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Weekly Current Affairs

 $(9^{th} - 15^{th} March, 2024)$

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated projects worth Rs 118 crore 72 lakh in Madhya Pradesh through video conferencing. These projects are under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme and the Prasad scheme. The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the "Experience of Spirituality at Chitrakoot Ghat" project in Chitrakoot.
- 2. Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Arjun Munda, unveiled the Agriculture Integrated Command and Control Centre at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi. This initiative aims to empower farmers nationwide by providing them with essential information, services, and facilities. The primary goal is to enhance the self-reliance of farmers across the country.
- 3. On the occasion of the 134th Foundation Day of the National Archives of India, Union Minister, Arjun Ram Meghwal, will inaugurate a digital exhibition titled "Subhash Abhinandan" in New Delhi on March 11th. Organized by the National Archives of India, the exhibition commemorates the life of Subhash Chandra Bose, featuring 16 sections covering key aspects from his birth to the present day.
- Hong Kong has introduced a new national security law draft. The

- proposed legislation, covering treason, espionage, and external interference, signifies a significant increase in state authority in the region. This development arises amidst a wider crackdown on dissent, resulting in prodemocracy figures being imprisoned or exiled.
- 5. Bichom, carved out of West and East Kameng, has been declared the 27th district of Arunachal Pradesh. Chief Minister Pema Khandu led the inauguration ceremony, marking a significant milestone for the region. Bichom district encompasses 27 villages from West Kameng and 28 from East Kameng, contributing to its formation.
- Cutter Bertholf at Port Blair signals the commencement of 'Sea Defenders-2024,' a joint exercise between the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). Scheduled for March 9-10, 2024, this drill reflects the deepening strategic ties between the two nations and aims to enhance maritime safety and uphold a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region.
- UBS anticipates a moderation in India's real GDP growth for fiscal years 2025 and 2026, projecting rates of 7% and 6.8%, respectively. The report

- highlights the continuation of growth momentum in the first three quarters of fiscal year 2024, driven by cyclical recovery and structural improvements. Positive surprises noted in India's GDP growth, averaging above 8% in the first three quarters of FY2024. Expectation of moderation attributed to global factors such as weaker growth and local factors like softness in public capex.
- **8.** CISF Raising Day is celebrated every year on March 10. This day marks the establishment of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in 1969. CISF is under the Ministry of Home Affairs. CISF was established on March 10, 1969, by an Act of Parliament. Initially, it had a few battalions. Over the years, CISF has grown bigger and stronger. It has now become a multi-skilled security force with specialized training.
- 9. No Smoking Day is observed annually on March 13. Each year, the No Smoking Day campaign is promoted with an innovative theme. The theme for No Smoking Day 2024 is 'Protecting children from tobacco industry interference.'
- 10. The Ministry of Women and Child Development will organize Poshan Pakhwada nationwide from March 9 to March 23, 2024. This 15-day celebration aims to spread awareness about nutrition, dietary practices, and women's health. The Pakhwada aims to raise awareness about the importance of nutrition and promote healthy eating habits through "Jan Andolan and Jan Bhagidari" (public movement and participation).
- **11. NPCI** International Payments Ltd (NIPL) has partnered with Nepal's leading payment network, Fonepay Payment Service Ltd, to enable cross-

- border Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions between India and Nepal. With approximately 30% of Nepal's tourists being Indian, this partnership is expected to significantly improve the payment experience for Indian travelers. UPI transactions will streamline financial interactions, benefiting both tourists and the Nepalese economy.
- 12. The Department of Science and Technology (DST), in collaboration with T-Hub, has launched the Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence Technology Hub (MATH) in Hyderabad. This initiative aims to accelerate Al innovation, facilitate job creation, and foster a supportive ecosystem for Al and ML startups.
- 13. Rajendra Prasad Goyal, Director (Finance) of NHPC, has recently assumed the additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director of NHPC Limited, a premier hydropower company in India and a Schedule 'A' enterprise under the Government of India. With over 35 years experience, he has garnered extensive knowledge across various domains of finance within NHPC. Over the years, he has showcased remarkable growth, driven by a profound sense of responsibility, ethical conduct, and unwavering dedication to the company's goals.
- 14. Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented the first-ever National Creators Award at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The National Creators Award encompasses 20 categories, highlighting the diversity and depth of creativity across different fields.
- **15.** India has been awarded the prestigious 'Measles and Rubella

- Champion' Award by The Measles and Rubella Partnership. This award recognizes India's exemplary efforts in preventing measles and rubella diseases. The award was presented on March 6th, 2024, at the American Red Cross Headquarters in Washington D.C., USA. Ambassador Sripriya Ranganathan, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, received the award on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.
- 16. President Droupadi nominated author and philanthropist Sudha Murty to the Rajya Sabha. PM Modi announced this congratulated Sudha Murty, saying her contribution to diverse fields has been "immense and inspiring". Sudha Murty is an Indian educator, author, philanthropist, and the former chairperson of the Infosys Foundation. She is also a member of the public healthcare initiatives of the Gates Foundation. Murty has established the Murty Classical Library of India at Harvard University.
- 17. England's James Anderson claimed his 700th Test wicket by dismissing India's Kuldeep Yadav in Dharamsala on the morning of Day 3 of the final Test against India. This historic milestone makes Anderson the third bowler to reach the 700-wicket mark in Test cricket.
- 18. Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing & Urban Affairs, inaugurated the 5th ONGC Para Games, praising paraathletes for their unwavering determination. The event took place at Thyagaraj Stadium, New Delhi with the presence of Shri Pankaj Jain, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas,

