

Weekly Current Affairs PDF March 12 to March 18, 2023

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NATIONAL

After BSF, ex-Agniveers will now get 10% reservation in CISF job

Former Agniveers will now get a 10% reservation in the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) job vacancies, the Union Home Ministry made the announcement after a week it notified a similar quote for them in BSF. After amending the rules under the CISF Act, 1968 (50 of 1968), the ministry also announced relaxation in the upper age limit depending on whether they are part of the first batch or subsequent batches of Agniveers.

The upper age limit shall be relaxable up to five years for candidates of the first batch of former Agniveers and up to three years for candidates of other batches, the ministry said, adding that ex-Agniveers will also be exempted from the physical efficiency test, PTI reported.

PM Modi with Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina to inaugurate first cross-border energy pipeline

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina, will inaugurate the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline today via video conference.

This is the first cross-border energy pipeline between India and Bangladesh, built at an estimated cost of 377 crore rupees. Out of this, the Bangladesh portion of the pipeline, built at a cost of approximately 285 crore rupees, has been borne by the Government of India under grant assistance.

The Pipeline has the capacity to transport 1 Million Metric Ton Per Annum (MMTPA) of High-Speed Diesel (HSD). It will supply HSD initially to seven districts in northern Bangladesh.

External Affairs Minister Jaishankar inaugurates "Geoffrey Bawa: It is Essential To be There" Exhibition

The historic exhibition which features the works of Sri Lanka's iconic architect the late Geoffrey Bawa, is jointly organized by the National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi, the High Commission of Sri Lanka in New Delhi and the Geoffrey Bawa Trust to mark the 75th anniversary of Indo-Lanka diplomatic relations, which falls this year.

A large number of invitees including diplomats, senior officials of the Government of India, academics, journalists, art lovers and professionals attended the ceremonial opening of the exhibition. Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to India Milinda Moragoda, Director of the National Gallery of Modern Art Tamsunaro Tripathi, and Trustee of the Geoffrey Bawa Trust Sanjay Kulatunga joined External Affairs Minister Jaishankar in inaugurating the exhibition.

Bihar the lowest literacy rate , Kerala manages to be on top with 94%

According to the data shared by the Ministry of Education, Bihar has the lowest literacy rate of 61.8% , followed by Arunachal Pradesh at 65.3 % and Rajasthan 66.1 %, Kerala has

the highest literacy rate in India at 94%, followed by Lakshadweep at 91.85% and Mizoram at 91.33%.

The literacy rate of women in India has increased by 68 per cent - up from 9 per cent at the time of Independence to 77 per cent at present, LiveMint reported. As per World Bank estimates, only 1 of 11 girls was literate during the period surrounding India's

Independence, and

Currently, only 84.7 per cent of males are literate in India.

IMPORTANT DAYS

The 6th Global Recycling Day

Every year, the Earth yields billions of tons of natural resources and at some point, in the not too distant future, it will run out. That's why we must think again about what we throw away – seeing not waste, but opportunity. The last decade has been the hottest on record, and we are now facing a climate emergency of unparalleled proportions. If we don't make significant and rapid changes, we will see continued rising global temperatures, the melting of icecaps, continents on fire and rapid deforestation.

This directly affects humanity with increased poverty, immigration from displaced communities, job losses, waste mountains and natural habitats disappearing. We have the power to make lasting changes to combat this, and with recycling being recognized in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals 2030, we are already seeing many individuals, governments and organisations taking direct action to support the global green agenda. Recycling is a key part of the circular economy, helping to protect our natural resources. Each year the 'Seventh Resource' (recyclables) saves over 700 million tonnes in CO2 emissions and this is projected to increase to 1 billion tons by 2030. There is no doubt recycling is on the front line in the war to save the future of our planet and humanity.

Ordnance Factories Day: India

Ordnance Factories are a branch of the government that is engaged in the research and development of weapons for the military, testing, producing, performing logistics and marketing them. Ordnance Factory Day is observed on March 18, annually in India.

It is the day on which the first Ordnance factory was set up by the British at Cossipore, Kolkata in 1801, during colonial rule. The day is celebrated by the Ministry of Defence, who hoist the Indian flag, sing the national anthem and then exhibit various artillery and other items used by the Indian Armed Forces, to the public.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

Government signs MoU with 27 steel companies, kickstarting Rs 6,322-crore PLI scheme

The government on Friday signed memorandums of understanding (MoU) with 27 companies, kickstarting the Rs 6,322-crore production-linked incentives (PLI) scheme for specialty steel, that is expected to generate investments of up to Rs 30,000 crore over the coming five years.

The scheme will create 25 million tonnes of additional specialty steel manufacturing in the country and create 55,000 new jobs as per a statement by the Indian Steel Association (ISA).

PM Modi to inaugurate Global Millets Conference in New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference in New Delhi. The Prime Minister will also address the gathering on the occasion. He will unveil a customised postal stamp and currency coin on the International Year of Millets (IYM) – 2023. A video on Millets will also be released during the event with the announcement of ICAR-IIMR as the Global Centre of Excellence. The Conference will be attended by Agriculture Ministers of six countries, international scientists, nutritionists, health experts, start-up leaders and other stakeholders. It will witness participation from over 100 countries and several stakeholders will attend the event virtually from across the globe.

