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### **1. Mukesh Ambani becomes richest sports owner in Forbes Billionaire 2023 list ( April 6, 2023 )**

Mukesh Ambani was named the richest sports owner

**Mukesh Ambani was named the richest sports owner** in the **Forbes Billionaires 2023 list** and according to the list, he has a **net worth of \$83.4 billion**, surpassing **Los Angeles Clippers owner Steve Ballmer** who has a **net worth of \$80.7 billion**.

#### **An Overview of the News**

- **Despite a 3% decline in Reliance Industries' share price** over the past year, Ambani's net worth has still grown, reflecting the strength and diversity of his business interests.
- Mukesh Ambani is the **world's richest sports owner** as of 10 March 2023.
- Ambani-owned Reliance Industries has been expanding its presence in the sports industry in recent years.
- The company bought a franchise in the inaugural Women's Premier League and **owns cricket teams in South Africa and the United Arab Emirates**.

#### **5 richest sports team owners**

1. **Mukesh Ambani:** With a net worth of \$83.4 billion, Mukesh Ambani is the owner of the world's richest sports team. He is a citizen of India and is the owner of the Mumbai Indians, a cricket team that competes in the Indian Premier League.
2. **Steve Ballmer:** The former CEO of Microsoft, Steve Ballmer is an American citizen who owns the Los Angeles Clippers, a professional basketball team. His net worth has been estimated at \$80.7 billion.
3. **Rob Walton:** Heir to the Walmart fortune, Rob Walton is an American citizen who owns the Denver Broncos, a professional football team. His net worth has been estimated at \$57.6 billion.
4. **François Pinault and Family:** François Pinault is a French billionaire who owns Stade Rennais F.C., a professional football team in France. are the owners of. His net worth has been estimated at \$40.1 billion.
5. **Mark Mateschitz:** is an Austrian businessman who owns several sports teams, including professional football and Formula One racing teams, the New York Red Bulls and Red Bull Racing, respectively. He is also the owner of the German professional football team RB Leipzig. His net worth has been estimated at \$34.7 billion.

### **2. World Happiness Report 2023 ( March 24, 2023 )**

World Happiness Report 2023

Recently the **11th edition of the World Happiness Report, 2023** was released by the **United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)**.

### **An overview of the news**

- The report says that between **2020 and 2022, the world will see a 'significant' increase in resilience.**
- Two significant events affected the world during this period - **the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.**
- According to the report, during this time of **crisis, global citizens became increasingly philanthropic and built stronger social ties.**
- There are **25 percent more "charitable acts"** worldwide in 2022 than before the pandemic.

### **Key Highlight of the report**

#### **Top Performing Countries**

- **Finland continues to be the happiest country** around the world for the **sixth consecutive year.**
- **Denmark is at number two,** followed by **Iceland at number three.**

#### **Worst Performing Countries**

- **Afghanistan** is ranked as the **unhappiest nation**, followed by **Lebanon, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe respectively.**

#### **India's Performance**

- **India ranks 126 out of 136 countries**, making it one of the least happy countries in the world.
- **In 2022, India was ranked 136 out of 146 countries.**
- India's neighbors ranked **Sri Lanka (63), China (74) and Pakistan (108)**, among others.

### **About World Happiness Report**

- It has been **published annually since 2012** by the **United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network.**
- The ranking uses key factors to measure happiness - **real GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, generosity and perceptions of corruption.**
- The report ranks global happiness based on survey data from people in **more than 150 countries.**

### **3. QS World University Rankings : IIT Bombay ranks first in country in Engineering and Technology ( March 23, 2023 )**

**Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay** has been ranked **1st in India and 47th globally in engineering and technology** by the **QS World University Rankings** for 2023.

