- The GTI is based on data from the **Global Terrorism Database (GTD)** which is collected and collated by the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) at the University of Maryland.

India: Key findings of the Global Terrorism Index (GTI):

- India was listed among countries with a **“high”** impact of terrorism and ranked **13th**.
- India was among the **25 worst terror-hit countries** and among **56 of the 120 nations** surveyed with no respondents selecting war and **terror as the biggest threat** to their daily safety.
- The report lists the **Communist Party of India (Maoist)** as the **12th** deadliest terror group in 2022.

Pakistan: Global Terrorism Index (GTI):

Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) is the rebel group with the largest growth rate in Pakistan, where terror-related deaths have increased by 120%. The number of people killed as a result of terrorism in **Pakistan** increased dramatically to 643, which is the second-largest rise in the past year, as the number was 292 in the previous year. The number of deaths due to terrorism in Afghanistan in the same year was 633. As a result of the rapid increase in deaths, Pakistan has climbed four spots to rank sixth on the index.

Top five countries with the highest impact of terrorism:

RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	RANK CHANGE
1	● Afghanistan	8.822	↔
2	● Burkina Faso	8.564	↑ 2
3	● Somalia	8.463	↔
4	● Mali	8.412	↑ 3
5	● Syria	8.161	↑ 1

Global deaths from terrorism:

- It fell by **9 %** to **6,701 deaths**, from **38 %** in 2015.
- The West African Country of Burkina Faso had the largest number of deaths globally, increasing from 759 to 1,135 in 2022. Pakistan was in 4th position in terms of the number of terrorism deaths, after Burkina Faso, Mali and Somalia.

South Asia: GTI score: Most Affected With The Terrorism:

- South Asia remains the region with the worst average GTI score.
- It recorded **1,354 deaths** from terrorism in 2022, a **decrease of 30 %** when compared to the previous year.
- **Afghanistan and Pakistan** remain amongst the ten countries most affected by terrorism in 2022.

The List of Deadliest terrorist groups:

Islamic State (IS) and its affiliates were the deadliest terrorist groups in the world in 2022, followed by al-Shabaab, Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), and Jamaat Nusrat Al-Islam wal Muslimeen (JNIM).

10 happiest countries in the world for 2023

The **World Happiness Report 2023** has been released. According to the **World Happiness Index for 2023**, Finland is the happiest country in the world for the sixth year in a row. Let us have a look at the **list of 10 happiest countries in the world for 2023**.

10 happiest countries in the world for 2023: According to World Happiness Index

Researchers looked at six important variables to determine where people are happy in the world: social support, money, health, independence, charity, and lack of corruption. The survey discovered that, despite a number of converging crises, overall life satisfaction is on par with levels prior to the epidemic.

Finland, which is well known for its beautiful landscapes and high standard of living, continues to hold the top spot because of its straightforward way of life, dedication to sustainability, close connection to nature, and enjoyment of seasonal and local foods. Israel and the Netherlands completed the top five, placing second and third, respectively, behind Denmark and Iceland.

India has been ranked 125th out of 146 countries, which is an improvement of nine positions from its 2022 ranking. However, India's ranking is lower than even war-torn countries like Russia and Ukraine. Furthermore, India's neighboring countries such as Nepal, China, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka have a higher ranking than India.

10 happiest countries in the world for 2023: Key Points

- The **World Happiness Report of 2023** team also discovered that many ordinary acts of kindness, including lending a hand to a stranger, giving to charity, and volunteering, are all above pre-pandemic levels.
- Happiness has been demonstrated to increase as a result of acts of kindness, according to research co-author Lara Aknin.
- The 2023 also examined the **Ukrainian** survey data that was readily available.
- "The tragic impact of the conflict is clear to all, and thus we also discover that well-being in Ukraine has taken a real knock," says **Jan-Emmanuel De Neve**.
- Yet what is unexpected is that the state of the economy in Ukraine declined less than it did in 2014 when Russia annexed Crimea.

List of 10 happiest countries in the world for 2023

Below is the List of 10 happiest countries in the world for 2023:

1. Finland

Finland is a country in Northern Europe that borders Russia, Sweden, and Norway. Helsinki, the nation's capital, is located on a peninsula and several nearby islands in the Baltic Sea. Suomenlinna, a coastal castle built in the 18th century, as well as the chic Design District and other museums, can all be found in Helsinki. The nation's Arctic Lapland province, a large wilderness with national parks and ski areas, offers the opportunity to view the Northern Lights.



2. Denmark

Jutland Peninsula and many islands make up the Nordic nation of Denmark. It's linked to adjacent Sweden via the Öresund bridge. Royal palaces, the vibrant Nyhavn port, the Tivoli amusement park, and the well-known "Little Mermaid" monument may all be found in Copenhagen, the country's capital. Hans Christian Andersen's hometown is Odense, which has a historic centre with cobblestone streets and half-timbered homes.

