



Weekly Current Affairs

(1st – 8th March, 2024)

- 1. Union Minister For Coal, Mines, And Parliamentary Affairs, Pralhad Joshi,** Announced The Launch Of The National Coal Logistics Plan And Policy, 2023 On February 29. The Policy Aims To Enhance Railway Utilization In Coal Transportation To Over 87 Percent By FY 2029-30, Anticipating A Surge In Coal Consumption From 980 Million Tons To 1.5 Billion Tons By 2030. Key Objectives Include Cost Savings, Reduced Environmental Impact, And Enhanced Efficiency In Coal Logistics.
- 2. The Union Cabinet,** led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the **establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** with its headquarters based in India. This landmark decision comes with a one-time budgetary support of Rs. 150 crore for a period of five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28. The International Big Cat Alliance focuses on conserving big cats, including Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah.
- 3. Prime Minister Narendra Modi** virtually inaugurated India's **inaugural hydrogen fuel cell ferry**, a product of indigenous development and construction built by **Cochin Shipyard. Participating from Thoothukudi.** Its inauguration ignites the use of hydrogen in marine sectors. Zero-emission, noise-free, and energy-efficient, it combats global warming. Embracing green hydrogen furthers India's goal of net-zero emissions by 2070.
- 4. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth** jointly inaugurated significant infrastructure projects in Agalega Island, marking a milestone in bilateral cooperation between India and Mauritius. The newly constructed airstrip will enhance connectivity to Agalega Island, facilitating smoother transportation and promoting economic growth in the region.
- 5. Ghana's parliament has approved a controversial anti-LGBTQ bill,** the Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Bill, which awaits presidential assent. The bill aims to uphold traditional Ghanaian family values and regulate human sexual rights. It criminalizes identification with LGBTQ identities, imposing penalties of up to three years in prison.
- 6. Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** under the umbrella of the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) are poised to make a significant mark at the upcoming 4-day **'Tawi Festival'** in Jammu. This endeavor aims to spotlight the rich tapestry of art forms and cultural heritage of the region while

highlighting the skills and creativity of local artisans.

7. **The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has conducted two successful flight tests of the **Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS)** missile on February 28th and 29th, 2024. The tests, carried out from a ground-based portable launcher off the coast of Odisha, demonstrated the system's capability to intercept and destroy high-speed unmanned aerial targets under various interception scenarios.
8. India's GDP for the third quarter of **FY24** experienced a significant acceleration, reaching **8.4%** year-on-year growth, as reported by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on February 29. The stellar performance in the construction and manufacturing sectors has been identified as pivotal factors driving the remarkable 8.4% GDP growth in the third quarter of the ongoing financial year.
9. In January 2024, the **Combined Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI)** demonstrated a notable increase of 3.6 percent (provisional) compared to January 2023. This index reflects the collective performance of critical sectors including Cement, Coal, Crude Oil, Electricity, Fertilizers, Natural Gas, Petroleum Refinery Products, and Steel.
10. **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has introduced a revised regulatory framework for the **Bharat Bill Payment Systems (BBPS), effective April 1, 2024**. This overhaul aims to streamline bill payments, foster wider participation, and bolster consumer protection measures in light of

evolving payment landscape dynamics.

11. Celebrated annually on **March 1, World Seagrass Day** is a vital global observance aimed at highlighting the importance of seagrass in marine ecosystems. Established by the United Nations General Assembly on May 22, 2022, following Sri Lanka's resolution, the day underscores the urgent need for seagrass conservation.
12. **March 1 marks Zero Discrimination Day**, a day dedicated to advocating for the right of every individual to live a life free from discrimination and prejudice. This global observance, initiated by UNAIDS, aims to raise awareness about the detrimental effects of discrimination and the importance of promoting equality, compassion, and respect for all.
13. **Shri Bhupender Yadav**, in collaboration with the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and Wildlife Institute of India**, unveiled the fifth cycle of leopard population estimation in India. India's leopard population is estimated at 13,874, showcasing stability compared to the previous estimate. However, this represents only 70% of leopard habitat, with the Himalayas and semi-arid regions not sampled.
14. **Sunil Bharti Mittal, Chairman and founder of Bharti Enterprises**, has been conferred with an honorary Knighthood by Britain's King Charles III. He becomes the first Indian citizen to receive this prestigious honour, recognized for his contributions to UK-India business relations. The award acknowledges Mittal's significant role in fostering business relations between the UK and India.

- 15. Daljit Singh Chaudhary**, a 1990 batch IPS officer, has been appointed as the Director General (DG) of the National Security Guard (NSG), marking a significant development in India's security apparatus. Chaudhary, currently serving as the DG of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), will now shoulder the additional responsibility of leading the NSG, commonly referred to as the "black cats".
- 16. India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) signed an MoU to enhance financial inclusion in rural Rajasthan.** The objective of this collaboration are to to provide easy access to opening bank accounts, pension products, savings, and investment schemes,.
- 17. NSSO and NRSC** team up to digitize the **Urban Frame Survey (UFS)** using advanced Geo ICT tools via the Bhuvan Platform. The Objective is to facilitate the Urban Frame Survey (UFS) in a digital mode to enhance efficiency and accuracy in data collection and maintenance.
- 18. NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL)** partners with Maharashtra State Power Generation Company Limited (MAHAGENCO) to develop Renewable Energy Parks in Maharashtra. The agreement underscores commitment to green energy initiatives and supports India's energy transition goals. The objective of the Joint Venture is to create a company focused on building gigawatt-scale renewable energy parks in Maharashtra.
- 19. The Ministry of Women and Child Development organized the Poshan Utsav at The Oberoi on 29th February 2024.** The event aimed to promote good nutrition behavior and highlighted India's ongoing efforts to combat malnutrition by promoting good nutrition practices.
- 20.** The Telangana state government has issued a directive for the adoption of the **One Time Scheme (OTS)** across all **urban local bodies (ULBs)**, including the **Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC)**. This initiative is geared towards alleviating the financial strain faced by property owners who are grappling with mounting arrears interest on property tax payments.
- 21.** The Nagaland government, under the leadership of **Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio**, has unveiled an initiative aimed at alleviating financial hardships caused by the untimely demise of a family's primary earner. The primary objective of the CM's Universal Life Insurance Scheme is to mitigate the effects of losing a family's breadwinner on various aspects of life, including education, health, and socio-economic stability.
- 22. Paul Pogba** received a four-year ban from football following doping allegations, with Italy's sports prosecutors advocating for the suspension. The doping incident occurred after Juventus' 3-0 victory against Udinese in the Italian Serie A opener, leading to Pogba's provisional suspension.
- 23. Brian Mulroney**, the former Canadian Prime Minister known for his transformative policies and complex legacy, has died at the age of 84. Brian Mulroney led the center-right Progressive Conservatives to a historic victory in 1984, defeating Pierre Trudeau's Liberals. His nine-year tenure was marked by significant policy reforms, including the

