

# MAHITHI MONTHLY SNIPPETS

MARCH 2024

## NAMMAKPSC SPECIAL EDITION



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## NEWS IN SHORT

- EIMA Agrimach India: agriculture exhibition at University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore.
- World Trade Centre Bengaluru hosts Global Business Forum (GBF) for the first time.
- 15th Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) inaugurated; Dali Dananjay is the ambassador.
- Prime Minister lays foundation stone for new spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu.
- SWAYAM Plus platform launched by IIT Madras to enhance employability + offers courses developed collaboratively with the industry + aims to enhance the employability of both college students and lifelong learners
- BBMP presents city budget focusing on 'Brand Bengaluru' initiative.
- India releases report on Leopard Population Status 2023-24.
- Cabinet approves establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with Rs.150 crore budget + Concieved in 2015 by India
- Bengaluru introduces QR code system for paying fines.
- KSRTC wins five awards at ASRTU, including for innovative branding and road safety + KSRTC wins awards for innovative branding and image building, BMTCL for Astra electric buses, Kalyana Karnataka RTC and North West Karnataka RTC for best road safety practices.
- Jain University researcher discovers new plant genus in Karnataka.
- India-Malaysia bilateral exercise 'Samudra Laksamana' held.
- Zoological Survey of India discovers new sea slug species.
- BioTRIG waste management technology based on pyrolysis system introduced.
- March designated as National Birth Defect Awareness Month 2024.
- Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd (HURL) Sindri Fertiliser Plant inaugurated + Joint Venture Company of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) namely, National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd (NTPC), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL), Coal India Ltd (CIL) and FCIL/HFCL
- Karnataka Govt launches Panchamitra portal for panchayat services.
- Civil Accounts Day 2024 celebrated in New Delhi + 48th foundation day of Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS)
- APEDA facilitates India's first commercial trial shipment of Sangola pomegranates to the US.
- RBI warns against charging phones in public ports due to cyber risks.
- Vikramaditya Vedic Clock inaugurated in Ujjain, world's first Panchang-based clock.
- Pakistan celebrates National Day on March 23.
- Yars intercontinental ballistic nuclear missile is a Russian-made ICBM.
- Sri Lanka and Indian company sign contract for building Hybrid Renewable Energy Systems + in Delft or Neduntheevu, Nainativu and Analaitivu islands off Jaffna peninsula

- National Urban Co-operative Finance and Development Corporation inaugurated + Umbrella organization for the Urban Cooperative Banks + NBFC under RBI
- India's foreign exchange reserves reach \$619.07 billion.
- Corporates in Real Estate (CiRE) launches Green Ride Bengaluru campaign for sustainable urban mobility.
- DoT launches Chakshu platform for reporting telecom fraud.
- DoT launches Digital Intelligence Platform for data sharing among stakeholders.
- Union government launches Indian Public Health Standards for AYUSH healthcare facilities.
- ISRO develops Ocean Colour Monitor (OCM-3) Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD) product for air quality monitoring.
- Global Resource Outlook 2024 launched at UNEA-6 in Nairobi.
- Bengaluru International Film Festival to honor M S Sathyu.
- Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR)—develops RTS dragon fruit beverage.
- March 4: International HPV Awareness Day.
- MethaneSAT launched to track global methane emissions (OnboardSpaceX Falcon9 rocket)
- NCERT introduces holistic progress card (HPC) under PARAKH scheme
- Aditi scheme for Defence launched + stands for Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX + Aim: Develop about 30 indigenous deep-tech critical and strategic technologies
- Naval Detachment Minicoy upgraded to INS Jatayu.
- World Bank releases Women, Business and Law index, India improves to 113.
- Kerala classifies human-animal conflict as "state-specific disaster."
- New flowering plant species discovered in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Anthropic launches AI model family Claude 3.
- Union Government launches 'e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi' for farmers.
- KTCT School unveils AI teacher Iris for enhanced learning.
- New wasp species discovered in Western Ghats - Taeniogonalos deepaki

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BANGALORE IAS ACADEMY

acting on the Past 10 Days

Today I force myself to go outside  
Conflict Zone, I become more curious  
and less + more worrying about Bangalore  
use that time to think of new ideas!

Don't be afraid to ask for help  
Simple solutions are always best  
Take on your extra day to clean up

Example: A portable whiteboard  
Takes up for on  
"the go meetings"

