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17
March
2023

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History of March 17

- ◆ **1527** : Rana Sangram Singh of Chittorgarh was defeated by Babur in the Battle of Agra.
- ◆ **1782** : There was an agreement of Salbai between the East India Company and the Maratha rulers.
- ◆ **1959** : Buddhist leader Dalai Lama reached India from Tibet.
- ◆ **1962** : Indian-American astronaut Kalpana Chawla was born.
- ◆ **1987** : IBM released PC DOS version 3.3.

Current Affairs Related to 17 March

- ◆ **Net zero waste will be mandatory for buildings.** A directive will be issued by the Center to state governments to add the requirement in building by-laws as part of efforts to eliminate manual scavenging. The Center has proposed imposing fines for violations. It will be mandatory for all upcoming housing societies and commercial complexes in the country to ensure net zero waste and treat their liquid discharge. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is likely to send a directive by the end of March. The ministry is also considering including septic tank design in building bylaws.
- ◆ **National Youth Conclave was organized in New Delhi.** The event was organized under the aegis of India's G-20 chairmanship in 2023. The program was organized by National Institute of Urban Affairs in collaboration with Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and Department of Youth Affairs. It is India's biggest youth summit bringing together youth, national leaders, experts and innovators from across the country.
- ◆ **Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee have discovered a new anti-bacterial small molecule.** Its research findings were published in the American Chemical Society Journal. Bay Infectious Diseases. This anti-bacterial small molecule may be helpful in fighting drug-resistant infections.
- ◆ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the world's longest railway platform of 1.5 km at Sri Siddaruda Railway Station** in Hubli in the state of Karnataka. The platform was inaugurated during the PM's visit to Karnataka in the presence of Union Minister Pralhad Joshi. It is noteworthy that Indian Railways, South Western Railway Zone Hubli is now recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records for having the longest platform. The world's longest railway platform will cater to the transportation needs of the Hubli-Dharwad area and help in increasing the operational efficiency of the yard. Apart from this, it will enable the operation of trains in both the directions.
- ◆ **Japan joined the Alternative Mechanism for Resolving Disputes in the World Trade Organisation.** The MPIA is an alternative mechanism for resolving disputes of the World Trade Organisation. It was established by the European Union and their major partners. 26 WT members are currently part of the MPIA. The first appeal under the MPIA will be heard on anti-dumping duties imposed by Colombia on frozen fries from Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. WTO members have committed to establish a reformed and fully functional dispute settlement system by 2024.
- ◆ **The Finance Ministry has amended the Anti-Money Laundering Act by bringing cryptocurrency and other virtual digital asset trading under its purview.** This means that exchanges, custodians and wallet providers in crypto related business will come under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The government has invoked anti-money laundering provisions on cryptocurrencies or virtual assets as it seeks to strengthen oversight of digital assets.
- ◆ **Mount Merapi, one of the world's most active volcanoes, erupted,** spewing smoke and ash that covered villages near the crater. The National Disaster Mitigation Agency said there were no immediate reports of casualties. Images circulated showed houses and streets covered in ash in a village near a volcano in Yogyakarta. The Merapi Volcano Observatory estimated that the ash cloud reached 9600 feet above the summit.
- ◆ **INS Sahyadri participated in the Maritime Partnership exercise with the French Navy.** This exercise was done in the Arabian Sea.
- ◆ **Union Minister Narayan Rane launched the MSME Competitive Scheme.** The main objective of the MSME Competitiveness Scheme is to provide a roadmap for global competitiveness for MSMEs. The main objective of the scheme is to improve the quality, productivity and performance of MSMEs and to change the mindset of the manufacturers.



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National & International Current Affairs

1. From when till when is the third Divya Kala Mela being organized at Bhopal Haat in Madhya Pradesh.

- (A) 11-20 March 2023 (B) 12-21 March 2023
(C) 13-22 March 2023 (D) 15-25 March 2023

(B) This 10-day fair was inaugurated by Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel in the presence of Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar. It will be organized from 12 to 21 March 2023 at Bhopal Haat. The 3rd Divya Kala Mela is an opportunity for Divyangjan to become entrepreneurs and artisans. Cultural programs will be organized by Divyang and other artists on this occasion.