3. Iceland

The stunning terrain of the Nordic island nation of Iceland, which has volcanoes, geysers, hot springs, and lava fields, defines the country. National parks Vatnajökull and Snaefellsjökull provide protection for enormous glaciers. The majority of people reside in the capital, Reykjavik, which is powered by geothermal energy and has the National and Saga museums, which chronicle Iceland's Viking history.

4. Israel

Jews, Christians, and Muslims all consider Israel, a Middle Eastern nation on the Mediterranean Sea, to be the biblical Holy Land. The holiest places are in Jerusalem. The Temple Mount complex, which is located within its Old City, houses the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Dome of the Rock monument, the Western Wall, and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Tel Aviv, the financial centre of Israel, is renowned for its Bauhaus style and beaches.

5. Netherlands

The Netherlands is a nation in northwest Europe with a flat topography that is home to canals, tulip fields, windmills, and bicycle paths. The Rijksmuseum, the Van Gogh Museum, and the house where Jewish diarist Anne Frank hid during World War II are all located in Amsterdam, the country's capital. From the city's "Golden Period" in the 17th century, canalside homes and a collection of artwork by Rembrandt and Vermeer are still standing.

6. Sweden

Sweden is a Scandinavian country with tens of thousands of inland lakes, glaciated mountains, and coastal islands. Its major cities, including the capital and largest city in the east, Stockholm, and the coastal Gothenburg and Malmö. 14 islands make up Stockholm. Together with the mediaeval old town, Gamla Stan, royal residences, and museums like outdoor ones, it features more than 50 bridges. Skansen

7. Norway

A Scandinavian nation, Norway is home to mountains, glaciers, and extensive coastline fjords. The capital, Oslo, is a city with parks and museums. The Viking Ship Museum in Oslo has preserved Viking ships on display. The starting location for cruises to the breathtaking Sognefjord is Bergen, which has colourful wooden buildings. Very popular in Norway are hiking, skiing, and fishing, particularly in the Olympic ski resort in Lillehammer.

8. Switzerland

Switzerland is a hilly nation in Central Europe that is home to many lakes, towns, and the lofty Alps. Medieval neighbourhoods may be found throughout its cities, like the Zytglogge clock tower in Bern, the nation's capital, and the wooden chapel bridge in Lucerne. The nation is renowned for its hiking trails and ski resorts. Key businesses include banking and finance, while Swiss goods like watches and chocolate are well-known worldwide.

9. Luxembourg

The small European nation of Luxembourg is bordered by Belgium, France, and Germany. It is primarily rural, with rocky gorges of the Mullerthal region in the east, the Moselle river valley in the southeast, and extensive Ardennes woodland and nature parks in the north. The iconic mediaeval old town of Luxembourg City, the nation's capital, is guarded and set on sheer cliffs.

10. New Zealand

The island nation of New Zealand is located in the western Pacific Ocean. Around 700 smaller islands make up its two main landmasses, the North Island and the South Island. By area, it is the sixth-largest island nation, with 268,021 square kilometres.

India's most valuable celebrity of 2022

India's most valuable celebrity of 2022

According to a report by **Kroll**, a corporate investigation and risk consulting firm, actor **Ranveer Singh** has been named **India's most valuable celebrity of 2022**, surpassing cricketer **Virat Kohli** who held the top spot for five years. The report titled "Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2022: Beyond the Mainstream" reveals that Singh's brand value is **\$181.7 million**.

Virat Kohli, who previously held the top spot, has fallen to the second position with a brand value of **\$176.9 million**, according to the Kroll report. Kohli's brand value has been decreasing for the past two years since he resigned as the captain of the Indian men's cricket team. In 2020, his brand value was over \$237 million but steeply declined in 2021 to \$185.7 million, resulting in his current second-place ranking.

Other celebrities in the list:

- The Kroll report reveals that **Akshay Kumar and Alia Bhatt** have maintained their positions as the third and fourth most valuable celebrities in India, with brand values of \$153.6 million and \$102.9 million, respectively.
- **Deepika Padukone** has moved up two ranks to the fifth spot with a brand value of \$82.9 million, and has since become the brand ambassador of Qatar Airways and PotteryBarn.

- The report also includes **Amitabh Bachchan, Hritik Roshan, and Shah Rukh Khan** in the top 10 most valuable celebrities.
- Former cricketer **MS Dhoni** is ranked sixth with a brand value of over \$80 million, while **Sachin Tendulkar** has entered the top 10 for the first time, ranking eighth with a brand value of \$73.6 million.
- For the first time, South Indian stars **Allu Arjun and Rashmika Mandanna** have made it to the list of India's top 25 most valuable celebrities.
- Olympic gold medallist **Neeraj Chopra and PV Sindhu** tied at the 23rd spot with a brand value of \$26.5 million, according to the report.