- and senior officials from Oil & Gas PSUs.
- 19. Former Lankan President Sri Gotabaya Rajapaksa emerged from a long period of silence, unveiling a book in which he asserts that his removal from office was orchestrated by geopolitical tensions, particularly between China and other nations. Entitled The Conspiracy to Oust Me from the Presidency, Rajapaksa's book hit the shelves without an official launch, light shedding his the perspective regarding circumstances leading to his departure.
- 20. The Indian government, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved a new \$1.24 billion investment for the IndiaAl mission. This initiative aims to create an all-Indian AI ecosystem from scratch, bolstering India's technological prowess and fostering innovation in AI. high-performance computing (HPC) system expected to include 10,000 "or more" GPUs as accelerators, will be developed through a public-private partnership to support startups and research organizations.
- 21. The University Grants Commission's (UGC) Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre unveiled a groundbreaking initiative, known as the 'She Research Network in India' (SheRNI). This initiative aims to address the gender disparity in the field of science by ensuring equal representation of women scientists.
- 22. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Gurgaon stretch of the Dwarka Expressway alongside Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari. The 29-

- km-long expressway spans 18.9 km in Haryana and 10.1 km in Delhi, starting from Shiv-Murti on National Highway 8 and culminating near the Kherki Daula toll plaza.
- 23. At the end of the decade from 2014 to 2024, India has emerged as the world's second-largest producer of mobile phones. According to the India Cellular and Electronics Association, the mobile phone sector has transformed from being 78 percent import-dependent in 2014 to achieving 97 per cent self-sufficiency by 2024.
- 24. Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a 125-foot bronze statue of the legendary Ahom general, Lachit Borphukan, at his burial site in eastern Assam's Jorhat district. The 125-foot statue, designed and constructed by renowned sculptor Ram Vanji Sutar, stands on a pedestal of 41 feet, making the total structure 125 feet tall.
- 25. Prime Minister Narendra Modi. during the Viksit Bharat Viksit North Itanagar, East programme in Arunachal Pradesh on March 09, 2024, virtually dedicated the Sela Tunnel project to the nation. Constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) at an altitude of 13,000 feet, the tunnel is situated on the road from Assam, Tezpur, to Tawang Arunachal Pradesh's West Kameng district.
- 26. Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh, announced the establishment of North India's first Government Homeopathic College in the Jasrota area of Kathua district, J&K. The project, funded centrally at Rs 80 crore, reflects a significant stride in healthcare and education

- infrastructure development in the region.
- 27. The 3-day National Dairy Mela and Agricultural Exhibition at Chaibasa in Jharkhand was inaugurated by Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Agriculture, and Farmers Welfare, Shri Arjun Munda. Organized by the National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, Haryana, this event marks the first of its kind in Jharkhand, aimed at fostering the comprehensive livestock development of agriculture in tribal areas.
- 28. Sea6 Energy, a pioneer in the Blue Economy, has launched the world's first large-scale mechanized tropical seaweed farm off the coast of Lombok, Indonesia. The one-square-kilometer seaweed farm is a significant milestone in establishing the scalability of sustainable tropical seaweed cultivation for various industrial applications.
- **29.** The state of Maharashtra announced its fourth women's policy, which aims to promote the holistic development of women. Aditi Tatkare, the Women and Child Development Minister, unveiled this policy on the eve of Women's Day during the golden jubilee year of the Women's Economic Development Corporation. Maharashtra is the first state in India to introduce a women's policy. The state has previously announced three women's policies, all aimed at promoting women's development.
- 30. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has intensified its oversight on peer-to-peer (P2P) credit card payments facilitated by third-party service providers. This follows the discovery of retail customers utilizing credit cards for rent and tuition fee payments

- through third-party apps, prompting regulatory action. RBI defines credit cards as payment instruments with pre-approved credit limits for purchasing goods/services or withdrawing cash.
- 31. The International Day of Women Judges is celebrated every year on 10 March. This year, it falls on Sunday. The day is dedicated to recognizing the contributions of women judges worldwide and promoting women's participation in decision-making for achieving equality and democracy. The theme for this year's celebration is "Women in Justice, women for justice," promoting the full and equal participation of women at all levels of the judiciary.
- **32.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi the virtually launched 'Mahtari Vandan Yojana' in Chhattisgarh from Kashi, Uttar Pradesh. The scheme aims to provide financial assistance to women in the state. PM Modi disbursed the first installment of Rs 1,000 to 70,12,417 women in **Chhattisgarh**. The state government has allocated Rs 655.57 crore for this purpose.
- 33. Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora, a threetime member of the Provincial
 Assembly (MPA) in Pakistan, has
 become the first Sikh minister in the
 Punjab province. The cabinet in Punjab
 was formed by the newly elected
 Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N)
 government led by Chief Minister
 Maryam Nawaz Sharif. The inclusion of
 Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora reflects the
 government's commitment to
 representing all communities.
- 34. Devendra Jhajharia, a two-time
 Paralympic gold medalist, has been
 elected as the new President of the