negotiation of the Canada-United States Free Trade

24. **The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** has identified and named a new species of marine head-shield sea slug discovered along the West Bengal and Odisha coasts. Named *Melanochlamys droupadi*, this distinctive species bears a ruby red spot and has unique characteristics that distinguish it from other sea slugs. The species was discovered from the coastal areas of Digha in West Bengal and Udaipur in Odisha. It is characterized by its short, blunt cylindrical body, smooth dorsal surface, and distinctive red spot.
25. After 45 years, the **Shahpur-Kandi barrage's** completion is a major milestone, stopping **Ravi River's** water flow into Pakistan. This will greatly impact Kathua and Samba districts in Jammu and Kashmir, benefiting over 32,000 hectares of land with irrigation. This project was initiated in 1995 by former Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao. According to the 1960 Indus Water Treaty, India maintains sole control over the Ravi, Sutlej, and Beas rivers, with the halt of water flow into Pakistan expected to bring advantages to Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab.
26. The Nagaland legislative assembly has unanimously adopted a resolution against the central government's decision to fence the **Indo-Myanmar border and suspend the Free Movement Regime (FMR) agreement with Myanmar**. This resolution reflects the concerns of the Naga people regarding the disruption of historical, social, tribal, and economic ties caused by these measures.
27. **The Central Electricity Authority (CEA)**, Ministry of Power, is gearing up to host the fourth edition of '**Lineman**

Diwas' in New Delhi on March 4, 2024.

This annual celebration is dedicated to honoring the tireless dedication and service of linemen and ground maintenance staff who play a crucial role in electricity distribution across India.

28. **PM Modi dedicated the Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd (HURL) Sindri Fertiliser Plant at Sindri, Dhanbad, Jharkhand**. HURL, a collaborative effort between PSUs including NTPC, IOCL, CIL, and FCIL/HFCL, signifies a synergy aimed at driving economic growth and self-sufficiency.
29. **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, inaugurated Project ODISERV in Sambalpur, Odisha**, marking a significant step towards preparing young graduates for employment opportunities in the financial services sector. The collaboration between the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Bajaj Finserv aims to revolutionize skill development in Odisha and across India.
30. **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** dedicated to the nation and laid the foundation stone for multiple development projects worth Rs 7,200 crore in Arambagh, Hooghly, West Bengal. The developmental projects are associated with sectors like rail, ports, oil pipeline, LPG supply and wastewater treatment.
31. The unveiling of a **21-foot statue of Maharana Pratap at the Begum Bazar Maharana Pratap Chowk** marked a significant moment for Hyderabad. This statue, the largest of its kind in the city, serves as a testament to the enduring legacy of the revered Rajput warrior, encapsulating his spirit for generations to come.

- 32. Exercise Samudra Laksamana: Strengthening Indo-Malaysian Maritime Cooperation.** Exercise Samudra Laksamana, a significant bilateral maritime exercise between **India and Malaysia**, is currently underway from February 28 to March 2, 2024, off the coast of Visakhapatnam. This exercise marks the third edition of the collaboration, featuring the **Indian Naval Ship Kiltan and the Royal Malaysian Ship KD Lekir**.
- 33. India's GST Collection Surges 12.5% To Rs 1.68 Lakh Crore In February 2024.** India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection witnessed a significant surge of 12.5% year-on-year, reaching Rs 1.68 lakh crore in February, as stated by the government.
- 34.** India's manufacturing sector continued its expansion in February, as indicated by the **HSBC Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) reaching 56.9**, marking its highest level in five months. The February manufacturing PMI of 56.9 extends the sector's expansion streak for the 32nd consecutive month, remaining above the critical threshold of 50, which separates growth from contraction.
- 35.** India's forex reserves experienced a notable increase, rising by **\$2.975 billion to reach \$619.072 billion** for the week ending February 23, as reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). India's forex reserves achieved an all-time high of \$645 billion in October 2021, marking a significant milestone in the country's economic landscape.
- 36. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has taken a significant step by appointing **S. Ravindran** as the part-time chairman of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd. (TMB), marking a new chapter in the bank's leadership. This appointment, effective from February 29, extends till August 2, 2026, and comes at a pivotal moment for TMB as it navigates the challenges and opportunities of the financial sector.
- 37. The Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND)** has levied a penalty of ₹5.49 crore on Paytm Payments Bank Ltd for violations of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. FIU-IND initiated a review of Paytm Payments Bank Ltd following specific information from law enforcement agencies regarding illegal activities.
- 38. At the Mobile World Congress 2024, Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) and Qualcomm Technologies** have forged a collaboration to advance **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and drive innovation within India's telecom sector. This initiative aims to expedite the development of indigenous telecom products, aligning with the Make in India vision. The collaboration seeks to facilitate access to foundational chip technologies for startups, OEMs, and academia.
- 39. Google** has taken a significant step to bolster the fight against online misinformation by announcing its support for **Shakti**, a consortium of news publishers and fact-checkers. This initiative is aimed at the early detection of online misinformation, including deepfakes, and establishing a common repository for news publishers to effectively tackle such challenges.
- 40.** In a significant move to bolster the security of India's parliamentary complex, **IPS officer Anurag Agarwal** has been appointed as the new head of **Parliament security**. Anurag Agarwal,

a seasoned officer from the 1998 batch of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, has been serving as an inspector general in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

41. World Wildlife Day, celebrated annually on March 3, serves as a poignant reminder of the urgent need to protect and preserve the world's fauna and flora. In 2024, this day draws particular attention to the role of digital innovation in wildlife conservation, underlining the theme **"Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation."**

42. In a significant celebration of sports and culture, **Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** released the coffee table book titled **'FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023'**. The book, a publication by Sportstar, the esteemed sports magazine of The Hindu Group, encapsulates the essence and excitement of the 15th FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup held in 2023.

43. Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has achieved a major milestone in clean energy by commissioning its first domestically manufactured electrolyser at the Green Hydrogen Plant in Hazira, Gujarat. This marks the entry of L&T Electrolysers Limited into domestic electrolyser manufacturing, showcasing the company's dedication to advancing sustainable energy solutions.

44. Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST) researchers transform banana pseudo stems into eco-friendly wound dressing material. Prof. Devasish Chowdhury and Prof. (Retd) Rajlakshmi Devi lead the team, blending banana fibers with chitosan

and guar gum for a robust, antioxidant-rich patch.

