

## Weekly Current Affairs PDF March 06 to March 12, 2022

### Current Affairs PDF- March 12, 2022

#### INTERNATIONAL

##### Parliament elects Hungary's first ever woman president

- The Hungarian parliament has elected Katalin Novak, a close ally of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, as the EU member's first-ever female president. Novak, who most recently served as a minister for family policy, portrayed her election as a victory for women. She was elected to the mostly ceremonial role by 137 votes to 51 in the parliament dominated by Orbán's right-wing Fidesz party ahead of opposition challenger Peter Rona, an economist.
- Novak will succeed Janos Ader, a co-founder of Orbán's governing right-wing Fidesz party who has held the job since 2012. She will take office after Ader's term expires May 10.

#### NATIONAL

##### India's 1st women-owned industrial park opens in Hyderabad

- India's first fully owned by women industrial park opened its doors in Hyderabad. The park, that is promoted by the FICCI Ladies Organization – FLO in collaboration with the State government, consists of 25 units which represent 16 different sectors of green category, and all of them are owned and controlled completely by women.
- The FICCI Ladies Organization industrial park is the country's first of its sort. This park was built on 50 acres of land in Sultanpur, which is near Patancheru. It was made with a Rs 250 crore investment. Female entrepreneurs are already expressing a strong desire to launch and operate their businesses at this park.
- KT Rama Rao (IT & Industries Minister) inaugurated the park, and advised entrepreneurs to aim big and start thinking about upcoming technology. He has also advised that they should concentrate on aerospace, defence, and food production and also they should form global partnerships.
- The minister promised that the FLO women's industrial park would be expanded more by another extra 100 acres, which will be subjective to the park's concentration on unique items. He stated that women entrepreneurs will also receive an extra 10% incentive.
- He also said that the state had attracted \$32 billion in investments over the last seven and a half years, which has helped in generating 1.6 million jobs.

##### First 'drone school' inaugurated in Gwalior

- The Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan jointly inaugurated the first drone school in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. This drone school is one of the five Drone Schools planned to be opened in different cities of Madhya Pradesh. The other four cities are Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur and Satna.
- This drone school of Gwalior will not only pave the way for the youth of Madhya Pradesh to move forward by connecting them with technology, but it will also increase employment opportunities. This school will prove to be a milestone in the progress and progress of Madhya Pradesh along with Gwalior.

### AIM Expanded Encourage AR Skills In Youth

- Snap Inc is anticipated to train around 12,000 instructors linked with the Atal Tinkering Labs on Augmented Reality over the course of two years, allowing the programme to reach millions of children.
- Snap Inc. also announced a collaboration with the Atal Incubation Centers (AICs) to support the Indian start-up ecosystem with AR advertising bootcamps, Ad credits, and other opportunities.
- At AIM, we're committed to using our network of state-of-the-art Atal Tinkering Labs to encourage a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, said Mission director Atal Innovation Mission Dr Chintan Vaishnav.
- Given its numerous possibilities in a fast modernising India, augmented reality is the way of the future. We're pleased to use Snap Inc.'s Augmented Reality expertise to train a generation of GenZ students in this cutting-edge technology.
- The collaboration began on International Women's Day, with the announcement of a nationwide Lensathon (AR hackathon) that would run throughout March. The hackathon will be aimed at increasing the number of girls and young women above the age of 13 who are interested in augmented reality.

### SPORTS

#### Tearful Tiger Woods Inducted Into World Golf Hall of Fame

- Famous Golfer, Tiger Woods was formally inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame. The 46-year-old Woods entered the storied hall as part of the Class of 2022 along with retired PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem, U.S. Women's Open champion Susie Maxwell Berning and Marion Hollins, a U.S. Women's Amateur champion and golf course architect who was recognised posthumously.
- During his career, Woods has broken many golfing records, establishing himself as arguably the greatest golfer of all time. He has won 15 majors, surpassed only by Jack Nicklaus' 18, as well as a joint-record 82 wins on the PGA Tour.

### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

#### Supreme Court names AK Sikri as chairman of Char Dham panel

- The Supreme Court of India has named Justice (ret'd) AK Sikri as Chairperson of the High Powered Committee (HPC), of the Chardham project. The previous Chairperson Professor Ravi Chopra had resigned from his post in February 2022, after being appointed as the chairperson of the HPC on August 8, 2019. A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant accepted the resignation of Professor Ravi Chopra as chairperson of the committee after he wrote a letter in January wishing to relinquish his post.
- The HPC would look after the environmental concerns and other issues related to the Chardham project as well as the cumulative and independent impact of the Chardham project on the entire Himalayan valley.
- On December 14, last year, the top court had allowed double lane widening of the strategic Chardham highway project in Uttarakhand, observing that the country's security concerns may change over time and the recent past has thrown serious national security challenges.

### AWARDS & RECOGNITION

#### 6 Indian Airports Won the ACI World's ASQ Awards 2021

- From India, six airports have found a place among the 'Best Airport by Size and Region', by the Airports Council International (ACI), in its Airport Service Quality (ASQ) survey for the year 2021. The airports have been adjudged among the Asia Pacific region in different categories based on annual passenger traffic. The ACI Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards takes into account 33 parameters related to passenger amenities to recognize airport excellence in customer experience.

### BANKING AND ECONOMY

#### NaBFID to be Regulated as All India Financial Institution under RBI Act

- Reserve Bank of India has announced that National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) will be regulated and supervised by it as an All India Financial Institution (AIFI) under the RBI Act, 1934. NaBFID will be regulated and supervised by RBI as an AIFI under Sections 45L and 45N of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- Presently RBI has four AIFIs under it namely EXIM Bank, NABARD, NHB and SIDBI. NaBFID will be the fifth AIFI under RBI. NaBFID has been set up as a Development Financial Institution (DFI) to support the development of long-term infrastructure financing in India.

#### Star Health introduces women-centric medical insurance policy

- Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited, a health insurance company launched "Star Women Care Insurance Policy". It is a woman-centric comprehensive health cover specially designed to protect the healthcare needs of women at every stage of their lives. The policy can be purchased through premiums that can be paid in quarterly or half-yearly instalments, and this policy can also be taken for 1 year, 2 year or 3-year terms.
- The Star Women Care Insurance Policy is available as both an individual policy and a floater policy. Individual Sum – Insured only for females aged between 18 years and 75 years. Floater Sum Insured – Adult 18 years to 75 years with at least one female in the family along with the spouse and dependent children.

