



Weekly Current Affairs (16th – 21st March, 2024)

1. Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri unveiled 'Ethanol 100', an automotive fuel aimed at reducing emissions and promoting sustainability. This initiative is part of a broader strategy to increase ethanol blending in petrol, with significant strides already made in enhancing availability and infrastructure across select states.
2. Britain has recently conducted successful test firings of its **DragonFire Laser Directed Energy Weapon (LDEW)**, showcasing its capability to intercept enemy aircraft and missiles at a remarkably low cost. A January demonstration in Scotland displayed the laser's precision in targeting and destroying aerial threats, marking a potential game-changer in air defense technology.
3. **The Maharashtra Cabinet** has announced its decision to rename **Ahmednagar district as 'Ahilya Nagar'**. The renaming is in honor of the 18th-century Maratha queen Ahilyabai Holkar.
4. The Rajasthan government has decided to distribute **free seeds of millets and coarse grains to the state's farmers**. This move aims to boost millet production in the state.
5. **Tamil Nadu** dominates the illegal trade in shark body parts, **comprising nearly 65% of seizures between January 2010 and December 2022, as per a recent analysis by TRAFFIC and WWF-India**. This alarming trend poses a significant threat to marine biodiversity, with Karnataka, Gujarat, Kerala, and Maharashtra also contributing to this illicit trade.
6. **National Vaccination Day is celebrated every year on March 16th**. This year, it falls on a Saturday.
7. The Indian Navy has finally got its own dedicated headquarters building. The newly constructed **Nausena Bhawan located at Delhi Cantonment** was formally inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on March 15th, 2024.
8. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has certified nearly 100 jails across the nation as **'Eat Right Campus,'** a part of its broader Eat Right India movement. This initiative aims to ensure safe, healthy, and sustainable food practices within various institutional settings, including correctional facilities.
9. Adani Green Energy announced the operationalisation of an additional **126 MW capacity in its 300 MW** wind power project in Gujarat. This comes after the earlier operationalisation of

174 MW, marking a significant milestone for the company.

- 10.** The prestigious **Chameli Devi Jain Award 2024 for Outstanding Woman Media Person of the Year** has been given jointly to two remarkable journalists:

Greeshma Kuthar – Independent Journalist

Ritika Chopra – Indian Express

- 11.** **Ratan Tata**, former chairman of Tata Sons, has been bestowed with the prestigious PV **Narasimha Rao Memorial Award**. He received the award for his outstanding philanthropic contributions. The award ceremony took place in Mumbai on March 15, 2024.

- 12.** **Max India Ltd** announced a strategic partnership between its subsidiary, **Antara Assisted Care Services Limited**, and the **Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi)**. This collaboration aims to address the challenges faced by India's aging population by developing tailored solutions to improve their quality of life.

- 13.** The **V-Dem Institute's Democracy Report 2024** highlights India's continued descent into electoral autocracy since its downgrade in 2018. The report underscores the deterioration of democratic principles, particularly in the areas of freedom of expression, media independence, and civil liberties.

- 14.** **India's position in the United Nations Human Development Index (HDI) for 2022 improved slightly, ranking 134 out of 193 countries with an HDI value of 0.644.** This signifies progress in various dimensions of human development, albeit with a continued need to focus on women-led

development, as highlighted by the UNDP.

- 15.** **B Sairam** has been appointed as the new **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL)**. NCL is the Singrauli-based flagship Subsidiary of Coal India Limited. Sairam has assumed the charge for this post.

- 16.** Australian wicketkeeper-batter **Matthew Wade** has announced his decision to retire from red-ball cricket (first-class cricket). Wade's final red-ball match will be the upcoming Sheffield Shield final between Tasmania and Western Australia, starting on March 21, 2024.

- 17.** **Sadi Mohammad**, a legendary **Rabindra Sangeet singer, has passed away at the age of 70.** His death has cast a grim shadow in the cultural sphere of the country. Mohammad completed his bachelor's and master's in Rabindra Sangeet from the Visva-Bharati University.

- 18.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated **India's first integrated oil palm processing unit, operated by 3F Oil Palm**, marking a significant stride in the nation's journey towards self-reliance in edible oils. Situated in Arunachal Pradesh's Roing, this project aligns with Mission Palm Oil under the **National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)**.

