

Weekly Current Affairs (15th -21st Feb. 2023)

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Q1) Asian Indoor Athletics Championships 2023: India Finished with 8 Medals



- India ended the **10th** “Asian Indoor Athletics Championship 2023” with 8 medals including **1 Gold, 6 Silver & 1 Bronze**. National record holder Shot Putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor was the only Gold Medalist for India.
- Indian athlete Jyothi Yarraji and Jeswin Aldrin broke the national records (indoor) in the women’s 60m hurdles and men’s long jump respectively.
- The tournament was organized in **Astana (Kazakhstan)** from 10-12 Feb. 2023.

Winner - **Japan (G-6, S-5, B-4: total 15 medals)**

2) Kazakhstan (G-6, S-3, B-3: total 12 medals)

In the Southeast Asia Region

Winner - **Vietnam (G-1, S-1, B-0: total 2 medals)**

2) Indonesia 3) Philippines 4) Thailand

Indian Silver Medalist

	Category
1) Jyothi Yarraji	Women's 60 m hurdles
2) Jeswin Aldrin	Men's Long Jump
3) Karanveer Singh	Men's Shot Put
4) Praveen Chitravel	Men's Triple Jump
5) Swapna Barman	Women's Pentathlon
6) Pavithra Venkatesh	Women's Pole Vault

Indian Bronze Medalist

	Category
1) Rosy Meena Paulraj	women's pole vault

About Tajinderpal Singh Toor

- He holds the outdoor Asian and national record of **21.49m**.
- India was the winner in the **2008 edition of the tournament held in Doha (Qatar)**.

Q2) Dr. Mahendra Mishra receive international Mother Language Award 2023



- A Renowned linguist and folklorist from Odisha Dr. Mahendra Mishra will be honoured with the **UNESCO's "International Mother Language Award 2023"** for his promotion of Hindi language in India.
- He is the 1st Indian to receive this prestigious award.
- The award will be conferred on the International Mother Language Day on 21 February 2021 by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina in **Dhaka**.
- Dr Mishra, a member of Language Development Board of Central Sahitya Akademi, is the recipient of Odisha Sahitya Akademi.

Additional Point

1) Every year on **21 February** world observes the "International Mother Language Day."

- 2) This year's will be the **24th edition** and theme of this years will be "**multilingual education - a necessity to transform education**"

Q3) Ladakh to host India's 1st Frozen-Lake Marathon at Pangong Tso



- India's 1st "Frozen-Lake Marathon" also called "Last Run" will be organized at the Pangong Tso Lake (Ladakh) on 20 February 2023.
- The 21-km marathon will be started from Lukung and ended at Maan village.
- The Marathon will be organised by the Indian Army and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
- The event will be participated by the 75 selected athletes from India and abroad.

Note: Former Brigadier of Indian Army **B.D Mishra** was appointed the new Governor of Ladakh by the President of India.

Q3) Union Cabinet approves construction of Shinku La Tunnel for all-weather connectivity in Ladakh.

CABINET DECISIONS
15th Feb 2023



PROVIDING ALL WEATHER CONNECTIVITY TO LADAKH

Construction of Shinku La tunnel approved



 The length of the tunnel will be 4.1 kilometers

 Target to complete construction by 2025

- The Union Cabinet on 15 February approves the construction of the **4.1 km “Shinku La Tunnel”** on the Nimu-Padam-Darcha road link to provide connectivity to the areas of Ladakh.
- This will provide the all-weather connectivity to the Ladakh region to the rest of the country.
- The tunnel will be built by the Border Roads Organization (BRO) under **Project Yojkar**.
- It is expected that the tunnel will be completed by **December 2025 at a cost of Rs. 1,681 crores**.
- Another Zojila tunnel is also under construction which is on Srinagar-Kargil-Leh National Highway.

