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### Word of the Year for 2023

- **Collins Dictionary** has declared "AI" as the Word of the Year for 2023, reflecting the increasing prominence of Artificial Intelligence in our daily lives.

### INFUSE Mission

- The **Integral Field Ultraviolet Spectroscopy Experiment (INFUSE)** was launched from the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. It was launched to study the **Cygnus Loop**, a supernova remnant.
- The INFUSE mission is expected to collect information about the remnant for a few minutes from a height of 150 miles (240 km). Specifically, the instrument **will gather light streaming from the Cygnus Loop** in far-ultraviolet wavelengths.
- The INFUSE mission is expected to collect information about the remnant for a few minutes from a height of 150 miles (240 km). Specifically, the instrument **will gather light streaming from the Cygnus Loop** in far-ultraviolet wavelengths.
- **Cygnus Loop** is the remnant of a star that was once 20 times the size of our Sun. Some 20,000 years ago, that star collapsed under its own gravity and erupted into a supernova. Even from 2,600 light-years away, astronomers estimate the flash of light would have been bright enough to see from Earth during the day.

### 'Surat'

- Gujarat Chief Minister **Bhupendra Patel** will unveil the **crest** of the Indian Navy's latest warship '**Surat**.'
- '**Surat**' holds the distinction of being the **first warship named after a city in Gujarat**. This tribute is significant because Surat has a remarkable maritime heritage. During the 16th to the 18th century, Surat was a thriving **center for maritime trade and shipbuilding activities**.
- '**Surat**' is part of the '**Project 15B**' program, which involves the construction of four next-generation stealth guided missile destroyers. It is the **fourth and final ship** in this program.

### International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict 2023

- The **International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict**, observed on **November 6th** each year, is a significant global initiative aimed at raising awareness about the severe consequences of war and armed conflicts on the environment.
- This day was established by the United Nations to underscore the importance of safeguarding the environment as a source of security and peace while preventing its exploitation during military conflicts.

### Free Ration Scheme

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** made a significant announcement regarding the extension of the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana**, a free ration scheme aimed at assisting 80 crore impoverished individuals.
- Prime Minister Modi declared the extension of this vital initiative for another five years, emphasizing the importance of the people's support and blessings in making such decisions.

### Bulava Ballistic Missile

- Russia recently carried out a successful test launch of the **Bulava** ballistic missile, designed to carry nuclear warheads.
- It is a new Russian submarine-launched Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM).
- Development of this missile commenced in 1998. The first powered flight test of the **Bulava** missile occurred in September 2005. Its first submerged test launch followed in December.

### Heeralal Samariya

- The Information Commissioner, **Heeralal Samariya**, was sworn in as the chief of the Central Information Commission (CIC) by the President Of India.

- Central Information Commission has been constituted under the Right to Information Act, 2005
- **Composition:** It consists of a **Chief Information Commissioner** and not more than ten Information Commissioners.
- **Appointment:** They are appointed by the **President** of India on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the **Prime Minister as Chairperson**, the **Leader of Opposition** in the **Lok Sabha**, and a **Union Cabinet Minister** nominated by the Prime Minister.

### India's First 100% FDI in defence

- Sweden's Saab has become the first foreign company to bag 100% FDI in India's defence projects.
- At present, India allows only 74% FDI in the defence sector under the automatic route. Beyond that, clearance can be obtained on a case-by-case basis. However, the clearance rules were relaxed in 2015, still, no foreign firm was able to get permission for 100% FDI in defence.
- Saab has set up a new company – Saab FFV India – to make the latest generation of the Cal-Gustaf M4 system. This will be the first time Saab will manufacture shoulder-fired rockets outside Sweden.
- The Carl-Gustaf M4 shoulder-fired rockets are crucial for the Indian armed forces, and they are widely used by the military to engage fortified enemy positions, armored vehicles, and personnel. These rockets offer versatile firepower capabilities.