- 19.** **Russian President Vladimir Putin** clinched victory in the recent election with a commanding lead of **76.1% of the vote**, as per preliminary results. This win marks Putin's continued dominance in Russian politics, now extending his tenure to a total of 24 years in power.

- 20.** Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated **India's first indoor**

athletics stadium and indoor aquatic centre at the Kalinga stadium in Bhubaneswar. The Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for a new indoor diving centre in the stadium complex. According to Patnaik, the new indoor facilities will help athletes train throughout the year without fear of weather-related disturbances.

21. **Tamilisai Soundararajan, the Governor of Telangana, has resigned from her position on Monday, March 18, 2024.** According to sources, she is likely to contest the Lok Sabha elections from the state of Tamil Nadu. Soundararajan has also resigned from her role as the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Puducherry. She has sent her resignation letter to the President of India, Droupadi Murmu.
22. The Tamil Nadu government has agreed to implement the **PM SHRI Schools (PM Schools for Rising India) scheme by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Education, Government of India.** This initiative aims to enhance the quality of education in the state and align with the objectives of the National Education Policy 2020.
23. Retired bureaucrat **Navneet Kumar Sehgal** has been appointed as the new chairperson of the **Prasar Bharati Board.** The position had been vacant for four years after A Surya Prakash retired in February 2020 after turning 70, the upper age limit for the post.
24. **Senior bureaucrat Rahul Singh has been appointed as the chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE),** as part of a senior-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre.
25. **Kotak Mahindra Bank has appointed Jaideep Hansraj, the current MD and CEO of Kotak Securities, as the Group President – One Kotak,** effective from April 1, 2024. This move signifies a strategic shift towards optimizing the Group's financial conglomerate model and enhancing customer offerings through collaborative efforts across subsidiaries.
26. **SANY India,** a top construction equipment manufacturer, has forged a strategic partnership with J&K Bank to fuel growth and development opportunities in the region. The collaboration aims to offer accessible financial solutions to customers, facilitating the acquisition of advanced machinery for infrastructure projects.
27. **India's foreign exchange reserves witnessed a significant surge, marking a third consecutive increase in the week ended March 8, 2024.** This surge propelled the reserves to reach a two-year high of \$636.1 billion, showing the highest weekly increase since July 14, 2023, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
28. **Startup Mahakumbh 2024,** a groundbreaking initiative led by industry giants such as **ASSOCHAM, Nasscom, Bootstrap Incubation & Advisory Foundation, TiE, and Indian Venture and Alternate Capital Association,** is set to unite over 1,000 startups, 50 unicorns, 500 incubators, and 5,000 delegates from 23 countries. This three-day event, supported by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), aims to foster innovation and collaboration across various sectors, featuring prominent figures like

Amitabh Kant, Sivasubramanian Ramann, and Falguni Nayar.

29. In October of this year, NASA will embark on its **Europa Clipper mission, aiming to explore Jupiter's moon Europa in search of signs of life.** Scientists are particularly interested in a potential salty lake hidden beneath its icy crust. As part of this mission, NASA plans to send a unique message to Europa, symbolizing human curiosity and creativity.
30. **Ordnance Factories Day is observed every year on March 18th.** This year, it falls on a Monday. Ordnance Factories Day is a special day celebrated in India to honour the Indian Ordnance Factories that provide arms and ammunition to the Indian Armed Forces. These factories play a vital role in keeping our country and its people safe.
31. An Indian Army contingent has departed for Seychelles today to participate in the Tenth edition of the Joint Military Exercise **"LAMITIYE-2024" between the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF).** The exercise will be conducted in Seychelles from 18-27 March 2024.
32. India's position on the **DHL Global Connectedness Index has seen a notable rise,** reflecting its burgeoning role in the global economy. From ranking 67th in 2022, India has advanced to the 62nd position in 2023, underscoring its increasing significance in the realm of globalization.
33. The former member of the **National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and prominent Buddhist Monk of Ladakh,** popularly known as Lama Lobzang, passed away this morning at his residence in New

Delhi. He was 94 years old. This award is given every two years in memory of Princess Diana. It recognizes exceptional youth for their social work or humanitarian services. The Diana Award charity, established in memory of the late Princess of Wales, is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