The two-day Conference will have sessions on a wide range of issues related to millets including promotion and awareness of millets among producers, consumers and other stakeholders; millets' value chain development; health and nutritional aspects of millets, market linkages research and development etc. An Exhibition-cum- Buyer-Seller Meet with a focus on Millets will also be held with the participation of more than 50 domestic and international buyers, importers, exporters and processors for the promotion of millets. The exhibition of more than 100 stalls will showcase millets and millet-based ready-to-cook and ready-to-eat products, by millet-based Startups, and exporters, and live cooking sessions by various international and national chefs.

Second meeting of Startup-20 engagement group under India's G-20 Presidency begins in Sikkim

The two-day meeting of the Startup20 engagement group under India's G20 Presidency began today at Chintan Bhawan in Gangtok. The Startup20 engagement group aims to bring together global startup systems while ensuring that every nation has the freedom to grow its unique ecosystem.

Mr Tamang appreciated the central government's Startup India Initiative to transform India into a country of job creators instead of job seekers. He highlighted various aspects of the scheme including tax exemptions, ease of doing business, and funding assistance. The chief minister also acknowledged the role of the National Credit Guarantee Trust Company, Startup India Seed Fund Scheme, Small Industries Development Bank of India, and Startup India Hub in taking India to the third position in the Global Startup ecosystem and a jump from the 81st to the 40th position in Global Innovation Index in 2022.

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NATIONAL

Bengaluru honoured with 2023 Partnership for healthy cities award for Tobacco control efforts

Bengaluru is among five global cities that have been recognised for achievements in preventing noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and injuries, with the Indian tech city's efforts in tobacco control winning a \$150,000 award by a leading global initiative supported by the WHO.

Bengaluru was honoured with the 2023 Partnership for Healthy Cities Award, along with Montevideo in Uruguay; Mexico City, Mexico; Vancouver, Canada and Athens, Greece, at the inaugural Partnership for Healthy Cities Summit held in London, a statement by the World Health Organisation (WHO) said. The cities were recognised for positively impacting the health of their population and making sustainable and lasting strides toward NCD and injury prevention that can be replicated in other jurisdictions.

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport adjudged best airport in South Asia: Skytrax

Delhi airport has been adjudged the best airport in India and South Asia, according to international air transport rating organisation Skytrax. The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the national capital has also moved up to the 36th position this year from 37th in 2022, according to a release.

The Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), a GMR Airports Infrastructure Ltd-led consortium, is operating IGIA, which is also the country's largest airport. A release on Thursday said Delhi airport is the only Indian airport to feature on the prestigious list of top 50 airports across the world since 2020. Regionally, it has topped the list of best airports in South Asia as per Skytrax.

SPORTS

Gianni Infantino re-elected as FIFA president

Gianni Infantino, a contentious figure in the world of football, on Thursday secured a new term as Fifa president after an election in which he was the only candidate, Infantino, 52, got the post for another four years by acclamation at Fifa's 73rd Congress in the Rwandan capital of Kigali. All but a small number of Fifa's 211 national federations rose to applaud Infantino, making his re-election as head of football's governing body a formality.

Upon getting the crown, Infantino promised record revenues in the next four-year cycle of \$11 billion as he called for more football to be played around the world. He also appeared to acknowledge that he was not universally popular amid controversies, including the treatment of migrant workers in the run-up to last year's World Cup in Qatar and a failed plan to play the tournament every two years.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

India's KR Parvathy appointed as UN Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan

India's Kavilmadam Ramaswami Parvathy, who has served in leading roles at the World Food Programme in Türkiye and Afghanistan, has been appointed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan, Parvathy took up her new post as Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan Wednesday, following the appointment by the Secretary-General and confirmation from the host Government, Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesman for the Secretary-General, said at the daily news briefing. "We remain with full gender parity among our 130 Resident Coordinators," Dujarric said. Parvathy brings more than 30 years of experience in development and humanitarian sectors, focusing on strategic planning, performance, risk management, people management, conflict analysis and humanitarian access negotiations,

Rajesh Gopinathan resigns from TCS, Succeeded by K Krithivasan

Rajesh Gopinathan, CEO of TCS for six long years has resigned from the post. He is succeeded by TCS' BFSI unit president K Krithivasan.

Tata Consultancy Services, an Indian provider of IT services, announced in a regulatory filing that Rajesh Gopinathan, its chief executive officer, has resigned. He is succeeded by K Krithivasan, who was named CEO-designate on and stated that, subject to shareholder approval, he will take on the roles of CEO and managing director in the coming fiscal year.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Sleep Day

World Sleep Day (the Friday before the northern hemisphere vernal equinox) is an annual event organized by the World Sleep Day Committee of the World Sleep Society, formerly World Association of Sleep Medicine (WASM), since 2008.[1] The goal is to celebrate the benefits of good and healthy sleep and to draw society's attention to the burden of sleep problems and their medical, educational, and social aspects, and to promote the prevention and management of sleep disorders.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

Ministry of Ayush and Ministry of Rural Development signed MoU for skilling of rural youth & empowering women

In order to empower women and rural poor youth, the Ministry of Ayush (MoA) and Rural Development signed MoU to collaborate in developing skilled personnel by imparting training for the Ayush healthcare system. The course will also include training of rural youth as panchakarma technicians, which will be started on a pilot basis. The proposed training will be imparted under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya-Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), which is the Ministry of Rural Development's flagship program, charged with the dual goals of diversifying the incomes of rural poor families and catering to the career ambitions of rural youth.

