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24
March
2023

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History of March 24

- ◆ **1855** : For the first time long distance message was sent by telegraph between Kolkata and Agra.
- ◆ **1837** : Black citizens were given the right to vote in Canada.
- ◆ **1882** : The deadly infectious disease TB was identified, the scientist who discovered it was later awarded the Nobel Prize.
- ◆ **1959** : Iraq separated itself from the Baghdad Pact.

Current Affairs Related to 24 March

- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline through video conference. This is the first such pipeline through which refined diesel from India will be supplied to Bangladesh. The project has been built under the grant-in-aid of the Government of India. The project involves the construction of a 130 km long pipeline that will connect Siliguri in West Bengal and Parbatipur in Dinajpur district of Bangladesh. The capacity of this pipeline is 1 million metric tonnes per annum.
- ◆ INS Dronacharya, the top urban school of the Indian Navy, will be awarded the President's Color for its distinguished services. The award will be given by President Draupadi Murmu, who serves as the Supreme Military Ruler, for exceptional service to the nation. The award is the highest accolade conferred by the President on an entity for exceptional service to the nation. Its main objective is to equip them with the day competencies required to deliver the ordnance to the specified target.
- ◆ The Global Millets Conference was inaugurated by PM Modi in New Delhi. A postage stamp and currency coin on International Millets Year 2023 was also unveiled by PM Modi. Agriculture ministers of six countries were involved in the conference. International scientists, nutritionists, health experts, start-up leaders and other stakeholders also participated in the conference. The conference attracted participants from over 100 countries and several stakeholders from across the globe. To promote millets, an exhibition cum buyer seller meet focused on millets was also organized.
- ◆ Bihar has the lowest literacy rate, followed by Arunachal Pradesh and Rajasthan, according to data shared by the Ministry of Education. Kerala has the highest literacy rate in India at 94%, followed by Lakshadweep at 91.85% and Mizoram at 91.33%.
- ◆ The Indian central government has launched a new edition of the MSME Competition program to encourage micro small and medium enterprises to adopt specialized manufacturing practices. Through this program Indian MSMEs will be helped to boost their quality, productivity and performance.
- ◆ The National Company Law Court approved the merger of HDFC Limited and HDFC Bank, which is considered to be the biggest merger in the history of Corporate India. The merger will create a mega banking entity combining India's largest housing finance company with the country's largest private bank.
- ◆ IT major TCS CEO Rajesh Gopinath has tendered his resignation, and the company appointed K Krithivasan, its global head of the BFSI division, as CEO-designate with immediate effect. The board has designated Krithivasan as the CEO effective. Krithivasan will be appointed as the Managing Director and CEO in the next financial year. Gopinathan will remain with the company till September 15, 2023 to assist his successor.
- ◆ Saraswati Samman 2022 was awarded to Tamil writer Sivashankari for his book Suryavansham. It is a book of memoirs in Tamil language and was published in 2019. Shivshankari's literary career spanned more than five decades. She is the author of 36 novels, 48 novels, 150 short stories, 15 travelogues, seven collections of essays and three biographies including one on former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
- ◆ The KK Birla Foundation has announced that Tamil writer Sivashankari will be the recipient of the prestigious Saraswati Samman Award 2022, for her 2019 autobiography, Surya Vansham. The award is one of the most honorable recognitions in Indian literature and carries Rs 15 lakh, a plaque and a memento.



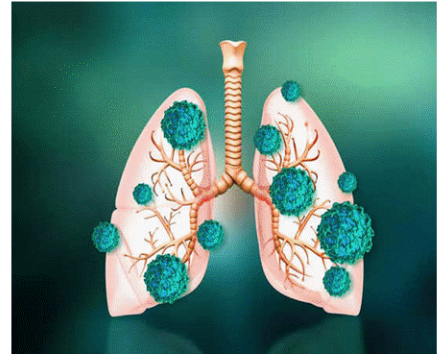
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National & International Current Affairs

1. When is World TB Day observed every year?

- (A) 23rd March (B) 24th March
(C) 25th March (D) 26th March

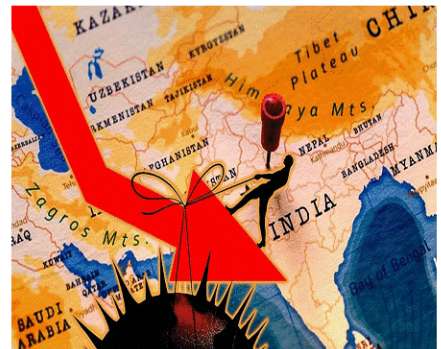
(B) World TB Day is observed every year on 24 March across the world. The purpose of celebrating this day is to make people aware of TB disease. Crores of people around the world have to be made aware of TB disease. Every day about 4100 people lose their lives to TB and close to 30,000 people fall prey to this preventable and curable disease.