34. **Uday Bhatia and Manasi Gupta from India were honored with the prestigious 'Diana Memorial Award' on 14 March 2024.** This award is given every two years in memory of Princess Diana. It recognizes exceptional youth for their social work or humanitarian services. The Diana Award charity, established in memory of the late Princess of Wales, is celebrating its 25th anniversary.
35. During the event, **Ms. Sheetal Devi, a renowned Para-archer and Arjuna Awardee, was announced as the National Icon in the PwD category.** The Election Commission of India (ECI) and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) organized an exhibition cricket match to promote voter education and inclusivity. The match was played between the Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA) Team and the Delhi & District Cricket Association (DDCA) team on March 16, 2024, at Karnail Singh Stadium in New Delhi.
36. **The beautiful Dal Lake in Kashmir witnessed an exciting event on March 18.** Formula-4 car racing was held for the first time in the region. The sleek racing cars raced along the Boulevard road near the lake, creating a thrilling atmosphere. The Zabarwan Hills provided a stunning backdrop for the event.

- 37. The Maharishi Ayurveda Hospital in Shalimar Bagh, Delhi,** is making headlines for its in-house restaurant, **Soma-The Ayurvedic Kitchen.** This restaurant is being hailed as the first Ayurvedic Kitchen in India. At Soma-The Ayurvedic Kitchen, the food is customized according to the visitor's health. The menu features dishes like Dumplings and Pav Bhaji, all prepared without onion and garlic. The hospital patients frequently visit this café during their treatment, alongside outside visitors.
- 38.** The Election Commission has launched a special campaign in **Himachal Pradesh to boost voter turnout in 414 polling stations with less than 60% voting during the last Lok Sabha polls.**
- 39.** In a move to boost its tourism industry, the government of **Nepal has officially declared Pokhara, a city in the Gandaki province, as the tourism capital of the Himalayan nation.** The declaration was made during a special ceremony held at the Barahi Ghat on the shores of the Phewa Lake. Pokhara, known for its natural beauty and adventure tourism, has long been recognized as a tourism hub in Nepal. The city was designated as the tourism capital after fulfilling all the necessary government criteria. This official recognition is expected to enhance Pokhara's reputation and attract more visitors from around the world.
- 40.** The Indian defence industry is expanding its reach to the Caribbean region. **The Guyana Defence Force (GDF) plans to purchase two aircraft from India with a loan of \$23.27 million from the Export-Import Bank of India.** Guyana will acquire two Dornier 228 aircraft made by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) of India. An agreement was signed between the Guyanese Finance Minister and the Deputy GM of EXIM Bank on Friday.
- 41.** The Indian Army has set up a specialized technology unit called **Signals Technology Evaluation and Adaptation Group (STEAG)** to research and evaluate next-generation communication technologies. The Indian Army realizes that effective communication is crucial for military operations. The side with better communication technologies and ability to share information will have an advantage over the enemy.
- 42.** A joint military exercise called **Tiger Triumph-24 between India and the United States started on March 18 and will continue until March 31.** This exercise is taking place on the Eastern Seaboard (East Coast) of India. The main purpose of this exercise is to improve cooperation between the two countries' armed forces for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.
- 43.** The Indian Army has raised its first squadron, the **451 Aviation Squadron, to operate the newly acquired AH-64E Apache attack helicopters.** The squadron was formally established on March 15 at Jodhpur. In February 2020, India signed a deal worth around \$800 million with Boeing for six Apache helicopters for the Indian Army. As part of the deal, six pilots and 24 technicians from the Indian Army were trained by Boeing in the U.S.
- 44.** In an effort to advance cancer care in India, **Axis Bank has pledged a significant contribution of ₹100 crore to the National Cancer Grid (NCG),** in collaboration with Tata Memorial

Centre. This partnership aims to bolster research, innovation, and digital health adoption in oncology over the next five years.

45. In January, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) made its **largest gold purchase since July 2022, acquiring 8.7 tonnes of gold**. This brought the RBI's gold holding to 812.3 tonnes, up from 803.58 tonnes in December 2023. The central bank's move is aimed at diversifying its forex reserves and hedging against foreign currency risks.
46. Tata Sons, aiming to alleviate its debt, plans to **sell 0.65% equity in Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) for ₹9,362.3 crore**. This move precedes a potential IPO, with related stocks rallying. TCS dividends, contributing 95% of FY23 revenue, highlight its strategic importance within Tata's asset portfolio.
47. **Reliance Consumer Products (RCPL)** has solidified a strategic partnership with Elephant House, a prominent Sri Lankan beverage manufacturer. This collaboration aims to introduce, market, distribute, and sell Elephant House brand beverages throughout India, thereby augmenting RCPL's beverage offerings.
48. Tata Sons, aiming to alleviate its debt, plans to **sell 0.65% equity in Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) for ₹9,362.3 crore**. This move precedes a potential IPO, with related stocks rallying. TCS dividends, contributing 95% of FY23 revenue, highlight its strategic importance within Tata's asset portfolio.
49. **Thodur Madabusi Krishna, a renowned Carnatic musician, has been chosen as the Sangita Kalanidhi awardee for 2024**. This award, considered the Oscar equivalent for