#### Crisil retains GDP growth forecast at 7.8 per cent for 2022-23

- Domestic rating agency CRISIL retained its real GDP growth forecast at 7.8% for the fiscal year 2023, as compared with the 8.5% projected in the Economic Survey. FM Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget proposals focused on loosening the purse strings by boosting capital expenditure and going slow on fiscal consolidation are aimed in the right direction. The agency expects the nominal growth to come at 12-13%, higher than the 11.1% Budget Estimate, and the headline inflation to average 5.2%.

## Current Affairs PDF- March 11, 2022

### INTERNATIONAL

#### Yoon Suk-yeol wins South Korea's presidential election

- Yoon Suk-yeol has been declared as the winner of the 2022 South Korean presidential election to be elected as the new President of the country. He is scheduled to assume office as president on

May 10, 2022, for a fixed term of five years. Yoon Suk-yeol will succeed incumbent President Moon Jae-in.

- With more than 98 per cent of the ballots counted, Yoon had 48.6 per cent of the votes against his rival Lee Jae-Myung's 47.8 per cent. Yoon is to take office in May and serve a single five-year term as leader of the world's 10th-largest economy.

### NATIONAL

#### Touted as India's largest, this floating solar power project generates 42M units per year

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, M K Stalin has inaugurated India's largest floating solar power plant constructed at a cost of Rs 150.4 crores. The floating plant is established in Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corporation Limited (SPIC) factory at Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu to provide clean energy. It aims to provide environmentally sustainable power generation and to reduce carbon footprint.
- The floating power plant has the capacity to produce 42 million units of electricity per annum.
- The solar power plant is owned by Greenam Energy, a wholly-owned subsidiary of AM International. SPIC worked with France-based floating solar power specialists and global leader Ceil & Terre for the constructions and designs.

#### Govt gives nod to establishment of WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in India

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the establishment of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO GCTM) in Jamnagar, Gujarat by signing a Host Country agreement between the Government of India and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- The WHO GCTM will be established in Jamnagar under the Ministry of AYUSH. This would be the first and only global outposted Centre (office) for traditional medicine across the globe.
- The objective is to position AYUSH systems across the globe; to provide leadership on global health matters pertaining to traditional medicine; to ensure quality, safety and efficacy, accessibility and rational use of traditional medicine; to develop norms, standards, and guidelines in relevant technical areas, tools and methodologies, for collecting data undertaking analytics, and assess impact; Envisage WHO TM Informatics centre creating a collaborative of existing TM Data banks, virtual libraries, and academic and research institutes; and to develop specific capacity building and training programmes in the areas of relevance to the objectives and conduct training programmes in campus, residential, or web-based, and through partnerships with the WHO Academy and other strategic partners.

#### Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar presented by Minister B Yadav

- Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar (VRP), National Safety Awards (NSA) for the performance year 2018 and National Safety Awards (Mines) for the contest years 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 were presented today by Shri Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister of Labour and Employment, Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- In the case of VRP, a total of 96 awards were granted for the performance year 2018, whilst in the case of NSA, a total of 141 awards (80 winners and 61 runners-up) were presented. For the contest years 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020, a total of 144 awards were given out (72 Winner prizes and 72 Runner-up prizes).

- The Directorate General Factory Advice Service & Labour Institutes (DGFASLI) in Mumbai manages VRP and NSA, whereas the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) in Dhanbad manages NSA (Mines).
- The Central Government is concerned about the safety, health, and welfare of workers in all mines across the country, including coal, metalliferous, and oil mines.

### SPORTS

#### S Sreesanth announces retirement from all forms of first-class cricket

- India pacer S Sreesanth has announced his retirement from all forms of domestic cricket. Sreesanth played 27 Tests and 53 ODIs for India, taking 87 and 75 wickets respectively. He has also taken seven wickets in 10 T20 Internationals. The temperamental pacer was also popular for his exuberant celebrations after taking wickets but his life and career went downhill after the spot-fixing scandal.
- In September 2020, Sreesanth's ban for alleged spot-fixing came to an end, concluding a seven-year punishment that was originally meant to be for life and was aggressively contested by the flamboyant bowler. Sreesanth's life ban for alleged spot-fixing in the 2013 edition of the IPL was reduced to seven years by BCCI Ombudsman DK Jain last year. The BCCI banned Sreesanth in August 2013 along with his Rajasthan Royals teammates Ajit Chandila and Ankeet Chavan.

### IMPORTANT DAYS

#### International Day of Women Judges 2022: 10th March

- March 10 marks the International Day of Women Judges. On this day, the United Nations reaffirms its commitment to develop and implement appropriate and effective strategies and plans for the advancement of women in the judicial system and institution at the managerial and leadership level.
- Women in the judiciary system are a key to ensuring that courts represent their citizens, address concerns and give out good judgments. Women's presence in the judiciary system enhances the legitimacy of courts and sends a powerful message saying that they're open and accessible to those who want to seek justice.

#### CISF raising day 2022 :10th March

- In the year 1969, the CISF was set up on March 10 and three battalions were formed under the CISF act 1968, which was passed by the Parliament of India. Since then, the day is celebrated as CISF Raising Day every year. Central Industrial Security Force, is for the central armed police force in India. It is one of the six paramilitary forces in India functioning under the Union Home Ministry.
- The CISF, which was set up in 1969, is assigned to look after the security of the vital government and industrial buildings. The CISF was established under the CISF Act, which has a strength of over 3,000. In 2017, the government raised the sanctioned strength of personnel from 145,000 to 180,000.

### SUMMIT'S & MOU's

#### New Delhi: Sports Minister Anurag Thakur to inaugurate National Youth Parliament Festival

- The 3rd edition of the National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF) has been organised jointly by the Lok Sabha Secretariat and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on March 10 and 11, 2022,

in the Central Hall of Parliament, New Delhi. Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur will address the inaugural session of NYPF on March 10, while the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will address the valedictory function on March 11.

