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### 30<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024 DESCRIPTIVE

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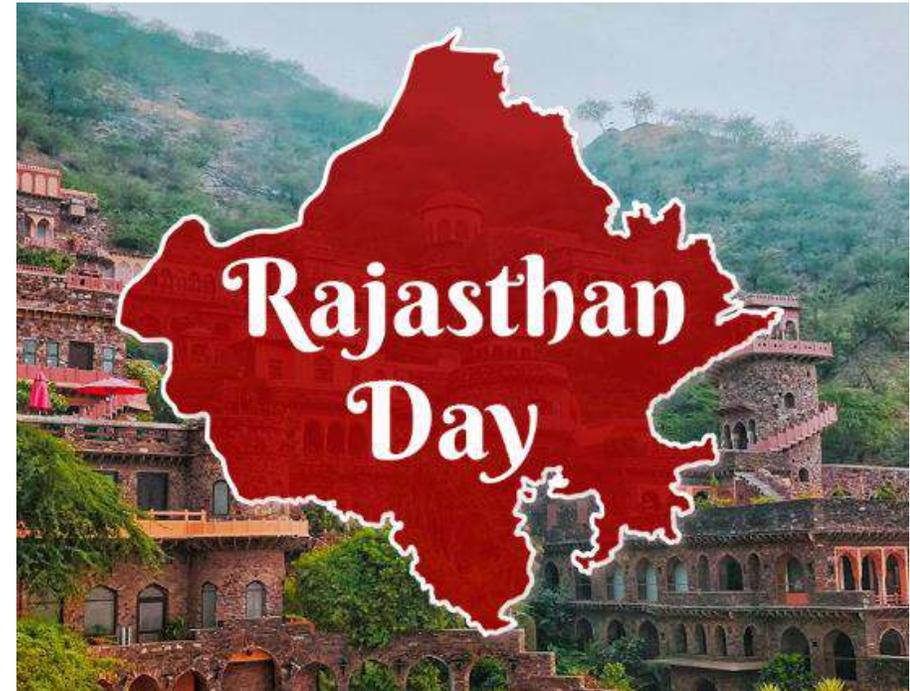
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## Rajasthan state foundation day: March 30<sup>th</sup>

- Rajasthan is celebrated its foundation day every year on March 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Rajasthan, popularly known as the 'Lands of Kings', is a state situated in northern India.
- The state was earlier known as Rajputana and then Rajasthan came into existence and got its recognition on March 30, 1949.
- The foundation day also pays homage to the valour, strong willpower and sacrifice of the people of Rajasthan.
- **About Rajasthan:**
- **Capital:** Jaipur
- **Chief Minister:** Bhajan Lal Sharma
- **Governor:** Kalraj Mishra



## International Day of Zero Waste: March 30<sup>th</sup>

- International Day of Zero Waste is celebrated on March 30 every year to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, and raise awareness about how zero-waste initiatives contribute to the advancement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- **Theme:** Let's all work together to build a world where waste is minimized, resources are valued, and our planet thrives!
- On 14 December 2022, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution at its seventy-seventh session to proclaim 30 March as International Day of Zero Waste, to be observed annually.
- The importance of reducing waste generation is enshrined in the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- SDG12 that stressed the need of 'ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns' includes a target 12.1 to, by 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.



## **NTPC ties up with Japanese bank for 200 million loan**

- State-owned power giant NTPC has inked a pact with a Japanese agency for sourcing foreign currency loans of USD 200 million (JPY 30 billion or around Rs 1,650 crore).
- Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), a government policy-based financial institution, will provide 60 per cent of the facility amount and the balance amount will be provided by other commercial banks under JBIC guarantee.
- The agreements have been signed for a JPY 15 billion loan each for NTPC Ltd and NTPC Renewables Energy Ltd (NREL).
- The facility has been extended under JBIC's initiative entitled 'Global action for Reconciling Economic growth and Environment preservation' (GREEN) for projects which ensure the conservation of the global environment.
- The loan proceeds shall be utilized by NTPC for Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) which substantially reduces the SOx emission in the flue gases of thermal power stations.
- This is the second loan for NTPC under JBIC's GREEN operations in India.
- **About National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC):**
- **Founded:** 7<sup>th</sup> November 1975
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **CEO:** Gurdeep Singh



***NTPC Limited***

## Government updates list of banks authorized to import gold and silver in FY25

- The government updated the list of banks authorized to import gold and silver during 2024-25.
- As per the list, **11 banks**, including HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank, have been authorized by the Reserve Bank of India to import gold and silver for 2024-25 with **effect from April 1**.
- The authorization will be valid up to **March 31, 2025**.
- Three banks -- **Indian Overseas Bank, Punjab National Bank, and Union Bank of India** have authorized by the RBI to import only **gold** for 2024-25 with effect from April 1 this year.
- Gold imports rose 38.76 per cent to \$44 billion during April-February this fiscal and silver imports dipped 11.53 per cent to \$4.62 billion during the period.