45. The Indian political landscape mourns the loss of Aziz Qureshi, a seasoned Congress leader and former Governor of Uttar Pradesh, who passed away at the age of 83. Born on April 24, 1941, in Bhopal, Aziz Qureshi embarked on his political journey with a strong foundation rooted in his dedication to public service.

46. Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of MoPSW & AYUSH, virtually inaugurated the 60T bollard pull tug named **'Ocean Grace'** and the Medical Mobile Unit (MMU) on March 2, 2024. The Ocean Grace is the first Make-in-India ASTDS Tug developed by Cochin Shipyard Limited under MoPSW. The MMU is part of the port's commitment to corporate social responsibility.

47. Chapchar Kut, the grandest festival in Mizoram, resonated throughout the state with vibrant traditional customs and jubilant festivities. Thousands of attendees converged upon the Assam Rifles Ground – Lammual – in the heart of Aizawl city, filling it to its capacity.

48. The Indian Navy is set to inaugurate a new naval base, **INS Jatayu**, on Minicoy Island, marking a significant step in bolstering security infrastructure in the strategically vital Lakshadweep Islands. Scheduled for March 6, the commissioning ceremony will be graced by **Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff**, underscoring the importance of this development.

49. The Indian Navy is poised to achieve a significant milestone on March 6, 2024, with the commissioning of the **MH 60R Seahawk helicopter at INS Garuda, Kochi**. The Seahawks squadron will be designated as INAS

334, symbolizing a new era in naval aviation for the country.

50. **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has unveiled its latest offering, the **Smart Choice Gold Loan**, targeting aspirational customers seeking convenient and flexible loan options. This new product is designed to leverage the significant gold reserves held by Indian households, providing an easy and efficient way to meet their financial needs.
51. **Home Minister Amit Shah** inaugurated the **National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation Limited (NUCFDC)** in New Delhi. This umbrella organization aims to modernize and strengthen the Urban Cooperative Banking Sector, benefiting banks and customers alike.
52. **PB Fintech's subsidiary, Policybazaar Insurance Brokers**, has secured approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India to transition from a direct insurance broker to a composite insurance broker. This upgrade enables Policybazaar to sell reinsurance products in addition to general and life insurance offerings, thereby enhancing insurance penetration in India.
53. **Ecommerce giant Flipkart** has made a significant move in the digital payments space by introducing its own UPI services, Flipkart UPI, in partnership with Axis Bank. Flipkart UPI, initially exclusive to Android users, facilitates both online and offline transactions within and outside the Flipkart app.
54. **Observed every year on March 3, World Hearing Day 2024 fall on a Sunday.** The theme for this year, as designated by the World Health

Organization (WHO), is **“Changing mindsets: Let’s make ear and hearing care a reality for all.”**

55. **National Safety Day is celebrated each year on March 4.** In India, this date also signals the commencement of National Safety Week, extending the focus on safety measures beyond just a day. The theme for National Safety Day 2024, **“Safety for a Sustainable Future,”** brings to light the intrinsic link between safety measures and sustainability.
56. **Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy** has announced the launch of the **Indiramma Housing Scheme starting March 11.** The scheme aims to provide housing solutions to the economically disadvantaged segments of society.
57. **Union Minister for Minority Affairs, Smriti Zubin Irani**, introduced two significant initiatives aimed at enhancing the Haj pilgrimage experience for 2024. The Haj Suvidha App was launched to provide essential information and access to crucial services, while the Haj Guide-2024 was released to educate pilgrims about various aspects of the journey, with a focus on utilizing the app effectively.
58. On the occasion of the **48th Foundation Day of the Indian Civil Accounts Service**, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has been honored with the **Award for Best Performance in Accounts during the Financial Year 2023-24.** Under the able leadership of Ajay S. Singh, serving as the Chief Controller of Accounts, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has demonstrated unparalleled efficiency and diligence in its accounting practices.

- 59. Dr. Pradeep Mahajan**, the Founder and **Chairman and Managing Director of StemRx Hospital and Research Centre**, along with StemRx Bioscience Solutions, has been awarded the prestigious **Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2024**. This accolade is a testament to his pioneering efforts and substantial impact in advancing regenerative medicine, offering new hope and innovative treatments to patients worldwide.
- 60. Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL)**, one of India's leading petroleum companies, has recently announced its partnership with **Olympic and World Javelin Champion Neeraj Chopra**. Neeraj Chopra will serve as the brand ambassador for BPCL's premium petrol variant, **'Speed.'** This collaboration adds to BPCL's list of esteemed brand ambassadors.
- 61. Tuvalu has named Feleti Teo**, the former Attorney General, as the **Pacific Island nation's new prime minister**. This appointment comes in the aftermath of a general election that placed the country's diplomatic affiliations, especially its ties with Taiwan, under intense scrutiny.
- 62. The 10th edition of the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL)** concluded with Puneri Paltan emerging as champions for the first time, after a closely contested final against Haryana Steelers. The final score read 28-25 in favor of Puneri Paltan, with the match taking place on March 1. Pankaj Mohite shone brightly for Paltan, scoring nine raid points, including a crucial super raid that proved to be a game-changer.
- 63. Iran's venture into space exploration and satellite deployment continues with the launch of the "Pars 1" satellite**, facilitated by Russia from the **Vostochny Cosmodrome**. This event underscores the technological collaboration between Iran and Russia, occurring against a backdrop of heightened scrutiny and concern from Western nations.
- 64. Researchers in Ecuador's** rainforest have uncovered a new species of anaconda, **Eunectes Akiyama**, which split from its closest relatives 10 million years ago. The discovery was made by a team led by Dutch biologist Freek Vonk, who encountered the massive 20-foot-long specimens in the Amazon. The new species, dubbed the **"northern green anaconda,"** weighs up to 200 kilograms (441 pounds) and showcases significant genetic divergence from its counterpart.
- 65. Google's DeepMind team introduces "Genie,"** a groundbreaking AI platform poised to transform the gaming industry and creative endeavors. This innovative project signifies a fusion of cutting-edge technology and imaginative potential, offering the capability to craft interactive 2D video games from single image prompts or text descriptions.
- 66. The world of archaeology mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished figures, Padmashree Dr. Arun Kumar Sharma**, who passed away at the age of 90 at his residence in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. Sharma's career was marked by significant contributions to Indian archaeology, including his pivotal role in the excavation of the Ram Janmabhoomi Ayodhya site.
- 67. A groundbreaking archaeological discovery has been made in Chettimedu Pathur village, approximately 77 kilometres from Chennai, Tamil Nadu.** Researchers from the Department of Ancient

History and Archaeology at the University of Madras have unearthed a child burial site dating back to the Neolithic period, around 2500 BCE to 3000 BCE. Located atop a small habitation mound, the site revealed a wealth of artifacts spanning five distinct cultural periods, from the Neolithic to the Medieval period