World Happiness Report 2023

World Happiness Report 2023

The **2023 World Happiness Report** has been released, and it shows that **Finland** remains the happiest country in the world for the sixth year in a row. **Denmark, Iceland, Israel, and the Netherlands** are the next happiest countries, with other European countries such as Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, and Luxembourg also making the top 10. The rankings are based on data from the main life evaluation question in the **Gallup World Poll**, which measures how happy citizens perceive themselves to be.

Top 10 country in the list of 2023 World Happiness Report:

Rank	Country
1	Finland
2	Denmark
3	Iceland
4	Israel
5	Netherlands
6	Sweden
7	Norway
8	Switzerland
9	Luxembourg
10	New Zealand
126	India

India's position in the World Happiness Report?

India's position in the World Happiness Report has improved from 136 to 126, although it is still behind its neighboring countries such as Nepal, China, and Bangladesh. Despite having the world's fastest-growing economy, India's ranking in the report has consistently been low, leading some to question how it can be ranked lower than countries in turmoil.

How Russia and Ukraine are ranked?

Despite the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, both countries rank higher than India in the World Happiness Report, with **Russia ranked 70th and Ukraine ranked 92nd**. The report indicates that both countries experienced increased levels of kindness in 2020 and 2021, but in 2022, Ukraine saw a sharp rise in benevolence while it declined in Russia.

Most unhappy countries of the world?

The World Happiness Report has ranked Afghanistan as the least happy country out of the 137 nations surveyed. The report also highlighted other nations such as Lebanon, Zimbabwe, and the Democratic Republic of Congo as being among the unhappiest countries, largely due to factors such as high levels of corruption and low life expectancy.

About the World Happiness Report:

The World Happiness Report is an annual report published by the **United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network**. It ranks countries based on how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be and provides analysis of the factors that contribute to happiness, such as income, social support, and life expectancy. The report is based predominantly on data from the main life evaluation question in the Gallup World Poll. The first report was published in 2012 and it has been released annually since then, typically in March.

The World Happiness Report assesses happiness levels across the world based on various criteria, including both domestic and global factors. Although India has improved its ranking in the report, it still remains quite low compared to many neighboring countries. The report gauges happiness based on feedback from a nationally representative sample of individuals regarding their current life satisfaction levels.

National Affairs

- Government, Ministry of Textiles, has issued a notification to set up 7 Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks with a total outlay of Rs. 4,445 crore. The Parks will come up in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
- On April 13, a 70-feet tall statue of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar will be unveiled in **Latur city, Maharashtra**. The unveiling ceremony will take place in the presence of Union ministers **Kiren Rijiju and Ramdas Athawale**, along with other dignitaries such as former Maharashtra chief minister **Devendra Fadnavis** and state minister Sanjay Bansode. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

- On March 22, the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, inaugurated the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** Area Office and Innovation Centre in the country. At an event held in New Delhi, he also launched the Bharat 6G Vision Document, as well as the 6G Research and Development Test Bed and the Call Before U dig App. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
- **India** is aiming to become a leader in the global shipbuilding industry by launching the **Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP)** and setting a goal of becoming a '**Global Hub for Green Ship**' building by **2030**. The GTTP will start with the production of Green Hybrid Tugs, which will run on Green Hybrid Propulsion systems, and eventually switch to alternative fuel sources like Methanol, Ammonia, and Hydrogen. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
- The recent collapse of **Silicon Valley Bank (SVB)** has led to uncertainty in the talent market for **Indian startups**, which had around \$1 billion in deposits with the lender. SVB was shut down by regulators on March 10 due to a run on the bank, despite having \$209 billion in assets at the end of 2022. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
- An **Indian** delegation led by the **Department of Commerce** recently participated in the second round of negotiations for the **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)** in Bali, Indonesia. Representatives from **13** other countries also took part in the discussions covering all **four pillars of the IPEF: Trade, Supply Chains, Clean Economy, and Fair Economy**. India was involved in talks related to the **latter three pillars**. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
- The Real-time Performance Monitoring Dashboard of MoPSW called '**Sagar Manthan**' was virtually launched by Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ayush Shri **Sarbananda Sonowal**. The digital platform is designed to have **all integrated data** related to the ministry and other subsidiaries. The inauguration ceremony was attended by MoS, MoPSW Shri Shripad Y. Naik, MoS, MoPSW Shri Shantanu Thakur and other officials from the ministry. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
- The Agriculture Minister of India, **Narendra Singh Tomar**, has introduced a new platform called '**DigiClaim**' on the national crop insurance portal. This platform is aimed at expediting the disbursement of insurance claims to farmers who have availed themselves of crop insurance. To demonstrate its effectiveness, the Minister used the platform to transfer a total insurance claim of Rs. 1,260.35 crore to insured farmers in several Indian states, including Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, and Haryana, with just a single click. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