**Govt updates  
list of banks  
authorised to  
import gold,  
silver during  
FY25**

## **Banks' GNPA's set to improve further to 2.1% by FY25: Care Rating**

- The Gross Non-performing Assets (GNPA) of the Indian banking system are set to improve further to up to 2.1 per cent by the end of FY25.
- GNPA's are likely to come at 2.5-2.7 per cent in FY24 and will improve further to 2.1-2.4 per cent by the end of FY25, according to **Care Ratings agency**.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) began the comprehensive exercise in the middle of the last decade by instructing banks to classify certain stressed assets as NPAs so that the balance sheets represent a true picture.
- GNPA's surged to 11.2 per cent in FY18 from 3.8 per cent in FY14 due to the AQR process of 2015-16, which pushed banks to recognize NPAs and reduce unnecessary restructuring and added that the stress was emanating from the exposure to big-ticket wholesale advances.



- Starting from FY19, GNPA's have been seeing an improvement and touched a decadal low of 3.9 per cent in FY23 and were at 3 per cent in the December quarter of FY24.
- The agriculture sector's GNPA ratio reduced to 7 per cent in September 2023 compared to 10.1 per cent reported in March 2020,
- The industrial sector reported a 4.2 per cent GNPA ratio in September 2023 against 14.1 per cent in March 2020 and 22.8 per cent in March 2018.

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## **Kamal Kishore has been appointed as Assistant Secretary-General of UNDRR**

- Kamal Kishore has been appointed Assistant Secretary-General in the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.
- Kamal Kishore also appointed as the special representative of the General Secretary.
- Kamal Kishore would replace **Mami Mizutori of Japan**.
- At present, Kamal Kishore holds the post of Secretary in the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).
- **About UNDRR:**
- **Founded:** 1<sup>st</sup> December 1999
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland



**KAMAL KISHORE**

**Becomes**

**UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE  
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**





**World's first-ever**

**Om-Shaped Temple**

**Inaugurated in Pali, Rajasthan**

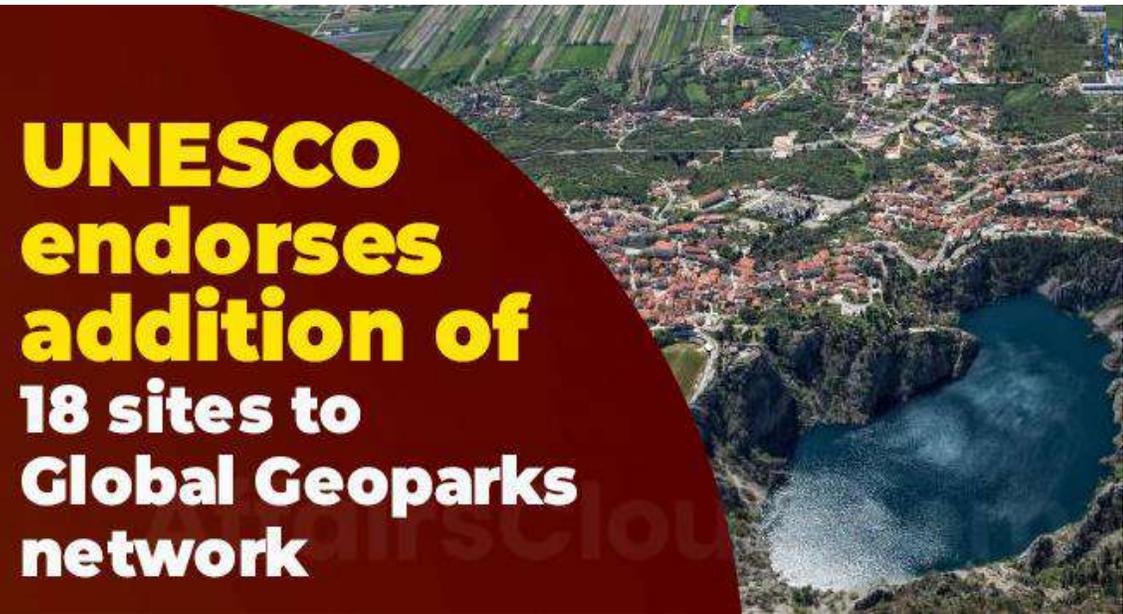
## World's first ever “Om shaped temple” inaugurated in Pali, Rajasthan