68. **Union Minister for Steel and Civil Aviation, Sh. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia**, virtually inaugurated India's 1st Green Hydrogen Plant in Stainless Steel Sector located at Jindal Stainless Limited, Hisar, on 4th March, 2024. The stainless steel industry's pioneering off-grid Green Hydrogen plant, a global first. Also, the world's inaugural Green Hydrogen facility featuring rooftop and floating solar technology.
69. **Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers and Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, virtually inaugurated three centers of the Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET) from New Delhi. These centers, located in Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Madhya Pradesh, are significant additions to CIPET's network.
70. Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked the beginning of a new era in **India's nuclear energy sector** by witnessing the **"Core Loading"** at the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu. This event signifies the near completion of India's first indigenous PFBR, a landmark project fully designed and constructed within the country by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI), in collaboration with over

200 Indian industries, including numerous MSMEs.

71. **The Geological Survey of India (GSI)** commemorated its **174th Foundation Day on March 4th, 2024**, with zeal and enthusiasm resonating across all its offices nationwide. The event was a grand affair, with celebrations held in Kolkata, the Central Headquarters of GSI, and the Southern Region's headquarters in Hyderabad.
72. Dubai witnessed an extraordinary event with the **city-state's inaugural jet suit race. Organized by Gravity Industries in collaboration with the Dubai Sports Council**, this groundbreaking competition showcased pilots equipped with jet engines on their hands and backs, resembling real-life 'Iron Men'.
73. In a groundbreaking move, **France has made history by becoming the first nation globally to anchor the right to abortion within its constitution**. A special joint session of the French parliament witnessed a robust majority in favor of this constitutional amendment, with 780 votes cast in support and only 72 against.
74. Uttar Pradesh, under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has achieved a milestone by becoming the **first state in the country to issue five crore Ayushman cards**. This accomplishment underscores the state government's commitment to ensuring the health and well-being of every citizen. The state of Uttar Pradesh has issued 50,017,920 Ayushman cards, benefiting 74,382,304 individuals.
75. **During DefConnect 2024** in New Delhi on March 4, 2024, **Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh unveiled the Acing Development of Innovative**

Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme. The scheme aims to promote innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies, providing start-ups with significant grants for research and development.

- 76. After reaching an all-time high in January, Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions in India experienced a slight decrease in both value and volume in February.** This decline, amounting to 0.7% in value and 0.8% in volume, can be attributed to various factors including technical issues at multiple banks and the shorter duration of the month.
- 77. Moody's, the global credit rating agency,** has raised its GDP forecast for India in 2024 to **6.8%**, reflecting a positive economic outlook. Moody's projects India's GDP growth momentum to persist into 2025, with a forecasted growth rate of 6.4%.
- 78. In a recent development, India and Nepal have bolstered their financial cooperation, with a focus on digital payments.** This initiative aims to streamline cross-border transactions and enhance convenience for citizens of both nations. The new regulations permit multiple financial services between the people of India and Nepal. Notable changes include allowing Nepal citizens to send Rs 2 lakh per transaction to Nepal, with walk-in customers able to remit Rs 50,000 per transaction.
- 79. The Reserve Bank of India** has given its approval for the merger of **Fincare Small Finance Bank Ltd. with AU Small Finance Bank, effective from April 1.** The merger is sanctioned under Section 44A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. All branches of Fincare Small

Finance Bank will operate as branches of AU Small Finance Bank post-merger.

- 80. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has taken stern action against IIFL Finance by imposing an immediate ban on the approval and disbursement of gold loans. This directive comes following a comprehensive inspection of the company's financial position as of March 31, which revealed significant supervisory concerns in its gold loan portfolio.
- 81. Disarmament, as defined by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA),** involves the elimination of **Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)** alongside a balanced reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments. The inaugural International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness was observed on March 5, 2023, following a UNGA resolution adopted on December 7, 2022. This annual event seeks to promote public awareness, particularly among youth, about the importance of disarmament.
- 82. Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID),** previously named Multiple Personality Disorder, presents a complex mental health challenge for both individuals affected by it and the professionals who aim to diagnose and treat it. This condition involves the existence of two or more distinct personality states, each exhibiting its own thoughts, emotions, and behaviors. This disorder is annually acknowledged on March 5th.
- 83. In Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** has launched an initiative to support young entrepreneurs called **"Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan (MYUVA)."** The scheme offers interest-free loans to young

entrepreneurs for projects valued up to Rs 5 lakh. The government aims to prepare one lakh young entrepreneurs every year through this initiative.

- 84. Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** is hosting the **All India Research Scholars' Summit (AIRSS)** 2024 from 4th to 7th March 2024. Organized by the Research Affairs Council of IIT Madras, this event promises to be a gathering of minds from diverse disciplines across India, aiming to showcase and explore the latest advancements in various research domains.
- 85.** The Bihar government made a significant announcement, appointing senior **IAS officer Brajesh Mehrotra** as the new chief secretary of the state. Currently serving as the additional chief secretary of revenue and land reforms, with additional responsibilities in general administration and parliamentary affairs, Mehrotra's illustrious career is marked by dedication and competence.
- 86. Sub-Inspector Suman Kumari** has etched her name in history as the first woman sniper of the **Border Security Force (BSF)**. Suman achieved the prestigious '**instructor grade**', a testament to her proficiency and expertise. Her recent completion of an eight-week intensive sniper course at the Central School of Weapons and Tactics (CSWT) in Indore not only showcases her exceptional abilities but also her pioneering spirit.
- 87.** REC Limited has recently joined hands with the **Unit of Science and Educational Development (UNISED)** to bolster educational initiatives in Siddharthnagar district, Uttar Pradesh. Through its Corporate Social

Responsibility arm, REC Foundation, REC has pledged a significant financial assistance of Rs. 9.91 crores for the education of approximately 75,500 children in the district.

- 88.** A five-day exchange programme for faculty members of foreign service academies within the **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** member states has commenced in Dhaka, marking the first of its kind. The programme aims to facilitate dialogue and collaboration among diplomats of BIMSTEC member countries to propose strategies for enhancing mutual cooperation among the region's Foreign Service training institutions.
- 89. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** recently unveiled the **Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP)** alongside the '**Chakshu**' facility on the Sanchar Saathi portal. This initiative aims to foster collaboration among stakeholders to combat the misuse of telecom resources in cyber-crime and financial frauds.
- 90.** In an exciting development for space exploration, astronomers affiliated with the **International Astronomical Union** have identified **three new moons in the outer reaches of our solar system**. These celestial bodies, with two orbiting Neptune and one around Uranus, were detected through the use of powerful land-based telescopes across the globe.
- 91. The Cuttack Rupa Tarakasi**, more widely known as Silver Filigree, has recently been awarded the **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag by the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai. Silver Filigree, or Tarakasi,

is a testament to the unparalleled skill and precision of artisans in Cuttack. The craft's history traces back to over 500 years ago, with influences spanning from Persia to Indonesia, and finally making its home in Cuttack, Odisha.

92. Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, overseeing Petroleum and Natural Gas as well as Housing and Urban Affairs, dedicated 201 CNG Stations and India's inaugural Small Scale LNG Unit of GAIL to the nation via video conferencing. The establishment of GAIL group's 201 CNG stations across 52 Geographical Areas signifies a significant stride towards achieving sustainability goals and environmental responsibility.

93. In a significant development, the Indian government, following consultations with the **Election Commission of India (ECI)**, has revised the minimum age criterion for senior citizens to avail the postal ballot voting facility. The decision, which comes into effect immediately, raises the eligibility age from 80 to 85 years, marking a pivotal change in the electoral process aimed at ensuring greater convenience for the nation's elderly population.

94. South Eastern Coalfield Limited's (SECL) Gevra mine, located in Chhattisgarh, is on the verge of becoming the largest coal mine in Asia. The mine recently received environmental clearance to enhance its production capacity to 70 million tons per annum, up from the existing 52.5 million tons.

95. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **India's pioneering underwater metro train service in Kolkata**, ushering in a landmark

achievement in the nation's infrastructure and urban development. The service, which is a significant component of the Kolkata Metro's East-West corridor, is designed to enhance connectivity between Howrah and Salt Lake, the twin cities of West Bengal's capital.

96. Hungary's parliament recently appointed a new president following the resignation of the previous head of state amidst a scandal involving a controversial pardon granted in a child sexual abuse case. The appointment of **Tamás Sulyok**, a former head of Hungary's Constitutional Court, sparked debate among opposition parties calling for direct presidential elections.

97. Kerala school has introduced Iris, a humanoid teacher, marking a significant milestone in the realm of educational technology. Developed in collaboration with Makerlabs Edutech Private Limited, Iris represents a pioneering effort to make learning more interactive, engaging, and accessible. Iris is designed to be more than just a robotic presence in the classroom; it is a generative AI entity capable of conducting interactive learning sessions.

98. Bengaluru, famously known as the Garden City, is poised to become the epicenter of cutting-edge advancements in the horticulture sector. The Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) is gearing up to host the three-day National Horticultural Fair 2024 at its Hessarghatta premises, situated on the outskirts of Bengaluru. This event, themed "Nextgen Technology-led Horticulture for Sustainable Development," promises to be a

showcase of the nation's most advanced technologies and practices in horticulture.

99. India's first National Dolphin Research Center (NDRC) was officially inaugurated by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. This landmark facility, built at a cost of Rs 30 crore, is situated on the banks of the Ganges River within the Patna University campus.

100. The Union Minister for Education, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, inaugurated the Centre of Management Education jointly established by IIM Mumbai and IIM Sambalpur. The inauguration took place at the NALCO Training Institute in Angul, Odisha, amidst the presence of Shri Sridhar Patra, CMD, NALCO.

101. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the new Administrative & Training building at the **Naval War College (NWC), Goa on March 5, 2024.** The modern edifice, named the '**Chola**', pays homage to the mighty maritime empire of the Chola dynasty of ancient India.

102. In February, India's service sector sustained its growth trajectory, supported by positive demand trends. The Purchasing Managers' Index for India's services sector dropped to 60.6 in February from January's **six-month high of 61.8.** New business from abroad continued to rise for the thirteenth consecutive month, with gains reported from various regions including Australia, Asia, Europe, the Americas, and the UAE.

103. Bloomberg has announced the inclusion of India's **Fully Accessible Route (FAR) bonds in its Emerging Market (EM) Local Currency Government Index and related**

indices, with a phased approach over ten months starting January 31, 2025. Bloomberg will phase in the inclusion of FAR bonds over a ten-month period, starting January 31, 2025. Weight of FAR bonds will increase in increments of 10% of their full market value each month until October 2025 when they will be fully weighted.

104. In a virtual ceremony, Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman received an interim dividend cheque of **₹2,441.44 crore from LIC Chairman Siddhartha Mohanty,** showcasing the insurance giant's financial strength. The event also marked the inauguration of LIC's new international business centre at GIFT City, Gujarat, emphasizing the company's dedication to offering top-notch insurance and financial services globally.

105. Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das recently announced the forthcoming launch of an interoperable payment system for internet banking, aimed at enhancing the efficiency of digital payments in India. NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. has been authorized by the RBI to implement the interoperable net banking payment system. Its anticipated launch is slated for within the current calendar year, as affirmed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.

106. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that 30 banks are now participating in the UDGAM portal, designed for individuals to search for their unclaimed deposits/accounts. This portal, developed by the RBI, aims to provide a centralized platform for users to access information regarding

unclaimed deposits across multiple banks.

107. Tata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, has recently unveiled its next-generation, green-fuel powered commercial vehicles to Tata Steel. The fleet comprises Prima tractors, tippers, and the Ultra EV bus, which are powered by Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and battery electric technologies.

108. In a significant move, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu has announced a groundbreaking initiative aimed at empowering women in the state. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu unveiled the "**Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojna**," a scheme designed to provide financial support to women aged between 18 to 60 years. Under this scheme, eligible women will receive a monthly stipend of **₹1,500, amounting to an annual expenditure of ₹800 crore**. The initiative aims to cover over five lakh women, offering them much-needed financial assistance.

109. Legendary golfer **Tiger Woods** has been selected to receive the **Bob Jones Award, the highest honour bestowed by the United States Golf Association (USGA)**. This prestigious award recognizes Woods' dedication to sportsmanship, his respect for the traditions of the game, and his significant charitable endeavors.

110. **Slice**, the popular mango-flavored drink, has recently announced the appointment of acclaimed actress **Nayanthara as its latest brand ambassador**. Originally introduced by PepsiCo in 1984. In India, PepsiCo reintroduced Slice in

2008 as a mango-flavored fruit drink under the brand Tropicana Slice.

111. Alok Rungta has been appointed as the Managing Director and CEO of Future Generali India Life Insurance, effective April 1st, pending regulatory approvals. He will succeed Bruce De Broize, who currently holds the position until March 31st. Alok Rungta, currently serving as the Deputy CEO and CFO, brings over two decades of experience in the insurance industry to his new role.

112. Spain's women's team secured a historic victory over France, winning the first-ever UEFA Women's Nations League with a convincing 2-0 triumph in Seville. The win represents a significant achievement for Spain in the realm of women's football, further solidifying their position as a dominant force in the sport.