States in the News

- On 17 March 2023, Chief Minister **Ashok Gehlot** announced the creation of **19 new districts** and 3 new divisions in the state during his course of the discussion on the Finance and Appropriation Bill in the Legislative Assembly. **Rajasthan** will now have 19 new districts and 3 new divisions, taking the number of districts to 50 and divisions to 10. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Merlin Group** has partnered with the World Trade Centers Association to develop a **World Trade Center in Kolkata** that will cover an area of 3.5 million square feet. The project's License Agreement was signed by Scott Wang, Vice President of the World Trade Centers Association (WTCA) Asia Pacific region, and Merlin Group's Chairman, Sushil Mohta, and Managing Director, Saket Mohta. The project, which is being built in Salt Lake, West Bengal, is estimated to require an investment of approximately Rs 1,500 crore. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Dr. Jitendra Singh**, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, inaugurated Asia's largest 4-metre International Liquid Mirror Telescope at Devasthal, **Uttarakhand**, in the presence of Lt. Gen (Retd.) Gurmeet Singh, the Governor of Uttarakhand. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma, inaugurated the '**Mission Lifestyle for Environment (LIFE)**' in the state, which is a global mass movement led by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**. Sarma stated that the initiative aims to encourage an environmentally conscious lifestyle, with a focus on utilizing resources rather than engaging in wasteful consumption. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The government of Tamil Nadu** has decided to declare **Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary** as the **18th wildlife sanctuary in the state**. This sanctuary covers an area of 80,567 hectares in the forest regions of Anthiyur and Gobichettipalayam taluks in Erode district, and includes reserve forest areas in Anthiyur, Bargur, Thattakarai, and Chennampatti. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami** has announced the government will set up a sports university in the **Kumaun region's Haldwani town**. Dhami, who made the announcement on the occasion of completion of one year of the formation of his government, said there had been longstanding demands from several sports associations for such a university. ([Click here to read the article](#))

International Affairs

- Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav**, a leader of the Janata Samajbadi Party, has won the election to become **Nepal's third Vice President**. He was able to secure victory over Astalaxmi Shakya of CPN (UML) and Mamata Jha of the Janamat Party with support from Nepali Congress, CPN (Maoist Centre), and the CPN (Unified Socialist) including the ruling alliance. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Japanese Prime Minister **Fumio Kishida** has formally invited Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** to the G7 Summit after both had a delegation-level talk at Delhi's Hyderabad House. PM Modi said that PM Kishida's visit will be helpful to maintain a momentum of mutual cooperation between India and Japan. He pointed out the importance of leading two significant summits, **G20 and G7**, by respective countries. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the first submarine base of Bangladesh '**BNS Sheikh Hasina**' at Pekua in Cox's Bazar. Hailing the newly inaugurated naval base as an 'ultra modern submarine base', Prime Minister called the event a proud chapter in the history of **Bangladesh navy**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- After President **Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi** visited India as a chief guest for the Republic Day celebrations, **Egypt** has become a member of the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Hindenburg Research's** recent report accusing **Block Inc.** of ignoring extensive fraud has had a significant impact on co-founder **Jack Dorsey's** net worth. His fortune experienced its most substantial single-day decline since May, with a drop of 11%, resulting in a decrease of \$526 million. According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Dorsey's net worth now stands at \$4.4 billion. ([Click here to read the article](#))



Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)**, an Indian multinational that specializes in EPC projects, hi-tech manufacturing, and services, has signed a binding agreement with **McPhy Energy**, a leading electrolyzer technology and manufacturing company based in **France**. The agreement establishes a long-term partnership between the two companies to explore opportunities in the emerging green hydrogen market. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Books and Authors