Carnatic music, is given away by the Music Academy in Chennai. Krishna, 48, is known for his powerful voice both as a vocalist on stage and as a social activist off stage. He received early training in music from Bhagavatula Seetharama Sarma and Chengalpet Ranganathan, both recipients of the Sangita Kala Acharya award (for music teachers) from the Music Academy.

50. **Poonawalla Fincorp**, a notable NBFC, has chosen **Arvind Kapil**, a seasoned retail banking expert from HDFC Bank, as its new Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer. Kapil will commence his five-year term on June 24, 2024, succeeding Abhay Bhutada, who opted for early retirement.
51. **The International Day of Happiness is celebrated every year on March 20th**. This special day aims to spread awareness about the importance of happiness in our lives. On July 12, 2012, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution This resolution declared March 20th as the International Day of Happiness
52. **On March 20th, the United Nations celebrates French Language Day**. This is one of the six official languages celebrated by the UN each year. French Language Day commemorates March 20, 1970. The date the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF) was created. Formed from the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation (ACCT).
53. Researchers have uncovered a **monumental discovery on Mars—a colossal volcano named Noctis Volcano**. Standing at an impressive 29,600 feet tall and stretching approximately 450 kilometres in width, this massive

volcano lies just south of Mars' equator within the Eastern Noctis Labyrinthus region. The finding, made possible by data from a suite of missions including NASA's Mariner 9, Viking Orbiter 1 and 2, Mars Global Surveyor, Mars Odyssey, Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, and the ESA's Mars Express, unveils a hidden geological marvel.

54. In the final of the Indian Wells ATP tournament on Sunday, **Carlos Alcaraz of Spain defeated Daniil Medvedev of Russia in straight sets, with a score of 7-6 (7/5), 6-1.** With this victory, the 20-year-old Alcaraz became the first player to win back-to-back Indian Wells titles since Novak Djokovic did it from 2014 to 2016.
55. **Jharkhand Governor CP Radhakrishnan** has been given the additional responsibility as the in-charge governor of Telangana. This comes after Tamilisai Soundararajan resigned from her constitutional post as the Telangana Governor. A communique from Rashtrapati Bhavan stated that Tamilisai's resignation was accepted with immediate effect, and Radhakrishnan was appointed to take additional charge of Telangana.
56. **Vaughan Gething**, who currently serves as the **Economic Minister of Wales, has been elected as the new leader of the Welsh Labour Party.** His victory marks a historic milestone as he becomes the first ever Black person to lead a European country.
57. **The Uttar Pradesh police force is set to adopt the advanced Trinetra app 2.0,** a cutting-edge digital platform that promises to revolutionize crime prevention and investigation in the state. With over 9.32 lakh criminal records digitized within the Trinetra

database, frontline officers will now have the capability to swiftly identify suspects during security checks.

58. Tamil Nadu is set to witness a historic event as one of its space startups, **Agnikul Cosmos Private Limited, prepares to launch its first rocket, Agnibaan Sub Orbital Technology Demonstrator (SOrTeD), from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.** This launch marks several significant milestones in India's space exploration journey.
59. **Vinay Kumar, an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 1992 batch,** has been named as the next Ambassador of India to Russia. Kumar is currently serving as the Ambassador of India to Myanmar. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement that Kumar is expected to take up the new assignment in Moscow shortly.
60. Leading FMCG company P&G India has announced the appointment of **Kumar Venkatasubramanian as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO),** effective from May 1, 2024. The current CEO, LV Vaidyanathan, will be leaving the company to pursue personal interests after serving P&G for 28 years.
61. **Poonawalla Fincorp,** a leading non-banking financial company (NBFC), has appointed Arvind Kapil as its new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. He will be replacing the current MD and CEO Abhay Bhutada, who is taking early retirement.
62. The Election Commission of India has made a significant decision regarding the leadership of the West Bengal police force. **Vivek Sahay has been replaced by Sanjay Mukherjee as the new Director General of Police**

(DGP) for the state of West Bengal.