- The objective of the NYPF is to hear the voice of the youth, between 18 and less than 25 years of age, who will join various careers in the coming years, including public services. The top three National level youth winners will get an opportunity to speak before the Lok Sabha Speaker during the valedictory function.

### RANKING

#### Andhra Pradesh retains top rank in Skoch State of Governance ranking in 2021

- Andhra Pradesh has retained its number one spot in the SKOCH State of Governance rankings for the second consecutive year. According to a release, the State retained the first rank for the second consecutive year. In 2020 too, Andhra Pradesh bagged top rank in governance. Andhra Pradesh was ranked at second position in 2018 and later it slipped to 4th position in 2019, according to Skoch.
- The second rank was bagged by West Bengal and Odisha was ranked 3, Gujarat was ranked 4 and Maharashtra was ranked 5. Neighbouring Telangana was ranked 6.
- The SKOCH Group has released the SKOCH Governance Report Card for 2021 in New Delhi, ranking the states according to their performance in various projects at state, district, and Email Article Print Article municipal levels.

## Current Affairs PDF- March 10, 2022

### NATIONAL

#### Chhattisgarh govt launches 'Kaushalya Matritva Yojana'

- In a state-level women's conference held at BTI Ground in Raipur, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel introduced the 'Kaushalya Matritva Yojana' by handing out Rs 5000 checks to five beneficiaries for safe motherhood.
- On the birth of a second daughter, women recipients are eligible for a lump payment aid of Rs. 5,000 under this scheme. The programme will assist in the parenting and education of girls.
- At the state level women's conference, the Chief Minister honoured Anganwadi employees who have done outstanding work in Anganwadi services, as well as self-help groups that have helped women become financially independent by utilising the Chhattisgarh Mahila Kosh.
- Similarly, he recognised officers who have excelled in the field of women's protection as part of the 'Sakhi One Stop Center' and 'Nava Bihaan Yojna.'

#### Sikkim Aama Yojana 2022 - Rs. 20,000 to Non Working Mothers

- Chief Minister of Sikkim, Prem Singh Tamang has announced that the State Government will soon implement 'Aama Yojana, a scheme for helping non-working mothers & 'Bahini Scheme' benefitting girl students of the state. The complete details of the Aama Yojna and Bahini Yojana are given below.
- Aama Yojna scheme aims to inculcate the habit of saving among non-working mothers in the state and hence the Government will provide them Rs. 20,000 each in their bank accounts

annually. The scheme covers only those whose names are enrolled in the electoral roll of the state and a sum of Rs. 100 crores have been allocated for it in the budget.

- Bahini Scheme is to reduce the dropout rate of girl students due to the lack of accessibility/availability of Sanitary Napkins & also to ensure menstrual health and hygiene. Under this scheme, over 18,000 girl students who study in class 9 and above are provided with free sanitary napkins in the state.

#### **Haryana: Govt presents Rs 1.77 lakh cr Budget**

- Haryana government has announced Matrushakti Udaymita Scheme to provide support to women entrepreneurs, on International Women's Day. Under the scheme, the women whose family annual income is less than 5 lakh rupees based on Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) verified data, will be provided access to soft loans by financial institutions to the extent of 3 lakh rupees. Subsequently, the interest subvention of 7% will also be provided for three years through the Haryana Women Development Corporation.

#### **India's largest reclining statue of Lord Buddha to be open for devotees next year**

- India's largest reclining statue of Lord Buddha is being built in Bodh Gaya. Built by Buddha International Welfare Mission, the statue will be 100 feet long and 30 feet high. Lord Buddha is in the sleeping posture in the statue. The construction of the giant statue started in the year 2019. It is being made with fibreglass and built by sculptors from Kolkata. Bodh Gaya is an important pilgrimage centre for Buddhism and is visited by devotees from all over the world.
- The idol of this posture of Lord Buddha is in Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar where he attained his Mahaparinirvana. The giant statue of Lord Buddha will be open for devotees from February 2023.

### **SPORTS**

#### **Mondo Duplantis sets new pole vault world record in Belgrade**

- Sweden's Olympic pole vault champion Armand Gustav "Mondo" Duplantis cleared 6.19m to smash his own world record by one centimetre at the World Indoor Tour Silver meeting in Belgrade. Duplantis set the record of 6.18 in February 2020 indoors in Glasgow.
- This is the fourth world record of the 22-year-old's career. His first record came in February 2020 when he surpassed London 2012 gold medallist Renaud Lavillenie's world record by clearing 6.17m in Torun, Poland before improving that the following week in Glasgow. In September of that year, he cleared 6.15m at the Rome Diamond League meeting to eclipse Sergey Bubka's outdoor pole vault world best of 6.14m set in Sestriere in July 1994.

#### **Indian GM S L Narayanan wins Cattolica International Open chess tourney**

- In Chess, Indian Grandmaster, S L Narayanan was declared the winner in the Grandisacchi Cattolica International Open, held in Italy. Meanwhile, his compatriot R Praggnanandhaa came second. Though Narayanan and six others, including Praggnanandhaa, finished equal first with 6.5 points after nine rounds. But, Narayanan took the top spot on the basis of a better tie-break score. The 24-year old S L Narayanan from Thiruvananthapuram earned the title of Grandmaster in 2015 and is the 41st Grandmaster from India.

### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

#### Lupin signs boxing champion Mary Kom as brand ambassador for Shakti campaign

- Global pharma major Lupin Limited (Lupin) has announced that it has signed on six-time world boxing champion, Mary Kom as the brand ambassador for its Shakti campaign. The campaign is aimed at increasing awareness of heart diseases among women. With Mary Kom anchoring the campaign, to drive the much-needed awareness on the issue and encourage women to sign up for early screening checks and take corrective measures to avoid the future risk of heart diseases.
- Lupin's Shakti campaign is aimed at engaging with the target audience across India through multiple activities, both offline and online through interactive social media sessions, sharing informative videos from doctors, and in-clinic awareness activities for patients to establish a better understanding of cardiovascular diseases among women. In its next phase, the campaign aims to help women improve their health and significantly contribute to the wellbeing of society as they are its backbone and play a pivotal role in shaping the nation.