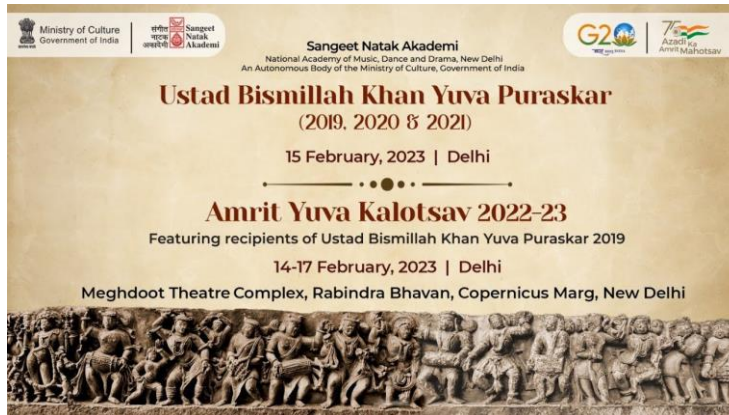
About Shinku La Tunnel

- Shinku La is a mountain pass which is on the border of **Ladakh & Himachal Pradesh**,
- It connects the **Zaskar Valley of Leh-Ladakh to Lahaul in Himachal Pradesh**.

Important Mountain Passes of Himachal Pradesh

	Connectivity	River
Rohtang Pass (Atal Tunnel is built)	Manali-Leh	
Shipki La Pass	Shimla-Tibet	Satluj
Bara Lacha Pass	Manali-Leh	
4) Kunzum Pass	5) Debsa Pass	6) Indrahara Pass

Q4) Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for the year 2019, 2020 & 2021 announced



- The Union Minister of Tourism & Culture **G. Kisan Reddy** presented the “Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar” (UBKYP) 2019, 2020 & 2021 to **102 artists**.
- The ceremony was held at the Meghdoot Theatre Complex, Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi on 15th February 2023.
- Chairperson of Sangeet Natak Akademi **Dr. Sandhya Purecha** presided over the event.
- The Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar carries a purse money of Rs 25,000/- (Rupees twenty-five thousand only), an Angavastram and a plaque.
- The Yuva Puraskar may be given in the following five Fields of activity:
- 1) Music 2) Dance 3) Theatre
- 4) Other Traditional / Folk/ Tribal/ Dance/ Music/ Theatre and Puppetry

All Winners

Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2019

Field of Activity: **Music**

Category

Gautam Kale	Hindustani Vocal
Joydeep Mukherjee	Hindustani Instrumental – Sarod/Sursingar
Shakir Khan	Hindustani Instrumental-Sitar
Palakkad Ramprasad	Carnatic Vocal
L Ramakrishnan	Carnatic Instrumental – Violin
Satish Krishnamurthy	Carnatic Instrumental – Mridangam
B S Arun Kumar	Contemporary Music
Sadanand Jyotish Babu	Other Major Traditions of Music- Kathakali Music

Field of Activity: **Dance**

Category

Sudipa Ghosh	Bharatanatyam
Swati Sinha	Kathak
Okram Jelen Singh	Manipuri
Sreelakshmy Govardhanan	Kuchipudi
Swapnakalpa Dasgupta	Odissi
Prabhat Kakoti	Sattriya
Anupama Menon	Mohiniyattam
Bishwanath Kumbhakar	Chhau

Overall Contribution/Scholarship in Performing Arts – 1

Arupa Lahiry Performing Art –(Bharatanatyam)

Field of Activity: **Theatre**

	<u>Category</u>
Hajarimayum	Roji Devi Playwriting
Rajguru	Playwriting
Rajinder Singh	Direction
Asheesh Charan	Direction
Vasant Selvam	Acting
Gauri Dewal	Acting
Abhimanyu Imroz	Allied Theatre Arts- Costume Design
Santosh Kumar Rana	Other Major Traditions of Theatre - Prahlad Natak

Field of Activity: **Other Traditional/Folk/Tribal Dance/Music/Theatre and Puppetry**