#### **India in Ranking**

- IIT Bombay **scored 80.4 out of 100.**
- The institute is ranked in **4 out of 5 broad subject areas**, which include **Engineering & Technology, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences & Management and Arts & Humanities.**
- The institute has been ranked (51-100) for Art and Design, 66th for Computer Science & Information Technology, 51-100 for Civil & Structural Engineering, 77th for Chemical Engineering, 54th for Electrical & Electronics Engineering, 68th for Mechanical, Aeronautical & Manufacturing Engineering, and 37th for Minerals & Mining.

#### **Global Ranking**

- Globally, **US institutions** lead in **32 disciplines.**
- **Harvard University** is the **best-performing institution, ranking first in 14 subjects**, two more than last year.

### **4. India ranks 13th in Global Terrorism Index and Afghanistan tops ( March 20, 2023 )**

According to the **10th Global Terrorism Index (GTI) report**, **Afghanistan has remained the most affected country by terrorism** for the fourth consecutive year while **India is ranked 13th in this index.**

#### **An Overview of the News**

- The GTI report lists India among countries with a **"high"** impact of terrorism.
- According to the report, **India is among the 25 worst terrorism affected countries** in the world.
- The **Communist Party of India (Maoist)** has been listed as the **12th deadliest terrorist group in the GTI report** for the year 2022.
- The report surveyed **120 countries**, of which 56 did not choose war and terror as the biggest threat to their daily security.
- The Global Terrorism Index is prepared by the **Institute for Economics and Peace.**

- The Global Terrorism Index **ranks 163 countries on four indicators** over five years and has **four factors** - the number of deaths caused by terrorists per year, the number of terrorist incidents per year, the number of injuries caused by terrorists per year, and Total property damage caused by terrorism per year.
- GTI is a report based on data collected from the **Global Terrorism Database (GTD)**.
- The GTD is collected by the **National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Response to Terrorism (START)** at the University of Maryland.

## **5. World's eighth most polluted country according to Swiss firm IQAir report: India ( March 16, 2023 )**

Swiss firm IQAir Report has released its 'World Air Quality Report'

**Swiss firm IQAir Report** has released its '**World Air Quality Report**', according to which India has moved up to the eighth position in the list of world's most polluted countries in 2022 as compared to **fifth position last year**.

### **An Overview of the News**

- According to this report, **39 of the world's 50 most polluted cities are in India**.
- The top **10 most polluted countries** include **Chad, Iraq, Pakistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Kuwait, India, Egypt and Tajikistan**.
- According to it, the **transport sector is responsible for 20-35% of PM 2.5 pollution in India**.
- **Lahore in Pakistan and Hotan in China** are the **two most polluted cities in the world**, followed by **Bhiwadi in Rajasthan at the third place and Delhi at the fourth place**.
- **India** has been placed at the **eighth position** in the latest report with **PM2.5 level at 53.3**.
- According to this report, **India and Pakistan have the worst air quality in the Central and South Asian region**. About 60% of the population lives in areas where the concentration of PM2.5 particles is seven times higher than the WHO recommended levels.
- The report concludes that globally, one in 10 people live in an area where air pollution is a health risk.

### **About Air Pollution**

- Air pollution can have significant impacts on both human health and the environment.
- The effects of air pollution vary depending on the type and concentration of pollutants, as well as the duration and frequency of exposure.
- On human health, air pollution can cause respiratory problems, such as asthma, chronic bronchitis, and lung cancer.

- It can also lead to cardiovascular diseases, stroke, and premature death.
- The elderly, children, and people with pre-existing medical conditions are particularly vulnerable to the health effects of air pollution.
- Air pollution also affects the environment, contributing to climate change and damaging ecosystems.
- Acid rain, for example, can harm forests, lakes, and aquatic life. Ground-level ozone, which is formed by the reaction of pollutants in the atmosphere, can damage crops and reduce agricultural yields.
- Air pollution can also contribute to global warming by trapping heat in the atmosphere and contributing to the greenhouse effect.

## **6. Uttarakhand's Rudraprayag, Tehri top landslide index: ISRO report ( March 12, 2023 )**

According to the recently released '**Landslide Atlas**' report of **ISRO's Hyderabad-based National Remote Sensing Center (NRSC)**, the two hilly districts of Uttarakhand, **Rudraprayag and Tehri**, are **most prone to landslides**.

