



21 March 2024

National and International News

State of Global Climate Report 2023



Context:

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) published the new annual State of the Climate report on Tuesday (March 19), revealing that 2023 broke records as the hottest year on record.

Key points:

Greenhouse Gases (GHGs):

- GHGs like carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide are responsible for trapping solar radiation in the atmosphere, leading to global warming.
- Concentrations of these gases reached record highs in 2022, the latest year with consolidated global values available (1984–2022), according to the WMO report.

Surface Temperature:

- The global average near-surface temperature in 2023 soared to 1.45 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, the highest on record.
- The primary reason for this increase is the rising concentrations of GHGs, although the onset of El Niño in 2023 also played a role in boosting temperatures.

Ocean Heat Content (OHC):

- Oceans have absorbed nearly 90% of the extra heat trapped by GHGs since 1971, leading to a steady increase in their temperature.
- In 2023, the OHC reached its highest level in the 65-year observational record.

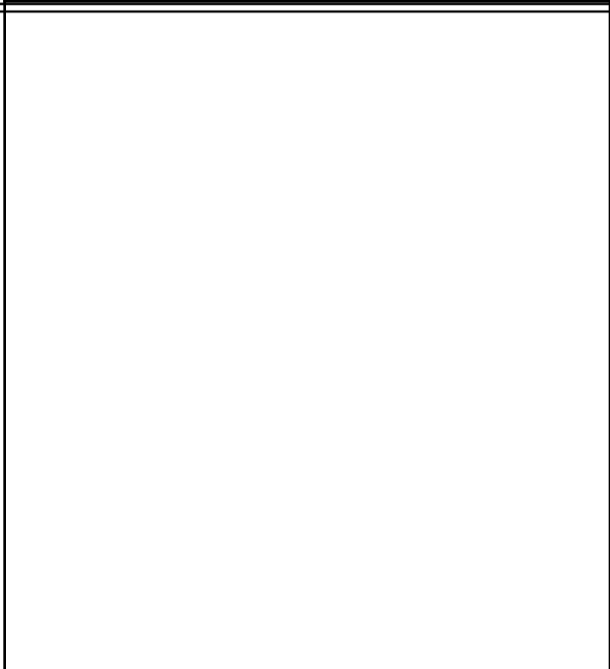
Marine Heat Waves (MHWs):

- Global oceans experienced an average daily marine heatwave coverage of 32% in 2023, well above the previous record of 23% in 2016.
- MHWs occur when a region of the sea's surface temperature rises to 3 or 4 degrees Celsius above the average for at least five days.

Antarctic Sea-Ice Extent:



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- Antarctic sea-ice extent hit a **record low of 1.79 million km² in February 2023**, the lowest since satellite records began in 1979.
- The extent remained at a record low from June to early November, with the annual maximum in September reaching **16.96 million km², approximately 1.5 million km² below the 1991–2020 average.**

Glacier Retreat:

- The hydrological year **2022-2023 witnessed the largest loss of ice on record for the global set of reference glaciers, especially in North America and Europe.**
- The annual mass balance of the reference glaciers dropped to a new low in 2022-2023, reaching **-1.2 m w.e.**, which represents the amount of mass gained or lost by the glacier expressed in metres of water equivalent.

Nana Jagannath Shankarseth



Context:

- Recently, the Maharashtra cabinet made a significant decision regarding **Mumbai Central station.**
- **They decided to request the Ministry of Railways to rename Mumbai Central station after Nana Jagannath Shankarseth.**


About:

- Born on **February 10, 1803**, in a wealthy Brahmin family in Murbad, Thane district.
- He took over the family business at a young age after his father's demise in 1822.
- Inspired by **Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy**, he became a **renowned social reformer, educationist, and philanthropist.**
- Often described as the **"architect"** of Mumbai (Bombay), he made significant contributions to various sectors, laying a strong foundation for the city.
- He earned the **goodwill of both Indians and the British and became the first Indian to be nominated to the Legislative Council of Bombay.**

Shankarseth's Contributions

- He founded the Native School of Bombay, later renamed as the Bombay Native Institution and then the Board of Education, which evolved into **Elphinstone College.**