### Jal Diwali - "Women for Water, Water for Women Campaign"

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is all set to unveil a progressive initiative "Women for Water, Water for Women Campaign" under its flagship scheme - Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), in partnership with the Ministry's National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM).
- This campaign celebrates "Jal Diwali" and commences from, 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2023. It will continue till 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2023.
- The campaign aims to provide a platform for inclusion of women in water governance. They will be given first-hand knowledge about water treatment processes through visits to Water Treatment Plants (WTPs) in their respective cities.
- The phase I of "Women for Water, Water for Women Campaign", "Jal Diwali" shall witness participation from all States/ UTs (barring the 5 States under Model Code of Conduct), with an expected participation of more than 15,000 SHG women, nationwide. The focus areas of the campaign include:
  1. Familiarizing the women with functioning of Water Treatment Plants & water testing facilities
  2. Promote inclusivity & involvement through souvenirs & articles created by Women SHGs
  3. Familiarizing & educating the women about AMRUT scheme & its impact on water infrastructure

### Dayapar Wind Project

- **NTPC Renewable Energy Limited** (NTPC REL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC, has marked a significant milestone in its renewable energy journey by declaring the commercial operation of its first project. This project, a **50 MW wind farm located in Dayapar, Kutch, Gujarat** is a first-of-its-kind effort in India's renewable energy journey.
- NTPC REL's debut project, the 50 MW wind farm at Dayapar, Kutch, Gujarat, officially commenced its commercial operations on November 4, 2023. Dayapar Wind stands out as the **first capacity in India** to be declared commercial under the new **Indian Electricity Grid Code** and General Network Access Regime.

### APEDA Partners With Lulu Hypermarket

- The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority** (APEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the renowned global retail giant, **Lulu Hypermarket LLC**.
- The MoU, which centers on **promoting Brand India** on a global scale, was officially signed at the **World India Food (WIF) 2023** event on November 3, 2023, in New Delhi.

- The primary objective of this MoU is to **foster the export of Indian agricultural products**, including a focus on Millets, to the Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCCs).

### Krishi 24/7

- Recently, the Union Agriculture Ministry, in collaboration with the Wadhvani Institute for Artificial Intelligence (Wadhvani AI), developed Krishi 24/7.
- **Krishi 24/7 is the first-ever AI-powered solution** for automated agricultural news monitoring and analysis, with support from [Google.org](https://www.google.org).
- The tool **scans news** articles in multiple languages and **translates them into English**.
- It extracts essential information from news articles, such as headline, crop name, event type, date, location, severity, summary, and source link, ensuring that the ministry receives timely updates on relevant events published on the web.
- It addresses the need for an efficient mechanism to **identify and manage agricultural news articles** of interest to aid timely decision-making.

### Project Dolphin

- Recently, the Tamil Nadu Government issued an order to implement 'Project Dolphin' under the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat programme of the government of India.
- **Project Dolphin is to strengthen the marine ecology** and overall health of the marine environment.
- This project includes **strengthening patrolling and surveillance**, improving habitat through the restoration of coastal ecosystems, removing ghost nets, and encouraging the involvement of locals with incentives. It will be implemented at a cost of 8.13 crore rupees **during 2023-2024**.
- **Funding:** While **60%** of the amount will be given by the **Union government**, the State will bear the remaining cost.
- The major habitats of the dolphins are found in the **Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve**.

### Chile becomes 95th member of International Solar Alliance ISA

- **Chile** has recently become the **95th member** of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, a significant development in the global effort to promote solar energy.
- Chile's inclusion marks a significant step towards achieving global sustainability and addressing energy challenges.
- ISA's '**Towards 1000**' strategy outlines ambitious targets that, if achieved, will substantially advance the use of solar energy, ensure energy access for millions, and significantly reduce carbon emissions.

### Hitesh Kumar S. Makwana

- **Hitesh Kumar S. Makwana**, an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) official of the Tamil Nadu cadre, has been appointed as the Surveyor General of India. Prior to this appointment, he served as an Additional Secretary in the Union Home Ministry.

### World Science Day for Peace and Development 2023

- Celebrated every 10 November, World Science Day for Peace and Development highlights the important role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. It also underlines the importance and relevance of science in our daily lives.
- In 2023, the theme for World Science Day for Peace and Development is "**Building Trust in Science.**"

### INDUS-X

- Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) under the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence and US Department of Defence, organised the maiden INDUS-X Investors Meet on 8 November 2023 at New Delhi as a pre-cursor to the 2+2 Indo-US Ministerial Dialogue. The INDUS-X Educational Series (Gurukul) was also launched during the event.