	<u>Category</u>
Dare Khan Manganiar	Folk Music, Rajasthan
Birender Singh	Folk Music, Uttarakhand
Anubha Rai	Folk Music, Uttar Pradesh
N. K. Sumi	Folk Music Nagaland
Jesilda Cheran Momin	Folk Music & Dance, Meghalaya
Jitendra Kumar	Folk Music & Dance, Bihar
Vikas Maruti Kokate	Folk Music, Maharashtra
Shaikhom Surchandra Singh	Pung Making, Manipur

Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2020

Field of Activity: **Music**

	<u>Category</u>
Diwakar & Prabhakar Kashyap	Hindustani Vocal
Manas Kumar Chamuah	Hindustani Instrumental – Violin
Harsh Narayan	Hindustani Instrumental – Sarangi
Bharat Sundar	Carnatic Vocal
Amith A Nadig	Carnatic Instrumental - Flute
V Prakash Ilaiyaraja	Carnatic Instrumental - Nagaswaram
Rupak Kumar Parida	Other Major Traditions of Music- Odissi Music
Kheta Khan Manganiyar Rajasthan	Other Major Traditions of Music – Mand,

Field of Activity: **Dance**

	<u>Category</u>
Mithun Shyam	Bharatanatyam
Trina Roy	Kathak
Khagembam Khoni	Manipuri
Vasanth Kiran	Kuchipudi
Pravat Kumar Swain	Odissi
Jollymoni Saikia	Sattriya
Dharavath Raj Kumar	Other Major Traditions of Dance and Dance Theatre (Perinintyam)
Kalamandalam Vineesh	Music for Dance

Overall Contribution/Scholarship in Performing Arts - 1

Rekha Raju Performing Art-(Mohiniattam)

Field of Activity: **Theatre**

Category

Sarfaraz Hasan	Direction
Vikas Bahri	Direction
Himangshu Sharma	Direction
Bikram Lepcha	Acting
Kismat Bano	Acting
Priyanka Sharma	Acting
Manoj Kumar Mishra	Allied Theatre Arts – Lighting
Athokom Santosh Singh Major	Traditions of Theatre (Sumang Leela, Manipur)

Field of Activity: Other Traditional/Folk/Tribal Dance/Music/Theatre and Puppetry

Dhaniram Kadmiya	Folk Music & Dance, Chhattisgarh
Aditya Gadhvi	Folk Music, Gujarat
Relik Karlo Digbak	Folk Music & Dance, Arunachal Pradesh
Tapasi Debbarma	Folk Music, Tripura
Abhishek Nigam	Folk Music, Madhya Pradesh
Jagdish Baraik	Folk Music & Dance, Jharkhand
S Raghavendra	Puppet Making
Kishor Haridas Vhatkar	Instrument Making, (Tabla Making)

Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2021

Field of Activity: Music

	<u>Category</u>
Janki Mithaiwala	Hindustani Vocal
Rajesh Prasanna & Rishabh Prasanna	Hindustani Instrumental - Flute
Dyaneshwar Deshmukh	Hindustani Instrumental - Pakhawaj
Vishnu Dev Namboodiri	Carnatic Vocal
G Chandrashekhar Sharma	Carnatic Instrumental - Ghatam
Uppalapu Nagamani	Carnatic Instrumental – Mandolin
Anantha R Krishnan	Contemporary Music
Sangram Suhas Bhandare	Other Major Traditions of Music- Varkari Kirtan, Maharashtra

Field of Activity: **Dance**

	<u>Category</u>
Pavitra Krishna Bhat	Bharatanatyam
Rudra Shankar Mishra	Kathak
Kalamandalam Adityan	Kathakali
Avijit Das	Kuchipudi
Vinod Kevin Bachan	Odissi
Dipjyoti Das and Dipankar Arandhara	Contemporary (Sattriya) (Joint)
V. Durgadevi	Other Major Traditions of Dance and Dance Theat (Karakattam)
Ahsan Ali	Music for Dance