- Paralympic Committee of India (PCI). He succeeds another renowned paraathlete, Deepa Malik.
- 35. India and the European Free Trade
 Association (EFTA) comprising
 Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, and
 Liechtenstein have signed a Trade and
 Economic Partnership Agreement
 (TEPA). EFTA commits to increasing
 foreign direct investments in India by
 \$100 billion over the next 15 years,
 aiming to generate 1 million direct
 jobs.
- 36. Indian badminton stars Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have won the BWF French Open men's doubles title, defeating Chinese Taipei's Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan in the final. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won the French Open men's doubles title They defeated Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan of Chinese Taipei in straight games (21-11, 21-17)
- 37. In Jammu and Kashmir, the police have initiated "Operation Kamdhenu" to curb the rampant issue of cattle smuggling in the Jammu, Samba, and Kathua (JSK) police ranges. This crackdown aims to tackle not only the immediate smuggling activities but also to target the masterminds behind these illicit operations.
- 38. Majuli, the largest river island in the world, has received two prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tags from the Indian government for its traditional crafts Majuli mask making and Majuli manuscript painting.
- 39. Coinciding with International Women's Day and the 40th anniversary of INAS 318, the Andaman & Nicobar Command achieved a significant milestone by conducting its

- first-ever all-women maritime surveillance mission.
- 40. The Narendra Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government has announced the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) on 11, March 2024, bringing the law back into the spotlight. The CAA aims to provide а pathway to Indian citizenship for persecuted minority communities from neighbouring countries, but it has faced criticism and protests over the exclusion of Muslims.
- 41. Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the commencement of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) facilities in 41 villages and various development projects in 178 villages under the 'Dilli Gramodaya Abhiyan'. The initiative aims to uplift the infrastructure and living standards in rural areas of Delhi. The Dilli Gramodaya Abhiyan has a fund of Rs 960 crore to develop necessary infrastructure in Delhi's urbanized villages and new urban areas.
- 42. On March 10, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made headlines by inaugurating 15 significant airport projects, marking an unprecedented infrastructural addition in Uttar Pradesh's Azamgarh. This extensive initiative, almost valued at ₹10,000 crore, encompasses a blend of new expanded airports, terminals, foundation stones for future airports, and other ancillary facilities.
- 43. Asif Ali Zardari took oath as Pakistan's
 14th President following his
 overwhelming victory in the
 presidential election. Zardari
 succeeded Dr. Arif Alvi, who remained
 in office for five additional months

- after completing his five-year term in September last year.
- 44. China recently announced a new territorial sea baseline in the northern part of the Gulf of Tonkin, shared with Vietnam, sparking concerns about potential impacts on existing agreements and regional stability. China disclosed seven base points the baseline for forming sovereignty claims in the Gulf of Tonkin, also known as Beibu Gulf.
- 45. The Tamil Nadu government has launched the 'Neengal Nalama' (Are you fine?) scheme, a beneficiary outreach program aimed at reviewing implementation of flagship schemes and addressing the grievances of the public. Under the 'Neengal Nalama' scheme, people will be directly contacted by the Chief Minister, Chief Secretary, Department Heads, Department Secretaries, and District Collectors to inquire about their level of benefit and to identify any bottlenecks related to various government schemes.
- 46. Manohar Lal Khattar has resigned from his position as the Chief Minister of Haryana, following emerging rifts within the coalition government formed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Jannayak Janata Party (JJP). The discord between the BJP and the JJP, led by Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala, primarily stemmed from their inability to agree on a seat-sharing formula for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.
- 47. Nayab Singh Saini, an influential leader from the Other Backward Classes (OBC) community, has been appointed as the new Chief Minister of Haryana. The decision was announced by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on

- Tuesday afternoon, shortly after Manohar Lal Khattar, the outgoing Chief Minister and his entire cabinet stepped down.
- 48. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin Tuesday, March 12, 2024, announced that the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), whose rules were notified by the Union Home Ministry on March 11, will not be implemented in the state. The CAA, passed by the Parliament in 2019, aims to expedite the citizenship process for non-Muslim migrants, including Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis, and Christians, who migrated from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan and arrived in India before 2014.
- 49. The Geological Survey of India, State Unit: Andhra Pradesh, unveiled a representative Stratigraphic Column of the Cuddapah Supergroup Vajrakarur Diamond Processing Camp, Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh. This coloumn represents geological history and evolution of the Cuddapah Basin, the second-largest Proterozoic basin in India. It reinforces GSI's commitment to making Vajrakarur significant Camp а educational and research hub.
- 50. The Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, performed the Bhumi Pujan ceremony for a 50 MW Solar Project in Sonitpur district. The project, being developed by SJVN Green Energy Limited (SGEL), holds for promise bolstering Assam's renewable sector and energy contributing to sustainable development.
- **51. Defence Research and Development Organisation** has successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the locally developed **Agni-5 missile with**

- multiple independently targetable reentry vehicle (MIRV) technology.
- 52. Big Bang Boom Solutions (BBBS), a homegrown IDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) startup, clinches a major order exceeding Rs 200 Crores for its state-of-the-art anti-drone technology. Signed by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) with BBBS, this contract marks the largest under the IDEX initiative, aimed at benefiting the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force.
- 53. IndusInd Bank, in collaboration with Mastercard, introduces 'Indus PayWear,' offering tokenised wearables for debit and credit cards. This innovative solution aims to enhance payment flexibility, convenience, and security for users. It facilitates tap-and-pay transactions globally at contactless Point-of-Sale terminals, eliminating the need for physical cards or payment apps and also insures secure purchases with ease for users.
- 54. Aditya Birla Capital's decision to merge with its wholly-owned subsidiary, Aditya Birla Finance, is poised to reshape the NBFC landscape in India. The board of Aditya Birla Capital approved the merger on March 11, subject to regulatory approvals. This strategic move not only consolidates their financial services arm but also aligns with RBI's regulations, avoiding the need for Aditya Birla Finance to go public.
- 55. World Plumbing Day, held annually on 11 March, is an international event initiated by the World Plumbing Council to recognize the crucial role plumbing plays in societal health and amenity.
- The Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers,

