

## Weekly Current Affairs (8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> February 2023)

### Q1) "Golden Book Awards 2023" announced



- The Asia's most prestigious book award "**Golden Book Awards** for the year 2023 has been recently announced.
- The Golden Book Awards aims to recognise the hard work, creativity, and experiences of authors who often go unrewarded and unrecognised.
- The awards are organised by Wings Publication International, a leading independent publisher in India.

#### List of Winners

#### Book

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| ➤ Ashneer Grover | <b>Doglapan: The Hard truth about Life and Start-ups</b>   |
| ➤ Namita Thapar  | <b>The Dolphin &amp; the Shark: Stories on Entrepreneurship</b>                                      |
| ➤ JK Rowling     | <b>Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore Gaur</b>  |
| ➤ Ruskin Bond    | <b>How to Live Your Life</b>   |
| ➤ Gaur Gopal Das | <b>Energize Your Mind: A Monk's Guide to Mindful Living</b>  |
| ➤ Jeff Kennedy   | <b>Dairy of a Wimpy Kid: Diper Overlode</b>  |
| ➤ Deepak Chopra  | <b>The Seven Spiritual Law of Success:<br/>A Practical Guide to Achieving your dreams</b>            |
| ➤ Kamlesh Patel  | <b>The Wisdom Bridge: Nine Principles to a Life that<br/>Echoes in the Hearts of your Loved Ones</b> |
| ➤ Geeta Piramal  | <b>Rahul Bajaj: An Extraordinary Life</b>  |

- Sneh Desai, Sunil Tulsiani      **Ultimate Secrets to Wealth**
- Raj Shamani                      **Build, Don't Talk: Things You Wish You Were Taught in School**
- Bhupendra Singh Rathore      **The Magic of Thinking Rich**
- Deepak Bajaj                      **Network Marketing in 60 Minutes**
- Deepti Naval                      **A Country Called Childhood: A Memoir**
- Nila Prasad                        **The Silver Gold Tower**
- Aadya Dube                        **Always Be Unique**
- Dr Aparna Pradhan              **Existence of womanhood**
- Osheen                              **Adventure with the Sea and the Sand Ivy**
- Emmanuel Thomas              **The Wheel Spins to Your Will**
- Rakhi Kapoor                      **Now You Breathe: Overcoming Toxic Relationships**

Q2) Centre notifies appointment of 2 new Judges to Supreme Court of India

- The Union Government notified the appointment of **2 new Judges of Supreme Court of India.**
- With this appointment, the Supreme Court of India has regained its full strength of **34 Judges.**
- 2 newly appointed judges are:
  - Rajesh Bindal - Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court**
  - Aravind Kumar - Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court**

#### Additional Information

- The centre appointed **5 new High Court Judges to the Supreme Court of India** a week before.
- Judge of Supreme Court of India are appointed by the **President of India under the Article 124(2) of Indian Constitution** while “Judges of High Courts” are appointed under **Art. 217.**

- At present, the Supreme Court of India consists of 34 Judges **(1 Chief Justice of India & 33 Judges)**
- **Justice Saumitra Sen (Calcutta High Court)** was the first judge of Independent India.
- **Justice Harilal J.Kania** was the 1<sup>st</sup> Chief Justice of Independent India.

Supreme Court of India established- **28 January 1950**

Supreme Court of India is mentioned under **Art. 124 of the Indian Constitution**

Current Chief Justice of India - **DY Chandrachud (50<sup>th</sup>)**

Union Law Minister - **Kiren Rijju**

Q3) India ranks first in the Milk production, contributes 24% of global milk production.



- According to the Union Minister of Animal Husbandry and Dairy **Purushottam Rupala** announced that India ranks **1<sup>st</sup> in the Milk production and contributes 24% of global milk production in the year 2021-22.**
- The production of Milk in India has registered a growth of 51% during the last 8 years and has increased to 220 million tonnes in 2021-22.
- The department of Animal Husbandry runs various schemes to benefit the farmers in the dairy sector.
- The “National Programme for Dairy Development” was launched on **February 2014** that aims to enhance the quality of milk and milk products and increasing share in the markets.

