

Weekly Current Affairs PDF MARCH 27 to APRIL 02, 2022

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NATIONAL

CJI N V Ramana launches software to transmit court orders swiftly

- Chief Justice of India NV Ramana unveiled the 'Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records' (FASTER), a digital platform that allows the supreme court to send interim orders, stay orders, and bail orders to the appropriate authorities via a secure electronic channel. The online introduction of the FASTER programme was attended by CJI Ramana, Justices AM Khanwilkar, DY Chandrachud, and Hemant Gupta, as well as Chief Justices and Judges of High Courts.
- The CJI has launched software to convey court orders quickly and securely via electronic means, a measure that will aid in judicial order transmission.
- He emphasised the importance of court orders issued by higher courts being safely communicated without tampering by outside parties.

Dearness Allowance Hiked By 3% To 34%, Effective From January 1, 2022

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has approved a hike in Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners by 3 per cent to 34%, over the existing rate of 31% of the Basic Pay/Pension. The hike announced will be effective from January 1, 2022, to compensate for the price rise.
- The combined impact on the exchequer on account of both Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief would be Rs. 9,544.50 crore per annum. This increase is in accordance with the accepted formula, based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission. The hike will benefit about 47.68 lakh Central Government employees and 68.62 lakh, pensioners.

Samsung & Manipur Government Tie-Up To Start Sports Digital Experience Centre

- The state government of Manipur has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Samsung Data System India Pvt Ltd and Abhitech IT Solutions Pvt Ltd for setting up a world-class "Sports Digital Experience Centre" as a domain of Manipur Olympian Park and Khuman Lampak Sports Complex. The MoU was exchanged in the presence of chief minister N Biren Singh at the cabinet hall of the Chief Minister's Secretariat.
- With the setting up of the Digital Experience Centre, various achievements of Olympians from Manipur will be digitally displayed making the public aware about their achievements. Such initiatives will help in improving and enhancing the performance of sporting talents through the latest technologies like sports analytics, virtual reality and mixed reality among others, he maintained, adding that it will also motivate younger generations to opt for sports as a career.

Khelo India University Games 2021 logo, mascot and anthem launched

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur and Governor of Karnataka, TC Gehlot launched the logo, jersey, mascot and anthem of the Khelo India University Games 2021 (KIUG 2021) on April 01, 2022, at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru. The theme song has

been composed by Kannada rapper Chandan Shetty. The KIUG 2021 will be held in Karnataka between April 24 and May 3, 2022.

- This will be the second edition of KIUG. The first edition was hosted by Odisha in 2020. KIUG 2021 was postponed for 2022 due to the Covid crisis. A Khelo India App for live updates on the Games has also been launched by Karnataka. Around 4500 athletes, representing 20 sports from across the country will participate in the KIUG 2021.

SPORTS

FIFA World Cup 2022 Qatar: Adidas unveils official match ball `Al Rihla`

- Al Rihla – the Official Match Ball for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 has been revealed by Adidas. It is Adidas' 14th World Cup ball, and it is designed to accommodate the fastest game speeds possible, since it flies quicker in flight than any other World Cup ball.
- Al Rihla provides the highest level of precision and reliability on the field of play, having been designed from the inside out utilising data from extensive testing in Adidas labs, wind tunnels, and on-pitch.
- The ball was also created with the environment in mind, with all components carefully considered, and Al Rihla being the first World Cup ball to be constructed entirely of water-based inks and glues.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Children's Book Day 2022 : 02 April

- The International Children's Book Day (ICBD) is organised annually on the 2nd of April since 1967, by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY). IBBY is an international non-profit organization, to inspire a love of reading and to call attention to children's books.
- In 2022, Canada is hosting International Children's Book Day with this chosen theme: "Stories are wings that help you soar every day." Every year, a different international section of IBBY hosts a children's books event on or around April 2 (which is the birthday of classic children's book author Hans Christian Andersen). The host country picks a theme and invites a well-known author and illustrator to create a message for children around the world.