- The World's first-ever Om-shaped temple Inaugurated in the village of Jadan in Rajasthan's Pali district. This temple became the world's first temple designed in this iconic form.
- This temple follows the Nagara style commonly seen in North India and spans across a vast expanse of 250 acres in Jadan Village.
- This temple is that it can hold **1,008 idols of Lord Mahadev** and **12 Jyotirlingas** within its sacred boundaries.
- The temple stands at a towering height of **135 ft** and is supported by **2,000 pillars**.
- It also has 108 rooms on its premises, with the tomb of Guru Madhavanand ji as the central feature of the temple complex.
- The topmost part of the temple has a sanctum that houses a shivling made of rhinestone sourced from the Bansi hill of Dholpur.
- The other temples build in Nagara style are Jagdish Temple in Udaipur (Rajasthan) and the Kandariya Mahadeva Temple in Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh).

## Akums introduces room temperature treatment for sickle cell disease

- Akums Drugs and Pharmaceuticals, a pharmaceutical company, has launched a room temperature-stable **oral suspension of Hydroxyurea** which is designed to manage Sickle Cell Disease (SCD).
- This new medication eliminates the need for cold storage, making it more accessible and affordable for SCD patients across India.
- This product is manufactured in India and has been approved by the Drug Controller General of India.
- Akums says their new medication will be available for **less than 1 per cent** of the cost of currently imported options.
- The current import price is approximately **Rs 77,000** for the global brand of Hydroxyurea solution, which necessitates storage at 2 to 8 degrees Celsius.
- SCD is a genetic blood disorder that causes severe pain and complications. It is particularly prevalent among tribal populations in India.





## UNESCO endorses addition of 18 sites to Global Geoparks network

### UNESCO Adds 18 New Geoparks to UNESCO Global Geoparks Network

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO's) Executive Board has approved the addition of 18 new sites situated in Brazil, China, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, and Spain to the UNESCO Global Geoparks networks.
- There is an additional new transboundary geopark spanning Belgium and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
- With this, the total number of geoparks in the network becomes **213 geoparks in 48 countries**.
- Among the **18 new sites, 6 sites** including Mount Changbaishan Geopark are situated in **china**.
- **Brazil:** Uberaba UNESCO Global Geopark
- **China:** Enshi Grand Canyon-Tenglongdong Cave, Linxia, Longyan, Mount Changbaishan, Wugongshan and Xingyi UNESCO Global Geoparks.

- **Croatia:** Biokovo-Imotski Lakes UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Denmark:** The South Fyn Archipelago UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Finland:** Impact Crater Lake – Lappajärvi UNESCO Global Geopark
- **France:** Armorique UNESCO Global Geopark and Normandie-Maine UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Greece:** Meteora Pyli UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Hungary:** Bükk Region UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Poland:** Land of Extinct Volcanoes UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Portugal:** Oeste UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Spain:** Calatrava Volcanoes UNESCO Global Geopark and Ciudad Real UNESCO Global Geopark.
- **About UNESCO:**
- **Founded:** 16<sup>th</sup> November 1945
- **Headquarters:** Paris, France
- **Director-General:** Audrey Azoulay

## India's first AI-Based Film 'IRAH'

- The trailer and song of the first AI-based film 'IRAH' was launched in Mumbai. Music composer Sameer Sen also graced the event.
- The Hindi film starring **Rohit Bose Roy** and **Karishma** is produced by Big Films Media and directed by **Sam Bhattacharjee**, and it is set to release nationwide in theatres on April 4 through Lamplex Digital Theatrical Distribution.
- In this fast paced technical era, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been the most talked about invention.
- The film "IRAH" offers a glimpse into the dark underbelly of AI technology, highlighting its potential misuse and negative repercussions.



# Bijay Chhetri became the first Indian footballer to sign a contract with Latin American club 'Colon FC'

- Indian footballer Bijay Chhetri has joined Latin American club Colon FC until the end of the year from Chennaiyin FC.
- Bijay was became the first Indian footballer to sign a professional contract with a Latin American club based in Uruguay.
- Colon FC is a 116-year-old professional football club based in Montevideo and currently competing in the second division of Uruguay. The club has the option to make the move permanent.
- As part of their commitment towards nurturing and developing young Indian talent, the two-time ISL champions Chennaiyin roped in Chhetri in July last year.
- The 22-year-old Bijay from **Manipur** began his footballing career with Shillong Lajong in **2016** and made his senior appearance with Indian Arrows in 2018.
- Since then, he has played for clubs like Chennai City, Real Kashmir and Sreenidi Deccan before joining CFC this season, his maiden ISL club.
- **About Uruguay:**
- **Capital:** Montevideo
- **President:** Luis Alberto Lacalle Pou
- **Currency:** The Uruguayan peso