2. India's growth forecast for FY2024 has been increased by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

- (A) 5.9% (B) 6.9%
(C) 7.5% (D) 7.9%

(A) India's fiscal year 2024 growth forecast has been raised to 5.9% by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. It said that India's growth rate is likely to reach around 7% in the fiscal year 2024-2025. The ICD raised its inflation forecast for India by 80 basis points to 5.8%.



3. Recently government signed MoU with how many steel companies, launched PLI scheme of Rs 6,322 crore.

- (A) 15 (B) 20
(C) 27 (D) 45

(C) Under the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for specialty steel production, Ministry of Steel has signed 57 MoUs with 27 companies. The government has allocated Rs 6,322 crore to give a boost to the steel sector and aims to generate an investment of about Rs 30,000 crore, which will generate a capacity of over 25 million tonnes of specialty steel in the next five years.



4. Which city recently received the Partnership for Healthy Cities award for anti-smoking laws?

- (A) Bengaluru (B) Ahmedabad
(C) Mumbai (D) New Delhi

(A) Karnataka capital Bengaluru has received the Partnership for Healthy Cities award at a summit in London for its effective implementation of smoke-free laws. Bangalore has also received a cash prize of \$150,000. The global summit brought together officials from more than 50 countries to discuss public health concerns.



5. The country's foreign exchange reserves have declined by \$ 2.40 billion to the lowest level of how many months at \$ 560 billion?

- (A) One month (B) Two months
(C) Three months (D) Four months

(C) The country's foreign exchange reserves recently declined by \$560 billion to a three-month low of \$2.397 billion, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India. This is the first increase for India's foreign exchange reserves after five weeks, when they stood at \$562.40 billion.





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6. Under which act the Food Corporation of India was established?

- (A) National Food Security Act, 2013
 - (B) National Food Security Act, 2003
 - (C) Food Corporation Act, 1964
 - (D) Food Corporation Act, 2008
- (C)** Recently the Food Corporation of India was established under the Food Corporation Act, 1964. The e-auction of wheat was done by the Food Corporation of India. This is a part of the Government of India's initiative for market manipulation to control the price of wheat and flour. Food Corporation of India is a statutory body of the Government of India.



7. In which state is the Varada Wildlife Sanctuary located in the recent news?

- (A) Rajasthan
 - (B) Gujarat
 - (C) Madhya Pradesh
 - (D) Uttar Pradesh
- (B)** Recently Gujarat government has planned to shift 40 lions to Varada Wildlife Sanctuary. For the past two decades, experts have called for the relocation of lions to India, as they have become geographically isolated in Gir. A second habitat would save the lion population from extinction if they die off due to diseases such as canine distemper virus.



8. What is PM Mitra initiative related to?

- (A) Skill Development
 - (B) Ethanol Blending
 - (C) Textiles
 - (D) Steel
- (C)** Recently the Prime Minister of India said that PM Mitra Mega Textile Parks will be set up in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. These parks will give a boost to the textile sector in line with the 5F vision. It will provide state-of-the-art infrastructure for the textile sector, attract investment and create lakhs of jobs.



9. National Institute of Ocean Technology is related to which ministry?

- (A) Ministry of Earth Sciences
 - (B) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
 - (C) Ministry of Home Affairs
 - (D) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- (A)** National Institute of Ocean Technology is going to set up a green and self-powered desalination plant in Lakshadweep. National Institute of Ocean Technology is an institute under the aegis of Ministry of Earth Sciences. It was established in November 1993 as an autonomous body. Its main function is to harness energy from the sea.



10. When was the Colombo Security Conference formed?

- (A) 2007
 - (B) 2009
 - (C) 2011
 - (D) 2013
- (C)** Recently Indian Coast Guard Zone hosted the 4th edition of Table Top Exercise under the aegis of Colombo Security Conference at Kolkata. Along with the Indian Coast Guard, representatives from Colombo Security Conference member countries Sri Lanka, Maldives and Mauritius participated in the exercise.