- The first-ever INDUS-X Investors Event evinced the interest of the investors in the start-ups and MSMEs operating in the defence sector and the emerging opportunities under the INDUS-X initiative. The interactive meet brought all the stakeholders viz Startups/MSMEs, Investors, Incubators, Industry from both sides under one roof to discuss the collaborative agendas and opportunities thereon.

### Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas 2023

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked the celebration of ‘**Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas**’ at Birsa College, Khunti, Jharkhand, on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023.
- Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, also known as **Tribal Pride Day**, is celebrated to honor the **birth anniversary of the revered tribal freedom fighter, Birsa Munda**.
- To mark this historic day, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the ‘Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra’ from Ulihatu Village in Jharkhand**.
- In recognition of immense contributions of Birsa Munda, the **Union Cabinet declared November 15**, the birthdate of Birsa Munda, as ‘**Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas**’ in 2021.

### National Press Day 2023

- **National Press Day**, observed on **November 16** every year in India, holds significance in acknowledging the vital role of a free and responsible press in a democratic society.
- The day commemorates the establishment of the **Press Council of India (PCI)**, which acts as a regulatory body for the news media in the country.
- National Press Day 2023 theme “**Media in the Era of Artificial Intelligence**.”

### ‘Mika’

- **Hanson Robotics and Dictador**, a Polish run company, have appointed the **world’s first humanoid robot CEO named Mika**.
- This innovative project aims to blend advanced artificial intelligence and machine learning with the unique values of the company.
- **Dictador, in collaboration with Hanson Robotics**, has introduced **Mika as the “official face” of the company**. Mika utilizes advanced AI and machine learning algorithms to swiftly and accurately process data.

### BONGOSAGAR-23

- The 4th edition of Bilateral Exercise between Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy, BONGOSAGAR-23, and the 5th edition of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) by the two navies was conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal from 07 - 09 Nov 2023 in Vishakhapatnam.
- **Location:** Northern Bay of Bengal

### National Education Day 2023

- **National Education Day** is celebrated every year on **November 11th** to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**, India’s first Education Minister.
- The National Education Day 2023 theme is “**Embracing Innovation**.” This theme highlights the importance of innovation in education and the need to promote creative and progressive teaching methods.

### World Diabetes Day 2023

- **World Diabetes Day**, observed annually on **November 14**, serves as a crucial platform to bring attention to diabetes as a pressing global public health issue.
- The theme for World Diabetes Day 2023, “**Access to Diabetes Care**,” underscores the importance of making diabetes care accessible to everyone.
- The significance of November 14 lies in the celebration of the birthday of **Sir Frederick Banting**, the **co-discoverer of insulin** alongside Charles Herbert Best in 1922.

- Established in 1991 by the **International Diabetes Foundation (IDF)** and the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, World Diabetes Day gained official recognition by the United Nations in 2006.

### **‘Amini’: Arnala Class Ship for Indian Navy**

- The latest addition to the Indian Navy’s fleet, ‘Amini,’ an Arnala class ship, was launched at L&T Shipbuilding’s facility in Kattupalli, Tamil Nadu.
- Amini, the fourth in the series of 08 x ASW Shallow Water Craft (SWC) projects, is a creation of the state-owned Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE). This ship is specifically designed for anti-submarine operations in coastal waters, as well as low intensity maritime operations (LIMO) and mine laying operations.

### **MITRA SHAKTI-2023**

- The ninth edition of the Joint Military exercise “Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023” has officially commenced in Aundh (Pune), running from 16th to 29th November 2023. The exercise brings together the Indian and Sri Lankan armed forces for collaborative training and strategic cooperation.
- Collective efforts during Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023 aim to achieve an enhanced level of interoperability among the troops.

### **Mori Hydro Electric Project**

- State-run power producer SJVN has achieved a significant milestone as the first unit of the 30 MW capacity at the Naitwar Mori Hydro Electric Project (NMHEP) commenced supplying power to the national electricity grid.
- The Naitwar Mori Hydro Electric Project is strategically located on the River Tons, a major tributary of the Yamuna, situated in the picturesque Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand.