MoA will aid its institutes to conduct courses, training, and provide certification to the candidates. The Ministry will also depute nodal agencies across the country, who will ensure mobilization, counselling, training, placement, and tracking of candidates as per DDU-GKY norms in their respective designated states.

Two-day SCO Tourism Ministers' meeting to begin at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh : 17 March

The two-day Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Tourism Ministers' Meeting will start today in Varanasi. Union Minister for Tourism G. Kishan Reddy reached Varanasi yesterday to take part in the meeting. During the meeting, the Tourism Joint Action Plan on the Development of Cooperation in Tourism among SCO member countries would be adopted.

The Joint Action Plan will include actions relating to the promotion of the SCO tourism brand, the promotion of the cultural heritage of the SCO Member States in tourism, sharing and exchange of information and digital technology in tourism, and promoting mutual cooperation in medical and health tourism.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Hello Ujjivan app wins the prestigious 13th Aegis Graham Bell Awards

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank is proud to announce that its Hello Ujjivan app has won the 13th Aegis Graham Bell Awards (AGBA) in the "Innovation in Consumer Tech" category. The thirteenth edition of the prize is an initiative of Aegis School of Data Science, backed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology; NITI Aayog and Skill India to foster an innovative culture in India. Hello Ujjivan, is the first mobile banking app in India that enables speech, visual, and vernacular features to give bank's MicroBanking and Rural customers access to banking financial services who have limited reading and writing abilities. The app has intuitive AI and machine learning capabilities, to enable customers transact conveniently and safely in the language of their choice

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das Named 'Governor Of The Year' At Central Banking Awards 2023

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das has been selected as the 'Governor of the Year' for 2023 by Central Banking, an international economic research journal. Mr Das has been praised by the publication for his leadership role at the Central bank during his tenure, which began in December 2018, and has been marked by a series of grave challenges, starting with the collapse of a major non-bank firm, moving through the first and second waves of the coronavirus, and then, in 2022, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its inflationary impact.

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INTERNATIONAL

Singapore Changi Airport is named the World's Best Airport 2023 : Skytrax World Airport Award

Singapore Changi Airport has been named as the World's Best Airport in 2023 in the World Airport Awards held at Passenger Terminal EXPO in Amsterdam, Changi Airport also won the awards for the World's Best Airport Dining and World's Best Airport Leisure Amenities. The Hamad International Airport, Doha, in 2nd place and Tokyo Haneda Airport ranked 3rd.

NATIONAL

Indian Navy To Participate In US Anti-Submarine Warfare Exercise Sea Dragon 23

The Indian Navy's P8I aircraft will be participating in the US-led anti-submarine warfare exercise (ASW), called the 'Sea Dragon', from March 15-30. The exercise will see more complex drills compared to the previous editions. The P8I aircraft of the Indian Navy arrived at Guam, US on March 14. Along with this aircraft, the multilateral ASW will also witness participation from P8A of the US Navy, P1 from the Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force, CP 140 from the Royal Canadian Air Force and P3C from the Republic of Korea Navy (RoKN).

This year, the 'Sea Dragon 23' exercise will test the capabilities of participating aircraft in tracking simulated and live underwater targets and simultaneously share mutual expertise, the Indian Navy

AAHAR 2023: Asia's biggest International Food and Hospitality Fair begins in Delhi

Aahar 2023 organized with the support of the Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), and other bodies, will focus on unveiling the potential of the hospitality sector and exhibiting technologies, products and services to domestic and international buyers. Aahar is India's largest four-day culinary show where hoteliers and restaurateurs, caterers and distributors come to source the best in culinary, hospitality and equipment and also gauge the market trends.

SPORTS

Ashleigh Gardner, and Harry Brook, seal ICC Player of the Month awards for February

Australia's Ashleigh Gardner won the award in the women's category. She was instrumental in Australia's triumph in the recent Women's T20 World Cup and received the player of the tournament,

England's Harry Brook was voted the best men's player for the month of February after his amazing run of form. The English batter received his second POTM award after winning it earlier in December 2022.

Gianni Infantino re-elected FIFA president till 2027

Gianni Infantino was re-elected as FIFA president until 2027 by acclamation, after highlighting his strong financial performance as a reason for keeping a CEO in their position for life. The decision was made by the congress of 211 member federations, who have seen their annual funding from FIFA increase from \$250,000 to \$2 million since Infantino's first win in 2016. Following the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, FIFA now has \$4 billion in reserves, and it conservatively predicts a record revenue of at least \$11 billion from the 2026 men's World Cup, which will be hosted in North America.

OBITURY

Actor Sameer Khakhar who played role of Khopdi in 'Nukkad', Passed away at 71

Actor Sameer Khakhar, best known for playing the lovable drunk Khopdi in the classic 1980s TV serial "Nukkad", died at a hospital here in the early hours of Wednesday due to multiple organ failure.

The actor, who was most recently seen in the Prime Video series "Farzi" and moved to the US in the 1990s for a few years to become a software developer, was 71. Sameer Khakhar was admitted to MM Hospital in Borivali in suburban Mumbai on Tuesday morning following respiratory issues,

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Honeywell (HON) Appoints Veteran Vimal Kapur as New CEO

Honeywell International HON announced that company veteran and current president and chief operating officer, Vimal Kapur, will succeed Darius Adamczyk as the new chief

executive officer ("CEO"), effective Jun 1. Mr, Kapur was named the president and chief operating officer of Honeywell last July. As COO, he oversaw the Honeywell Accelerator program, which uses certain frameworks and toolkits to improve end-to-end processes, digital transformation and business outcomes. As CEO, Kapur will focus on "the incorporation of Accelerator and standardization of global business models to enable maximal performance in each business segment."