### Government Initiatives in Dairy sector

1) Rashtriya Gokul Mission- it was launched in **December 2014** **With a budget of Rs. 2025 crore** and aims in the development and conservation of indigenous breed.

2) National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) - It was launched in **September 2019** for controlling the diseases to Buffaloes, Cows, Sheeps by 100% vaccination.

### About NDDB (National Dairy Development Board)

Formed- **1965**

Headquarter- **Anand (Gujarat)**

Chairperson- **Meenesh Shah**

**Uttar Pradesh** is the leading Milk producing state in India.

### Leading Producing States

	State
Wheat, Sugarcane	<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>
Rice, Jute	<b>West Bengal</b>
Cotton	<b>Gujarat</b>
Coffee	<b>Karnataka</b>
Pulses	<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>
Tea	<b>Assam</b>
Rubber	<b>Kerala</b>

Q4) ICC T-20 Women's World Cup 2023 begins in South Africa



- The **8<sup>th</sup> edition of the “ICC Women’s World Cup 2023”** will begin from 10<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023 in South Africa.
- The opening match will be played against the South Africa and Sri Lanka.
- Indian team led by **Harmanpreet Kaur** will start their campaign against **Pakistan** on 12<sup>th</sup> February.

Additional Points

- **Australian team** is the current champion and also hold the most number titles (5)
- The 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the ICC Women’s T20 World Cup was held in **2009 with England team emerging as the winner.**
- **Bangladesh** will host the **9<sup>th</sup> edition of “ICC Women’s T20 World Cup in 2024.**

## Q5) Skye Air Launched India's 1<sup>st</sup> traffic management system for Drones



- A Gurugram-based drone solutions provider **Skye Air** on Tuesday launched the India's 1<sup>st</sup> "traffic management system for Drones" **Skye UTM**.
- The software was launched in the presence **Nitin Gadkari**, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways in India.
- The software will allow drone operators to plan routes, make flight plans and assess risks before running drone-based operations in the country.
- The platform offers the **1<sup>st</sup> 3D view of the Drone airspace**.

CEO of Skye Air - **Ankit Kumar**

- A Drone is an **Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)** aircraft without any **human pilot, crew, or passenger on board**.
- India's 1<sup>st</sup> indigenous advanced surveillance drone **TAPAS BH** will make its first public flight during the "Aero India Show 2023" in Bengaluru.

## Q6) Ministry of Education launched “Yuva Sangam Portal”



- Education Minister of India **Dharmendra Pradhan** has launched “Yuva Sangam Portal under “**Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**” programme.
- It will focus on conducting exposure tours of youth between the 8 North Eastern States and other States of the age group 18 to 30 years.
- Through this portal, the youths of North Eastern states will get an opportunity to know the tradition, culture, tourist places, food, languages and diversity of the 8 states of the country and youth of other states of India.

### About “EK Bharat Shreshtha Bharat” initiatives

- The initiative was launched by the **Finance Minister of India during the 2016-17 financial year of Budget.**
- The programme was announced by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in **2015.**

### Recent Portals Launched

	Launched by
<b>MAARG Portal (for startup mentorship)</b>	<b>Piyush Goyal</b>
<b>MAARG- (Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience and Growth)</b>	
<b>“E-Sushrut Hospital Management Information” (HMIS)</b>	<b>- Brijesh Pathak</b>
	<b>(Deputy CM of UP)</b>
<b>“Samarth e-governance portal”</b>	<b>-Govt. of Uttarakhand</b>

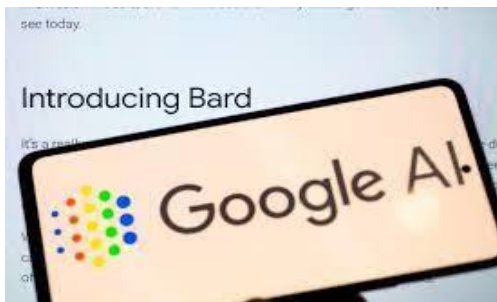
“Gatishakti Sanchar Portal”  
“Visit India Year 2023” initiative

- **Ministry of Telecommunications**  
- **Ministry of Tourism**

“Bharat Pravah” initiative

- **Ministry of Shipping**

Q7) Google introduces AI Chatbot “Bard”



- Google launched its conversational artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot named “**Bard**” to compete with its rival Microsoft-backed firm open AI’s **ChatGPT**.
- It will combine the world’s knowledge with the power, intelligence, and creativity of language models.
- Bard was launched to counter with ChatGPT which was launched on **30 November 2022**.