### **An overview of the news**

- The National Remote Sensing Center has released a list of **147 districts** prone to landslides across the country, in which **Rudraprayag is at number one and Tehri at number two**.
- Kerala's **Thrissur and Palakkad** districts are at **3rd and 5th spots** respectively.
- **Rajouri and Pulwama (J&K), Kozhikode and Malappuram (Kerala), and South Sikkim and East Sikkim (Sikkim)** are the other high risk districts.
- Rudraprayag, which tops the list, is also home to the famous **Kedarnath shrine**, which witnessed a devastating disaster in 2013 that killed thousands.
- **Sirobgarh and Narkota areas of Rudraprayag** are most affected by landslides. Landslides are reported here throughout the year.

### **Landslide Prone Districts**

- According to the District Emergency Operation Centre, **Rudraprayag has 32 old landslide zones**, the maximum of which are located on **NH-107**.
- **Tehri district** has over two dozen landslide zones, including **Totaghati** which has been identified as a **"very chronic landslide site"**.
- Chamoli district, which recently came into limelight due to landslides in **Joshimath**, is at **number 19** among the districts at risk of landslides.
- As per the State Emergency Operation Center data, between **2018 and 2021, 253 landslides occurred in Uttarakhand**, resulting in 127 deaths.

- Over **11,000 landslides** were recorded in Uttarakhand in the last two decades.
- Among these, maximum landslide areas fall on **Rishikesh-Rudraprayag-Chamoli-Badrinath, Rudraprayag-Ukhimath-Kedarnath, Chamoli-Ukhimath, Rishikesh-Uttarkashi-Gangotri route.**

## **7. Mumbai's famous "vada pav" ranked 13th in the list of best sandwiches in the world ( March 5, 2023 )**

Mumbai's famous street food "**vada pav**" has been **ranked number 13** on a list of the **top 50 best rated sandwiches in the world.**

### **An overview of the news**

- The list is published by **TasteAtlas**, a Croatian-based food travel guide website.
- **Turkey's tombik sandwich tops the list.** Second is **Peru's Butifara Sandwich** and **Argentina's De Lomo Sandwich is third.**

### **About 'Vada Pav'**

- Vada pav street food is said to have originated from a street vendor named **Ashok Vaidya**, who operated near Dadar railway station in the **1960s and 1970s.**
- Ashoka thought of a way to satisfy the hunger of the starving workers, and concluded that the ideal dish should be portable, inexpensive, and easy to prepare.
- Ashok made Vada Pav and its popularity skyrocketed.
- Traditionally vada pav is made of spiced mashed potatoes, deep fried in chickpea batter and pav, which is also known as white bread roll.

## **8. India ranks 42 in 55 countries on International IP Index ( Feb. 26, 2023 )**

**India has been ranked 42 out of 55 countries** in the latest **International IP Index report** by the **US Chamber of Commerce.**

### **An overview of the news**

- The **United States ranks first in the 2023 index, followed by the UK and France.**
- According to the report, India's size and economic influence is **growing on the world stage.**
- India is poised to **become a leader for emerging markets** seeking to transform their economies through IP-driven innovation.

- India has taken steps to **improve enforcement against copyright-infringement** and provides a best-in-class framework to promote better understanding and use of IP assets.
- Creating a new model to address long-standing flaws in the IP framework will be critical to India's continued economic growth, according to the report.
- Continued strong crackdown on copyright piracy through issuance of "dynamic" injunction orders, improved crackdown on online trademark infringement and damages, and generous R&D and IP-based tax incentives are some of India's strong points.

## **India's Weaknesses**

- One of India's key areas of weakness is the 2021 **dissolution of the IP Appellate Board**.
- Limited framework for protection of biopharmaceutical IP rights and patentability** requirements that are outside international standards are other weaknesses in India.