Indian-American Ravi Chaudhary to be the new Assistant Secretary of US Air Force

The United States Senate has confirmed Indian-American Ravi Chaudhary as the Assistant Secretary of Defense for the Air Force, one of the top civilian leadership positions in the Pentagon. He previously served as a Senior Executive at the US Department of Transportation where he was Director of Advanced Programs and Innovation, Office of Commercial Space at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). He was responsible for the execution of advanced development and research programs in support of the FAA's commercial space transportation mission. While at the transportation department, he also served as the executive director of the regions and centre operations, where he looked over the integration and support of aviation operations in nine regions.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Vaccination Day or National Immunization Day

Every year, National Vaccination Day or National Immunization Day is observed in India on March 16 with an aim to spread awareness about the importance of vaccines in the healthcare system. The day is observed to create awareness regarding how effective vaccinations are to prevent deadly diseases.

It was first observed on 16 March 1995 when the first dose of Oral Polio Vaccine was given. It is an attempt to increase awareness for the eradication of polio from the planet earth. Every year, the day is celebrated under a specific theme. In 2022, the theme was, 'Vaccines Work For Everyone'. However, the theme for this year is not announced yet.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

RBI and Central Bank of the UAE sign MoU to promote innovation in financial products and services

The Reserve Bank of India and the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday to promote innovation in financial products and services.

As per the MoU, both central banks will work together to explore Central Bank Digital Currencies and investigate interoperability between the CBDCs of CBUAE and RBI. They will conduct proof-of-concept and pilot tests of bilateral CBDC bridge to facilitate cross-border transactions of remittances and trade. This collaboration is expected to increase efficiency and reduce costs in cross-border transactions, furthering the economic ties between India and UAE. The MoU also includes technical collaboration and knowledge sharing on matters related to Fintech and financial products and services.

This collaboration will help both central banks enhance their capabilities and contribute to the development of a robust financial ecosystem. The collaboration between RBI and

CBUAE is a significant step towards promoting innovation and collaboration in the field of FinTech.

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NATIONAL

DRDO successfully conducts flight test of indigenous PTO, Shaft on LCA Tejas

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted a maiden flight-test of the Power Take off (PTO) Shaft on Light Combat Aircraft (LCA Tejas) Limited Series Production (LSP) -3 aircraft in Bengaluru. The PTO shaft is indigenously designed and developed by the Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (CVRDE), Chennai Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The PTO shaft was designed with a unique innovative patented 'Frequency Spanning Technique' which enables it to negotiate different operating engine speeds.

NMDC celebrates International Year of Millets at Business Women Expo 2023

At the forefront of popularizing Millets, NMDC distributed the Superfood at the Business Women Expo 2023 in Hyderabad. In the backdrop of the International Year of Millets 2023, NMDC inspired women entrepreneurs to build Millet businesses and contribute to the food security of the nation. On behalf of the company, Shri K Praveen Kumar, ED (Personnel and Law) and Shri K Mohan, CGM (Personnel) distributed the Millets and interacted with the participants on its benefits for a healthier future.

The United Nations (UN) General Assembly at its 75th session declared 2023 the International Year of Millets.

India 8th most polluted country in world, Swiss firm IQAir Report

The Swiss firm IQAir released the 'World Air Quality' report which says that India is the world's eighth most polluted country in 2022, dropping from the fifth spot the previous year. The PM2.5 level of most polluted Indian cities stands at 53.3, according to the data. The two Indian cities in the ranking of the world's most polluted city are---Bhiwadi, on Delhi's outskirts, which had pollution levels at 92.7, and Delhi followed close behind at 92.6.

The report said India and Pakistan experienced the worst air quality in the Central and South Asian region, where nearly 60% of the population lives in areas where the concentration of PM2.5 particles is at least seven times higher than WHO's recommended levels.

13th edition of India-Singapore Bilateral Armour exercise 'Bold kurukshetra' held in Jodhpur

The Singapore Army and Indian Army participated in the 13th edition of Exercise Bold Kurukshetra, a bilateral armour exercise from 06-13 March 2023 at Jodhpur Military Station, India.

For the first time in the exercise series, both armies participated in a command post Exercise, which involved Battalion and Brigade level planning elements and computer

wargaming. Hosted by the Indian Army, the exercise involved soldiers from the 42nd Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment and an Armoured Brigade of Indian Army. The ten-day long joint training that commenced on 05th March fostered common understanding of mechanised warfare in emerging threats and evolving technologies, developing inter-operability through a computer simulation-based Wargame using joint operational and tactical procedures controlled through a joint command post. Both contingents not only learnt about each other's operating drills and procedure, but also exchanged ideas and best practices being followed in a modern combat zone.

SPORTS

Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur to inaugurate IBA Women's World Boxing Championships

The IBA Women's World Boxing Championships will begin in New Delhi today, March 15. Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur will attend the opening ceremony at Indira Gandhi Sports Complex this evening.