- **Anurag Behar**, the CEO of Azim Premji Foundation and founding vice-chancellor of Azim Premji University, has authored a new travel book titled "**A Matter of the Heart: Education in India**". The book is a collection of 110 stories, based on Behar's experiences working at the foundation, and sheds light on the state of education in India beyond the major cities. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Shrimant Kokate**, a well-known Marathi author and historian, has recently released his first English book titled "**Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (illustrated)**", which has been translated by Dilip Chavan. The book was released by Amol Kolhe, a popular MP and actor known for his portrayals of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Sambhaji Maharaj in Marathi TV series. Kokate is renowned for his four books on Shivaji, which have received great reviews and have been widely read. He has written a total of 10 books on various subjects. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- To prevent further turmoil in the **global banking system**, Swiss authorities have orchestrated a shotgun merger between **UBS and Credit Suisse**, with UBS agreeing to buy its rival for 3 billion Swiss francs (\$3.23 billion) and assuming up to \$5.4 billion in losses. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Shaktikanta Das, initiated the establishment of a "**Greenfield Data Centre**" and an "Enterprise Computing & Cybersecurity Training Institute" in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, during a foundation stone laying ceremony. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Ashneer Grover**, co-founder of **BharatPe**, has launched a new cricket-focused fantasy sports app named **CrickPe** ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) tournament. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Canara Bank** has announced that it sold its stake in Commercial Indo Bank LLC (CIBL), a joint venture with **State Bank of India (SBI)**, to SBI for approximately ₹121.29 crore. CIBL, which was established in 2003, operates in **Russia** and is owned 60% by SBI and 40% by Canara Bank. According to Canara Bank, the sale agreement was executed on November 11, 2022. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- On March 22, the **Income Tax Department** launched a mobile application called "**AIS for Taxpayer**" that enables taxpayers to view their tax-related information in the **Annual Information Statement (AIS)** or Taxpayer Information Summary (TIS). The app has become essential and beneficial since starting from the new financial year on April 1, Form 26AS will only show information related to tax deducted at source (TDS) and tax collection at source (TCS). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Lok Sabha passed the **Finance Bill 2023**, which implements tax proposals for the upcoming fiscal year, without any discussion. The passage of the Bill occurred amid Opposition uproar over the Adani controversy. Proposals for a total of **64 official amendments** were put forward in the Bill, including one that aims to eliminate long-term tax benefits for specific categories of debt mutual funds and another that calls for the establishment of the **GST Appellate Tribunal**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Union Cabinet approved an increase in the **dearness allowance** and dearness relief by 4 per cent to 42 per cent, benefiting 47.58 lakh **central government employees** and 69.76 lakh pensioners. According to I&B Minister **Anurag Thakur**, the combined impact of both the Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief on the exchequer will be Rs 12,815.60 crore annually. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- **Luxor Writing Instruments Pvt Ltd**, a stationery manufacturer, has appointed renowned cricketer **Virat Kohli** as its latest brand ambassador. Kohli is widely regarded as one of the best cricketers of all time, having set numerous records throughout his career. He will represent Luxor's stationery products and help the company increase its appeal among young writers, thereby enhancing its position as a prominent writing instrument provider in the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)** has suggested that **Ashwani Kumar**, an executive director at Indian Bank, be appointed as the managing director of UCO Bank. Kumar has previously held positions at several other public sector banks, including Bank of Baroda, Corporation Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce, and Punjab National Bank (PNB). ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Lalit Kumar Gupta** has been approved as the new **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of the **Cotton Corporation of India (CCI)** by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). CCI is a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Textile. An order from the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) has been issued, stating that Gupta will assume the role of CMD of CCI with immediate effect, for a period of five years or until his superannuation, or until further orders, whichever comes first. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)**, a 'Maharatna' and a Fortune Global 500 Company, announced that **G. Krishnakumar** has taken over as the Chairman and Managing Director of the company. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- After **Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL)** withdrew from acquiring **Bisleri International**, Ramesh Chauhan, the chairman of the company, announced that his daughter **Jayanti Chauhan** will now lead the bottled water company. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The current **MD & CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, N S Kannan**, is set to retire from his position in June 2023 upon completion of his term. His successor, **Anup Bagchi**, who is an Executive Director at ICICI Bank, will take over as the **MD & CEO for a five-year term from June 19, 2023**, subject to approval from the insurance regulator. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Manmeet K Nanda** has been appointed as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of **Invest India**, a prestigious organization. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has released a statement announcing the approval of Nanda's appointment by Invest India's board, following Deepak Bagla's decision to step down. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **CEAT**, the tyre manufacturer, has named **Arnab Banerjee** as its new **Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** following the resignation of Anant Goenka. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- National women's hockey team midfielder **Salima Tete** has appointed the AHF Athletes Ambassador from India for a term of two years. Tete accepted the certificate and the position during the **Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) Congress** in Mungyeong, Korea. Tete, who led the Indian women's junior hockey team to a fourth-place finish at the 2021 FIH Women's Junior World Cup in Potchefstroom, South Africa, is among four players from Asia to be appointed for the position. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Defence News

- A two-day workshop on "**Human Factors Engineering in Military Platforms**" was inaugurated by the Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan on March 15 in New Delhi. The workshop is being organized by the Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (**DIPAS**), which is a Delhi-based laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)**, a shipbuilding company in India, has launched **INS Androth**, a vessel claimed to be the "most silent ship in the country" for the Indian Navy. The vessel is the first in a series of eight anti-submarine warfare shallow-watercraft to be delivered to the navy. The ships will be used for patrolling, search and rescue operations, and other military missions. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The annual bilateral maritime exercise called **Konkan 2023** was conducted between the **Indian Navy and the Royal Navy** from 20th to 22nd March 2023 off the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea. The Royal Navy is the United Kingdom's naval warfare force. The exercise involved **INS Trishul**, a guided missile frigate, and HMS Lancaster, a Type 23 guided missile frigate, and aimed to improve cooperation and learn best practices through various maritime drills. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Indian **Defence Ministry** has recently signed two contracts with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** worth more than **Rs 3,700 crore**, with the aim to enhance the operational capabilities of the **Indian Air Force**. Under the **Buy Indian - IDMM (Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured)** category, both projects are part of the ongoing vision of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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Awards and Recognitions