This decision comes amidst a series of changes in key positions within the state administration, particularly in light of past incidents and the upcoming elections.

63. YES Bank has forged a strategic partnership with the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to become the Official Banking Partner for Team India at the Paris Olympics 2024**. This collaboration aims to provide comprehensive support to India's Olympic athletes and their families.
64. In FY 2023-24, **Gross Direct Tax collections soared to Rs. 22,27,067 crore, marking an 18.74% increase from the previous year**. Net collections rose by over 19.88%, with Advance Tax contributions hitting Rs. 9,11,534 crore, up 22.31%, showcasing robust economic growth.
65. In a notable increase, India's outward **foreign direct investment (FDI) commitments soared to \$3.47 billion** in February 2024, marking a significant rise from the **\$2.82 billion** recorded in February 2023, and an increase from \$2.18 billion in January 2024. This data, released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), highlights a growing trend in India's financial commitments abroad.
66. According to **Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi**, the insurance sector in India has received a massive Rs 53,900 crore as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the last 9 years (between December 2014 and January 2024). There are currently 70 insurance companies operating in the country.
67. The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO) released its State of the Global Climate 2023 report**, revealing **unprecedented levels of climate change indicators**. These indicators underscore the urgent need for global action to mitigate the impacts of climate change.
68. **World Sparrow Day is an annual observance held every year on March 20th** to raise global awareness about the household sparrow and its alarming population decline. This humble little bird was once a common sight everywhere but has now become an uncommon spectacle in many parts of the world.
69. **Noted Malayalam poet and author Prabha Varma** has been selected for the prestigious **33rd Saraswati Samman for the year 2023**. He won the award for his novel in verse '**Roudra Sathwikam**' published in 2022. The Saraswati Samman, instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation in 1991, is one of the highest literary honors in India. It recognizes outstanding literary works in any of the Indian languages published in the last 10 years.
70. **The Raksha Mantri Trophy for the Best and Second Best Command Hospitals of the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) for the year 2022 was awarded on 19th March 2024 in New Delhi**. The Command Hospital (Southern Command), Pune was judged as the Best Command Hospital, while the Command Hospital (Central Command), Lucknow was the Second Best for 2022.
71. The city of **Begusarai in Bihar** is the most polluted city in the world, according to the **World Air Quality Report 2023** released by IQAir, a Switzerland-based organization. The report states that out of the top 100

most polluted places globally, 83 are from India. After Begusarai, Guwahati is the second most polluted, followed by Delhi at third place and Mullanpur (Punjab) at fourth.

- 72.** With the Lok Sabha elections approaching in India, **Meta unveils its strategy to tackle the growing threat of AI-generated fake content that could influence the electoral process.** In response to concerns raised by the Election Commission of India regarding the spread of misinformation, Meta announces its comprehensive plan to safeguard the integrity of the elections.
- 73. Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) has developed SAKHI,** a revolutionary app aimed at aiding astronauts during the Gaganyaan space flight mission. SAKHI, or Space-borne Assistant and Knowledge Hub for Crew Interaction, offers indispensable support across various critical aspects of the mission.
- 74. Pashupati Kumar Paras,** former Union minister and president of the **Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party (RLJP),** resigned from the Union Cabinet following his party's exclusion from the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) seat-sharing arrangement in Bihar for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. In response, President Droupadi Murmu accepted his resignation and appointed Kiren Rijiju with an additional charge as the Minister of Food Processing Industries.
- 75.** RBI imposed fines on **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank** (Rs 1.31 crore) and **DCB Bank** (Rs 63.6 lakh) for non-compliance with directives on **'Interest Rate on Advances'**.
- 76.** Airtel Payments Bank, in collaboration with **Noise and Mastercard,** introduces a pioneering solution for contactless payments through the Airtel Payments Bank Smart Watch. This innovative wearable aims to revolutionize digital transactions, offering convenience and accessibility to urban customers.
- 77.** Axis Mutual Fund, a prominent asset management firm based in Mumbai, has teamed up with **Enparadigm, a leader in AI-driven experiential learning solutions.** This collaboration aims to provide tailored learning journeys to enhance the performance and productivity of Axis MF employees across various levels.
- 78.** **DBS Bank India** announced a lending commitment of **USD 250 million** for new-age start-ups, demonstrating its dedication to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in India's thriving start-up ecosystem. With over 90,000 start-ups and more than 100 unicorns in India as of 2024, access to capital remains a significant challenge for these companies despite their growing resilience.
- 79. Grid Controller of India Limited (GRID-INDIA)** has achieved a significant milestone by being conferred with the status of **Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).** This recognition was bestowed upon by the Ministry of Power, Government of India, highlighting GRID-INDIA's pivotal role in the nation's power landscape.
- 80. The National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)** is gearing up to introduce the **BhashaNet portal** during the upcoming Universal Acceptance (UA) Day. This initiative aims to advance digital inclusion and linguistic