International Boxing Association, IBA President Umar Kremlev, and Boxing Federation of India, BFI President Ajay Singh will also be present on the occasion. BFI is hosting the biggest boxing event till the 26th of March. The Championship is taking place in India for the third time after 2006 and 2018, the most for any country. The tournament will witness the participation of more than 350 boxers from around 74 countries. The Indian team of 12 boxers for the event includes 2020 Tokyo Bronze medallist, Lovlina Borgohain and the current world champion in the 50kg category, Nikhat Zareen.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Google unveils 'magic wand' for emails and documents

Alphabet's Google on Tuesday unveiled a flurry of artificial intelligence (AI) tools for its email, collaboration and cloud software, taking aim at Microsoft days before its rival is expected to make a similar announcement. In a replay of last month's duelling chatbot launches by the tech giants, Alphabet touted a "magic wand" for its popular Google Docs software that can draft a marketing blog, training plan or other text, then revise its tone at users' discretion, a company official demonstrated to reporters. Alphabet also said its AI will be able to summarise message threads in Gmail, craft slide presentations, personalise customer outreach and take meeting notes as part of its upgrade to Google Workspace, a product suite with billions of users on free and paid accounts.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Deepak Mohanty appointed as PFRDA Chairperson

The Central government has appointed Deepak Mohanty, a former whole-time member of the Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA), as the new Chairperson of the PFRDA. Mohanty, also a former executive director of the Reserve Bank of India, will hold the top PFRDA post till attaining the age of 65 years or until further orders. It also appointed Mamta Shankar, an Indian Economic Service Officer (1993) to the post of Whole-Time Member (Economics) in PFRDA.

PFRDA regulates the National Pension System (NPS) which is mandatory for the Central government staff joining service since 2004. Most state governments have also made it

mandatory for their staff joining the service since 2004 or 2005. Later, corporates and the general public were allowed to subscribe to NPS.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Consumer Rights Day

World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated on March 15 every year with an aim to raise global awareness about consumer rights and promote consumer protection. The day is also commemorated to be aware about the market injustices across the world. The World Consumer Rights Day is globally recognised and accredited by the United Nations. For 40 years Consumers International has run the campaign, uniting the consumer movement to celebrate together. Consumers International Members help to select the campaign topic each year to help mobilise global action on pressing issues impacting consumers.

International Day to Combat Islamophobia

The U.N. General Assembly established the International Day to Combat Islamophobia in a resolution passed by a unanimous majority in 2022, designating March 15 as the day of the holiday's celebration. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation was represented by Pakistan in the resolution's introduction. It is in remembrance of the day in 2019 in Christchurch, New Zealand, when a shooter opened fire inside two mosques, killing 51 people and wounding another 40. The resolution was formally introduced by Pakistan's U.N. representative, Munir Akram. He said that this resolution acknowledges the widespread rise in intolerance, prejudice, and violence against members of numerous religious and other communities, regardless of who is doing it.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

IDFC Mutual Fund set to become Bandhan Mutual Fund

IDFC Mutual Fund, which was founded in 2000, announced that it is set to renovate itself as Bandhan Mutual Fund. Customers will soon discover all IDFC Mutual Fund schemes have been rebranded as Bandhan Mutual Fund after the effective date. Since the underlying investment strategy, processes, and team continue to remain the same, investors can benefit from the same high-quality investment approach that the fund house is reputed for, - IDFC Mutual Fund said in an official statement.

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NATIONAL

Surekha Yadav, Asia's 1st woman loco pilot who now becomes first female to operate Vande Bharat

Asia's first woman loco pilot Surekha Yadav has added another feather to her cap as she became the first female to operate the newly-introduced semi-high speed Vande Bharat Express train, She piloted the semi-high speed train between Solapur station and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in Mumbai on Monday.

The train departed Solapur station at right time on March 13 and reached CSMT five minutes before the scheduled arrival, a Central Railway release said, adding that on

completion of a more than 450-km long journey, Yadav was felicitated at platform number 8 at CSMT

Exercise La Perouse between navies of India, US, Japan, France, UK and Australia begins

The two-day multi-lateral maritime exercise 'La Pérouse', involving the participation of personnel, ships and integral helicopters of Royal Australian Navy, French Navy, Indian Navy, Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force, Royal Navy and the United States Navy, kick-started in the Indian Ocean Region on March 13. "The third edition of the multilateral exercise La Perouse is scheduled to be conducted in the Indian Ocean Region from 13 to 14 March 2023," the Ministry of Defence said in a press release.

The biennial exercise La Perouse is conducted by the French Navy and aims to enhance maritime domain awareness and optimise maritime coordination amongst the participating navies in the Indo-Pacific region, the release stated.

Nitin Gadkari unveiled first methanol run buses in Bengaluru

The first methanol-powered buses in Bengaluru unveiled by Union Minister for Road and Transport, Nitin Gadkari. The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTCL), NITI Aayog, Indian Oil Company (IOC), and Ashok Leyland are working together to carry out the initiative, which aims to lower the level of pollutants. Methanol can be produced through the reaction of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and hydrogen, which are also known as syngas. The syngas can be produced from various sources such as natural gas, coal, or biomass.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

FDIC names former Fannie Mae chief Tim Mayopoulos as CEO of Silicon Valley Bank

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation on Monday named former Fannie Mae head Tim Mayopoulos as the chief executive officer of Silicon Valley Bank, a subsidiary of the defunct SVB Financial Group. He steps in after regulators shuttered the startup-focused lender on Friday after a run on its deposits that left it with a dearth of capital. Mayopoulos served as the chief executive officer of mortgage financier Fannie Mae for more than six years before he joined fintech Blend. The collapse of SVB, the biggest bank to fail since the financial crisis of 2008, has crippled stocks and triggered concerns of a contagion throughout global markets.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Action for Rivers

The International Day of Action for Rivers observed on 14 March is a day dedicated to solidarity – when diverse communities around the world come together with one voice to say that rivers matter. That communities having access to clean and flowing water matters. That everyone should have a say in decisions that affect their water and their lives. That it's our time to stand up for these rights, now more than ever.