- **Ratan Tata**, an Indian industrialist and philanthropist, has been named an Honorary Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO) for his outstanding contributions to the **Australia-India bilateral relationship**, specifically in the areas of trade, investment, and philanthropy. The announcement was made by **Australia's** Governor-General, following a recommendation by Australia's High Commissioner to India, Barry O'Farrell. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India's External Affairs Minister, **S Jaishankar**, inaugurated the "**Geoffrey Bawa: It is Essential To Be There**" exhibition at the National Gallery of **Modern Art** in New Delhi. The exhibition, which is a joint collaboration between the National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi, the High Commission of **Sri Lanka** in New Delhi, and the Geoffrey Bawa Trust, showcases the architectural works of Sri Lanka's renowned architect, the late Geoffrey Bawa. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The White House has announced that **US President Joe Biden** will bestow the 2021 National Humanities Medals upon several recipients, including Indian-American actress, comedian, and writer **Mindy Kaling**, also known as Vera Mindy Chokalingam. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Music Academy has announced that the **Sangita Kalanidhi award** for 2023 will be presented to **Bombay Jayashri**, a Padma Shri awardee and renowned Carnatic vocalist. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Aasif Sheikh**, a wicketkeeper from **Nepal**, has been awarded the **2022 Christopher Martin-Jenkins Spirit of Cricket Award** for his act of sportsmanship during a T20 international match. He refused to run out Ireland's Andy McBrine, who was accidentally tripped over by Kamal Airee, the bowler. Judges also highly commended England's Jos Buttler and Ben Stokes. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Luis Caffarelli**, 74, has won the **2023 Abel Prize** "for his seminal contributions to regularity theory for nonlinear partial differential equations including free-boundary problems and the Monge-Ampère equation". ([Click here to read the article](#))

Summit and Conference

- The **B20 Conference**, held in Gangtok, Sikkim under India's G20 presidency, focused on exploring business opportunities in tourism, hospitality, pharmaceuticals, and organic farming. The event brought together delegations from 22 countries and over 100 Indian delegations to showcase Sikkim's potential in these sectors. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference** in New Delhi on 18th March, 2023. He will also address the gathering on the occasion. The conference will be attended by Agriculture Ministers of various countries, international scientists, nutritionists, health experts, start-up leaders and other stakeholders. The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** has declared the year 2023 as the **International Year of Millets (IYM)**. The declaration was based on India's proposal. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Rishikul campus of Ayurvedic University in Haridwar recently hosted the International Ayurvedic conclave with a theme on "**Veterinary and Ayurveda**". The event, which began on March 17, was inaugurated by **Sanjiv Baliyan**, the Union Minister of State for Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Fisheries. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The National Youth Conclave 2023 is an upcoming event in India that aims to bring together the country's youth and government leadership. The event is being organized under the aegis of India's G20 presidency and in conjunction with the Urban20 and Youth20 engagement groups. The objective of the conclave is to provide an opportunity for cross-learning between the youth and government leaders. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- During the **One World TB Summit** arranged by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) on **World Tuberculosis Day**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted India's powerful pharmaceutical industry as a significant advantage in the global battle against **TB**. He also mentioned that India has set a goal of eradicating TB by the year 2025. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- In an annual report on **human rights practices in India**, the United States State Department has highlighted challenges to freedom of expression, cases of arbitrary arrests and detentions, extrajudicial killings, the confiscation and destruction of property without due process, discrimination against minority groups and infringement on the freedom of association, among other issues, in 2022. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- According to the 2023 M3M Hurun Global Rich List, **India** is ranked **third** in terms of the number of billionaires. However, China has almost five times more billionaires than India. The list shows that India has 105 self-made billionaires, ranking third in this category. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **The Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi** has been ranked among the top 50 engineering institutions in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023. Additionally, this year, a total of 44 programmes offered by Indian higher education institutions in various disciplines have been ranked in the top 100 globally. This represents an increase from last year's report, which saw 35 Indian programmes listed in the top 100. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A report presented by UNESCO at the **UN 2023 Water Conference** in New York reveals that a significant portion of the world's population still does not have access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. The report indicates that 26% of the **global population** lacks safe drinking water, while 46% do not have access to well-managed sanitation facilities. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Sports News

- **Tim Paine**, the former captain of the Australian test cricket team, has announced his retirement from cricket after playing his last **Sheffield Shield first-class match for Tasmania against Queensland**. Paine led the Australian team in 23 tests from 2018 to 2021 and played a total of 35 tests in his career. He took over as captain after Steve Smith was stripped of the role following the ball-tampering scandal during Australia's 2018 tour of South Africa. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Rohan Bopanna**, a 43-year-old Indian tennis player, and his **Australian partner Matthew Ebden** have become the oldest duo to win an **ATP Masters 1000 title**. They won the men's doubles final at the **Indian Wells Masters 2023** tournament in California by defeating the top-seeded team of **Wesley Koolhof and Neil Skupski**. Bopanna and Ebden won the first set 6-3 but lost the second set 2-6. However, they managed to win the match by clinching the deciding tie-breaker 10-8. ([Click here to read the article](#))