### IMPORTANT DAYS

#### No Smoking Day 2022: 9th March

- No Smoking Day is celebrated on the second Wednesday in the month of March every year across the world. This year No Smoking Day will be celebrated on 9th March. The day is celebrated to help those who wish to quit smoking as well as to raise awareness about the implications of smoking on an individual's health.
- The main reason to observe this day is to spread awareness and educate people about the adverse impacts of tobacco on their health through cigarettes and other means. No Smoking Day was first observed in the year 1984 in the Republic of Ireland on Ash Wednesday. It was on this day that the clergy determined that giving up cigarettes will be a good thing for Lent.

### BANKING AND ECONOMY

#### HDFC MF launches financial empowerment initiative for women

- HDFC Mutual Fund has launched a women-led financial empowerment initiative 'LaxmiForLaxmi' which will connect women investors to a woman financial expert near them through a unique missed call service. The female financial expert will guide and address the queries of the woman investor. Through this initiative, HDFC Mutual Fund aims to support women investors in their journey to become financially independent while making mutual fund investments accessible to them.
- The initiative is based on the fact that it is easier for a person to understand a concept when it is taught by someone who comprehends them and is like-minded. This is a financial empowerment campaign for women through which the fund house aims to support women investors in becoming financially independent while making mutual fund investments more accessible to them.

#### Sebi raises UPI limit for investing in debt issues

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has raised the investment limit for retail investors applying in public debt securities issuance via the universal payments interface (UPI) mechanism to Rs 5 lakh from Rs 2 lakh previously. The move comes after the National Payments

Corporation of India NPCI decided to increase the per transaction limit for UPI-based applications supported by blocked amount ASBA initial public offering.

- It has been decided to enhance the ceiling for investment through UPI mechanism to 5 lakh based on consultations with market participants, in order to bring about uniformity in the requirements and for ease of investment for investors.
- From May 1, 2022, the new investment limit will apply to public debt securities offerings.
- Investors can apply in public debt securities issues with the option of blocking money through the UPI (unified payment interface) mechanism for an application value of up to Rs 2 lakh, according to current Sebi rules.

## Current Affairs PDF- March 09, 2022

### INTERNATIONAL

#### Russia becomes world's most sanctioned country

- Russia has become the most sanctioned country in the world, due to its invasion on Ukraine, according to a New York-based sanctions watchlist site Castellum.AI. Russia faced 2,778 new sanctions since February 22, 2022, led by the US and European nations, bringing the total sanctions to 5,530. The country already had 2,754 sanctions in place before February 22.
- Countries across the world are putting sanctions on Russia to stop its invasion of Ukraine. Russia has now surpassed countries like Iran and North Korea in terms of a number of sanctions. Before this, Iran was the most sanctioned country, facing 3,616 sanctions against it over the last decade, while Syria and North Korea have 2,608 and 2,077 sanctions, respectively.

#### Iran's Revolutionary Guard launches 2nd satellite

- Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) successfully launched a military satellite, Noor-2, into orbit at an altitude of 500 kilometres (311 miles) from the earth. This is the second military satellite launched by the Islamic Republic. The first military satellite, Noor, was launched in April 2020 at an orbit of 425km (265 miles) above the earth's surface. Noor means light in the Persian language.
- Putting the second satellite in space would be a major advance for Iran's military, raising concerns about the country's nuclear and missile programs. The three-stage Qased, or "Messenger", the carrier launched the Noor 2, from the Shahroud spaceport.

### NATIONAL

#### PM Modi unveils Shivaji Maharaj statue, launches Metro rail project in Pune

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled a tall statue of great Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Pune, Maharashtra. The Statue is made up of 1,850 kg of gunmetal and is about 9.5-feet tall. He also launched a 12-km stretch of 32.2-km-long metro rail project at a total cost of more than ₹ 11,400 crores in Pune. Pune Metro is the first project in India to have aluminium body coaches, indigenously manufactured under the 'Make in India'.
- PM Modi also laid the foundation stone for the rejuvenation and pollution abatement of the Mula-Mutha River projects in Pune. The rejuvenation will be done in a 9 km stretch of the river under the project which will cost more than Rs 1080 crore.

### SPORTS

#### The 23rd Woman Grandmaster: Priyanka Nutakki

- 19-year-old Priyanka Nutakki has secured her final WGM-norm at MPL's forty-seventh National Women Chess Championship. She became India's twenty-third Woman Grandmaster. She is from Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. Priyanka Nutakki scored her first WGM-norm in January 2019 and crossed the 2300 rating criteria in the next two months. However, much like a lot of players, the Covid-19 pandemic delayed her title hopes.
- Priyanka braved the odds, resumed playing over-the-board tournaments in October 2021 at ChessMood Open. In her third over-the-board tournament of the year, she scored her second WGM and maiden IM-norm at the 7th Sunway Sitges Open 2021.

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

#### Petascale supercomputer 'PARAM Ganga' installed at IIT Roorkee

- The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) has designed and installed a supercomputer named "PARAM Ganga", at IIT Roorkee, under Phase II of National Supercomputing Mission (NSM). PARAM Ganga has a supercomputing capacity of 1.66 Petaflops.
- NSM is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeiTY) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- The mission is implemented by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.
- The NSM Mission aims to build and deploy 24 facilities with cumulative compute power of more than 64 Petaflops.
- Till date 11 systems have been deployed by C-DAC at IISc, IITs, IISER Pune, JNCASR, NABI-Mohali and C-DAC under NSM Phase-1 and Phase-2 with a cumulative computing power of more than 20 Petaflops.

### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

#### Delhi HC Chief Justice DN Patel next TDSAT Chairperson

- The Central Government has appointed Justice Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel, Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, as the Chairperson of Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT). He was appointed as Chief Justice of Delhi High Court on June 7, 2019, and is now given the Chair of TDSAT, days before his retirement on March 12, 2022.
- Ministry of Law and Justice issued a notification regarding the approval of his appointment by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), stating that he will serve the Chair for a period of 4 years from the date of assumption of charge of the post, or till attaining the age of 70 years, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest. The conditions of his service will be governed by the provisions of the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021 and the Tribunal (Conditions of Service) Rules, 2021.

#### Singapore's T Raja Kumar appointed president of global money laundering watchdog

- T Raja Kumar, a Singaporean, has been named president of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the world's anti-money laundering and anti-terrorism financing agency. His appointment is for a set two-year term, which begins on July 1. During the FATF plenary, he was chosen to succeed Dr Marcus Pleyer of Germany.