World Autism Awareness Day 2022 : 02 April

- World Autism Awareness Day is observed annually on 2nd April by the member states of the United Nations. The day is observed to raise awareness among its citizens about people with Autism Spectrum Disorder throughout the world. World Autism Awareness Day is organized by the UN Department of Global Communications and UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, with the support of civil society partners including the Autistic Self Advocacy Network, the Global Autism Project and the Specialisterne Foundation.
- The theme for 'World Autism Awareness Day 2022' is "Inclusive Quality Education for All". Access to education that was made easy for years, especially for autistic persons was disrupted after 2020 with the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Central Bank of India partners Kwik.ID to digitize customer onboarding

- Central Bank of India partnered with ID to implement digital Know Your Customer (KYC), video KYC and eKYC for its network across India. The aim of the partnership is to bring seamless onboarding and provide efficient digital facilities to the customers across India.
- ID is India's fastest and first-ever AI-based fully compliant Video KYC solution and a flagship product by Think360.ai. It has the target to digitize 10 million customers' onboarding annually and streamline its end-to-end processes. Central Bank of India had an eight-month-long gruelling evaluation process on technology and product experience followed by a reverse auction commercial round for this selection. This partnership will support the bank in driving its digital transformation agenda and supporting digital finance initiatives championed by the government.

RBI extends timelines for banks to use lockable cassettes in ATMs by a year

- The Reserve Bank of India has delayed the deadline for banks to use lockable cassettes in their ATMs that can be swapped during cash replenishment by a year, till March 31, 2023. The decision was made after the RBI received representations from various banks and the Indian Banks' Association noting difficulty in achieving the deadline, according to a notification released yesterday.
- It has instructed the banks to establish an internal roadmap that has been approved by the Board in order to meet the extended deadline and submit a quarterly status report, and it has requested the banks' boards to monitor progress to assure compliance.
- Most ATMs are currently replenished via open cash top-ups or by placing cash into the machines on the spot. The RBI requested that this approach be replaced by guaranteeing that lockable cassettes are swapped when currency is replenished in ATMs.

Govt keeps interest rate of small savings schemes unchanged for Q1FY23

- The Ministry of Finance has decided to keep the interest rates unchanged on small savings schemes or post office schemes for the Quarter -1 of FY2022-23 (April-June 2022). The interest rates on the various instruments for April-June 2022 range from 4.0 per cent to 7.6 per cent. It must be noted that the Government notifies the Interest rates for small savings schemes on a quarterly basis. This is the eighth consecutive quarter when the interest rates on small savings instruments remained unchanged.

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NATIONAL

Meghalaya's living root bridges included on tentative list of UNESCO's World's Heritage Sites

- 'Jingkieng Jri or Living Root Bridge', found in over 70 villages in Meghalaya highlighting the socio-cultural, social and botanical links between people and nature, has been included in the tentative list of World Heritage Sites of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

- Villagers grow the living root bridges by training the 'ficus elastica' tree on both sides of water bodies over a period of about 10 to 15 years where the roots form the bridge. At present, there are about 100 known living root bridges spread across 72 villages in the state. Villagers, (especially Khasi and Jaintia tribal communities) build and maintain these bridges from the past for more than 600 years.

India, France conduct joint naval exercise Varuna in Arabian sea

- The 20th edition of the Bilateral Naval Exercise between the Indian Navy and French Navy named 'VARUNA' is being conducted in the Arabian Sea from March 30 to April 03, 2022. The Bilateral Naval Exercises between the two Navies is being held since 1993 and the exercise was christened as 'VARUNA' in 2001. Various ships, submarines, maritime patrol aircraft, fighter aircraft and helicopters of the two navies will be participating in the VARUNA-2022 exercise.
- VARUNA series of exercises continue to provide both the navies opportunities to learn from each other's best practices. The exercise has been a principal driver for operational-level interactions between the two navies and has underscored the shared commitment of both nations to security, safety and freedom of the global maritime commons.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Microsoft launches Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub in India to support early-stage companies