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- Srinivasan Swamy, Chairman and Managing Director of R K Swamy Ltd awarded IAA Golden Compass Award.
- Sea Defenders-2024: Joint exercise between Indian and US Coast Guard.
- Haiper introduced by former Google DeepMind team.
- AIM, NITI Aayog, and Meta launch Frontier Technology Labs (FTLs).
- MoJS signs MoA with IISc for International Centre of Excellence for Dams.
- Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare conducts school soil health pilot project.
- Railways celebrate International Women's Day with all-female crew.
- BMRL receives first set of Communication-based Train Control (CBTC) system train coaches.
- Union Cabinet approves UNNATI Scheme for North East Region.
- 'NITI For States' Platform launched as DPI for Policy and Governance.
- India's first underwater Metro inaugurated in Kolkata.
- Union Cabinet approves India AI Mission.
- LLNL observes "net energy gain" in fusion experiments.
- Cabinet Committee on Security clears design of AMCA.
- Sweden joins NATO as 32nd member.
- BBMP identifies 4 waste processing sites in Bangalore
- India's golden langur population estimated at 7,396.
- Sports Ministry's KRITI program identifies talent in school children.
- African Health Ministers sign Yaounde Declaration to end malaria deaths.
- Exercise Cutlass Express counters maritime aggression in East Africa.
- India unveils AI teacher robot 'Iris' in Thiruvananthapuram.
- Riken Yamamoto wins 2024 Pritzker Architecture Prize.
- BBMP's 'Nambike Nakshe' streamlines property approval online.
- Karnataka to build 'Ahara Soudha' for food department.
- Karnataka health department launches 33 brain health clinics.
- India signs Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement with European countries.
- Sela Tunnel inaugurated for all-weather connectivity to Tawang.
- ISRO's INSAT-3DS starts earth imaging operations.
- India successfully tests Agni missile with MIRV technology.
- STPI launches FinGlobe centre in Gandhinagar for fintech startups.
- Hyodol uses AI to address loneliness in elders with dementia.
- Revamped Pharmaceuticals Technology Upgradation Scheme introduced.
- PM unveils Lachit Borphukan's statue in Assam.
- India tops arms importers list; SIPRI analysis reveals.
- Exercise 'Bharat Shakti' showcases indigenous defence equipment.
- Kochrab Ashram, Gandhi's first, promotes Indian independence.
- Gorsam Kora Festival celebrates Tibetan culture in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Cognition introduces world's first AI software engineer.
- Karnataka wins CK Nayudu Trophy in under-23 cricket.

- High-level committee recommends simultaneous elections and electoral reforms.
- India launches PM-SURAJ and NAMASTE welfare initiatives.
- Ministry of Heavy Industries unveils Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024.
- Uttarakhand adopts Uniform Civil Code (UCC).
- Bengaluru's Bommasandra metro station renamed in partnership with Delta Electronics.
- Road Transport Ministry initiates cashless treatment for road accident victims in Chandigarh
- Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting launched PB-SHABD, a news sharing service from Prasar Bharati
- BWSSB launched Jalasnehi, Jalamitra, Jalasamrakshaka, and Antharjala apps to improve water management in Bangalore.
- NITI Aayog's 'Vocal for Local' initiative promotes indigenous products and supports local businesses.
- Hrudaya Jyoti scheme enhances cardiac healthcare with AI tech and emergency devices across Karnataka.
- India's E-Vehicle policy aims for EV manufacturing hub, local value addition, and reduced import dependency.
- Mission Palm Oil focuses on increasing oil palm cultivation and crude palm oil production in India.
- India's Human Development Index (HDI) improved to 134 out of 193 countries, emphasizing progress in human development and gender equality while addressing global inequality challenges.
- The Bugun tribe donated 1,470 hectares of forest land near Arunachal Pradesh's Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary to conserve the critically endangered Bugun liocichla, setting an example for community-led conservation.
- T.M. Krishna received the Sangita Kalanidhi for 2024, recognizing his contributions to Carnatic music.
- Dalila Jakupovic won the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis title at the Indore Tennis Club.
- A massive volcano called 'Noctis volcano' with a possible relict glacier was discovered on Mars.
- Madrigal Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s drug Rezdiffra gained US approval for treating nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH).
- ETHANOL 100 fuel is a high-octane, environmentally friendly alternative to gasoline, suitable for various vehicles including flex-fuel vehicles (FFVs).
- ECI organized a cricket match for inclusivity, honoring Ms. Sheetal Devi as PwD Icon and promoting voter education.
- Karnataka's foodgrain production is expected to decrease significantly this year due to various factors including rainfall shortages.

- FLNAT evaluates literacy and numeracy skills across states, aligning with NEP 2020's multilingualism emphasis, while ULLAS Scheme targets education for citizens aged 15+ with a focus on literacy, life skills, and vocational training



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- Pandavula Gutta, Telangana: Exclusive Geo-heritage site due to historical, cultural, geological significance linked to Mahabharata's Pandavas. Recognized by Geological Survey of India (GSI) for Earth's evolution and global conservation.

- Women's Premier League (WPL): RCB wins professional T20 cricket league sponsored by Tata Group. Notable players like Meg Lanning, Sophie Ecclestone, Ellyse Perry, with Smriti Mandhana

leading RCB to victory in 2024.

- Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC): Develops SAKHI app for Gaganyaan mission, aiding astronauts with technical info, communication, health monitoring, Earth connectivity, and dietary management.
- 2024 Captive Elephant Rules: Eases conditions for elephant transfers within India based on welfare, health certification, genetic profiling, and regulatory approvals
- Delhi High Court: Cancels trademark registration due to Passing off, protecting goodwill and unregistered trademarks under Indian Trademarks Act, 1999.
- Exercise LAMITIYE: Joint military exercise between Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces since 2001, promoting friendship and bilateral cooperation
- National Deep Tech Policy: India finalizing policy to support high-tech startups, focusing on critical areas like food security, healthcare, climate change, emphasizing IPR, commercialization, and self-reliance.
- Climate Trends Analysis: Shows disappearing spring season in Indian states due to winter warming, impacting agriculture, water resources, and resilience, stressing adaptive measures.
- Small-Scale LNG (SSLNG) Plant: First commissioned in Vijaipur, Madhya Pradesh, marks a significant step in India's energy landscape, using specialized methods for natural gas liquefaction and transportation.

- Pankaj Advani Inducted into World Billiards Museum Hall of Fame in Shangrao City, China.
- Barberton Greenstone Belt in South Africa known for gold mineralization and unique komatiites.
- India's First Indigenous 1500 HP Engine for Main Battle Tanks test-fired in Mysuru at BEML's Engine division.
- Nvidia's Project GROOT aims to revolutionize humanoid robots with AI chip technology.
- World Meteorological Organization's State of the Climate report for 2023 highlights record-breaking temperatures, marine heatwaves, and glacier retreat.
- Ranthambore National Park's tiger population rebounds but faces genetic diversity concerns, proposing genetic rescue.
- Duty Concessions to Indian Exporters to the UK under the new DCTS replace the previous GSP scheme, aiming to enhance trade relations.
- GRID-INDIA achieves Miniratna Category-I status for enhanced efficiency and competitiveness among Public Sector Enterprises.
- IPHE's 41st Steering Committee Meeting in New Delhi focuses on clean energy transition using hydrogen and fuel cell technologies.
- ISA's 29th session in Kingston, Jamaica oversees mineral-resource-related activities in international seabed areas for environmental protection and equitable resource utilization.
- Finland retains title of world's happiest country; India ranks 126th in the UN-sponsored World Happiness Report.
- United States announces comprehensive ban on asbestos, a deadly carcinogen.
- NIXI launches BhashaNet portal at UA Day for digital inclusion, overcoming linguistic barriers.
- SCO Startup Forum 4.0 in New Delhi promotes startup collaboration within SCO Member States.
- Dr. Neeraj Mittal elected co-chair of ITU's Digital Innovation Board for telecom collaboration.
- Veteran astrophysicist Jayant Murthy has an asteroid named after him, (215884) Jayant Murthy.
- ISRO's RLV LEX-02 landing experiment at Chitradurga ATR demonstrates reusable launch vehicle tech.
- IISc proposes drone swarms to combat forest fires efficiently using AI and sensor-equipped drones
- TDB grants ₹75 Lakhs for ANAGRANINF project to develop new antibiotics against Gram-Negative Bacterial-Infections.
- ECI extends 'vote-from-home' to PwD and senior citizens in Lok Sabha elections.
- Indian PM awarded Bhutan's highest civilian honor, the 'Order of the Druk Gyalpo.'
- Chandrayaan 3's moon landing site, "Statio Shiv Shakti," recognized by IAU for planetary nomenclature.

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**BRANCHES:**

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- Kerala faces mumps resurgence, emphasizing vaccination, public awareness, and WHO guidelines.
- Indian Army launches Signals Technology Evaluation and Adaptation Group (STEAG) for advanced communication technologies.
- Amul fresh milk to debut in the US market catering to Indian diaspora.
- BRO connects strategic Nimmu-Padam-Darcha road in Ladakh, enhancing connectivity.
- BWSSB plans community rainwater harvesting for lake restoration in Bangalore.
- IRDAI approves Bima Sugam, an e-commerce platform for insurance products.
- Krishi ICC inaugurated to advance agriculture through tech-driven solutions.
- India Employment Report 2024 highlights youth unemployment, labor market trends, and government interventions.
- Thailand passes marriage equality bill, becoming the first in Southeast Asia to legalize equal rights.
- Spyre VC, India's first proptech fund, launches with Rs 400 crore greenshoe option.
- Karnataka celebrates golden jubilee of maiden Ranji Trophy triumph.
- Minister of External Affairs visits Indian Coast Guard ship Samudra Paheredar in the Philippines.
- Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi sworn in as Lokpal judicial member, overseeing corruption investigations.
- SBI releases report on regional disparities in per capita income across states.
- ICIMOD and Australian Water Partnership stress integrated river basin management in South Asia.
- ASI delists 18 protected monuments, highlighting MNI declaration process and responsibilities.
- New cicada species "Butterfly Cicadas" discovered in Meghalaya.
- WHO launches CoViNet network for coronaviruses.
- AN Seamount in Central Indian ocean Basin rich in mineral deposits.