- Mr Raja's nomination marks the first time Singapore has assumed the president of the organisation, according to a joint news release issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the Ministry of Finance (MOF), and the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) on March 7.
- Mr Raja is a senior advisor at MHA and has been the leader of Singapore's FATF mission since January 1, 2015. Since July 2018, he has also been a member of the steering group, which advises the FATF president.
- The FATF is an intergovernmental organisation set up by the G7 in 1989 to prevent and combat money laundering, terrorism, and proliferation finance.

### AWARDS & RECOGNITION

#### Ispat Rajbhasha Award for 2018-19 and 2020-21

- National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd Country's largest Iron Ore producer, a CPSE under Ministry of Steel received 1st prize in the Ispat Rajbhasha Award for 2018-19 and 2020-21 and company also received the Ispat Rajbhasha Prerna Award for 2019-20. The award ceremony was held in the meeting of the Hindi Salahakar Committee of the Ministry of Steel held in Madurai on 3rd March 2022. The Union Minister of Steel, Shri Ram Chandra Prasad Singh, presented the accolades to Shri Sumit Deb, Chairman and Managing Director, NMDC.
- NMDC, a Navratna PSU under the Ministry of Steel and one of the most profitable PSUs of the Government of India also it is an eco-friendly mining company and the largest producer of iron ore in India.

#### President Kovind Presents 29 Women With Nari Shakti Award on Women's Day

- The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has conferred the 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' for the years 2020 and 2021, on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 08, 2022, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. Overall 29 women have been conferred the award for the years 2020 and 2021 in recognition of their outstanding and exceptional work towards the empowerment of women, especially the vulnerable and marginalised. There were a total of 28 awards which included 14 awards each for the years 2020 and 2021. The award ceremony for the year 2020 could not be held in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### RANKING

#### India ranked 'partly free' again in Freedom House report

- For the second consecutive year, India has been termed as 'partly free' country in terms of democracy and free society, according to the annual report. The report titled "Freedom in the World 2022 – The Global Expansion of Authoritarian Rule" by Freedom House, a US-based NGO that 'assesses political rights and civil liberties. India scored 66 out of 100 in 2022. The country had scored 67 in 2021. India was a free country till 2020 when its score was 71.
- India scored a mere 49, the same score as that of Uganda. Here too, the score has come down. The reasons are – the increasing internet shutdowns by governments, low internet penetration and poor infrastructure.
- India's freedom scores are similar to that of Bolivia, Hungary and Albania. The countries that have scored the worst include South Sudan, Syria, Tibet, Turkmenistan, Eritrea and North Korea.
- Sixty-nine countries are currently not free worldwide. This makes the situation worse than in 1973 when only 63 countries were not free.

## Current Affairs PDF- March 08, 2022

### INTERNATIONAL

#### UNEA-5.2 held in hybrid form in Nairobi, Kenya

- The United Nations Environment Assembly was hosted by the UN Environment Programme. It brings together representatives from the UN's 193 member countries, corporations, civil society, and other stakeholders to agree on policies to address the world's most serious environmental concerns.
- The aim of UNEA-5 was "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals," emphasising the importance of nature in our lives as well as in social, economic, and environmental sustainability.
- Its goal was to give nations the impetus they needed to build on and catalyse global environmental initiatives to safeguard and restore the natural world on which our economy and societies rely.

### NATIONAL

#### Labour Ministry Launched 'Donate-a-Pension' Scheme Under the (PM-SYM)

- Union Labour and Employment Minister, Bhupender Yadav has launched the 'Donate-a-Pension' campaign under Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM-SYM) scheme, on March 07, 2022, from his residence and donated the same to his gardener. Under the new initiative, citizens can contribute to the pension fund of their immediate support staff such as domestic workers, drivers, helpers etc, by donating the premium amount.
- The 'Donate-a-Pension' program is part of various initiatives to be launched in the 'Iconic Week' celebrations by the Labour Ministry from March 7 to 13, 2022. It is an initiative under (PM-SYM) pension scheme where citizens can donate the premium contribution of their immediate support staff such as domestic workers, drivers, helpers etc.

#### 2,000 km of rail network will be brought under 'Kavach' in 2022-'23: Railway Minister

- The trial of the 'Kavach' functioning system between Gullaguda and Chitgidda Railway stations was examined by Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Railways, Communication, Electronics and Information Technology. 2,000 km of railway network will be brought under Kavach for safety and capacity augmentation in 2022-23, as a part of Prime minister's Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- During the testing, both locomotives were travelling towards each other, creating a head-on collision situation.
- The 'Kavach' system activated the automatic braking mechanism, bringing the locomotives to a complete stop 380 metres apart.
- The locomotive was also tested crossing the red light; however, the locomotive did not pass the red signal because 'Kavach' required the automated deployment of brakes.
- When the gate signal neared, the automatic whistle sounded loud and clear. During the trial, the crew did not touch the sound or brake systems manually.

### **MSME Ministry launches 'SAMARTH' to promote women entrepreneurship**

- Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises has launched a Special Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive for Women named –“SAMARTH”. The drive was launched by Union Minister for MSME, Shri Narayan Rane along with Minister of State for MSME, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma in New Delhi.
- To provide Skill Development and Market Development Assistance to women and to train more than 7500 women candidates from rural and sub-urban areas in the FY 2022-23.
- 20% Seats in free Skill Development Programs organized under skill development schemes of the Ministry will be allocated for Women. More than 7500 women will be benefitted.
- 20% of MSME Business Delegations sent to domestic & international exhibitions under the schemes for Marketing Assistance implemented by Ministry will be dedicated to women-owned MSMEs.
- 20% Discount on annual processing fee on NSIC's Commercial Schemes Special Drive for registration of women-owned MSMEs under Udyam Registration.