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shankarseth, along with Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy, was part of the committee that gave impetus to the first train project in India, which ran between Boribunder and Thane on April 16, 1853, undertaken by the Great Indian Peninsular Railway Company.
<p>Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Fisheries scheme</p> <p>Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme was introduced in 1998 for issue of Kisan Credit Cards to farmers on the basis of their holdings for uniform adoption by the banks so that farmers may use them to readily purchase agriculture inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc. and draw cash for their production needs. 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Fisheries scheme has been integrated into the JanSamarth Portal by the Department of Fisheries. This integration aims to enhance credit accessibility for fishers, fish farmers, and stakeholders nationwide. <p>JanSamarth Portal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JanSamarth is an innovative online platform that facilitates direct interactions between lenders and beneficiaries. It enables citizens to access loans under specific Central government schemes. In 2018-19, the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) facility was extended to fishers and fish farmers to meet their working capital requirements. The scheme covers various farmer categories, including individuals, joint borrowers, Joint Liability Groups, and Self Help Groups. It offers an annual interest subvention of 2%, along with an additional subvention of 3% for timely repayment.
<p>Gender Pay Gap Report</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The World Bank's recent report highlights a persistent global issue: women continue to earn significantly less than men. The gap is often cited as 77 cents for every dollar earned by men, known as the "gender pay gap." <p>Key points:</p> <p>Definition: The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines the gender pay gap as the difference between the average wage levels of all working women and men.</p> <p>Focus: The metric focuses on overall wage differences, not on comparing the pay of men and women in identical roles.</p>



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Battle of Okinawa



Context:

- The **FBI(Federal Bureau of Investigation)** returned **22 looted artefacts to Japan** after a Massachusetts family discovered them while going through their late **World War II veteran** father's belongings.

Key points:

- The artefacts, missing for nearly 80 years, date back to the **18th and 19th centuries**.
- They include six portraits, a **hand-drawn 19th-century map of Okinawa**, and various pottery and ceramics, representing a significant piece of Okinawan history.

About:

- The Battle of Okinawa, which took place from **April 1 to June 22, 1945**, stands as the **Pacific Theater's most extensive amphibious assault of World War II**.
- This significant event signaled the start of the Japanese Empire's decline and played a pivotal role in paving the way for the Allied triumph in the war.

Kerala Regional News

International Day of Forests



Context:

- The **International Day of Forests** is celebrated every year on **21st March**
- This day is dedicated to raising awareness about the vital role forests play in our lives.

About:

- **International Day of Forests** was established by resolution of the **United Nations General Assembly** on **November 28, 2013**.

Key points:

- Forests are viewed as the **lungs of the planet**.
- Trees **filter the air by decreasing CO2** and helping maintain a balance in the environment.
- They are fundamental for **sustaining life on the planet** and play a significant part in **battling climate change**.




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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In any case, the danger of deforestation and degradation threatens the survival of forests around the world. <p>Theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This year's theme is "Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World." It highlights the critical role of innovation and technology in protecting our forests.
<p>Kerala creates over 1 lakh MSMEs for second year in a row</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kerala's micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) sector has seen impressive growth for two years running. In 2023-24, over one lakh new MSMEs were established, building on the success of the previous year. This brings the total number of new ventures started since the "Year of Enterprises" initiative launched in 2022-23 to over 2.4 lakh. The initiative, led by the Department of Industries & Commerce, has yielded significant results. It has attracted a total investment of ₹15,167.36 crore and created over 5 lakh jobs in the MSME sector over the past two years.
<p>Fifth aerobic compost plant completed in Kochi Corporation area</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kochi Corporation has completed construction of its fifth aerobic compost plant in the Kadebhagam division. This plant is part of the civic body's initiative for decentralized waste treatment. Aerobic composting utilizes oxygen to break down organic waste. The Thumboormuzhi model, referred to here, is likely named after a place where a successful implementation of this type of composting facility exists.
<p>Keltron bags ₹1,000-crore education sector order from Tamil Nadu</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kerala State Electronics Development Corporation Keltron has secured a significant ₹1,000 crore contract from the Tamil Nadu government for various education technology projects. <p>This substantial win involves:</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing and maintaining command and control systems for over 16,000 schools and IT labs (₹519 crore) Setting up smart classrooms in 22,931 schools across Tamil Nadu (₹455 crore) This project signifies Keltron's expertise in providing technological solutions for the education sector and potentially marks a major step towards enhancing educational infrastructure in Tamil Nadu.
<p>World Sparrow Day</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Sparrow Day is celebrated on March 20th every year It is dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of conserving sparrows and other common birds in urban environments. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Nature Forever Society of India, along with other organizations around the world, started World Sparrow Day in 2010. The idea hatched during a casual discussion at the Nature Forever Society in India, founded by conservationist Mohammed Dilawar. Inspired by efforts to save the house sparrow, they proposed a day to raise awareness about the decline of these common birds. <p>Theme 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The theme for World Sparrow Day 2024 is "I Love Sparrows". This theme highlights the special connection between humans and sparrows. <p>IUCN Status: Endangered</p>

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