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- **Pankaj Advani**, the **Indian cue sports champion**, has retained his **Asian Billiards title** in the **100-up format** after defeating his compatriot **Brijesh Damani** 5-1 in the final held at **Qatar Billiards and Snooker Federation (QBSF) Academy**. Advani, who has won the **International Billiards and Snooker Federation (IBSF) world championship 25 times**, won the match with a scoreline of **100(51)-18, 100(88)-9, 86(54)-101(75), 100-26, 100(66)-2, 101(64)-59**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Rani Rampal**, a prominent player on the Indian hockey team, has achieved a significant milestone as the first woman in the sport to have a stadium named after her. The **MCF Rae Bareli** has renamed the hockey stadium to '**Rani's Girls Hockey Turf**' in her honor. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- At the **Saudi Arabia Grand Prix** of the 2023 Formula One season, **Sergio Perez** displayed a dominant performance and earned his first win. His teammate at Red Bull, **Max Verstappen**, secured the second position after starting from the 15th spot. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **D&P Advisory** has analyzed the **Indian Premier League (IPL)** and reported that the cricket tournament was India's first unicorn, with a valuation of **\$1.1 billion in 2008**, the year it was launched. The advisory had previously announced that IPL had become a decacorn (valued at \$10.9 billion) recently. D&P Advisory is now preparing to publish a new analysis called "**IPL: The Pioneer of Indian Unicorns**." ([Click here to read the article](#))

Schemes and Committess News

- **The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying** announced that the fourth phase of the **Sagar Parikrama** program began on March 18 and concluded on March 19. The program covered three coastal districts of **Karnataka - Uttara Kannada, Udupi, and Dakshina Kannada**. Purushottam Rupala, the Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, along with state ministers and stakeholders, were present at the event. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Science and Technology News

- During the '**Adobe Summit**', software giant Adobe unveiled new generative AI advancements in its Experience Cloud that seek to revolutionize the way companies provide customer experiences. **Adobe** customers can effortlessly switch between **Sensei GenAI** services and current features within their workflows while using Adobe Experience Cloud, according to the company's statement. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In the latest preview of Bing and Edge, Microsoft has added a new functionality called '**Bing Image Creator**', which enables users to generate an image based on their written description by utilizing an enhanced version of **Open AI's DALL-E model**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, the Union Minister of State for Science & Technology, announced in the Rajya Sabha that NASA and ISRO have collaboratively built an earth science satellite called **NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar)**. The satellite's primary objectives are to design, develop, and launch a dual-frequency (L and S band) radar imaging satellite, and to explore new application areas using L & S Band microwave data, particularly in surface deformation studies, terrestrial biomass structure, natural resource mapping and monitoring, and research on the dynamics of ice-sheets, glaciers, forests, oil slicks, etc. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India has seen a surge in daily **Covid-19** infections, with **349 cases** of the newly detected **XBB1.16 variant**, which may be responsible for the recent increase in cases. According to data from the **Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG)**, Maharashtra has the highest number of XBB1.16 variant cases with 105 cases, followed by Telangana with 93 cases, Karnataka with 61 cases, and Gujarat with 54 cases. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Important Days News

- **World Oral Health Day** is observed globally every year on **March 20**, with the primary objective of increasing awareness about the significance of oral health. The theme for 2023 is '**Be Proud of Your Mouth**,' which is the same theme used for the past three years. The campaign was launched by the FDI in 2021. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The International Day of Happiness** is an annual celebration that occurs on **March 20**. International Day of Happiness's purpose is to emphasize the importance of happiness and the overall well-being of individuals. The theme of International Day of Happiness for this year has been kept as "**Be Mindful, Be Grateful, Be Kind**." ([Click here to read the article](#))