### **India-Sri Lanka maritime exercise SLINEX begins in Visakhapatnam**

- The 9th edition of India – Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime Exercise named SLINEX (Sri Lanka–India Naval Exercise) is held at Visakhapatnam from 07 Mar to 10 Mar 2022. The aim of the exercise is to enhance interoperability and improve mutual understanding between the navies of the two neighbouring countries in the strategically significant Indian Ocean Region.
- The exercise was held in two phases; First is the Harbour Phase at Visakhapatnam on 07-08 Mar 22 followed by the second phase i.e. Sea Phase on 09-10 Mar 22 in the Bay of Bengal.
- Indian Navy is being represented by INS Kirch, a guided missile corvette while Sri Lanka Navy will be represented by SLNS Sayurala, an advanced offshore patrol vessel. Sri Lanka Navy is being represented by SLNS Sayurala, an advanced offshore patrol vessel and the Indian Navy by INS Kirch, a guided missile corvette.

## **SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

### **Microsoft's largest data centre in India to come up in Hyderabad**

- Tech giant, Microsoft has announced to set up its fourth data centre in India in Hyderabad, Telangana. Hyderabad Data centre will be one of the largest data centres in India and will be operational by 2025. Microsoft already has a data centre in three Indian regions across Pune, Mumbai, and Chennai. The new data centre will add to the growing demand for Microsoft's cloud services from both the private enterprises as well as the government sector.
- To set up the data centre, Microsoft has signed a definitive agreement with the Telangana state government with a total investment of Rs 15,000 crore.
- In terms of Microsoft's own expansion plans the company stated that they are expanding their Hyderabad campus and the total campus is now spread over a 2.5 mn Sq.ft area with 18,000 full-time employees.
- The Hyderabad centre of Microsoft is the largest centre for the tech giant after Redmond. In India, Microsoft has 14,000 partners and it serves around 340,000 companies in the country.

### IMPORTANT DAYS

#### International Women's Day 2022 :8th March

- International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated globally on March 8 every year. The day recognises the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The event celebrates women's achievements and raises awareness about women's equality and lobbies for accelerated gender parity.
- The theme of 2022 International Women's Day is "gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow".
- International Women's Day is celebrated to recognise the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. Organisations like colleges and institutions across the world celebrate International Women's Day by holding public speeches, rallies, exhibitions, workshops and seminars on themes and concepts, debates, quiz competitions and lectures.

### BANKING AND ECONOMY

#### Airtel and Axis Bank announce partnership to bolster India's digital ecosystem

- Axis Bank and Bharti Airtel have entered into a strategic partnership to strengthen the growth of the digital ecosystem in India, through a range of financial solutions. The partnership would enable access to credit and various digital financial offerings from Axis Bank to Airtel's 340 million-plus customers. These will include first-of-its-kind co-branded credit card 'Airtel Axis Bank Credit Card' with industry-leading benefits, pre-approved instant loans, Buy Now Pay Later offerings and many more.
- The Airtel Axis Bank Credit Card will offer a host of benefits such as cashback, special discounts, digital vouchers and complimentary services to Airtel customers.
- The credit card users will enjoy exciting rewards like 25 per cent cashback on Airtel Mobile/DTH recharges, Airtel Black and Airtel Xstream Fiber payments, 10 per cent cashback on electricity/gas/water bill payments via Airtel Thanks app, 10 per cent cashback on spends with preferred merchants – BigBasket, Swiggy, Zomato, 1 per cent cashback on all other spends and Amazon e-voucher of Rs 500 on card activation within 30 days of issuance.

#### Now, Paytm QR code UPI payments enabled at railway stations

- Paytm, a digital payments company, announced that it has expanded its partnership with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to provide consumers with digital ticketing services via Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVM) installed at railway stations across the country. Passengers will be able to scan QR codes generated on the screens to purchase unreserved train ride tickets, platform tickets, renew their seasonal tickets, and recharge smart cards.
- This is the first time Indian Railways has made it possible for customers to pay for tickets services online using UPI on ATMs, promoting cashless commuting.
- The ATVMs that have been installed at railway stations are touch-screen ticketing kiosks that will allow travellers to pay digitally without the use of smart cards.
- Passengers will now be able to scan QR codes that would be generated on the screens that can be used to purchase unreserved train ride tickets, platform tickets, renew their seasonal tickets, and recharge smart cards.
- Paytm allows passengers to pay using a variety of methods, including Paytm UPI, Paytm Wallet, Paytm Postpaid, Net Banking, Credit Card, and Debit Card.

- The new digital payment method based on Quick Response (QR) codes has already gone live across all ATVM machines at Indian railway stations.

### **Reliance Industries opens country's 'largest biz, commerce hub' in Mumbai**

- **Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has announced the opening of the Jio World Centre, which will be India's largest and most prestigious multi-faceted destination.** The Centre, which covers 18.5 acres in Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex and was envisioned by Nita Ambani, Director Reliance Industries and Founder-Chairperson of Reliance Foundation, and it is set to become a historical business, commerce, and culture destination, which will provide the people of India with a world-class landmark.
- The Jio World Centre will open in phases over the course of this and next year, beginning with the dedication of Dhirubhai Ambani Square and the musical Fountain of Joy to Mumbai and the Jio World Convention Centre.
- The Jio World Centre is a first-of-its-kind destination in India, with a cultural centre, a musical fountain, premium shops, a curated selection of cafés and fine dining restaurants, serviced apartments and offices, and a state-of-the-art convention facility.
- The Dhirubhai Ambani Square, set to become a new landmark in Mumbai, is a free-entry, open public place that promises to become a must-see destination for locals and tourists from around the world.

## **Current Affairs PDF- March 07, 2022**

### **INTERNATIONAL**

#### **Mobile World Congress 2022 Opens in Barcelona**

- The Global System for Mobile Communications Association(GSMA) has organised the 2022 Mobile World Congress (MWC), which took place in Barcelona, Spain from 28 February to 3 March. The focus on 5G and maximizing its potential for benefiting countries and economies is the centrepiece of MWC this year which is taking place amid an ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine.
- Global Mobile Economy Report expects 5G connections globally to reach 1 billion in 2022 by 5G adoption. An increase in the 5G network connection will increase the global GDP by 5% up to\$5 trillion in 2025. Global telecom industry to invest\$600 billion till 2025 in the global mobile industry's capital expenditure (CAPEX) and 85% of it will be spent on 5G. The MWC is expected to see keynote sessions from top telecom voices including Bharti Enterprises chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal, Adam Selipsky, CEO, Amazon Web Services, Jessica Rosenworcel, Chairwoman of the FCC and Cristiano Amon, President and CEO, Qualcomm among others.