We're celebrating the 26th Anniversary of this Day for Rivers by also highlighting the importance of being a protector and voice for rivers.

International Day of Mathematics

Every year on March 14th, people around the world gather together to celebrate the importance of mathematics and everything it's used for, Mathematics is defined as the study of such topics as quantity, structure, space, and change. This definition makes it sound like you have to be a rocket scientist to do math. But whether you realize it or not, you probably use mathematics daily. Do you balance your checkbook? When you have to drive somewhere, do you estimate out how much time it will take to arrive? Do you count calories? Have you ever measured ingredients when you're cooking? Do you do your own taxes? If you do any of these things, you're using math!

Pi Day

Pi Day is an annual celebration of the mathematical constant π . Pi Day is observed on March 14 since 3, 1, and 4 are the first three significant figures of π . It was founded in 1988 by Larry Shaw, an employee of the San Francisco, California science museum, the Exploratorium. and it also happens to be Albert Einstein's birthday.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

First international conference on Shared Buddhist Heritage to begin in New Delhi

The first international conference on Shared Buddhist Heritage will commence in New Delhi today 14th March. It is being organised with a focus on India's civilisational connect with the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) nations 2023. The two-day conference aims at re-establishing trans-cultural links and seeking out commonalities, between Buddhist art of Central Asia, art styles, archaeological sites and antiquity in various museum collections of the SCO countries.

The event, under India's leadership of SCO, will bring together Central Asian, East Asian, South Asian and Arab countries on a common platform to discuss Shared Buddhist Heritage. The SCO countries comprise of Member States, Observer States and Dialogue Partners, including China, Russia and Mongolia. The two-day programme is being organised by the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of External Affairs and the International Buddhist Confederation. A number of Indian scholars of Buddhism will also participate in the event. Participants will also have the opportunity to tour some of the historical sites of Delhi.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Gyan Chaturvedi awarded with the 32nd Vyas Samman, 2022

Noted Hindi writer Dr Gyan Chaturvedi's 2018 satirical novel, Pagalkhana, has been selected for the 32nd Vyas Samman, 2022. Instituted by the KK Birla Foundation in 1991, the annual Vyas Samman is given to an outstanding Hindi literary work by an Indian citizen published during the last 10 years.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Suryoday Small Finance Bank launches Blossom Women's savings account,

Suryoday Small Finance Bank on Monday launched a new savings account for women. Suryoday's Blossom Women's Savings Account is built on a strong proposition of giving women a complete, simplified, and rewarding banking experience.

Under this new account, women can earn up to 7% interest rate per annum with monthly interest credit coupled with a specially designed RuPay Platinum Debit Card which offers discounts on shopping and online purchases and many more, The new women's savings account can be operated through the Bank's 571 banking outlets and digital banking platform.

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INTERNATIONAL

Saudi Arabia launches new national airline

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman formally announced on Sunday the creation of a new national airline, Riyadh Air, with industry veteran Tony Douglas as its chief executive, as the kingdom moves to compete with regional transport and travel hubs. Riyadh Air will serve more than 100 destinations around the world by 2030, making use of the kingdom's location between Asia, Africa and Europe,

SPORTS

India win the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2-1 against Australia and also qualify for 2023 WTC Final

India vs Australia: Australia played out a draw in the final Test in Ahmedabad but India took the series 2-1 and won the Border-Gavaskar Trophy for the fourth successive time. And India have also qualified for the World Test Championship final where they will face Australia at The Oval.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

RBI approves reappointment of Sumant Kathpalia as MD, CEO of IndusInd Bank

IndusInd Bank said the central bank has approved the re-appointment of Sumant Kathpalia as MD and CEO for a period of two years from 24 March, 2023. The nod by RBI comes nearly six months after the IndusInd Bank's board of directors had cleared another term for Kathpalia, who has been the lender's MD & CEO since March 2020.

At IndusInd Bank, he has been part of the management team for 15 years ago. He has been a key member of the top-level executive committee looking at IndusInd Bank-wide financial management, managing investor relations and evaluating inorganic growth opportunities.

Tech Mahindra appoints Mohit Joshi as MD & CEO

Tech Mahindra announced Mohit Joshi, the former president of Infosys, as its managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) designate for a period of five years, effective from 20 December 2023.

Mohit Joshi will take over as MD & CEO when CP Gurnani retires on 19 December 2023. However, he will join Tech Mahindra well before that date to allow for sufficient transition time, said the company.

Govt appoints Siddhartha Mohanty as interim chairman of LIC

Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) on Monday said that M R Kumar has completed his term as the Chairman. The government has approved the appointment of Siddhartha Mohanty as the interim Chairman of LIC for three months with effect from March 14, the insurer said last week.