### **‘Nest’ Initiative**

- In a move to promote sustainable and environmentally friendly construction practices in the domestic housing sector, the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), a part of the Confederation of Indian Industry, has launched a new rating and certification initiative called ‘Nest.’
- ‘Nest’ would encourage individual homeowners and the residential sector to embrace green building features, leading to reduced electricity consumption, lower water usage, and the creation of healthier living spaces.

### **MMRV Working Group**

- The United States, along with over a dozen countries and organizations, has established a working group aimed at advancing efforts to measure greenhouse gas emissions throughout the natural gas supply chain.
- The MMRV Working Group’s primary objective is to enhance the measurement, monitoring, reporting, and verification (MMRV) of emissions, including methane, carbon dioxide, and other greenhouse gases.
- The coalition consists of several countries and organizations committed to tackling emissions and mitigating climate change. Participants include Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, the East Mediterranean Gas Forum, the European Commission, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mozambique, Norway, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

### **World’s First Marine Protected Area for Sperm Whales**

- Dominica is making history by establishing the world’s first marine protected area dedicated to safeguarding the endangered sperm whale. This groundbreaking initiative aims to protect these magnificent creatures while also contributing to the fight against climate change.
- Dominica’s government recently announced its plan to designate nearly 300 square miles (800 square kilometers) of pristine royal blue waters on the island’s western side as a marine reserve.

### **International Students Day 2023**

- **International Students' Day 2023**, observed worldwide on Friday, **November 17**, is a special occasion that acknowledges the resilience and contributions of students globally.

#### 'Hello Naariyal'

- **Coconut Development Board (CDB)** has recently launched the "Hello Naariyal" Friends of Coconut Trees (FoCT) call centre facility.
- This initiative aims to provide valuable assistance to farmers in various aspects of coconut harvesting and plant management operations.

#### International Conference on Plant Health Management 2023

- The **International Conference on Plant Health Management (ICPHM) 2023** is set to take place in **Hyderabad, India, from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November**.
- This significant event is organized by the **Plant Protection Association of India (PPAI)**.

#### Pedro Sanchez

- Spain's lower house of parliament on Thursday voted to make Pedro Sanchez prime minister for another term.

#### Argoland

- Geologists recently discovered Argoland, a landmass that detached from modern-day western Australia 155 million years ago.
- Argoland was a lost continent that once broke off from northwestern Australia 155 million years ago.
- The elusive, 3,106-mile stretch was once an integral part of the supercontinent Gondwana.

#### Pradhan Mantri-Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PM-PVTG) Development Mission

- The **Rs 24,000-crore** project is aimed at the development of the PVTGs.
- It has been designed to bring critical infrastructure like power, water, road connectivity, housing, education, and healthcare to the PVTG communities living in remote villages.
- Under the scheme, about **11 interventions** like the **PM-Gram Sadak Yojana**, **PM-Gram Awaas Yojana**, **Jal Jeevan Mission**, and others will be taken to these target villages through the coordinated work of nine ministries.
- In addition, saturation will be ensured for schemes such as the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna**, **Sickle Cell Disease Elimination**, **TB Elimination**, 100 percent immunisation, **PM Surakshit Matritva Yojana**, **PM Matru Vandana Yojana**, **PM Poshan**, and **PM Jan Dhan Yojana**.
- PVTGs are a more vulnerable group among tribal groups in India.
- These groups have primitive traits, geographical isolation, low literacy, zero to negative population growth rate and backwardness.
- Moreover, they are largely dependent on hunting for food and a pre-agriculture level of technology.
- In 1973, the Dhebar Commission set up a separate category for Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs). In 1975, the Centre identified 52 tribal groups as PTGs. In 1993, 23 more groups were added to the list. Later, in 2006, these groups were named PVTGs.
- Currently, there are **2.8 million PVTGs** belonging to **75 tribes** across 22,544 villages in 220 districts across **18 states and Union Territories** in India.
- According to the 2011 Census, **Odisha has the largest population** of PVTGs at **866,000**. It is followed by **Madhya Pradesh** at 609,000 and **Andhra Pradesh** (including Telangana) at 539,000.
- The largest PVTG is **Odisha's Saura community**, numbering 535,000.

#### Kavro Doma 360:

- It is the **world-first rifle-rated ballistic helmet**.
- It was indigenously developed by **Kanpur-based MKU Limited**.