#### **Study in India meet 2022 inaugurated in the national capital of Bangladesh**

- The two-day-long Study in India (SII) 2022 meeting was inaugurated in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The event organised by the High Commission of India was inaugurated by the Education Minister of Bangladesh Dr Dipu Moni and the High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami. Education Minister of Bangladesh said the educational exchange between the two countries will further strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries. She said that students of

today have the responsibility to find solutions for the common issues like poverty that are faced by the countries of South Asia.

- A large number of students from various educational institutions took part in the event. They explored the opportunity for studying abroad provided by some of the best colleges and universities in India.
- A total of 19 educational institutions from India are taking part in the Education Fair in Dhaka. The Study in India meet will be organised in Chittagong on March 7 for the benefit of Bangladeshi students.

### NATIONAL

#### PM Modi inaugurates Rs 11,400 crore-worth Pune Metro

- The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi has inaugurated Pune Metro Rail Project on March 06, 2022, and also interacted with differently-abled, visually impaired students present inside the metro coach, during his 10-minute ride in the Pune Metro. Pune Metro Rail Project has been built at a total cost of INR 11,420 Crore. It has a total length of 33.2 km and 30 stations.
- Pune Metro is the first metro project in the country to have Aluminum body coaches, indigenously manufactured under the Make in India policy of GoI. PM Modi also unveiled the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at the premises of the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) and laid the foundation stone and inaugurated multiple developmental projects in Pune.

#### India's first indigenous flying trainer completes set level trials

- India's first indigenously developed Flying Trainer, 'HANSA-NG', successfully completed the sea-level trials at Puducherry. HANSA-NG was flown from Bengaluru to Puducherry on February 19, covering a distance of 140 nautical miles in 1.5 hours at a cruising speed of 155 km/hr. The objectives of sea level trials is to evaluate handling qualities, climb / cruise performance, balked landing, structural performance including positive & negative G, power plant and other systems performance.
- The aircraft has been designed and developed by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), under the aegis of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- HANSA-NG is one of the most advanced flying trainers, designed to meet the Indian flying club needs and it is an ideal aircraft for Commercial Pilot Licensing (CPL) due to its low cost and low fuel consumption.
- A trainer aircraft is designed specifically to facilitate flight training of pilots and aircrews.

#### Telangana Tops the Country in terms of Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices

- Telangana became the top-performing state in India with a population over one crore in terms of the growth rate of Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). It succeeded other states like Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.
- The Gross State Domestic Price (GSDP) of Telangana increased from Rs 359434 crores in 2011-12 to Rs 1,154,860 crores in 2021-22. It recorded GSDP growth by 31.12 per cent from 2011-12. It is one of the highest growth rates for any state in the country.
- In terms of the percentage growth in GSDP, Telangana has shown the most rapid increase in its growth rate by around 17% from 2020 to the present.

- Major projects include Rythu Bandhu scheme for farmers, the world's largest lift irrigation Kaleshwaram project to provide water to the fields, and the Arogya Laxmi scheme for pregnant and lactating women.

### SPORTS

#### RuPay named Official Partner for Tata IPL

- Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)'s, Indian Premier League (IPL) Governing Council has announced National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)'s flagship product RuPay as an official partner for the Tata IPL 2022. This will be a multi-year partnership. RuPay offers tech-led, innovative, and customized offerings to people across India, being accepted in India and internationally.
- Tata IPL 2022 will be co-presented by Dream11 and co-powered by Tata and CRED. Swiggy, Prystin Care, Zepto, Livspace, L'Oreal, and Spinny have been signed-on as associate sponsors.
- The 15th edition of Tata IPL 2022 will start on 26th March 2022. A total of 70 league matches will be played across four international venues in Mumbai and Pune. The venue for the playoff matches will be decided later.

### OBITURY

#### Rodney Marsh, Australian cricket great, dies aged 74

- Former Australia cricketer (wicketkeeper), Rodney William Marsh has passed away in Adelaide Australia. He was the 1st Australian wicketkeeper to score a century in test cricket and finished his career with 3 centuries. He held a test record of 355 dismissals by a wicketkeeper, including 95 off the bowling of pace bowler Dennis Lillee. He has played 96 test matches for Australia from 1970 to 1984 and 92 One-Day Internationals (ODIs) for Australia and later retired from top-flight cricket in February 1984.

### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

#### SBI appoints ex-Ujjivan Small Finance Bank CEO Nitin Chugh as Deputy Managing Director

- State Bank of India (SBI) has appointed former Ujjivan Small Finance Bank CEO, Nitin Chugh as Deputy Managing Director (DMD) to drive digital banking operations. He has been appointed for an initial term of three years. Prior to this appointment, Chugh was CEO and managing director of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank. He joined there from HDFC Bank where he served as the Group Head of Digital Banking.
- According to public notice by SBI, the position would be responsible for envisioning, developing and executing of bank's digital banking strategy and business plan for imparting digital knowledge/skills in a constructive, empowering and collaborative way.

### IMPORTANT DAYS

#### Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2022:7th March

- The Jan Aushadhi Diwas is celebrated on 7 March 2022 by the Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI). The day is observed to spread awareness about the usages of generic medicines and the benefits of Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana. The theme of the 4 Janaushadhi Diwas is "Jan Aushadhi-Jan Upyogi".

- On this occasion, Doctors, Health Workers, Nurses, Pharmacists, and Jan Aushadhi Mitra will discuss the Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana. The government has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) to 10,500 by March 2025.

### **BANKING AND ECONOMY**

#### **Future Generali launches health insurance plan for pet dogs**

- Future Generali India Insurance Company Limited (FGII) has announced the launch of FG Dog Health Cover, comprehensive health insurance for pet dogs, along with industry-first 'Emergency Pet Minding' cover. The FGII also focuses on a digital campaign named 'Oh My Dog!' with an aim to create awareness on purchasing dog health insurance cover and also targets on social media like Instagram and Twitter.
- The insurance policy covers pet dogs aged between six months to four years for giant breeds and seven years for small, medium, and large breeds. The exit age is ten years for small, medium, and large breeds and six years for giant breeds.
- This comprehensive cover will protect pet parents against the cost of their dogs' surgery and hospitalisation, terminal illness, mortality, and funeral expenses. With add-on covers, pet parents will, also, be able to insure their dogs against third-party liability, theft or loss, emergency pet minding, veterinary consultation, and doctor on call.
- With FG Dog Health Cover, pet parents will be able to choose their a veterinarian, budget their pet care costs, and avoid the dip into emergency funds with easy documentation.

