

NATIONAL

1. Ajay Banga

Why in news – US President Biden has nominated Ajay Banga to be the next president of the World Bank.

Key Points –

- Ajay Banga is the first Indian-born nominee for the World Bank presidency.
- Current President David Malpas announced his resignation recently.
- World bank has historically been headed by someone from the United States while a European heads the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

About Mr Banga -

- He is former Mastercard CEO.
- Banga currently serves as Vice Chairman of General Atlantic, a private equity firm.
- His family's roots are from Jalandhar, Punjab.
- In 2016, the Indian government awarded Banga with a Padma Shri.

2. HC judgments in regional language

Why in news - The Kerala High Court became the first high court to publish judgments in the regional language (Malayalam).

Key Points –

- Judges - Chief Justice S Manikumar and Justice Shaji P Chaly.
- The Kerala High Court made use of SUVAS to translate the judgments.
- Earlier CJI DY Chandrachud announced that judgments of the Supreme Court would be translated in to four languages -Hindi, Gujarati, Odia, and Tamil.

About SUVAS -

- Full form - Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software.
- Aim - to translate judicial documents from English to nine vernacular languages and vice versa.
- SUVAS is an Artificial Intelligence (AI) based tool.

3. 'Real Shiv Sena' dispute

Why in news - EC recognized Shiv Sena faction led by Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde as the real Shiv.

Key Points –

- The party name and symbol of 'Bow and Arrow' would be retained by the Shinde group.
- EC relied on the "test of majority" to determine which faction would get to use the name 'Shiv Sena'.
- Test of majority - Shinde had the support of 40 out of 67 MLAs and MLCs, and 13 out of 22 MPs.
- Two other criteria for such decision - A test of party constitution and a test of aims and objects.

Sadiq Ali case (1971) -

- A dispute arose between two factions of the Congress to get the party's name and symbol.
- EC ruled that the faction backed by Indira Gandhi was the real Congress that was subsequently upheld by the Supreme Court.

INTERNATIONAL

1. New START treaty

Why in news - Russia suspended its participation in the New START nuclear arms reduction treaty with the United States.

Key Points –

- It is the last remaining major military agreement with the United States.
- Reason - Vladimir Putin accused the West of being directly involved in attempts to attack its strategic air bases.

About New START

- Full form - Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.
- START-I was signed between the US and the erstwhile USSR in 1991, and came into force in 1994.
- New START treaty entered into force on February 5, 2011 and was extended in 2021 for 5 more years (till February 4, 2026).

2. New UN resolution on Ukraine

Why in news - The UN General Assembly approved a nonbinding resolution on Feb 23, 2023 calling Russia to end hostilities in Ukraine.

Key Points –

- Feb 24, 2023 - First anniversary of Moscow invasion.
- It was passed by 141-7 vote with 32 abstentions.
- India and China abstained.

3. Ban on caste discrimination

Why in news - Seattle became the first city in the US to bring in legislation banning caste-based discrimination.

Key Points –

- It was approved by the Council by 6-1 vote (lone dissenter - Sara Nelson).
- The resolution was moved by Kshama Sawant, a Seattle City council member.
- In December 2019, Brandeis University near Boston became the first US college to include caste in its non-discrimination policy.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

1. Suposhit Maa Abhiyan

Why in news – PM Narendra Modi has praised the initiative of ‘Suposhit Maa’ by Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla.

Key Points –

- In March 2020, Om Birla launched this initiative in Kota, Rajasthan.
- Aim - To keep every mother and child healthy.
- 1,000 kits of a 17 kg balanced diet were provided to 1,000 pregnant women in the first phase of the campaign.

REPORTS & INDICES

1. Gross Domestic Climate Risk

Why in news - Australia-based Cross Dependency Initiative (XDI) released the report showing high risk of damage to the built environment due to climate change hazards.

Key Points –

- It assessed the physical climate risk in over 2,600 states and provinces around the world in 2050.
- 80% of the top 50 most at-risk states and provinces in 2050 are in China, the US and India.

- Guangzhou - The most economically vulnerable city in the world" to sea level rise by 2050.
- Florida - Only non-Chinese state in the top 10.
- 9 states in India are among the top 50 regions in the world.
- 9 states - Punjab, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Kerala and Gujarat.
- Most vulnerable (India) – Bihar (22nd), Uttar Pradesh (25th) and Assam (28th).

SCIENCE – TECH

1. Ama KrushAI

Why in news - India's first AI chatbot for the agriculture sector - Ama KrushAI was launched at 'Krusha Odisha 2023'.

Key Points –

- It would help farmers with the best agronomic practices, government schemes and loan products.

AWARDS & HONOURS

1. 13th Sansad Ratna Awards 2023

Why in news - 13 MPs, 2 Parliamentary Committees and 1 Lifetime Achievement honour would be awarded during the 13th edition.

Key Points –

Prominent Awardees –

- o Manoj Kumar Jha (From RS) (RJD, Bihar).
- o Vishambhar Prasad Nishad (Samajwadi Party, UP).
- o Sukanta Majumdar (BJP, West Bengal). Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury (INC, West Bengal)

Two Committees –

- o Finance Committee (Lok Sabha, under BJP's Jayant Sinha)
- o Transport, Tourism and Culture Committee (Rajya Sabha, under YSR Congress's V Vijayasai Reddy).
- Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Lifetime Achievement Award - T K Rangarajan (former Rajya Sabha MP for two terms and a Senior CPIM Leader).



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About the awards –

- Instituted in 2010. First edition was launched in Chennai.
- Inspired by the teachings of former President APJ Abdul Kalam.
- Brainchild of K Srinivasan. He founded the Prime Point Foundation in 1999.
- The awards were started with support from IIT Madras.

Key Points –

- It is the World's largest electrical show by IEEMA.
- The Indian Electrical & Electronics Manufacturers' Association (IEEMA) is the apex association of the Indian electrical equipment manufacturing industry.
- IEEMA has commissioned a study on “New Energies Electrical and Electronics equipment landscapes 2030” for Green Hydrogen (GH2) value chain. The report was unveiled during ELECHEMA.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

1. 15th ELECHEMA 2023

Why in news - It was held at the India Expo Mart, Greater Noida on 18th February 2023.



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POINTERS

- Who has been appointed as the new Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) - **Dr. Rajeev Raghuvanshi.**
- The construction of which tunnel has been approved by the Union Cabinet to provide all-weather connectivity in Ladakh - **Shinku La Tunnel.**
- Which ministry will organize the first Global Tourism Investment Summit in New Delhi - **Ministry of Tourism.**
- Where has India's first Maritime Spatial Planning Framework been launched as part of a pact under the Indo-Norway Integrated Ocean Initiative – **Puducherry.**
- Which cricketer became the fastest Indian to take the double of 250 wickets and 2,500 runs in Test cricket- **Ravindra Jadeja.**
- Justice Sonia Gokani has recently become the first woman Chief Justice of which state - **Gujarat.**
- Who has been honoured with the “Akbar Kakkattil Award” of Kerala - **Subhash Chandran (novel Samudrashila).**
- Government announced to set up how many labs to develop applications using 5G services – **100.**
- Who recently inaugurated Nano Urea Liquid Plants of IFFCO at Aonla and Phulpur in Uttar Pradesh - **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya.**
- Recently, the central government approved the formation of how many new ITBP battalions for the security of the Indo-China border – **7.**



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