- Microsoft launched a new digital and inclusive platform for startup founders in India. The platform called as 'Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub' in India, will support startup founders in India at every stage of their startup journey. This platform will offer over USD 300,000 worth of benefits and credits to startups, including free access to the technology, tools, and resources from the tech giant and partners. The initiative will help the Startups to gain mentorship and skilling opportunities with industry experts and Microsoft Learn.
- Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub was created following extensive research and conversations with hundreds of founders who explicitly shared their need for access to a digital ecosystem that promotes opportunities and democratizes innovation regardless of background, location, progress, or passions.
- Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub is designed specifically for early-stage startups to lower the barriers of business creation, act as a catalyst for entrepreneurship and innovation, and contribute to easing the journey from an idea to a unicorn.

Petascale Supercomputer Param Shakti inaugurated at IIT Kharagpur under National Supercomputing Mission

- The National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), a collaborative project of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Department of Science and Technology, has dedicated PARAM Shakti, a Petascale Supercomputer, to the country at IIT Kharagpur (DST).
- Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Honourable Governor of West Bengal, inaugurated the supercomputer on March 27, 2022.
- The PARAM Shakti supercomputing facility is advancing research and development efforts in diverse disciplines of computational and data sciences.
- In March 2019, IIT Kharagpur and the Centre for Development in Advanced Computing (CDAC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop this state-of-the-art Supercomputing Facility with 17680 CPU cores and 44 GPUs.

OBITUARY

Former Sikkim CM BB Gurung dies at age 92

- The 3rd Chief Minister of Sikkim, Bhim Bahadur Gurung has passed away at his residence in Lumsui in Gangtok, Sikkim. B. Gurung served as a teacher and a staff reporter in a Calcutta (Kolkata)-based newspaper the Amrita Bazar Patrika and he also edited the first news-based Nepali Journal of Sikkim, called Kanchenjunga.
- Gurung started his political career with Sikkim Rajya Congress Party in 1947 and was later appointed as the General Secretary in 1958. He served as the 3rd CM of Sikkim from 11 May to 24 May 1984, the shortest term in the history of Sikkim. Between 2014 and 2015 he served as the political advisor to the CM of Sikkim.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Odisha Day or Utkal Divas 2022: 1st April

- Utkal Divas or Utakala Dibasha or Odisha Day is celebrated on April 1st every year to remember the formation of the Odisha state after a struggle to be recognised as an independent state. The state was originally called Orissa but the Lok Sabha passed the Orissa Bill, and Constitution Bill (113rd amendment), in March 2011 to rename it Odisha.
- History beckons that the present-day Odisha used to form a major portion of the ancient Kalinga. The region witnessed the epic “Kalinga War” led by King Ashoka who invaded and conquered the region in 260 BC. Later, the state was invaded and taken over by the Mughals till the British took over the administrative powers of the region and divided it into small units in 1803.
- The western and northern districts became a part of the state of Bengal while the coastal region formed the basis of Bihar and Odisha (then known as Orissa). After decades of struggle under the leadership of Odisha’s eminent leaders, the new province came into existence on the 1st of April 1936. The state saw another facelift, now in terms of its name being changed from Orissa to Odisha.

SUMMIT'S & MOU'S

Assam, Meghalaya sign agreement to resolve border dispute

- Assam and Meghalaya agreed to resolve their five-decade-long border dispute in six of the 12 contested places that have frequently sparked tensions between the two states, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah hailing the decision as a “historic day for the Northeast.” Chief Ministers of Assam and Meghalaya, Himanta Biswa Sarma and Conrad Sangma, respectively, inked the agreement in the presence of Shah.
- The agreement will end the long-running disagreement in six of the 12 points along the 884.9-kilometer boundary between the two States.
- According to the home minister, the signing of the agreement has settled 70% of the border issue between the two countries, and he hopes to find a solution for the remaining six places shortly.
- Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and West Bengal share a 2743-kilometer border with Assam. Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, and Arunachal Pradesh all have border conflicts with it.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Olympic Medalist Mirabai Chanu Wins BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year Award