Overall Contribution/Scholarship in performing Arts -1

Sunil Sunkara

Performing Arts- Kathak

About UBKYP

- It is presented **annually** to artists who have demonstrated conspicuous talent in the fields of **music, dance and drama**.
- The award is presented by Sangeet Natak Akademi.
Established - **2006**
First awarded - **2006**

Ustad Bismillah Khan

- Ustad Bismillah Khan was a professional **Shehnai player**.
- Bismillah Khan was the first Indian to be invited to perform at the prestigious Lincoln Centre Hall in the United States of America.

Gharana - **Dumraon Gharana**

Awards	Year
Bharat Ratna	2001
Padma Vibhushan	1980
Padma Bhushan	1968
Padma Shri	1961
Sangeet Natak Akademi Award	1956

Some Important Exponents & their Gharanas

Exponents	Gharana
Birju Maharaj (Kathak dancer)	Lucknow Gharana
Zakir Hussain (tabla player)	Punjab Gharana
Pt. Bhimsen Joshi (Vocalists)	Kirana Gharana
Pt. Ravi Shankar (sitar player)	Maihar Gharana
Bhajan Sopori (Santoor player)	Sufiana Gharana
Pt. Shivkumar Sharma (Santoor player)	Banaras Gharana
Hariprasad Chaurasia (Flute player)	Senia Gharana

Additional Information

- According to the data of the Union Minister of Culture, there are total **8 classical dances in India.**

Classical Dance	State
Kathak	Uttar Pradesh
Kathakali	Kerala
Sattriya	Assam
Manipuri	Manipur
Odissi	Odisha
Kuchipudi	Andhra Pradesh
Bharatnatyam	Tamil Nadu
Mohiniyattam	Kerala

Q5) Indian Army gets “World’s first fully operational SWARM Drone System”



- A Bengaluru-based start-ups has delivered “SWARM Drones Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) system to the Indian Army for use on the battlefield.
- The Swarm of 100 drones is capable of hitting targets at least 50 kms away into enemy.
- This delivery may possibly be the world’s first operational high density swarming UAS (Unmanned Aerial System) induction for military applications.

Recent news about Indian Army

- **Lt. Gen. MV Suchindra Kumar** named as the next **Vice Chief of Indian Army.**

Chief of Indian Army - **Gen. Manoj Pande**

Indian Air Force

Vice- Chief - **Air Marshal AP Singh**

Chief - **Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari**

Indian Navy

Vice-Chief - **Vice Admiral Satish Ghormade**

Chief - **Admiral R Hari Kumar**

Q6) Reserve Bank of India announces 2nd Global Hackathon “HARBINGER 2023”



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently announced its 2nd Global Hackathon “HARBINGER 2023”- Innovation for transformation with the theme **“Inclusive Digital Services”**
 - Registration for the Global Hackathon will start from 22 February 2023.
 - So far, it had received many proposals by teams from India and from other 22 countries like the USA, UK, Sweden, Singapore, Philippines and Israel.
 - The RBI has invited innovative ideas in **4 segments**.
- 1) Innovative, easy-to-use, digital banking services for differently-abled (**Divyang**)
 - 2) RegTech solutions to facilitate more efficient compliance by Regulated Entities
 - 3) Exploring use cases/solutions for CBDC-Retail transactions, including transactions in offline mode
 - 4) increasing Transactions Per Second (TPS)/ throughput and scalability of blockchains.
- Winner of the Hackathon will be given a prize of Rs. 40 Lakh while runners-up will be given Rs. 20 Lakh.
 - The 1st Hackathon was announced in **November 2021** and results were declared in June 2022.

Q7) Ministry of Coal launched “Khanan Prahari” mobile app to curb illegal Mining.