- introduces the Revamped Pharmaceuticals Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme to enhance industry capabilities and align with global standards. Additionally, prioritizing Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) aims to bolster smaller players, ensuring they reach and maintain exemplary manufacturing standards.
- 57. In a landmark gathering in Yaoundé, Cameroon, health ministers from 11 African nations, along with global malaria partners and stakeholders, convened to address the escalating malaria crisis in Africa. Despite available tools and systems, malaria cases surged globally, with Africa bearing the brunt, accounting for 94% of cases and 95% of deaths in 2022.
- 58. AS Rajeev was appointed as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission by the Honourable President of India on 9th February 2024. He took the oath as Vigilance Commissioner on 11th March 2024 before the Central Vigilance Commissioner, who was authorized by the President of India under the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003.
- 59. Kishor Makwana has assumed the charge of Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) in New Delhi. Shri Luv Kush Kumar has also taken charge as a Member of the NCSC.
- 60. Riken Yamamoto, a Japanese architect from Yokohama, has been named the winner of the 2024 Pritzker Architecture Prize, widely regarded as the highest honour in the field of architecture.
- **61. Delhi Airport** has once again asserted its dominance in the aviation sector by

- securing the prestigious title of 'Best Airport' in the Asia-Pacific region for the sixth consecutive year. This accolade, bestowed by the Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards, reaffirms Delhi Airport's commitment to excellence and leadership in providing top-notch services to passengers.
- 62. On March 10th, 2024, both NTPC and its renewable energy arm NGEL signed non-binding MoUs with Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RVUNL) in Jaipur. NTPC and its affiliates will undertake a 15-year to 20-year annuity-based R&M project for older thermal units of RVUNL. The goal is to revamp existing units to meet contemporary efficiency and sustainability standards.
- 63. Yashasvi Jaiswal, the young Indian opener, has been named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for February 2024. The 22-year-old Jaiswal has made an incredible start to his international career, emerging as one of the best Test openers in the world.
- 64. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, unveiled India's fastest and indigenously developed IP/MPLS (Multiprotocol Label Switching) router in Bengaluru. The router, boasting a capacity of 2.4 tdps, marks a significant milestone in India's technological advancement.
- 65. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited
 Sabarmati Ashram to inaugurate
 Kochrab Ashram and launch the
 Master Plan of the Gandhi Ashram
 Memorial. Established by Gandhi on
 May 25, 1915, upon his return from
 South Africa. It was Gandhi's first
 Ashram in India, emphasizing

- experiments in farming, cow breeding, Khadi, and constructive activities.
- **66.** In a historic moment, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the inaugural automobile in-plant railway siding at Suzuki Motor Gujarat Private Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL). The ceremony, conducted via video conferencing, signifies a pivotal advancement in the execution of the Prime Minister's flagship Gati Shakti programme.
- 67. In a move to empower and support women employees in the state, the Odisha government led by Naveen Patnaik has announced an additional 10 days of casual leave for women working in various government departments. This decision aims to recognize the multitude of responsibilities women shoulder and provide them with greater flexibility to strike a better work-life balance.
- 68. Union Minister Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, responsible for Electronics and IT, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship, and Jal Shakti, inaugurated India's first FutureLABS center at C-DAC Thiruvananthapuram. Named the "Centre for Semiconductor Chips & Systems for Strategic Electronics," this pioneering initiative aims catalyze to ecosystem for next-generation chip design, manufacturing, and research.
- 69. The Indian Navy recently took part in a major maritime exercise called Exercise Cutlass Express 24 (CE-24). This exercise was held in Port Victoria, Seychelles from 26 February to 08 March 2024. The Indian Navy was represented by the ship INS Tir, which is the lead ship of the First Training Squadron. INS Tir was led by Senior

- Officer, First Training Squadron, Capt Anshul Kishore.
- 70. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for January 2024 reflects a growth rate of 3.8%, indicating a slowdown compared to December 2023. The manufacturing sector, a significant contributor to industrial output, witnessed a deceleration in growth, dropping from 4.5% in December 2023 to 3.2% in January 2024.
- 71. Retail inflation in February 2024 saw a decline to a four-month low of 5.09 per cent, remaining well within the Reserve Bank of India's comfort zone of 6 per cent for the sixth consecutive month.
- 72. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the merger of a financial technology company, **Garagepreneurs** Internet **Private** Limited (GIPL), with the North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB). The proposed transaction involves the of GIPL, including merger subsidiaries Quadrillion **Finance** Private Limited (QFPL) and Intergalactory Foundry Private Limited (IFPL), with NESFB and its subsidiary **RGVN** (North-East) Microfinance Limited (RGVN).
- 73. The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has secured \$24.5 million from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for its inaugural anchored project, the Avaana Sustainability Fund (ASF), valued at \$120 million. The ASF project's primary objective is to invest in early-stage companies leveraging technology-led innovation to drive climate solutions and sustainability in India.
- **74. Aurionpro Solutions** has clinched a significant deal with the State Bank of

- India (SBI) for the license, implementation, and support of its cutting-edge cash management and transaction banking platform, iCashpro+. Valued at nearly Rs 100 crore, this prestigious contract entails phased delivery of license and implementation over 12 months, followed by a 6-year maintenance and support period.
- 75. Tata Power Solar Systems Limited (TPSSL), a subsidiary of Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited, has completed the country's largest Solar and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) project in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh. The project consists of a 100 MW Solar PV Project combined with a 120 MWh Utility Scale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).
- 76. On March 11, 2024, the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) celebrated its 38th Foundation Day, marking a significant achievement in its journey towards promoting renewable energy development in India. One of the major accomplishments highlighted was IREDA achieving an 'Excellent' rating under the MoU 2022-23, signed with the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, for the third consecutive financial year.
- 77. On March 12, 2024, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) celebrated its 19th Foundation Day at the Jacaranda Hall, Indian Habitat Centre, New Delhi. To mark this special occasion, the Commission invited children from different parts of the country to acknowledge their efforts and participation in the Commission's Pariksha Parv campaign.