The government is set to appoint a full-time chairman at LIC by June, a finance ministry official said, Mint reported. The official said the chairman would be selected from among candidates available within the life insurer and would serve a term of around a year.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Rotaract Day

World Rotaract Day - 13 March: is a special day dedicated to celebrating and recognizing the accomplishments of young adults who are involved in the Rotaract movement. Rotaract is a global network of young professionals who work together to promote community service, professional development, and cultural exchange. The day is observed on March 13th each year and is an opportunity to raise awareness about the work that Rotaract clubs are doing around the world.

Rotaract was first established in 1968 in North Carolina, USA, and has since grown to become a global movement with over 250,000 members in more than 10,000 clubs around the world. Rotaract clubs are made up of young adults between the ages of 18 and 30 who come together to address community needs, develop leadership skills, and build international understanding.

On World Rotaract Day, Rotaract clubs around the world hold events and activities to celebrate the achievements of their members and raise awareness about the impact of their work. These events can include service projects, social gatherings, fundraising activities, and more.

Commonwealth Day

Every year, on the second Monday of March, 56 countries from around the world hold celebrations to commemorate Commonwealth Day. While this day was originally referred to as "Empire Day" and had been celebrated on Queen Victoria's birthday on May 24th since 1904, Commonwealth Day wasn't established as such until 1977, when one of its member states proposed this date for all member states of the organization to simultaneously celebrate this occasion, led by the head of the Commonwealth of Nations, the current British ruler.

With 'Forging a Sustainable and Peaceful Common Future' as its theme, the day aims to unite 2.5 billion Commonwealth citizens in celebration of their shared values and principles, and in pursuit of a common future, centred on sustainability and peace.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

Lockheed Martin, & Tata ink MoU for fighter plane wings production in India

Global defence aerospace player Lockheed Martin and Indias Tata Group have inked an agreement for the production of fighter plane wings at their joint venture Tata Lockheed Martin Aerostructures Ltd (TLMAL) in Hyderabad.

According to Lockheed Martin, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) envisions production of 29 fighter wing shipsets, with an option of additional shipsets, with deliveries commencing in 2025.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

'Naatu Naatu' from 'RRR' won Oscars for Best Original Song

'Naatu Naatu' from SS Rajamouli's hit 'RRR' won Oscars for Best Original Song. The audience was captivated as they watched Ram Charan and Jr NTR's spectacular dance moves in the song. The crowd cheered wildly when MM Keeravani (composer of the song) walked up to the stage to accept the prestigious award.

There has never been an Oscar nomination in this category from an Indian production before RRR's 'Naatu Naatu'. AR Rahman's 'Jai Ho', written for the 2008 film Slumdog Millionaire, was awarded the Academy Award for Best Original Song in 2009. However, Slumdog Millionaire was made by British production whereas RRR is an Indian production. While 'Naatu Naatu' was nominated for Best Original Song, 'All That Breathes' and 'The Elephant Whisperers' were nominated for Best Documentary Feature and Best Documentary Short Film, respectively. 'The Elephant Whisperers' took home the trophy while 'All That Breathes' lost to 'Navalny'.

Indian film The Elephant Whisperers wins Academy Award for Best Documentary Short

Kartiki Gonsalves and Guneet Monga's Netflix documentary short, The Elephant Whisperers, has won the Oscar for Best Documentary Short category at the 95th Academy Awards. The film was competing against Haulout, How Do You Measure a Year?, The Martha Mitchell Effect and Stranger At The Gate. Director Gonzalves dedicated the award to 'my motherland, India'. Guneet, in an Instagram post, wrote, "Tonight is historic as this is the first ever Oscar for an Indian production..."

Produced by Achin Jain and Guneet Monga, and directed by Kartiki Gonsalves, the 41-minute short follows the family from Tamil Nadu's Mudumalai Tiger Reserve who end up adopting two orphan baby elephants. What was special about this India short was that it happened to be filmmaker Gonsalves' directorial debut.

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INTERNATIONAL

Indonesia's Mount Merapi volcano erupts, covering villages in ash

Indonesia's Mount Merapi, one of the world's most active volcanoes, erupted today, spewing out smoke and ash that blanketed villages near the crater. The volcano is located on Java Island, near Indonesia's cultural capital Yogyakarta. The volcano's last major eruption in 2010 had claimed more than 300 lives and forced the evacuation of some 280,000 people. Indonesia, which has nearly 130 active volcanoes, sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", where the meeting of continental plates causes high volcanic and seismic activity.

Silicon Valley Bank collapse, causes shockwaves across world

The sudden collapse of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) in the United States has caused shockwaves around the world. California-based Silicon Valley Bank, the 16th largest bank in the US, was closed on Friday (March 10) by the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation which later appointed the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as its receiver.

From Californian winemakers to startups on the other side of the Atlantic, businesses are attempting to handle their accounts after their bank abruptly closed down Friday. According to reports, the financial crisis is causing anxiety for corporations as well as for all their employees whose paychecks can be affected by the commotion.

SpaceX Launches 40 OneWeb Satellites To Orbit From Florida

SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket launched 40 OneWeb satellites to low-Earth orbit from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida. This was the penultimate mission to complete the first generation (Gen 1) low-Earth orbit satellite constellation of OneWeb, a London-based satellite communications company backed by Bharti Enterprises. OneWeb aims to enable global coverage in 2023, and its latest launch was the penultimate mission that would complete OneWeb's Gen 1 constellation to fulfil the goal. The launch of 40 satellites by SpaceX on March 9 was OneWeb's 17th mission to date. Later this month, OneWeb will launch more satellites with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and New Space India Limited (NSIL), in order to complete the UK-based company's global footprint of Gen 1 satellites. If the launch with ISRO and NSIL is successful, there will be 582 OneWeb satellites in orbit.