- The Coal Ministry has launched mobile app named “**Khanan Prahari**” and one web app “Coal Mine Surveillance and Management System” (CMSMS) for reporting unauthorized coal mining activities and take suitable actions on it.
- It is a Mobile App of Ministry of Coal for Reporting Illegal Coal Mining and a tool for reporting any illegal coal mining incident through geo-tagged photographs as well as textual information by any citizen from the place of incidence.

Ministry of Coal & Mine - **Prahlad Joshi**

Recently launched Mobile

- | | |
|--|--|
| ➤ “Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav” mobile app | Launched by
Ministry of Culture
(Meenakshi Lekhi) |
| ➤ “Call your Cop” mobile app | Nagaland Police
DGP of Nagaland- T. John Longkumer |
| ➤ “ASIGMA” (messaging app)
AIGMA- Army Secure Indigenous Messaging App | Indian Army |
| ➤ JALDOOT app | - Ministry of Rural Development |
| ➤ “KISAN” app | - IIT Roorkee (in Uttarakhand) |
| ➤ “Bhasha Sangam” app | Gol
(Launched in 22 languages)
Union Minister of State for Education- Dr. Subhas Sarkar |

Q8) Kollam District won Swaraj Trophy 2021-22 for Best District Panchayat



- The Kollam District Panchayat has won the “Swaraj Trophy 2021-22” for the Best District Panchayat for the **2021-22 financial year**.
- The Kannur district Panchayat came second in the ranking.
- The Swaraj Trophy is given by the **Kerala Government**.

Other Winners

Category	Winner
Best Cooperation	Thiruvananthapuram
Best Grama panchayat	Mulanthuruthy
Best Block panchayat	Perumpadappu
Best Municipality	Tirurangadi
Best Implementation of the “Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme” (MGNREGS)	Kallikkad Panchayat (Thiruvananthapuram)
Best Implementation of the “Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme” (AUEGS)	Kollam Cooperation
Municipalities	Wadakkanchery & Vaikhom

Q9) Spain passes law for “Menstrual Leave”, becomes 1st country in Europe



- On Thursday, Spain became the first European country to entitle workers to paid “menstrual leave” as it passed laws including ones expanding abortion and transgender rights.
- Women in Spain now have the right to three days of menstrual leave a month — with the option of extending it to five days — if they experience painful periods
- These leave facilities are also available in the countries **Japan, Indonesia & Zambia.**
- Equality Minister **Irene Montero** said it is a historic day of progress in feminist rights.

What is Menstruation

- Menstruation is the breakdown of the uterus' endometrial lining and blood vessels, resulting in a liquid that is expelled through the vaginal canal.
- The menstrual flow lasts for **three to five days.**
- If the released ovum is not fertilized, menstruation begins.

Additional Information

Capital of Spain - **Madrid**
President of Spain - **Pedro Sanchez**

Q10) Indian-Origin Karthik Subramaniam wins the National Geographic's "Picture of the Year"



- Indian-American Karthik Subramaniam win the National Geographic's "Picture of the Year" contest.
- Karthik Subramaniam, a San Francisco-based software engineer of Indian origin has been named the grand prize winner for his photo titled "**Dance of the Eagles.**"
- The stunning image shows a trio of bald eagles battling for a spot on a branch in Alaska's Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve, according to a press release from the outlet.
- The photo was selected from nearly 5,000 entries across four categories: Nature, People, Places and Animals.

Q11) Saurashtra beat Bengal to bag 2nd Ranji Trophy 2022-23



- Saurashtra defeated Bengal to win the Ranji Trophy for the year 2022-23
- Saurashtra clinched its 2nd title by defeating Bengal team by 9 wickets in the final game played at the Eden Garden in Kolkata.
- Saurashtra won the Ranji Trophy for the 1st time in 2019-20.
- This was the **88th edition of the Ranji Trophy** played from 13th December 2022 to 20th February 2023.
- During this season, Sikkim hosted the Ranji Match for the first time.
- **Arpit Vasavada of Saurashtra** adjudged as the **Player of the series**
- **Mayank Aggrawal of Karnataka** score the most runs (990).
- **Jalaj Saxena of Kerala** clinched most wickets in the tournament (50)

Additional Information

First edition of Ranji match - **1934-35**

Most successful team - **Mumbai (41 title)**

Most runs - **Wasim Jaffer (12,038)**

Other News

1) A national-level hackathon “**KAVACH 2023**” was launched in New Delhi by AICTE, the Bureau of Police Research and Development and the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre.