- 78. According to the latest data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India was the world's top arms importer for the period 2019-2023. India's arms imports witnessed a 4.7% increase compared to the 2014-2018 period.
- 79. Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers and Health and Family Welfare, spearheaded the inauguration of a credit assistance program aimed at bolstering Jan Aushadhi Kendras across India. The program, initiated through a collaboration between SIDBI and PMBI, underscores the government's commitment to enhancing accessibility and affordability of medicines, echoing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Sanjeevani' for the underprivileged.
- 80. The Indian Sugar & Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) has appointed Mr. Deepak Ballani as its new Director General. With over 25 years of extensive experience in public policy, government affairs, and organizational management, Mr. Ballani brings a wealth of expertise to this pivotal role.
- 81. Google has partnered with the Election Commission of India (ECI) to provide authoritative information on voting processes for the upcoming general elections. Through Google Search and YouTube videos, voters will be able to access critical details on how to register and vote, as well as information about candidates.
- 82. The Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has entered a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This

- collaboration aims to expand affordable and accessible digital services across rural India, leveraging the BharatNet infrastructure under USOF.
- 83. On the 12th of March, 2024, an MoU was signed between the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) of India and the Information Technology Institute (ITI) of Egypt. This significant event took place in Cairo, Egypt. This collaboration seeks to bridge the gap in ICT skills, enhancing industry engagement and fostering meaningful international cooperation between India and Egypt.
- **84.** MoRD (Ministry of Rural Development) and IIT Delhi have signed Memorandum а Understanding to collaborate on geospatial technology and artificial intelligence (AI) for development. The partnership aims to leverage technology to enhance the effectiveness and transparency of rural development initiatives.
- 85. On March 12, 2024, President Droupadi Murmu was conferred with the honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law by the University of Mauritius. The University of Mauritius conferred the Honoris Causa Degree of Doctor of Civil Law on President Droupadi Murmu, recognizing her contributions and the strong ties between India and Mauritius.
- 86. Mr. Srinivasan Swamy, currently serving as the chairman and managing director of RK Swamy Ltd, was honored at the 45th IAA World Congress in Penang, Malaysia. The IAA Golden Compass Award is a symbol of excellence and innovation in the industry. Swamy has played pivotal

- roles in shaping the landscape of the marketing services industry over two decades.
- 87. Dr. Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of Science & Technology, inaugurated the "National Speed Breeding Crop Facility" at NABI (National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute), Mohali. This initiative aligns with PM Modi's vision of increasing farmers' income and promoting Agri StartUps. It speeds up crop improvement programs by developing advanced varieties resilient to climate change.
- 88. Researchers have made an exciting discovery a previously unknown scorpion species with 8 eyes and 8 legs in Thailand's Kaeng Krachan National Park. During a wildlife expedition in the park, located near the Tenasserim Mountain Range, a team of researchers stumbled upon this new scorpion species hidden under a rock while camping.
- 89. Yoga Mahotsav-2024 marked the 100day countdown to the 10th edition of the International Day of Yoga (IDY) on June 21st, 2024, at Vigyan Bhawan. This year, the event focused on the theme "Yoga for Women Empowerment," reflecting the Ministry of Ayush's commitment to promote global health and peace through yoga, particularly emphasizing women's well-being.
- 90. Anurag Singh Thakur, inaugurated PB-SHABD, a news sharing service, alongside the revamped websites of DD News and Akashvani News, and an updated News on Air mobile app at the National Media Centre, New Delhi. PB-SHABD provides daily news feeds in video, audio, text, photo, and other formats sourced from Prasar Bharati's extensive network.

- 91. On March 12, 2024, India and the Dominican Republic signed a protocol for the establishment of the Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) in Santo Domingo. The proposal for signing the protocol for the establishment of JETCO had received approval from the Union Cabinet of India on January 24, 2024.
- 92. In a strategic move to bolster its production capacity in South India, automaker Tata Motors has announced plans to set up a new manufacturing unit in Tamil Nadu. With an investment of Rs 9,000 crore over the next five years, the company aims to leverage the state's conducive business environment to propel its growth trajectory.
- 93. The naval forces of China, Iran, and Russia launched a joint exercise near the Gulf of Oman, aimed at safeguarding regional maritime security. The "Security Belt-2024" exercise marks the fourth time these countries have conducted such a drill since 2019. The theme of the exercise is "Jointly Building Peace and Security."
- 94. On 13th March 2024, a significant milestone was achieved in the Indian Navy's shipbuilding program with the launch of 'Agray' and 'Akshay', the 5th and 6th ships of the 08 x ASW (Anti-Submarine Warfare) Shallow Water Craft (SWC) Project. These ships are being built by M/S Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata for the Indian Navy. The Arnala class of ships, as they are known, will replace the in-service Abhay class ASW Corvettes of the Indian Navy and are designed for:
- **95.** In a significant stride towards gender equality and inclusivity, the **Railway**