diversity in India, showcasing collaborative efforts between NIXI and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Theme: “BhashaNet: Impetus Towards Universal Acceptance”.

- 81.** In January 2024, the index of mineral production in the mining and quarrying sector stood **at 144.1, indicating a 5.9% increase compared to January 2023.** The cumulative growth for April-January 2023-24 over the corresponding period of the previous year is recorded at 8.3%.
- 82.** In February 2024, the All-India Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Agricultural Laborers and Rural Laborers remained stable, with figures of **1258 and 1269, respectively, based on the 1986-87=100 index.** However, there were notable fluctuations observed among constituent states. Eight states saw a decline in the CPI-AL, while seven experienced a similar trend in the CPI-RL, with two states showing no change.
- 83. Dr. Uma Rele,** the esteemed Principal of Nalanda Nritya Kala Mahavidyalaya in Mumbai, has been conferred with the prestigious **Maharashtra Gaurav Award.** The honour was bestowed upon her by Maharashtra Industrial Minister Uday Sawant and Minister Deepak Vasant Kesarkar in recognition of her invaluable contributions to the realm of Indian classical dance, particularly Bharata Natyam.
- 84.** In Nagaland, the 3rd edition of the **North East Games 2024 kick-started with a glittering opening ceremony at the Regional Centre for Sporting Excellence, Sovima.** The Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio officially declared the games open. More than

3000 athletes from eight North Eastern states are competing in 15 disciplines being held across 12 venues in three districts – Chumoukedima, Dimapur, and Kohima.

- 85. On 21st March every year, we observe the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.** This day reminds us about the negative consequences of racial discrimination. The theme for 2024 is **“A Decade of Recognition, Justice, and Development: Implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent”.**
- 86. On March 21,** people throughout the world celebrate **World Poetry Day** to honour an expression of language with which they can all identify. Every country’s past contains poetry, which unites people through shared humanity and values. Even the most simple poems can spark conversation. **“Standing on the Shoulders of Giants”** is the celebratory theme for World Poetry Day 2024, marked annually on March 21st.
- 87. Every year, we celebrate World Forestry Day on March 21st.** In 2024, it falls on a Thursday. The United Nations General Assembly established World Forestry Day in 2012 to raise awareness about the vital role of forests and encourage efforts for their conservation and sustainable management. Forests are not just trees; they are crucial for our everyday life. They hold the soil in place, help retain water, and keep our environment balanced. Forests also provide us with the air we breathe and give us medicine from plants. Without forests and trees, we could not survive.

88. Nowruz (Novruz, Navruz, Nooruz, Nevruz, Nauryz) means “new day”. It marks the first day of spring and is celebrated on the day of the astronomical vernal equinox, which usually occurs on March 21. More than 300 million people all around the world celebrate Nowruz. It has been celebrated for over 3,000 years in the Balkans, the Black Sea Basin, the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Middle East, and other regions. In 2010, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed March 21 as the International Nowruz Day (A/RES/64/253).

89. Every year, World Down Syndrome Day is observed on March 21. Down Syndrome is a condition that can affect a person physically and mentally. It makes communication and social interactions challenging. In Down Syndrome, a person has an extra chromosome which affects how their body and brain develop. In 2012, the United Nations officially announced that World Down Syndrome Day would be celebrated on March 21 every year. The date was chosen because it represents the 21st chromosome that causes Down Syndrome.

90. On World Oral Health Day on 20 March 2024, the World Health Organization (WHO) is calling for action in the South-East Asia Region and among partners to promote oral health and reduce the burden of oral diseases. Oral diseases are among the most common non-communicable diseases worldwide. In 2019, there were an estimated 3.5 billion cases of oral diseases and related conditions globally. Shockingly, between 1990 and 2019, the estimated case numbers

increased by more than 1 billion – a 50% increase.