2) UIDAI launched new AI Chatbot “**Aadhar Mitra**” to help people get their queries related to the Aadhar card.

3) Drone start-up Garuda Aerospace has unveiled its solar-powered drone “**SURAJ**” during the Aero India 2023.

- SURAJ is an ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, reconnaissance) high altitude drone designed for surveillance operations.
- Recently, Garuda Aerospace had raised **USD 22 Million** funding in the drone sector.

4) Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates “**IFFCO Nano Urea Plant**” at **Aonla and Phulpur in Uttar Pradesh**.

- It protects the soil and also increases the production and hence will be best for the farmers.

5) Punjab’s first state-level “**Shrimp Mela**” (**Prawn Fair**) began on 17 February in Muktsar district.

- This mela is an attempt of the state government to create more awareness to Shrimp.
- Shrimp farming began in the state in the year **2016-17**

6) **Velocity (revenue-based financial company)** launched India’s 1st ChatGPT-powered AI Chatbot “**Lexi**”

7) India ranks **47th out of 50 countries in the OECD’s “Services trade restrictiveness index”**

Top 5 countries- 1) Japan 2) UK 3) Netherlands

4) Czech Republic 5) Chile

Bottom countries - 50) Indonesia 49) Thailand

48) Russia

8) Former Chancellor of Germany **Angela Merkel** receives **UNESCO Peace Prize in Ivory Coast**.

Chancellor of Germany - **Olaf Scholz**

9) according to the Morgan Stanley report, India's GDP likely to grow at **6.2% in FY24.**

10) **Antaris** announced the launch of world's 1st "Cloud-Built Demonstration Satellite" **JANUS-1.**



➤ JANUS-1 satellite was launched from the "Satish Dhawan Space Center of India"

11) A MoU was signed between **Rolls-Royce Marine North America & "Kalyani Strategic Service Limited (KSSL)** for propeller sales in the Indian Market.

12) 393rd Bird Anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj will take place on Sunday **in Agra Fort.**

13) Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana named as **National Ambassador of Child Rights.**

Director of UNICEF - **Catherine Russell**

Founded - **1946**

14) **49th** GST Council Meeting held in **New Delhi.**

Chairperson- **Nirmala Sitaraman**

15) The **69th** Dadasaheb Phalke Film Festival 2023 announced

Best Film - **Kashmir Files**

Film of the Year - **RRR**

Best Actor - **Ranbir Kapoor (for Brahmastra)**

Best Actress - **Alia Bhatt (for Gangubai Kathiawadi)**

Best Director - **R. Balki (for Chup)**

Critics Best Actor - **Varun Dhawan (for Bhediya)**

Critics Best Actress - **Vidya Balan (for Jalsa)**

Most Promising Actor - **Rishabh Shetty (for Kantara)**

Best Playback Singer (Male) - **Sachet Tandon**
(“Maiyya Mainu” from Jersey)

Best Playback Singer (Female) - **Neeti Mohan**
(“Meri Jaan” from Gangubai Kathiawadi)

Best Actor in a supporting role - **Manish Paul**
(for Jugg Jugg Jeeyo)

Best web series - **Rudra: The Edge of Darkness**

Most Versatile Actor - **Anupam Kher (for The Kashmir Files)**

Outstanding contribution to - **Rekha**
Film industry

Outstanding contribution to - **Hariharan**
Music industry

Television Series of the Year - **Anupama**