- Protection Force (RPF) has emerged as a frontrunner among central paramilitary forces in terms of female representation. With women now constituting a remarkable 10 percent of its personnel, the RPF has set a new benchmark in gender diversity within central paramilitary forces.
- 96. The share of private sector banks in total deposits has risen significantly, reaching 34% as of December 2023, up from 25% at the end of the financial year 2017-18. This growth has been driven by aggressive interest rate offerings and improved customer relationship management strategies adopted by private banks.
- 97. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued notices to Federal Bank and South Indian Bank, directing them to halt the issuance of new co-branded credit cards. Both Federal Bank and South Indian Bank have assured that they will continue to offer credit cards to new and existing customers in the non-co-branded segment. Furthermore, they will continue to service existing co-branded cardholders.
- 98. Bank of Baroda has announced the launch of the bob Earth Green Term Deposit Scheme. The scheme provides interest upto 7.15% p.a. on deposits ranging from Rs. 5,000 to Below Rs. 2 Crore. The scheme aims to raise deposits that will be used to finance eligible environment-friendly projects and sectors, fostering India's transition to a green and sustainable economy.
- 99. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1.40 crore on Bank of India for noncompliance with certain directions issued by the central bank. The RBI has also imposed a monetary penalty of

- ₹29.55 lakh on Bandhan Bank for noncompliance with certain directions relating to Interest Rate on Deposits.
- 100. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated three semiconductor projects virtually, with combined investment approximately Rs 1.25 Lakh Crore. The three facilities include semiconductor fabrication unit in Dholera, Gujarat, an Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility in Morigaon, Assam, and another OSAT facility in Sanand, Gujarat.
- Limited (NRL) opens its first overseas office in Dhaka, Bangladesh, signaling its commitment to international expansion and stronger regional ties. The pipeline was designed to supply petroleum products to Bangladesh, with a capacity of 1 MMTPA of highspeed diesel.
- Thursday of March every year. This year World Kidney Day is observed on 14th March. The 2024 World Kidney Day campaign theme is Kidney Health for All Advancing Equitable Access to Care and Optimal Medication Practice.
- 103. The International Day of Action for Rivers is observed annually on March 14th. This year, on Thursday, March 14, 2024, the theme is "Water for All," emphasizing the fundamental right of every individual to access clean water.
- 104. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan and Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan' (PM-SURAJ) national portal during an event organized by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The portal signifies the

- government's commitment to extending credit support and empowering one lakh entrepreneurs from disadvantaged communities.
- 105. NITI Aayog launched the 'Vocal for Local' initiative under its Aspirational Blocks Programme on March 13, 2024. This initiative aims to bolster local economies and promote grassroots entrepreneurship, ultimately fostering self-reliance and sustainable growth. Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog, unveiled the logo for 'Aakanksha' under the 'Vocal for Local' initiative. The initiative aims to consolidate indigenous local products from 500 Aspirational Blocks under the brand 'Aakanksha'.
- **106**. The Ministry of Heavy Industries, Government of India, in collaboration with the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, introduces the Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024 (EMPS 2024). This scheme aims to expedite the uptake of electric vehicles (EVs) within the country, fostering a sustainable and eco-friendly transportation ecosystem while bolstering the EV manufacturing sector.
- Development Report 2023-2024 released by the United Nations

 Development Programme (UNDP),

 India has made significant progress in bridging the gender divide. The country has improved its ranking by 14 positions on the Gender Inequality Index (GII) 2022 compared to the previous year.
- 108. India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have collaboratively signed a \$181 million

- loan agreement targeting the improvement of infrastructure and services in the peri-urban areas surrounding Ahmedabad city in Gujarat. Its objective is to improve physical and social infrastructure in peri-urban areas and fostering economic vibrancy and establishing them as attractive investment destinations.
- to step into the role of Director (Projects) at NHPC Limited, following a commendation by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) panel on March 12. Currently serving as Chief General Manager at SJVN Limited, Singh emerges as the recommended candidate from a pool of twelve contenders.
- Modi-led three-member committee has appointed **Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu as new Election Commissioners**. This decision was conveyed to the media by Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury after the committee's meeting on March 14, 2024.
- Affairs and Sports, Shri Anurag Singh
 Thakur, has inaugurated a unique
 talent hunt event called KIRTI (Khelo
 India Rising Talent Identification) in
 Chandigarh. This nationwide
 programme, under the Khelo India
 mission, aims to identify talented
 athletes between the ages of 9 and 18
 years, currently enrolled in schools
 across the country.
- artisan and Padma awardee for his contributions to the handloom industry and the revival of Bababuti

- sarees, passed away in Basavanbigha village, Bihar Sharif.
- much of his life in an iron lung after contracting polio as a child, has passed away at the age of 78. Paralyzed from the neck down by the disease, he spent over 70 years confined to an iron lung, a mechanical respirator that sustained his breathing.
- introduced in 2018, allows individuals and entities to make donations to political parties without revealing their identities. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has recently released data on the amounts received by various parties through this route, providing insights into the flow of funds in Indian politics.
- a landmark announcement on March 15, approving a comprehensive scheme aimed at positioning India as a global hub for electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing. This policy, designed by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, seeks to entice significant investments from renowned global EV manufacturers into the Indian market.
- 116. In Nuremberg, Germany, construction laborers stumbled upon an astonishing find while building a house: a vast number of human skeletons, indicating the presence of what may be Europe's largest cemetery.
- 117. President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority (PA) has appointed Mohammad Mustafa as the new Prime Minister. Mustafa, a U.S.-educated economist, is one of the leading Palestinian business figures with a track record of overseeing