TUALCHHUNG

1. Mizoram sorkar chuan March thla tir lam khan **Open Market Borrowing (OMB)** hmangin loan **cheng vbc. 81 a** pûk leh a, hei nen hian sorkar kum kal mek 2023-24 chhungin cheng vbc. 981 a pûk tawh. Hriat theih chinah financial year 2023-24 chhungin Mizoram sorkarin OMB hmangin April 2023 leh November 2023-ah sum a pûk lo a, a bak thla dang zawngah chuan a puk vek. Sum pûk tam ber tum, nikum May thlaah cheng vbc. 250 pûk a nia; pûk tlem ber tum, October 2023-ah cheng vbc. 60 pûk a ni.
2. Mizoram State AIDS Control Society (MSACS) chinchhiah danin, tun dinhmunah Mizoramah **HIV vei mi 29,514** hmuh chuah a ni tawh a, chung zinga **68%** chuang hrette chu mipat hmeichhiatna hman atanga kai an ni.
3. **Special Judge (Prevention of Corruption Act)** Dr HTC Lalrinchhana chuan, cheng nuai 38.40 tihchingpen thubuaiah Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC) chief executive member hlui Buddha Lila Chakma (L) nupui **Sujata Chakma** chu thiam loh a chantir a, March 18, 2024-ah hrem dan tur a puang dawn.
4. **Chief election commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar** chuan March 16, Inrinni khan Delhi-ah press conference neiin, Lok Sabha General Election neih hun tur a puang a; Mizoramah chuan inthlan thawh khatna, April 19, 2024-ah vote thlâk a ni dawn.
5. Pachhunga University College-a Zoology department-a research tite chuan tun hnai khan **Khawrihnimah changpât chi thar**, khawvel hmun danga la hmelhriat ngai loh an hmu

chhuak a; an hmuh chhuahna hmun hming chawiin **Eutyphoeus rihnimensis** tiin a hming an vuah. E rihnimensis changpâtte chu leiah centimetre 15-30 vela thûkah an awm tlangpui a, a puitling chu pencil tiat vel niin, milimetre 105-149 vela sei an ni hlawm. A rawng chu sen uk rawng kai a ni a, hnim tawih ei chi niin, fûr tàwp lamah an vâk chhuak nasa zual thin.

6. **Samuel Lalbiakhlua** (11) s/o MS Dawngzuala, Saitual chuan March 16, Inrinni zing khan Bir Biling, Himachal Pradesh-ah amah chauha paragliding khalhin a thlâwk a, hlawhtling takin a tum. India rama paraglider naupang berte zinga mi a ni. Thu dawn danin, Samuel Lalbiakhlua hi December 16, 2012-ah a piang a, March 10, 2024 atangin TT School of Paragliding, Bir Billing, Himachal Pradesh-ah paragliding a zir tan a, chawlhkar khat chung a zir a, amahin a thlawk chhuak nghal. A thlawhna hmun hi Asia rama paragliding site sang ber a ni a, khawvela sang ber dawttu a ni. Vawinga a thlawh chhuah hunah tuna a zir mek chu a zo ang a, a taksa a rih deuh hunah course sang zawk a zir leh ang.
7. India Today-in a zirchiannaah **Mizoram chu India ram state zinga mipui cheng zat atanga chhûta mei zù tamna ber state a ni tih tarlan a ni**. India Today hian March 13, 2024 khan No Smoking Day pualin India ram state hrang hrang mei zute dinhmun a zirchianna a tichhuak a; Mizoram chu mei zu tam lamah sâng berin, state mipui zinga **82.5%-in** mei an zu thin anga hmuh a ni. Mei zù tlem ber state Tamil Nadu-ah state mipui zinga 14.6% chauhin mei an zu thin thung.
8. Pachhunga University College-a computer hmunpui tur, **PUC Info-tech** Centre chu MZU finance officer Prof,

Vanlalchhawna'n a hawng. PUC Infotech Centre-ah hian GIS Lab, Language Lab leh Internet Resource Centre-te a awm a, computer 140 dah a ni dawn. GIS Lab hi Geography, Geology leh Environmental Science-in an hman tur a nia; Language Lab chu English zirlaite leh soft skill course hrang hranga zirlaite hman tur niin, Internet Resource Centre chu zirlai zawng zawngin internet kaltlanga an mamawh lakna tura ruahman a ni.