CEO of Google - **Sundar Pichai**

Q8) RBI raises Repo rate by 25 basis points from 6.25% to 6.50%





- The Governor of RBI **Shaktikanta Das** headed Monetary Policy Committee(MPC) on Wednesday has raised the Repo Rate by 25 basis points to 6.50% from 6.25%.
- Repo Rate was 4% till May 2022.At present, there is an overall increase of 2.5% in Repo Rate from May 2022
- This is the sixth time that the Repo Rate has been hiked by the Reserve Bank of India.

#### Monetary Policy Report for 2022-23

Policy	Rates
Repo Rate	<b>6.50%</b>
Reverse Repo Rate	<b>3.35%</b>
Bank Rate	<b>6.75%</b>
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate	<b>6.75%</b>
Cash Reserve Ratio	<b>4.50%</b>
Statutory Liquid Ratio (SLR)	<b>18%</b>
Standing Deposit Facility Rate	<b>6.25%</b>

#### Additional Information

- The Growth Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for the current financial year 2022-23 has been increased by **6.8% to 7%**.
- While in the next financial year 2023-24, it has been estimated to **6.4%**.
- RBI has estimated “retail inflation” for FY2022-23 to be **6.5%** and in the next FY 2023-24 to be **5.3%**

#### Other Announcements by RBI

- RBI has estimated the growth rate for April-June 2023 to be **7.8%**
- Growth rate for July-September 2023 to be **6.2%**.
- Growth rate for October- December 2023 to be **6%**.
- Growth rate for January-March 2024 to be **5.8%**.

#### Latest news of RBI

- RBI has signed “**Currency Swap Agreement**” with **Maldives**

- A currency swap is an agreement in which two parties exchange the principal amount of a loan and the interest in one currency for the principal and interest in another currency.

### About RBI

Founded- **1935 under Indian Govt. Act 1935 (Kolkata)**

Nationalised in - **1949**

Headquarter - **Mumbai**

Governor- **Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>)**

Q9) Indore becomes first Civic body to launch Green Bonds



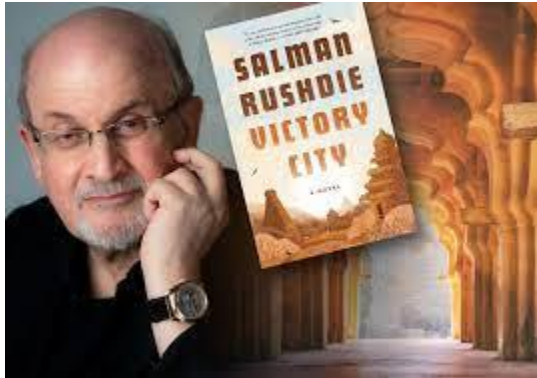
- Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) has become the 1<sup>st</sup> civic body to issue **Green Bonds**.
- The corporation plans to raise **Rs. 244 crore for 60 MW solar plant** installed at Juladh Pumping Station for drinking water near Narmada river at an investment of around Rs. 305 crore.
- For this, 25 crore rupees are spent on electricity bills every month. After commissioning of this plant, the cost of electricity will be reduced by 5 to 6 crore rupees annually.

### What are Green Bonds

- Green Bonds (also known as **Climate bonds**) are the projects that aims for renewable energy, climate control that have positive climatic benefits.
- The RBI on Friday said that 1<sup>st</sup> “sovereign green bonds (SrGB’s) will be issued in **two tranches of Rs. 8,000 crore each** for green infrastructure.