- Gaza's reconstruction efforts under Hamas' rule.
- aimed at lunar missions and beyond, faced another setback as it disintegrated during its third test flight. The Starship, consisting of the cruise vessel atop the Super Heavy rocket booster, launched from Starbase near Boca Chica Village, Texas.
- 119. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) releases the monthly Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for India. The WPI for February 2024, with a base year of 2011-12, reflects a 0.20% provisional annual inflation rate, driven primarily by increases in food articles, crude petroleum & natural gas, electricity, machinery equipment, and motor vehicles, trailers & semi-trailers.
- 120. Fitch Ratings has raised India's growth forecast for FY25 to 7%, up from the previous estimate of 6.5%. The upgrade is attributed to robust domestic demand and sustained growth in business and consumer confidence, following a strong 8.4% expansion in Q3FY24.
- released draft guidelines outlining a disclosure framework for climate-related financial risks applicable to various regulated entities (REs). These guidelines aim to ensure transparency and better management of climate risks within the financial sector. The RBI's move aligns with its commitment to addressing climate risks, as demonstrated by its membership in the Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) since April 2021.

- 122. Reliance Industries, India's largest private company, has announced its acquisition of Paramount Global's entire 13.01% stake in Viacom 18 Media for Rs 4,286 crore (\$517 million). This significant transaction underscores Reliance's strategic positioning in the media industry, further solidifying presence in the competitive market.
- celebrated annually on March 15 across the globe. This day aims to raise awareness about the rights and responsibilities of consumers in the marketplace. This year, the theme chosen by Consumers International for World Consumer Rights Day 2024 is 'Fair and responsible AI for consumers.'
- Jitendra Singh unveiled the report "A Decade of Science Technology Panorama for Aatmanirbhar Bharat" at Vigyan Bhavan. The report provides a comprehensive overview of the technological advancements made by various Ministries and Departments of the Government of India over the past decade.
- **125**. India and Singapore have solidified their cooperation in the realm of law and dispute resolution through Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU signed by Singapore's Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, and Second Minister for Law Mr. Edwin Tong SC and India's Minister for Law and Justice Mr. Arjun Ram Meghwal aims to bolster collaboration in areas such as international commercial dispute resolution.
- 126. The Department of Empowerment of Persons with

- **Disabilities (DEPwD)** is collaborating with the Council of Architecture to enhance inclusivity and accessibility for Persons with Disabilities in public spaces and buildings. This partnership signifies a significant advancement in architectural practices and aims to raise awareness about designing environments that accommodate the needs of PwDs.
- a collaboration with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), a significant step in applied research. This partnership reflects IAI's commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR) in India, aiming to promote innovation and technological advancement through joint projects, training initiatives, and research consultancy.
- India, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), has finalized a \$23 million loan agreement aimed at bolstering the fintech landscape within the country. The agreement targets the enhancement of access to quality fintech education and innovation, particularly within the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT-City).
- promoting innovation and advancing the automotive and electric vehicle (EV) sector, the Ministry of Heavy Industries and the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- Arya.ag has collaborated with Shivalik
 Small Finance Bank to extend financial assistance to farmers, agroprocessors, and micro-enterprises.
 This partnership aims to facilitate over

- ₹200 crore in warehouse receipt financing in the current fiscal year, enhancing financial inclusion in the agricultural ecosystem.
- India conferred the Sangeet Natak
 Akademi Awards for the years 2022
 and 2023 to 94 eminent artists
 (including two joint awards) in the field
 of performing arts. These awards
 recognize and celebrate the
 exceptional contributions of these
 artists in enriching India's cultural
 heritage through their mastery in
 various art forms.
- **132.** Red Bull's Max Verstappen clinched victory at the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix, starting from pole position. It marked Red Bull's second consecutive one-two finish in the 2024 Formula One season. Verstappen's Unstoppable Streak Verstappen celebrated his first-ever back-to-back victories at the start of a season. He extended his winning streak to nine consecutive races, including last year's success. Verstappen also achieved his 100th career podium.
- Trophy 2024 after beating Vidarbha by 169 runs at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. Vidarbha, who had won their previous two Ranji Trophy finals, could not replicate their success this time around.
- 134. Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala, release a book and video titled "Sagar Parikrama" at the Engineering Association in Rajkot, Gujarat. The book aims to chronicle Parikrama the Sagar Yatra, encompassing diverse elements such as the maritime route, cultural and geographical explorations, and

- notable impacts from all 12 phases of the journey.
- 135. Admiral Laxminarayan Ramdas, the former Chief of Naval Staff of the Indian Navy (1990-1993), breathed his last peacefully at the age of 90 on March 15 morning, at the Military Hospital, Secunderabad, Telangana. His demise marks the end of an era in the Indian armed forces, leaving behind a legacy of valor, integrity, and unwavering commitment to principles.
- 136. The Maharashtra government has taken a historic step by securing approval from the Jammu and Kashmir administration to acquire 2.5 acres of land in Ichgam, near Srinagar airport, for the construction of Maharashtra Bhawan.