NATIOONAL

PM Modi Inaugurates Bengaluru-Mysuru Highway

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his yet another visit to Karnataka on Sunday inaugurated the 10-lane Bengaluru-Mysuru Highway at Mandya. Besides inaugurating, the PM laid foundation stones for several key road projects too on Sunday at Mandya in Karnataka. The 118-km long Bengaluru-Mysuru road project has been developed at a total cost of around Rs 8,480 crores. It will reduce the travel time between Bengaluru and Mysuru from around 3 hours to about 75 minutes and will act as a catalyst for socio-economic development in the region,

He also laid the foundation stone for Mysuru-Kushalnagar 4-lane highway. Spread over 92 kilometres, the project will be developed at a cost of around Rs 4,130 crores and will help halve the travel time from about 5 to only 2.5 hours.

Divya Kala Mela showcasing products & craftsmanship of Divyang entrepreneurs to open at Bhopal

Divya Kala Mela is being organised from 12 March, to showcase the products and craftsmanship of Divyang entrepreneurs and artisans from across the country. Governor Mangubhai Patel and Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virender Kumar and Minister of State Kumari Pratima Bhowmick will inaugurate the fair, About 150 Divyang artisans, artists and entrepreneurs from 21 states and union territories are participating in the Divya Kala Mela. Home decor, lifestyle, clothing, stationery, eco-

friendly products, packaged food, toys, gifts, personal accessories, jewelry, bags, organic products, etc. will be available at the fair. There will also be cultural programs by Divyang and other artistes during the Mela. For the first time after Delhi and Mumbai, Divya Kala Mela is being organized in Madhya Pradesh.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates world's longest railway platform in Hubballi-Dharwad

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday : 12 March inaugurated several development projects in Karnataka including the longest railway platform in the world in Hubballi-Dharwad. With the inauguration of the Hubballi railway platform, the city has registered its name in the Guinness Book of World Records for having the longest railway platform in the World at Shree Siddharoodha Swamiji station. The 1,507-metre-long platform has been built at a cost of about ₹20 crore

The Hubballi station is an important junction in Karnataka and a major hub of trade and commerce. It connects the railway lines towards Bengaluru (Davanagere side), Hosapete (Gadag side), and Vasco-Da-Gama/Belagavi (Londa side).

100 cities to bend-unbend for countdown to 9th International Day of Yoga

The Ministry of Ayush along with Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) is organizing Yoga Mahotsav 2023 from 13th to 14th March 2023 at Delhi's Talkatora Stadium. There will also be workshops on 15th March 2023 at MDNIY. Union Minister of Ayush Sarbananda Sonowal will inaugurate the Yoga Mahotsav 2023 and it will commemorate 100 days countdown to the 9th edition of International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2023.

Following the footprints, this year, Yoga Mahotsav-2023 is being organized to give a wider promotion and publicity to various dimensions of yoga and its utility. Mass yoga demonstrations/sessions will take place in 100 places in Delhi NCR to celebrate the countdown and it will commence 100 Days, 100 cities, and 100 organizations activities across the nation.

SPORTS

Bangladesh's historic T20 - series win against England

Bangladesh might have lost their proud unbeaten record in ODIs but they have exacted emphatic revenge over England in the shorter format, winning the second T20 by four wickets and the series with a game to spare. This is a curiously lopsided England side, light on batters and so overblessed with bowlers – so much so that the 19th over was also Chris Jordan's first. Bangladesh started it needed 13 off 12 deliveries, and had the game wrapped up with seven to spare.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Day Against Cyber Censorship

Every year on March 12th, World Day Against Cyber Censorship rallies support for an unrestricted Internet that is accessible to all. The day also draws attention to ways governments around the world censor free speech online. The Internet lets people around the world gain access to vast amounts of information. Not only can people get information on nearly any topic imaginable, but they can get it quickly, and usually for little cost. Most

people who have access to the internet take it for granted. They might also take for granted the idea of sharing things with others over the worldwide web. Unfortunately, however, there are people in the world who want to restrict the internet. These people don't want people to use their freedom of speech over the worldwide web.

Each year, this issue is becoming more of a problem. Just recently, Reporters Without Borders unveiled several digital predators of freedom. According to Reporters Without Borders, these digital predators represent a clear danger for freedom of opinion and expression, and article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights guarantees this right. Digital predators harass people online, censor information, spread disinformation, and use the internet to spy.

Ayya Vaikunda Swamikal birth anniversary

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today paid tribute to Ayya Vaikunda Swamikal on his birth anniversary. In a tweet, Mr Modi said, he devoted himself to serving others and nurturing a society that is inclusive and just. The Prime Minister said, Ayya Vaikunda Swamikal undertook numerous efforts to empower the downtrodden as well. Mr Modi said, his thoughts will keep inspiring people across generations.

Ayya Vaikundar also known as Siva Narayanar or Vaikunda Swami is the first and the foremost Purna avatar of Eka-Paran as per Ayyavazhi Mythology. He was born to Lord Narayana and his consort Goddess Lakshmi at the Sea of Tiruchendur on the 20th of Masi, 1008 K.E.