## **Current Affairs PDF- March 06, 2022**

### **NATIONAL**

#### **India's first FSRU arrives at H-Energy's Jaigarh terminal**

- H-Jaigarh Energy's Terminal in Maharashtra has received India's first floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU). On April 12, 2021, the FSRU Höegh Giant arrived at Jaigarh Terminal in Maharashtra after sailing from Keppel Shipyard in Singapore. This will be India's first FSRU-based LNG receiving terminal, as well as Maharashtra's first year-around LNG facility.
- The Höegh Giant, which was erected in 2017, has a storage capacity of 1,70,000 cubic metres and a regasification capacity of 750 million cubic feet per day (equivalent to about six million tpa). FSRU has been chartered for a 10-year period by H-Energy.
- The Höegh Giant LNG terminal will be connected to the national gas grid via the 56-kilometer Jaigarh-Dabhol natural gas pipeline.
- The facility will also deliver LNG to onshore distribution via truck loading facilities. Reloading LNG into small-scale LNG vessels for bunkering services is also possible at the plant
- H-Energy also plans to boost the region's small-scale LNG market, utilising FSRU for LNG storage and reloading into smaller boats.

### **SPORTS**

#### **Mithali Raj becomes first woman to play in six World Cups**

- Indian women cricket captain, Mithali Raj has become the first woman to appear in six World Cups. She is the only third cricketer overall to play six world cup after Sachin Tendulkar and Javed

Miandad. She has played in the ICC women's cricket world cup events in 2000, 2005, 2009, 2013, 2017 and now in 2022. The ICC women's cricket world cup 2022 is being held in New Zealand.

- In the women's game, the Indian batter surpassed former New Zealand cricketers, Debbie Hockley and Charlotte Edwards of England. Fast bowler Jhulan Goswami, Raj's India teammate for the longest time, stands second on the list with five World Cup appearances.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### CISF 53rd Raising Day 2022: 6th March

- The 53rd Raising Day ceremony of Central Industrial Security Forces (CISF) was organised on March 06, 2022, in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has attended and addressed the Raising Day ceremony of CISF at Ghaziabad's Indrapuram. The CISF, which functions under the Union Home Ministry, is a central armed police force and among one of the six paramilitary forces of India. Over 30 lakh passengers in Delhi Metro and 10 lakh passengers in airports across the country pass through the security of CISF.
- CISF was set up under an Act of the Parliament of India on 10 March 1969, to provide security cover to industrial units, government infrastructure projects and facilities and establishments located all over India.
- Eventually, it was made an armed force of the Republic of India by another Act of Parliament passed on 15 June 1983.
- CISF is one of six paramilitary forces in India and functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Its headquarters is in New Delhi.

## SUMMIT'S & MOU's

### India signs Host Country Agreement with the International Telecommunication Union for the establishment of Area Office & Innovation Centre at New Delhi

- The Government of India has signed the Host Country Agreement (HCA) with International Telecommunication Union (ITU) for the establishment of an Area Office & Innovation Centre of ITU in New Delhi. The Host Country Agreement provides the legal and financial framework for the establishment and operations of the Area Office. The Area Office and Innovation Centre of ITU at New Delhi will serve South Asian countries comprising of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and India.
- The agreement was signed between Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Communications and H.E. Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General of ITU, in a virtual ceremony during the World Telecommunications Standardisation Assembly-20 (WTSA-20) being held in Geneva, Switzerland.

### Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar inaugurates NIC Tech Conclave 2022

- National Informatics Centre (NIC) has partnered with governments on digital initiatives. We've constructed state-of-the-art PAN-India ICT infrastructure, digital platforms, and solutions for the government's exclusive usage over the years. We've helped the federal and state governments automate their procedures and deliver public services electronically.
- It is critical to stay current with the latest technologies because the IT industry is always upgrading and improving. It is also critical that government personnel become aware of and adapt to new and evolving technologies.

- NIC has been hosting a Tech Conclave on Emerging Technologies, which are particularly useful in e-Government. “Next Gen Technologies for Digital Government” is the theme of this year’s Tech Conclave.
- Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, Railways and Communications, will inaugurate the 3rd edition of the NIC Tech Conclave 2022, a two-day event held by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), on March 3rd and 4th, 2022 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

### BOOKS & AUTHOR

#### Book “The Queen Of Indian Pop: The Authorised Biography released

- The biography of pop icon Usha Uthup titled “The Queen of Indian Pop: The Authorised Biography of Usha Uthup” was released. The book was originally written in Hindi titled “Ullas Ki Naav” by author Vikas Kumar Jha. “The Queen of Indian Pop: The Authorised Biography of Usha Uthup” is the English translation of the book, translated by the writer’s daughter Srishti Jha. The book is published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI).
- The 74-year-old pop icon, who completed 50 years as a professional singer in 2020, is widely known for evergreen hits such as “Hari Om Hari”, “Rambha Ho” and “Jeete Hain Shaan Se”. She has sung in several Indian and foreign languages including Bengali, Hindi, English, German, Italian and Sinhalese.

#### Book ‘The Blue Book’ authored by Amitava Kumar

- Indian writer and journalist, Amitava Kumar has come out with a new book titled ‘The Blue Book: A Writer’s Journal’. The book has been published by HarperCollins India. The Blue Book is the outcome of the diary-keeping by the author during the time of lockdown due to pandemics. The author has used watercolour drawings as well as words to depict the experience, both individual and collective, of the pandemic.
- The Blue Book is a rare species of magical realism where words become paintings, and paintings turn into beguiling (charming) literary anthropology of ‘reality and surreality’ that leaves us stunned. Known for his visceral post-colonial novels of exile and homelessness with shape-shifting itinerant memories of cities, places and people, Kumar uses the alchemical power of the drawings in his genre-defying diary to evoke a world that is together redemptive and regressive in the most frightening times of a global pandemic.