TUALCHHUNG

- 1. State Bank of India (SBI) leh Mizoram Police-te chuan DGP conference hallah inremna thuthlung an ziak. Inremna thuthlungah hian Mizoram Police atangin IGP (Hqrs.) Lalbiakthanga Khiangte leh SBI atangin SBI, Aizawl regional manager Rakesh Kumar Ravite'n hming an ziak. Inremna ang chuan Mizoram Police hnuaia thawk. chetsualna avanga nunna chán emaw, ramtui leiloa awmte chu cheng nuai 135 theng luman pek theih a ni. He hamthatna nei tur hian SBI-ah salary account neih a ngai.
- 2. Health secretary Esther Lal Ruatkimi chuan health care pending bill approved list, mi 11,046-te pawisa dawn tur cheng vbc. 39.26 a pe chhuak. Sorkar thuchhuah tarlan danin, cheque hi MRB-ah pek a ni ang. MRB pawh chak taka damlote accounta thun turin ngen an ni. Cheng vbc. 39.26 pek chhuahfel a nih hun chuan

- health care bill pek hmabak hi kumin February leh March bill chauh a ni tawh dawn.
- 3. AH&Vety minister C Lalsawivunga chuan Dawrpui Multipurpose Hall-ah thingtlanga ranvulhtute tana vety services pena tur, 'Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production (A-HELP)' a hawng. A-HELP kaltlang hian AH&Vety department hna paimawh tak tak-ran damlo enkawl, vaccination, artificial insemination, bank loan buaipui sak, awareness campaign leh animal registration-te chu tih a ni dawn a, department tichaktu pawimawh tak a ni dawn.
- 4. Assembly Session-ah Labour, Employment, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (LESDE) minister Langhinglova chuan sorkar laipuiin Mizo thalaite training-na atan cheng vbc. 31 chuang central-in an sanction thu leh thalaite thawnchhuah dan anga kalpui an duh thu a sawi.
- 5. School Education minister Dr Vanlalthlana chuan Assembly sessionah High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC) Examination 2024 neih meka Social Science (SS) subject zawhnaa thil dik lo awm nia sawi a sawifiah a; zawhna siamtu chawlh lailawktir (suspend) a nih thu a sawi. School Education Minister sawi danin, dikhlel taka SS subject-a suggestion petu zirtirtuin sorkar hnathawk a nih anga sorkar dan a zawm loh avangin a chungah action lak a ni. CCS (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965 hmangin March 10, 2024 khan a hna atanga chawlh lailawktir (suspend) a ni. March 10 vêk khan MBSE hotute'n police station-ah FIR an thehlut a; department-in disciplinary

- proceedings a ti chhunzawm dawn bawk.
- 6. Social Welfare, Tribal Affairs & Women & Child Development (SWTAWCD) minister Lalrinpuii chuan khan Aijal Club Park-ah nau pai leh nau pamte tana chaw tha ei pawimawhzia inzirtirna, Poshan Pakhwada (Nutrition Fortnight) a hawng.
- National Khelo India Women's Taekwondo League hmasa berah -Vanlalthlamuanpuii (Under -59kg, Cadet) chuan gold medal a la a, Ramdingliani (Under -52jg, Junior) pawhin bronze medal a la bawk.
- 8. Power & Electricity minister F Rodingliana chuan February 16, 2024 thlenga Mizoram sorkarin kawlphetha leinaa leibá a neih zat chu Rs 1,44,25,08,760 (cheng nuai 14,425.08) a nih thu Assembly session-ah a sawi.
- 9. Mizoram sorkar chuan Mizoram Lokayukta chairman atan Mizoram chief secretary hlui Lalmalsawma, IAS (rtd) a ruat. Lokayukta chairman ruatna hi Governor Dr Hari Babu Kambhampati hminga kaltir a nia, hna a zawm atanga chhiarin kum nga chhung emaw, kum 70 a tlin theng emaw thawk tura ruat a ni. Lalmalsawma hian Lokayukta chairman ni lai C Lalsawta, IAS (rtd) a thlak ang.
- 8 Child Development minister Lalrinpuii chuan, Mizoramah Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) 11 sak a ni tawh a, chung zinga paruk chu a taka kalpui mek a nih thu Assembly session-ah a sawi. Champhai South bialtu Lt. Col. Clement Lalhmingthanga zawhna leh member dangte zawh belhna Minister-in a chhan danin, EMRS 11 zinga tuna zirna kalpui meknate chu Lunglei, Serchhip,

- Lawngtlai, Chawngte, Tuipang leh Ngopa te a ni.
- 11. Kum 2024-25 Mizoram budget (estimate) Rs 1,44,12,12,13,000 (vbc. 14,412.12) chu March 13, Nilaini zan khan Assembly House-ah pass a nia, budget pass tâk hman phalna tur bill, The Mizoram Appropriation Demand for Grants 2024-2025 Bill, 2024 pawh pawm nghal a ni bawk.
- 12. Hospital and Medical Education (HME) Auditorium-ah Health minister Lalrinpuii hoin National Health Mission state level review meeting neih a ni a; NHM Mizoram hnuaia hmun harsa leh khirhkhana rinawm leh tha taka thawktu mi pakua henah Health Minister Special Award hlan a ni.
- 13. Mizoram State Policy Coordination Committee chu an chairman Lalduhoma, chief minister hoin nimin khan Chief Minister's Office Meeting Room-ah an thukhawm a, hnathawh dan tur hrang hang an rêl. Sorkar thuchhuah tarlan danin, thutkhawmah hian Hand Holding Policy kaihhnawih department turte thangin, a rang lama thutkhawmpui ni se, an ti. Mizoram sorkar chuan Hand Holding Policy atan sorkar kum thar budget-ah cheng vbc. 200 a dah a, kumin hi insawhngheh kum (year of consolidation) a nih avangin pilot project angin kalpui phawt tur a ni.
- 14. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting hnuaia Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) Field office, Aizawl chuan Aizawl North College conference hall-ah Integrated Communication & Outreach Programme an buatsaih a; public rally thate hnenah leh quiz-a ti lawmman sem a ni.
- 15. Mizoram Super League Season 9 champion chu Zarkawt BCA an ni.

Tualchhung basketball inelna sang leh ngaihhlut berah BCA hian a vawi nga nan nomawi an chawi ta a, record nei	tha ber niin anmahni hnaih phak an awm lo.			