2. Who will get the country's first electric pilgrimage corridor recently?

- (A) Uttarakhand (B) Chhattisgarh
(C) Madhya Pradesh (D) Telangana

(A) Recently the state of Uttarakhand will get the country's first electric pilgrimage corridor. The country's first electric pilgrimage corridor is being built in the Chardham Yatra route, about 900 kilometers long. Charging points are being made at every 30 km for private electric vehicles. The Char Dham Yatra will start in Uttarakhand from 22 April.



3. Ashok Leyland unveiled an all-women production line at its plant in which state?

- (A) Tamil Nadu (B) Telangana
(C) Chhattisgarh (D) Andhra Pradesh

(A) Indian commercial vehicle manufacturer, Ashok Leyland has launched an all-women production line with 100 per cent women employees at its Hosur plant in Tamil Nadu. The initiative to start an all women production line is to promote women empowerment and encourage them to play a role in the manufacturing industry.



4. Who recently dedicated the world's longest railway platform to the nation?

- (A) Piyush Goyal (B) Nitin Gadkari
(C) Narendra Modi (D) Rajnath Singh

(C) Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the world's longest railway platform at Sri Siddharudha Swamiji Hubli station in Karnataka. It is a 1507 meter long platform which has been built at a cost of around Rs 20 crore. 1507 meters long platform number 8 has got the status of the longest railway platform in the world.



5. India's net direct tax collection has increased from 17 percent to how many lakh crore rupees?

- (A) 10.05 lakh crore (B) 13.73 lakh crore
(C) 15.83 lakh crore (D) 18.95 lakh crore

(B) The net direct tax collection so far in this financial year has reached Rs 13.73 lakh crore, which is about 17 percent more than the net collection in the same period last year. This collection is more than 97 percent of the total budget estimates and more than 83 percent of the total revised estimates of each of the taxes for the financial year 2022-23.





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6. **Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal chaired which meeting of the National Startup Advisory Council in New Delhi?**

- (A) 2 (B) 4
(C) 5 (D) 6

(D) The NSAC deliberated on matters important for the upliftment of the startup ecosystem in India. India is the third largest startup ecosystem globally. Topics such as Tech Landscape and the Way Ahead, Innovation in Logistics, Making India the Global Skill Market, Innovation Hub, Women Entrepreneurship, Capacity Building for Domestic Capital and Thematic Seed Fund were discussed during the meeting.



7. **Where did the Chief Election Commissioner inaugurate the Vote Fest 2023 recently?**

- (A) Chennai (B) Bengaluru
(C) Ahmedabad (D) None of these

(B) Chief Election Commissioner Rajeev Kumar and other members of ECI inaugurated Vote Fest 2023 in Bengaluru. The main objective of the fest is to create awareness on the process. He also inaugurated the Elethon 2023, a 30-hour hackathon to secure the electoral future. It will seek suggestions from the public on improving voting and registering new voters.



8. **Who inaugurated the Bangalore-Mysuru Expressway recently?**

- (A) Narendra Modi (B) Arvind Kejriwal
(C) Amit Shah (D) Rajasthan Singh

(A) Recently PM Modi inaugurated the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway. It is a 118 km long project which has been developed at a cost of Rs 8480 crore. The project includes six-laning of the Bengaluru-Nidaghatta-Mysuru section of NH-275. This expressway will reduce the travel time between Bengaluru and Mysuru from about 3 hours to about 75 minutes.



9. **Silicon Valley Bank was closed by the regulators of which country recently?**

- (A) India (B) Japan
(C) Saudi Arabia (D) United States of America

(D) Silicon Valley bank, the 16th largest US bank, was shut down by regulators following the sudden closure of Silvergate Capital Corp and reckless fundraising by SVB. The closure of Silicon Valley Bank has resulted in a loss of more than \$100 billion in market value of American banks' shares.



10. **According to the recently released data, what is the rank of India in the list of highest number of female billionaires?**

- (A) 5th (B) 7th
(C) 8th (D) 9th

(A) According to the recently released data, India ranks 5th in the list of highest number of women billionaires. The US leads the list with a total of 92 women billionaires, followed by China with 46 women billionaires. India ranks 5th with 9 women billionaires, along with Australia and Hong Kong.



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