- The first auction would be done on January 25 while the second auction would be done on 9 February.
- The Green bonds would be available in **5-year & 10- year tenure.**

Q10) Salman Rushdie new novel “Victory City” released



- British Author “Salman Rushdie” has released his new novel “Victory City” published by Penguin Random House.
- It is an “epic tale” of a 14<sup>th</sup> century woman who defies a patriarchal world to rule a city.
- Salman Rushdie won the **Booker Prize in 1981** for his second novel **The Midnight Children”**

Some Important books of Salman Rushdie

**1) Sunrise Over Ayodhya- Nationhood in Our Times**

**2) The other side of the mountain    3) The Satanic Verses**

**3) Shame    4) Grimus    5) At Home in India: The Muslim Saga**

Q11) MRF Chairman KM Mammen receives the ATMA Lifetime Achievement Award



- Chairman & MD of MRF company **KM Mammen** was awarded with the ATMA Lifetime Achievement Award at the **Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA) Annual Conclave 2023 in New Delhi.**
- MD & CEO of Maruti Suzuki **Hiashi Takeuchi** presented the award to KM Mammen.
- He was given the award for his leadership qualities in the Indian tyre industry.

Headquarter of ATMA - **New Delhi**

Chairman of ATMA - **Mr. Satish Sharma**

Q12) Defence Ministry signed contract with Larsen & Tourbo for Modular Bridges



- The Indian Defence Minister has signed contract with the Indian company Larsen & Tourbo Ltd. For the procurement of **41 set of “Modular Bridges”** at an cost of Rs. 2,585 crores for the Indian Army.
- It will be produced by L&T as a DRDO-nominated production agency.
- Currently, the Indian Army is using manually launched “Medium Girder Bridges” (MGB).

About DRDO (Defence Research & Development Organisation)

Formed- **1958**

Headquarter- **New Delhi**

Chairman - **Sameer V Kamath**

Q13) Jio-bp introduces E-20 Blended petrol



- Jio- bp has launched the E20 petrol in selected cities making it the 1<sup>st</sup> fuel retailers in India to make E20 blended petrol available.

- Jio-BP is a fuels and mobility joint venture between Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) and BP.
- The introduction of E20 will reduce the country's oil import cost, energy security and lower carbon emission.
- The E20 fuel is a **20% blend of ethanol and 80% of fossil-based fuel.**

#### About Ethanol

- Ethanol is an organic compound containing **-OH group (alcoholic group) and having a chemical formula of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH.**

Parent member- **Ethane (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>)**

Q14) Geological Survey of India (GSI) finds Lithium reserves in J&K.

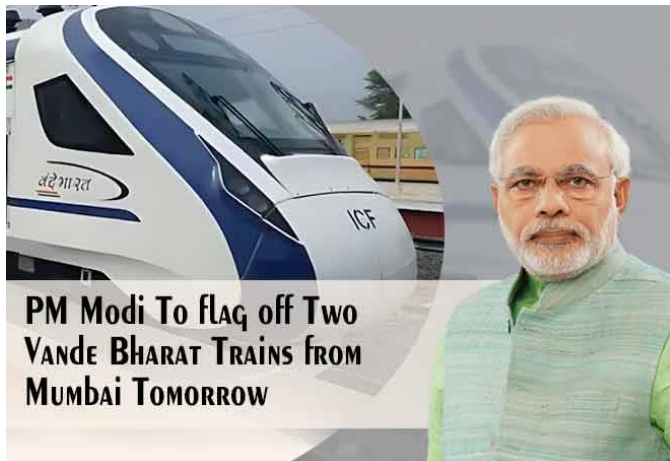


- For the first time in the country, the GSI found Lithium reserves of 5.9 million tonnes in the Rasai district of Jammu & Kashmir.
- It further said that 51 mineral blocks including Lithium and Gold were handed over to respective state governments.
- Out of these 51 mineral blocks, 5 blocks are related to Gold and other blocks are related to Potash, Molybdenum, base metals.
- Lithium having symbol of **Li (Atomic no.-3)** is a non-ferrous metal and is one of the key components in EV batteries, mobile phones, laptops.