113. The scenic town of **Shimla has become the centre stage for the first-ever Asian River Rafting Championships**, officially opened on March 4th, 2024, by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. The championship is taking place on the Sutlej River, near Basantpur in the Sunni region, from March 4th to 9th, 2024.

114. B. Sai Praneeth, the decorated Indian badminton player, has announced his retirement from the sport. Through a heartfelt message on X (formerly Twitter), Praneeth expressed his gratitude towards badminton, signalling the end of an illustrious journey that has seen significant highs and memorable moments.

115. The launch of "**The Gems of Indian Art**", a comprehensive documentation of Harish Khullar's

extensive collection of 20th-century Indian modern and contemporary art. This near-300-page book was unveiled by Ministers Shri Nitin Gadkari, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, and Shri S.P.S. Baghel, marking a pivotal moment in India's art scene.

116. Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh inaugurated a pioneering technical center in Ahmedabad, representing a significant advancement in India's space sector. Established by the Indian **National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE)**, this center aims to revolutionize private sector involvement in space technology development and testing.

117. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on March 6 took the priority corridor of the Agra Metro, for an inaugural ride after Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually flagged off the project earlier in the day. The 6 km long priority corridor connects the iconic Taj Mahal's eastern gate to the Mankameshwar Temple station, providing a vital transportation link for tourists and commuters alike.

118. Shri Piyush Goyal, launched the 'e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi' (Digital Gateway) of the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) in New Delhi. This initiative is poised to become a cornerstone in India's journey to becoming a developed nation, **'Viksit Bharat', by 2047, with agriculture as its foundational pillar.**

119. In a significant development, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw will inaugurate the **'NITI For States'** platform by NITI Aayog in New Delhi. This platform, serving as a Digital

Public Infrastructure (DPI), is designed to bolster policy formulation and promote good governance across states.

120. India aims to enhance its **partnership with South Korea** by expanding cooperation into critical areas, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced during the 10th India-South Korea Joint Commission Meeting in Seoul. Co-chairing the meeting with Cho Tae-yul, Jaishankar highlighted the comprehensive and productive discussions held on various aspects, including defence, science and technology, trade, and people-to-people exchanges.

121. Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren has launched a pioneering initiative, the **'Vidhwa Punarvivaah Protsahan Yojana' (Widow Remarriage Incentive Scheme)**. This scheme, a first in India, aims to support and encourage widows to embark on a new journey of companionship by providing a financial incentive of Rs 2 lakh to those who choose to remarry.

122. Uttar Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has announced a complete waiver of electricity bills for private tube wells owned by farmers, effective from April 1, 2023. This decision, announced, aims to alleviate the financial burden on the state's farmers, enhancing their agricultural productivity and overall well-being.

123. Kerala, renowned for its cultural richness and cinematic brilliance, is set to **make history in the digital entertainment landscape with the launch of CSpace**, India's maiden government-backed Over-The-Top (OTT) platform. The much-anticipated

unveiling ceremony will take place at Kairali Theatre on Thursday, March 7, at 9:30 am, with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan spearheading the event.

124. The Indian Navy took a significant stride in fortifying its operational prowess with the commissioning of its new base, **INS Jatayu, at Minicoy island of Lakshadweep**. This strategic move aims to enhance the Navy's capabilities and reach in the vital Indian Ocean region, reinforcing its efforts in anti-piracy and anti-narcotics operations in the Western Arabian Sea.

125. In 2023, India witnessed a significant decline in its unemployment rate, **reaching 3.1%, marking the lowest figure in the past three years**. This notable drop is attributed to several factors, including the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and increased economic activity following the relaxation of lockdown measures.

126. **Crisil Ratings predicts India's economy to expand by 6.8% in FY25**, with significant growth potential driven by domestic reforms and cyclical factors. By 2031, India aims to double its economy to \$7 trillion and achieve upper-middle-income status. India's GDP growth expected to moderate to 6.8% in FY25 from the current fiscal year's 7.6%.

127. **Private sector life insurer Kotak Life Insurance has launched Kotak G.A.I.N.** This non-linked participating product is designed to cater to individuals seeking long-term savings or a steady income stream. With its unique features and flexibility, **Kotak G.A.I.N** aims to address the

diverse financial needs of customers while ensuring robust protection for their loved ones.

128. **Accenture, a global leader in technology consulting and services**, has unveiled a strategic initiative aimed at enhancing upskilling opportunities for its clients. This involves a significant investment of \$1 billion over three years and includes the acquisition of California-based edtech platform, Udacity.

129. **Fly91, a regional airline headquartered in Goa**, has reached a significant milestone in its journey with the issuance of its **Air Operator Certificate (AOC)** by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation under the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The AOC issuance signals the completion of all regulatory and compliance requirements mandated by the DGCA, paving the way for Fly91 to commence its commercial operations.

130. **State-owned Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL)** has clinched a significant order from power giant NTPC to establish a 1,600 MW Singrauli thermal power project (Stage-II). BHEL to construct Singrauli Super Thermal Power Project, Stage-III, with two 800 MW units in Sonbhadra District, Uttar Pradesh.

131. The government of India has announced plans to sell up to **7% of its stake in NLC India**, formerly known as Neyveli Lignite Corp, through an Offer for Sale (OFS). This move aims to raise between Rs 2,000 crore and Rs 2,100 crore, contributing to the government's disinvestment goals.

132. Airbus, a prominent name in the aviation industry, has announced a significant partnership with the esteemed **Indian Institute of**

Management Mumbai (IIM Mumbai) to deliver high-quality aviation training to professionals. The initiative, known as Airbus Beyond, is dedicated to preparing professionals to tackle the evolving challenges of the aerospace industry.

133. International Women's Day 2024 falls on March 8th, marking a global celebration of women's achievements and a call to action for gender equality. The United Nations has chosen the theme '**Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress**' for International Women's Day 2024.

134. The inaugural Bharat Steam Boiler Expo 2024 has officially commenced in Guwahati, Assam, marking a significant milestone in India's industrial journey. Launched with the objective of enhancing the growth and efficiency of sectors reliant on steam boilers, this three-day event has been inaugurated by Sanjay Kishan, the state's Labour and Employment Minister.

135. Under the directions and guidance of **Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami**, a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Tuesday, 5th March. This pivotal agreement took place between CSIR Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun, and UCOST under the aegis of the "**Adarsh Champawat**" mission.

136. Karnataka state government, in a strategic alliance with the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**, has announced the establishment of a cutting-edge AI centre in the state. This collaboration formalized through a Letter of Intent signed on February 29, aims to position Karnataka as a global hub for artificial intelligence,

marking a significant step in integrating the state into the global digital and technological landscape.

137. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under NITI Aayog and Meta have joined forces to establish Frontier Technology Labs (FTLs) in strategically important schools. This collaboration aims to democratize access to future technologies and foster innovation among students. FTLs, advanced versions of Atal Tinkering Labs, will be equipped with cutting-edge infrastructure, including components for Artificial Intelligence, Augmented & Virtual Reality, Blockchain, Cybersecurity, Robotics, 3D Printing, and Internet of Things.

138. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has forged a strategic partnership with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, to conduct joint research on Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology. This collaboration aims to establish the "NPCI-IISc Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Deep Tech Research & Development" to drive innovation in the fintech sector.

139. Yatin Bhaskar Duggal, a promising talent from Haryana, has emerged triumphant as the winner of the esteemed National Youth Parliament Festival, 2024. Following closely behind, Vaishna Pitchai from Tamil Nadu secured the second prize. Kanishka Sharma, representing Rajasthan, was honored with the third prize, underscoring the widespread presence of talent and hard work throughout the nation.

140. Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), in collaboration with the Department of Sports, has

introduced significant reforms in the recruitment, promotion, and incentive mechanisms for athletes. This initiative underscores the government's commitment to nurturing sporting talent and turning sports into a lucrative career option.

141. MethaneSAT, a groundbreaking initiative spearheaded by the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), heralds a new era in environmental monitoring. Designed to address the elusive yet critical issue of methane emissions, MethaneSAT promises to revolutionize how policymakers and industries tackle greenhouse gas pollution.

142. The Union Cabinet has sanctioned a 4% increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) for central government employees and pensioners, effective from January 1. This decision aims to benefit over 10 million employees and **6.79 million pensioners**, with a combined impact on the exchequer of Rs 12,869 crore annually. The enhanced DA of 50% of basic pay will be effective from January 1, 2024. Central Government Employees and pensioners will receive arrears, if applicable.

143. India observes Jan Aushadhi Diwas on 7th March every year, a day dedicated to raising awareness about the benefits and importance of generic medicines. This observance highlights the pivotal role of the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) in making healthcare affordable and accessible to all.

144. The Indian Consulate in Dubai has introduced a new insurance package called the Life Protection Plan

(LPP) for Indian blue-collar workers in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This plan aims to provide financial benefits to the families of the workers in case of natural or accidental deaths.

145. At the 4th Semicon India FutureDesign Roadshow in Kerala, Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar facilitated a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IBM and C-DAC. This partnership aims to propel India's processor design and manufacturing capabilities for High-Performance Computing (HPC), marking a pivotal moment in India's technological advancement.

146. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled his ambitious plan to make India a prime wedding destination, aiming to boost tourism and retain revenue within the country. During a rally in Srinagar, Modi introduced his next mission, **'Wed in India,'** urging people to choose India, particularly Jammu and Kashmir, as their wedding destination.

147. The Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has received the first set of six train coaches for its upcoming driverless metro line, called the Yellow Line. This 18.8 km-long line, connecting RV Road and Bommasandra, will be the first in India to have a driverless train system.

148. The three forces of India – Army, Navy, and Air Force – are going to conduct the biggest exercise called 'Bharat-Shakti' at Asia's largest field firing range located in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan. Bharat Shakti is a significant tri-Service exercise showcasing the firepower of the Army, Air Force, and Navy. The three Indian Services will showcase the capability of indigenously

manufactured weapons and platforms during the exercise. Only indigenous weapon systems developed in India will be included in this exercise.

149. Infibeam Avenues, India's pioneering AI-powered fintech company and the country's first listed entity in this domain, has achieved a significant milestone. Infibeam Avenues has received the definitive nod from the RBI to operate as a payment aggregator (PA), affirming its position in the digital payments landscape.

150. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC), the nation's premier oil firm, is set to revolutionize the motorsports industry by manufacturing fuel tailored for adrenaline-pumping **Formula One (F1) racing**. With its latest offering, **'Storm' petrol**, IOC aims to expand its repertoire of niche fuels, catering to the high-performance demands of motor racing enthusiasts.

151. International Women's Day (IWD) is an annual global event celebrated on March 8th each year. It serves as a focal point for recognizing the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women worldwide. This year, like every year, the international community comes together to honor women's contributions and to advocate for gender equality. The United Nations has chosen the theme **'Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress'** for International Women's Day 2024.

152. Mahashivratri, a celestial festival resonating with spiritual fervor, beckons devotees worldwide to partake in the divine celebration of Lord Shiva, the epitome of cosmic consciousness and eternal bliss. As the

ethereal night of reverence unfolds on March 08th, 2024, devotees embark on a profound journey of devotion, introspection, and transcendence.

153. The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has sanctioned the **Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme, 2024 (UNNATI – 2024)**. This scheme, spearheaded by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, aims to invigorate industrial development in the North East Region, fostering economic growth and job creation.

154. Sweden formally became the 32nd member of NATO after completing its accession process in Washington. This decision comes two years after Sweden's application, triggered by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, highlighting concerns about regional security. After more than 200 years of neutrality and avoidance of military alliances, Sweden's decision marks a significant departure. This move signifies a shift towards aligning with NATO's collective security framework.

155. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Bank Indonesia (BI) have inked a MoU aimed at bolstering the utilization of local currencies – the Indian Rupee (INR) and the Indonesian Rupiah (IDR) – for cross-border transactions. The MoU, signed in Mumbai by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das and Bank Indonesia Governor Perry Warjiyo, establishes a framework to foster the use of INR and IDR in cross-border transactions.

156. NLCIL has emerged victorious in securing a 600 MW Solar Power Project tender within the GSECL Khavda Solar Park, initiated by GUVNL through a competitive bidding

process. The project's annual electricity generation capacity is estimated at 1,577.88 Million Units (MU), with a cumulative generation of 39.447 Billion Units (BU) over its lifetime.

157. German technology giant **SAP** has made a significant leadership change in the Indian Subcontinent region. Manish Prasad has been appointed as the new president and managing director for the region, succeeding Kulmeet Bawa. Kulmeet Bawa, the outgoing president and MD, has taken on a global role to drive the growth and adoption of the SAP Business Technology Platform (SAP BTP) for global customers.

158. Renowned filmmaker **Zoya Akhtar** and British Indian chef **Asma Khan** were honored at the annual 'India-UK Achievers' awards in London. Zoya Akhtar was honored with the Living Legend Award for her work in furthering the understanding of India. Akhtar is acclaimed for box-office successes such as 'Luck By Chance' and 'Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara', as well as her recent work 'The Archies'.

159. **Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur** grandly inaugurated the Sansad Khel Mahakumbh 3.0 at the Luhnu Cricket Ground in Bilaspur on March 5, 2024. Chief Guests Indian cricket team captain Rohit Sharma and Indian cricket team coach Rahul Dravid graced the occasion as chief guests. The MP Khel Mahakumbh has become the biggest platform for players from the Hamirpur parliamentary constituency to showcase their talent.