- 21 March, 2023 is celebrated as **World Poetry Day 2023**. Every year on **March 21**, people throughout the world celebrate **World Poetry Day** to honour an expression of language with which they can all identify. Every country's past contains poetry, which unites people through shared humanity and values. Even the most simple poems can spark conversation. The theme of World Poetry Day 2023 is "**Always be a poet, even in prose**." ([Click here to read the article](#))
- March 21st is observed as **International Day of Forests or World Forestry Day** worldwide to increase awareness about the importance of forests, woodlands, and trees in our lives. It is important to understand the value, significance, and contributions of the forests to balancing the life cycle on earth. An issue like deforestation is also addressed on this day. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- March 21 is observed as **World Down Syndrome Day** worldwide, aiming to increase public awareness and show support for individuals living with this genetic condition. This year's World Down Syndrome Day theme is '**With Us, Not For Us**', emphasizing that people with disabilities should be treated equally and have access to the same opportunities as others. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 21 March 2023 is celebrated as **International Nowruz Day 2023**. Every year on March 21, the **International Nowruz Day** is a much-anticipated global New Year's festival that marks the spring equinox, ushering in the season of rebirth and nature's renewal. Almost 300 million people worldwide commemorate the international holiday that the **United Nations** proclaimed on March 21, also known as "Nauryz," "Navruz," or "Nowrouz," which is translated as "new day" and has a history of at least 3,000 years. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- On **October 26, 1966**, the **UN General Assembly** passed **Resolution 2142 (XXI)** designating March 21st as the **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**. This day was chosen because, in 1960, 69 peaceful protesters were killed by police in Sharpeville, South Africa, while demonstrating against the apartheid "**pass laws**". By establishing this day of commemoration, the General Assembly urged the global community to intensify its efforts to eradicate all types of racial discrimination, especially as it pertains to the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **World Water Day** is observed on **March 22** each year to emphasize the significance of water and to create awareness about the global water crisis. The primary purpose of celebrating this day is to promote the achievement of SDG 6, which aims to provide access to clean water and sanitation for everyone by 2030. The focus of World Water Day 2023 is on the theme of '**Accelerating the change to solve the water and sanitation crisis,**' underlining the vital importance of taking decisive action to address the global water crisis. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Shaheed Diwas or Martyrs' Day** is observed in India on **23rd March** every year to pay homage to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of India. This day marks the anniversary of the execution of three Indian freedom fighters- **Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar and Shivaram Rajguru in 1931.** ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Every year on **March 23, World Meteorological Day** is celebrated to mark the official formation of the **World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)** in 1950. The day recognizes the crucial role of the **National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS)** in ensuring the safety and welfare of society. The theme for World Meteorological Day 2023 is "**The Future of Weather, Climate, and Water Across Generations**". ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Tuberculosis Day** is observed on **March 24th** every year to raise awareness about the global epidemic of tuberculosis (TB) and efforts to eliminate the disease. The World Health Organization (WHO) aims to end the TB epidemic by 2030. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- On the **24th of March** every year, the **International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims** is commemorated in honor of Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero, who was assassinated on this day in 1980. Monsignor Romero was passionately involved in speaking out against the infringement of human rights suffered by the most marginalized people in El Salvador. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The United Nations observes the **International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members on March 25** every year to honor the memory of **Alec Collett**, a journalist who died while on a UN mission after being kidnapped. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Obituaries

- **Gordon Moore**, who helped start the company Intel in 1968 and predicted that computing power would continue to increase over time (known as "Moore's Law"), has passed away at the age of 94. Moore was an important figure in the semiconductor industry and played a key role in putting Intel's processors in most personal computers. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Pradeep Sarkar**, a renowned filmmaker who directed successful movies like Parineeta and Mardaani, has passed away at the age of 67. He began his career in directing with the film Parineeta in 2005, starring Vidya Balan, and went on to direct other popular movies such as Laga Chunari Mein Daag, Helicopter Eela, and Lafangey Parindey. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- **Sampanna Ramesh Shelar**, a Bachelor of Physical Education student, has set a new record by becoming the fastest Indian in the under-21 category to swim across the **Palk Strait, from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka to Dhanuskodi in Tamil Nadu.** ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Google Doodle: **Kitty O'Neil**, a famous American stuntwoman and actress who was deaf from a young age, was commemorated by Google on her **77th birthday anniversary** with a doodle featuring her in a yellow jumpsuit. She went on to become one of Hollywood's most famous stunt drivers. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Static Takeaways

- World Dental Federation Founded: 15 August 1900;
- World Dental Federation Members: Over 200 members in some 130 countries;
- World Dental Federation President: Ihsane Ben Yahya.
- President of the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly: H.E. Csaba Kőrösi;
- UN General Assembly Headquarters: New York, United States.
- UCO Bank Founded: 6 January 1943;
- UCO Bank Founder: Ghanshyam Das Birla;
- UCO Bank Headquarters: Kolkata.
- Nepal Capital: Kathmandu;
- Nepal Prime minister: Pushpa Kamal Dahal;
- Nepal Currency: Nepalese Rupee.
- Cotton Corporation of India Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Cotton Corporation of India Founded: 1970.

- World Meteorological Organisation Founded: 23 March 1950;
- World Meteorological Organisation Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland;
- World Meteorological Organisation President: Gerhard Adrian.
- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) CEO: S N Subrahmanyam (Jul 2017-);
- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Founded: 7 February 1946, Mumbai;
- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Silicon Valley Bank Headquarters: Santa Clara, California, United States;
- Silicon Valley Bank President: Gregory W. Becker;
- Silicon Valley Bank Founder: Roger V Smith;
- Silicon Valley Bank Founded: 1983;
- Honeywell International HON Founded: 1906, Wabash, Indiana, United States;
- Honeywell International HON Founder: Mark C. Honeywell;
- Honeywell International HON Headquarters: Charlotte, North Carolina, United States.