#### Some leading states in Mineral resources

Mineral	State
Gold	<b>Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh</b>
Copper	<b>Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka</b>
Zinc	<b>Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh</b>
Bauxite	<b>Odisha, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh</b>

Q15) PM Modi flagged off two Vande Bharat trains in Mumbai



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off two Vande Bharat trains in Mumbai on 10 February making total 3<sup>rd</sup> inauguration of Vande Bharat in Mumbai.
- He will 1<sup>st</sup> flagged off the **Mumbai-Solapur Vande Bharat Express from Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CSMT).**
- He will flagged off 2<sup>nd</sup> Vande Bharat connecting **Mumbai to the temple town of Sainagar Shirdi of Ahmednagar.**
- India now has the total **7+3=10 Vande Bharat trains.**
- In the Union Budget of 2022-23, the Central Government has proposed to develop and manufacture **400 Vande Bharat trains over the next 3 years.**

#### Additional Information

- He also dedicated the “Santacruz- Chembur Link Road Section” and the “Kurar Underpass” to the public.
- He also inaugurated the new campus of educational institution “Aljamia-tus-Saifiyah in Marol, a western suburb of Mumbai.

Q16) Jean-Eric Vergne wins Hyderabad E-Prix



- The seasoned Jean Eric Vergne of DS Penske won the **inaugural session of the “2023 Hyderabad E-Prix.”**
- The Hyderabad E-Prix was held on the banks of Hussain Sagar Lake and is the 1<sup>st</sup> Formula E race held in India.
- Nick Cassidy ((Envision Racing) Antonio Felix da Costa (TAG Heuer Porsche Formula E Team) finished second and third respectively.

Japanese Formula-1 Grand Prix 2022

Winner - **Max Verstappen (Netherland)**  
He drives **Red Bull**

Q17) PM Modi inaugurated 14<sup>th</sup> “Aero India 2023” in Bengaluru





- PM Narendra Modi inaugurates 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the “Aero India Show 2023” at the Yelahanka Air Force Station, Bengaluru (Karnataka) from 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2023.
- The theme for the 5-day “Aero India 2023” is “**The Runway to a Billion Opportunities.**”
- The main objective of the event is to promote indigenous production and exports of aerial platforms and attract foreign investment.
- The event will see 900 companies from more than 80 countries across the world.
- The event aims to promote export of indigenous air platforms like Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Tejas, HTT-40, Dornier Light Utility Helicopter (LUH), Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) and Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH).

### **Other News**

1) “World Government Summit 2023” set to begin in **Dubai**

Theme- **Shaping Future Governments**

2) 1<sup>st</sup> DHARA International Conference Meeting 2023” organized in **Pune**

- DHARA stands for “**Driving Holistic Action for Urban Rivers.**”
- It is followed by partnership of two ministries- Ministry of Jal Shakti & Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.

Union Jal Shakti Minister- **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**

- It will focus on 3 themes- **networking, capacity building and technical support.**

3) **3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Digital Ministers Meeting 2023**

- **New Delhi**

Theme- **Synergy Towards a Sustainable Digital Future**

4) **12<sup>th</sup> World Hindi Conference**

- **Fiji**

Theme- **Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence**

5) Communications Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** inaugurates 5-day Mahakumbh of Stamps “**AMRITPEX 2023**” in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

6) India ranks **55<sup>th</sup>** in the ICAO “**Aviation Safety Oversight**” ranking

ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation)

Headquarter- **Montreal (Canada)**

Founded- **7 December 1944**

7) Jupiter beats Saturn to become the planet with most moons.

Now. **Jupiter has 92 moons while Saturn has 83 moons.**

8) **4<sup>th</sup> Mathrubhumi International Festival of Letters (MBIFL) 2023**

Theme- **Shadows of History, Light of the Future**

Mathrubhumi Book of the Year - **Dr. Peggy Mohan**

He was awarded for his book **Wanderers, Kings and Merchants**

9) Winner of the “ATD Best Awards 2023” - **NTPC (6<sup>th</sup> consecutive title)**

Managing Director of NTPC – **Gurdeep Singh**

Biggest Thermal Power Plant in India - **Vindhyachal Thermal Power Plant**

10) **Kenya Ladies Open Title 2023**

Winner - **Aditi Ashok**

11) “Eagle 44” (Oghab 44) is the 1<sup>st</sup> underground air force base in **Iran**