160. **ISRO chief S Somnath** informed at the **National Space Science Symposium (NSSS 2024)** that

the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is preparing to launch the next lunar mission Chandrayaan-4. This mission will include five spacecraft modules. The five components of the Chandrayaan-4 lunar mission will be launched in two phases.

161. The Indian Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has greenlit the ambitious **IndiaAI mission, allocating a substantial budget of Rs. 10,371.92 crore**. This initiative aligns with the vision of bolstering AI innovation within India and leveraging AI for the nation's advancement.

162. In a significant event held at the **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Kerala**, Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar, introduces ChipIN Centre, a revolutionary facility poised to transform semiconductor design in India. Offering diverse design flows and cutting-edge tools, ChipIN aims to democratize access to chip design infrastructure nationwide.

163. **Sahitya Akademi, the esteemed National Academy of Letters in India**, is marking its **70th anniversary this year**, and in honor of this milestone, the annual 'Sahityotsav' has transformed into the world's largest literary festival. The Festival of Letters, spanning across over 190 sessions, will kick off with an exhibition highlighting the Akademi's significant activities from the preceding year.

164. India, as a party to the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**, has recently implemented stringent measures to regulate the possession and trade of

exotic pets. The Living Animal Species (Reporting and Registration) Rules, 2024, issued by the Union environment ministry on February 28, aim to enforce the provisions of the Convention and ensure the protection of endangered wildlife.

TUALCHHUNG

1. Mizoram hmun kilkhawr leh doctor awm that lohnaah drone hmanga damdawi semchhuah leh sample inthawn zung zung tum a ni a, March 1 khan **Regional Institute of Paramedical and Nursing Sciences (RIPANS)** atangin hlawhtling taka enchain a ni. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare chuan December 20,2023 khan lehkha hmanhmawh (most immediate letter) a tichhuak a, chutah chuan hmun kilkhawr leh hla zawka damlote damdawi mamawh leh thisen sample-te drone hmanga lakhawm a, drone hmang vêka rang zawka pe turin Mizoram sorkar a rawn hriattir.
2. **Chief minister Lalduhoma** chu March 2, Inrinni khan a chenna-in, CM Bangla-ah **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (Exploration) director Sushma Rawat** leh a thawhpuiten an kawm a; Mizoram hmun thenkhatah lei chung atanga gas irhchhuak a awm thu leh hmalak dan tur an sawi dun.
3. GAD changtu chief minister Lalduhoma chuan Lengpui Airport kalpui zel dan tur ngaihtuahtu tur **Adviser to CM (Planning)** kaihhruai working committee din a nih thu leh, airport ram chhungah mimal ram nei an tam thu Assembly Session-ah House a hrih.
4. Assembly Session kha Mizoram Legislative Assembly hnuai a committee peng hrang hranga

member turte than hun a nia, member tur zat chiah nomination a luh avangin inthlan a ngai lo.

Assembly speaker Lalbiakzama chuan Public Accounts Committee, Committee on Estimate, Committee on Public Undertaking leh Committee on Local Account member turte a chhiar chhuak a, chairman tur chu la puan leh tur a ni.

****Public Accounts Committee member-te** – VL Zaithanzama (ZPM), W Chhuanawma (ZPM), Lt.Col. Lalhmingthanga (ZPM), TBC Lalvenchhunga (ZPM), Lalchhandama Ralte (MNF), C Ngunlianbunga (INC) leh Dr K Beichhua (BJP) te an ni.

**** Committee on Estimate member-te chu** - W Chhuanawma (ZPM), Lalmuanpuia Punte (ZPM), T Lalhlipua (ZPM), Jeje Lalpekhua (ZPM), Lalrintluanga Sailo (MNF), Robert Romawia Royte (MNF) leh C Ngunlianbunga (INC) te an ni.

**** Committee on Public Undertaking member-te chu-** Lt. Col. Lalhmingthanga (ZPM), H Ginzalala (ZPM), Lalramliana Papua (ZPM), V Malsawmtluanga (ZPM), Ramthanmawia (MNF), K Laldawngliana (MNF) leh K Hrahmo (BJP) te an ni.

**** Committee on Local Fund Account member-te chu –** Lalchhuanthanga (ZPM), Lalramliana Papua (ZPM), Dr Lorrain Lalpekliana Chinzah (ZPM), Baryl Vanneihsang (ZPM), H Lalzirliana (MNF), Lalrinsanga Ralte (MNF) leh C Ngunlianbunga (INC) te an ni.

5. **National Immunization Day 2024 pualin Health & Family Welfare department** chuan Tanhrila Health & Wellness Sub-Centre-ah naupang kum 5 hnuai lamte hnena zenghri danna pek beihpui thlakna (Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization) an buatsaih a, National Health Mission mission director Dr Eric Zomawia'n a hawng. Mizoramah naupang kum 5 hnuailam **1,08,702** vel zeng hri danna pek tura ruahman a ni.
6. Mizo Zirlai Pawl (MZP) chuan School Education Directorate conference hall-ah **March 5, 1966-a** India sorkarin bomb hmanga Mizoram a beih champha, '**Zoram Ni**' an hmang a; Home minister K Sapdanga'n hmanpui. Kumin Zoram Ni thupui chu '**Zofate insuihkhâwmna hmathlir**' tih a ni a.
7. **Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (LESDE)** department buatsaih, ni hnih awh State Level Skills Competition-2024 chu LESDE Auditorium-ah khar a ni a; Mizoram aiawha national level competition-a tel tur mi **16**

thlanchhuah an ni.LESDE director Angela Zothanpuii tarlan danin, khawvela skills lama intihsiakna lian ber Worldskills Competition 2024 (Skills Olympic), Lyon, France-a neih tura India aiawh tur thlanna, Indiaskills Competition-a tel turin March 5-6, 2024 khan state aiawh intihsiakna neih a nia, mi 47 zingah Mizoram aiawh turin mi 16 than an ni.

8. Weightlifter, subedar **Jeremy Lalrinnunga** chu nimin khan **Indian Armed Forces-in** sipai hlawhtlinna changte hnena an hlan thin **Vishisht Seva Medal** hlan a ni. Jeremy-a hian Youth Olympic 2018 khan gold medal dawngin, India mi zinga Youth Olympic-a gold medal dawng hmasa ber a ni. Commonwealth Games 2022 leh Common-wealth Championship 2021-ah pawh gold medal a dawng.
9. Assembly session-ah Land Revenue & Settlement minister B Lalchhanzova put luh '**The India Stamp (Mizoram Amendment) Bill, 2024**' chu sawiho a nih hnuah pawm a ni.