9. Mizorama jail hrang hrangah 20th March zing thleng khan táng mi **2,050 an awm a**; Mizoram jail-a táng thei zat tura bituk chu mi 1,386 niin, awm thei zat bituk aiin 664-in an tam zawk mek.
10. Bhartiya Bhasha Manch, New Delhi leh sorkar laipui **Ministry of Education hnuai Bhartiya Bhasha Samiti**-te chuan India ram hmun hrang hranga zirna-in sangah March 5-20, 2024 chung khan Bhartiya Bhasha Sammelan (India Tawng Inkhawmpui) an buatsaih a; ICFAI University, Mizoramah pawh tun hnai khan buatsaih a ni.
11. 3rd NorthEast Olympic Games 2024-ah **Mizoram table tennis** mipa team chuan team tha Assam hnehin **gold medal an la** a, singles leh doubles-ah medal an la beisei bawk. Mizoram team hi **Jeho Himnakulhpuingheta (Lunglei Chanmari), Alberto LR Ruata (Mission Veng), Lalruatfela (Kolasib) leh Thangsiansanga (Nursery) te an ni a, coach Langainatawma (Tuikhuahtlang) leh manager C. Lalrinzuala** (Mission Vengthlang) ten an ho a ni.
12. 3rd NorthEast Olympic Games-ah Mizoramin **Wushu hmingin medal pali** - gold leh silver pakhat ve ve bakah bronze medal pahnih an hlawh chhuak. Mizoram tana gold latu hi

Nazareth Lalthazuala a ni a, Zemabawk East Kanan thar tangval hian 56 kg category-ah pakhatna a ni. Nazareth hian semifinal-ah Meghalaya aiawh chu knockout hmangin a hneh a, final-ah Arunachal aiawh a hneh leh bawk. Hmeichhe inelnaah ITI Veng nula **Lalmuanzami** chuan 52 category-ah silver a la bawk. Semifinal-ah New Secretariat tlangval Vanlalremruata (52 kg) leh Siaha tlangval C. John Denise (70 kg) te an vanduai a, bronze medal-ah an lungawi a tul ta thung.

13. 3rd NorthEast Olympic Games 2024-ah Mizoram badminton mipa team-in gold medal an la, final-ah Nagaland 3-1 in an hneh. Mizoram team hi **Roger Lalthlamuana (coach) leh Vanlalrinawma (manager)** ten an kaihruai a; gold medal latute hi **Saitluangpuia Sailo, C. Lalramsanga, Joseph VL Ringngheta, C. Lalramzauva, Joseph Lalhrulaitluanga, Lalrinawma leh Laldintluanga Tlau** te an ni.
14. International Martial Arts Games vawi ruknaah, Mizo Muaythai fighter chhuanvawr **Joseph Vanlalhruaia** a champion. Mizo leh India ram huapah World Muaythai Organization (WMO)-a title belt la thei hmasa ber a ni. Bangkok, Thailand-a inelna neihah

Vanlalhruaia hi -51kg huangah a inlan a, Hunthar Veng tlangval hian a khingpui Taiwan mi Yeh Lichih chu fourth round-ah technical knockout hmangin a hneh.

15. Mizo Poetry Society (MPS) leh Pachhunga University College-a Mizo department chuan kum 2023 chhunga Mizo kutchhuak poetry bu chhuak zinga tha ber atana than '**Thingthlavar**' tih an thlang a, a ziaktu **Nununa Renthlei** hnenah Mizo Poetry of the Year book award an hlan.
16. **Jeho Himnakulhpuingheta** chuan Manipur tlangval Khelendrajit Yenkhom chu 9-11, 11-7, 11-6, 11-8, 11-9 (4-1) in a hneh - Mizo tangval hian 3rd NorthEast Olympic Games 2024 khel laiah gold medal a vaw chhuak.
17. 3rd NorthEast Olympic Games-ah Mizoram in sepaktakraw-ah medal pali - silver pakhat leh bronze pathum an hlawh chhuak. Sepaktakraw-ah inelna chi li, team, regu, doubles leh quadrant a awm a, Mizoram in medal an la vek. Team inelnaah hian mi 15 a tel theih a, hei hi panga zelin group thumah inthenin pathum an lut a, pahnih bench-ah an awm thung. Mizoram erawh budget a tlem avangin group khatah pathum zel an awm a, bench-a thu tur player an awm lo.