**Tejas Mark-1A fighter aircraft  
completes first flight in Bengaluru**

## Tejas Mark-1A fighter aircraft completes first flight in Bengaluru

- The first Tejas Mark-1A fighter aircraft took to the skies from the **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** facility in Bengaluru.
- HAL achieved this significant production milestone with concurrent design and development... subsequent to the contract signature in February 2021”,
- In addition, HAL has integrated with the **ASRAAM** (advanced short range air-to-air missile) for the Mark 1A’s outboard stations.
- **ASRAAM** is a **British** built MBDA missile that has been bought for the Jaguar and is being introduced into the Tejas, which will be able to carry twin ASRAAM missiles with a **range of 60-70 kilometres**.
- It will take almost two years to complete flight testing of the Tejas Mark-1A, which has had HAL pilots and IAF pilots from the national flight test centre (NFTC) working jointly to flight test the new fighter.



## **Sri Lanka to host 9<sup>th</sup> edition of Women's Asia Cup 2024**

- The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) has announced that 9<sup>th</sup> edition of Women's Asia Cup T20 2024 cricket tournament which will be held in **Dambulla, Sri Lanka**, from 19 to 28 July 2024.
- India is currently the champion of the Women's Asia Cup T20 cup.
- According to the ACC, all the officials in the tournament will be women. In the last edition of the Women's Asia Cup held in Bangladesh.

- The Women's Asia Cup cricket competition will feature eight teams – one more than in the previous edition in 2022.
- Seven-time champions India, who will be defending their title, are in Group A with Pakistan, UAE and Nepal. Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Thailand and Malaysia are in Group B. The India vs Pakistan match will be played on July 21.
- The inaugural Women's Asia Cup was held in 2004 in Sri Lanka with the first four editions played in the One Day International (ODI) format. India played in all eight finals, winning seven and losing one to Bangladesh in 2018.
- Sri Lanka have been runners-up five times while the Pakistan cricket team has made the final twice.
- The last edition was held in Bangladesh with India restricting Sri Lanka to 65/9 in the final and winning the match with nine wickets to spare. India's Jemimah Rodrigues was the highest run scorer of the cricket tournament.
- **About Sri Lanka:**
- **Capital:** Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- **PM:** Dinesh Gunawardena
- **President:** Ranil Wickremesinghe
- **Currency:** Sri Lankan Rupee

## Rajasthan Leads India's Transition to Green Energy

- In recent times, Rajasthan has led India's transition to green energy with over 26,800 MW of installed renewable energy capacity.
- Rajasthan produced **39,300 million** units of green energy in the first 10 months of 2023-24: a three-fold rise compared to the same period in 2019-20.
- In **Rajasthan**, renewable energy sources account for **64.5%** of its power generation capacity, significantly surpassing **Gujarat's 47%** renewable energy mix in its energy portfolio.
- Rajasthan has already overtaken **Tamil Nadu** as the number one state in generating wind power.





### **AstraZeneca drug gets CDSCO nod to treat two more cancers**

- Drug firm AstraZeneca Pharma India has received permission from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) to import for sale and distribution of Trastuzumab deruxtecan lyophilized powder for concentrate for solution for infusion 100 mg (Enhertu) for two additional indications.
- **HER2-low metastatic breast cancer** and **HER2 positive gastric / gastro-oesophageal** cancer are the additional indications for which CDSCO has given approval.
- **HER2-Low Metastatic Breast Cancer:** Trastuzumab deruxtecan is now indicated for the treatment of adult patients with unresectable or metastatic HER2-Low breast cancer who have received a prior chemotherapy in the metastatic setting or developed disease recurrence during or within 6 **months of completing adjuvant chemotherapy.**
- **Locally Advanced or Metastatic Gastric Cancer:** Trastuzumab deruxtecan is now indicated for the treatment of adult patients with locally advanced or metastatic HER2-positive gastric or gastroesophageal junction (GEJ) adenocarcinoma who have received a prior trastuzumab based regimen.
- According to World Health Organisation, more than 2 million cases of breast cancer were diagnosed in 2020, making it the world's most commonly diagnosed cancer.

## Government extends validity of FCRA registration of NGOs till June 30

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) extended the validity of Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) registration of non-government organizations (NGOs) and associations till June 30.
- The ministry has also given time till June 30 to all NGOs whose five-year validity period is expiring between April 1, 2024, and June 30, 2024, so that they can apply for renewal before the expiry of their validity.
- According to the law, all NGOs receiving foreign contributions have to be registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act.
- There were 16,301 NGOs in the country which had a valid FCRA licence as of July 17, 2023.
- The central government had cancelled the FCRA licences of over 6,600 NGOs in the last five years for violation of the law. Overall, FCRA licences of 20,693 NGOs have been cancelled in the last decade.