## **About International Intellectual Property Index**

- It is an annual report compiled by the **US Chambers of Commerce**.
- It evaluates the protection of **IP rights in the world's 55 major economies**, which represent approximately **90% of global GDP**.
- The report covers topics ranging from patent and copyright laws to the potential for monetizing IP assets and the ratification of international agreements.
- The index aims to help guide nations towards a **brighter economic future marked by greater innovation, creativity and competitiveness**.

## **Intellectual Property Rights**

- Intellectual property rights are the rights given to persons/companies over the **creations of their minds**.
- They usually give the creator an exclusive right over the use of his/her creation for a certain period of time.
- For e.g. **Development of a new software or discovery of new medicine**.

## **9. Global Quality Infrastructure Index (GQII) 2021 ( Feb. 11, 2023 )**

**India's overall QI system ranking stood at 10th position** in the recently released **Global Quality Infrastructure Index (GQII) 2021**.

**An overview of the news:**

- **India's national accreditation system** under the Quality Council of India (QCI) has been **ranked 5th**.
- While it has been **ranked 9th in the standardisation system** and **21st in the world in the metrology system (under NPL-CSIR)**.
- The GQII lists 184 countries in the world based on the Quality of Infrastructure (QI).

**Ranking of other countries:**

- **Germany has topped the list.**
- It was followed by China, USA, UK, Japan and France at the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth places respectively.

**Quality Council of India (QCI):**

- The Quality Council of India (QCI) was established in 1996 as a national body for accreditation.
- QCI is a non-profit organisation registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of the year 1860.
- Headquarters - New Delhi
- Chairman - Jakshay Shah
- General Secretary - Dr. Ravi P. Singh

**10. UP has the highest number of colleges in the country: AISHE 2020-21 report ( Feb. 1, 2023 )**

The **Union Ministry of Education** has released the **All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2020-2021**.

According to the report **Uttar Pradesh** has the highest number of colleges in the country, followed by **Maharashtra and Karnataka**.

**Highlight of the report**

- The top **10 states** in terms of number of colleges in India - **Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Telangana and Kerala**, each having at **least 29** or more colleges per lakh population.
- There are 8,114 colleges in **Uttar Pradesh** and 32 colleges per one lakh population.
- Similarly, **Maharashtra** is at number two with 4,532 colleges and 34 colleges per lakh population.



- **Karnataka** ranks third with 4,233 colleges and 62 colleges per lakh population, while Rajasthan ranks fourth with 3,694 colleges and 40 colleges per lakh population.
- **Tamil Nadu** ranks fifth with 2,667 colleges and a college density of 40.
- **Madhya Pradesh** ranks sixth with 2,610 colleges and 29 colleges per lakh population, while Andhra Pradesh ranks seventh with 2,601 colleges and 49 colleges per lakh population.
- At the eighth position is Gujarat with 2,267 colleges and 31 colleges per one lakh population.
- Most of the colleges offer undergraduate level programs only.
- Only 2.9 percent colleges offer PhD level programs and 55.2 percent offer postgraduate level programmes.
- The report shows a nationwide increase of 7.5% in student enrollment in 2020-21 as compared to 2019-20.

### **Gender Parity Index (GPI)**

- The **Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER)** for the age group 18-23 years has increased from **25.6% in 2019-20 to 27.3% in 2020-21.**
- **Gender Parity Index (GPI)**, the ratio of female GER to male GER, has increased from **1 in 2017-18 to 1.05 in 2020-21.**
- The female enrollment in North East states in 2020-21 is 6.14 lakh, which is higher than the male enrollment of 5.92 lakh, for every 100 male students, there are 104 female students in the North East region.

### **About AISHE Survey**

- The Ministry of Education has been conducting this survey **since 2011**, it includes **higher educational institutions** located in India.
- The survey collects information on various parameters such as student **enrolment, teacher data, infrastructural, financial etc.**
- In AISHE 2020-21, for the first time data collection has been done using a completely online data collection platform developed by the **Department of Higher Education through National Informatics Center (NIC).**