- Olympic silver medallist weightlifter, Mirabai Chanu won the 3rd edition of the BBC Indian Sportswoman of The Year award 2021. Chanu created history last year when she became the first Indian weightlifter to clinch a silver medal at the Summer Olympics. Chanu won the gold medal in the 48kg division at the 2017 World Championships in Anaheim and followed up with Commonwealth Games gold in 2018.
- The BBC Emerging Player award was presented to 18-year-old cricketer Shafali Verma, who has recently been playing at the Women's World Cup in New Zealand. In 2021, Verma became the youngest Indian cricketer, male or female, to play in all three formats for the national team.
- The first Indian woman to have won a medal at the Olympics in 2000, former weightlifter Karnam Malleswari was presented the 'BBC Lifetime Achievement' award. Olympians and the Paralympians from the Tokyo Games were also honoured in this edition of BBC ISWOTY.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Google Pay launches Tap to Pay for UPI, in collaboration with Pine Labs

- Google Pay has launched 'Tap to Pay for UPI', new functionality to bring the seamless convenience of Tap to Pay to Unified Payments Interface (UPI). The initiative has been launched in collaboration with Pine Labs. To complete a payment, all a user will need to do is tap their phone on the POS terminal and authenticate the payment from their phone, using their UPI PIN, making the process virtually instantaneous, as compared to scanning a QR code or entering the UPI-linked mobile number.
- The functionality will be available to any UPI user who wants to use their NFC-enabled Android smartphone to transact using any Pine Labs Android POS terminal across the country. This was piloted with Reliance Retail and will now be available at other large merchants such as Future Retail and Starbucks.

India Ratings slashes India's FY23 GDP forecast to 7%-7.2% from 7.6%

- India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has revised downwards the GDP growth forecast for India in FY23 to 7-7.2 per cent. Earlier in January, the rating agency Ind-Ra had forecast this rate at 7.6 per cent.
- According to Ind-Ra, in scenario one, the crude oil price is assumed to be elevated for three months, and in scenario two, the assumption is for six months, both with a half cost pass-through into the domestic economy. Since the duration of the Russia-Ukraine conflict continues to be uncertain, Ind-Ra has created two scenarios with respect to the FY23 economic outlook basis certain assumptions.

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NATIONAL

IAF unveils new initiative for refuelling its convoys

- The Indian Air Force has unveiled a new initiative with the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. Under it, IAF's convoys will be refuelled at fuel stations of the state-run energy major. As per the Defence

Ministry, 'Fleet Card-Fuel on Move' has been rolled out to facilitate the refuelling of convoys belonging to the Indian Air Force. Under the existing system, the Indian Air Force procures fuel from various agencies and then distributes it within the Air Force establishment.

- With the advent of the Fleet Cards, the IAF will be able to utilise the vast network of retail fuel distributors across the country to refuel its vehicles on the move. The availability of Fleet Card will permit the convoy to refuel at any IOCL fuel station, thus increasing the pace of movement and reducing the lead time for readiness at operational locations across the nation.

SPORTS

Canada routs Jamaica to reach World Cup for first time since 1986

- Canada has qualified for the Qatar 2022 football World Cup for the first time in 36 years, after thoroughly beating Jamaica 4-0 in Toronto. The North American nation have booked their place at the finals for the first time since Mexico in 1986. Canada is top of the CONCACAF qualifying group and has now secured its place at a World Cup finals tournament for the first time since 1986.
- Canada becomes the 20th team to qualify for the 2022 FIFA World Cup which will feature 32 nations vying for the ultimate prize in Qatar from November 21 to December 18. The remaining 12 teams will be decided in the coming days before the draw on April 1 to determine the eight groups.

OBITUARY

Belgian Footballer Miguel Van Damme Dies Aged 28

- Veteran Belgian footballer, Miguel Van Damme has passed away aged 28 after a long battle with leukaemia. Van Damme was diagnosed with leukaemia in 2016 and was undergoing treatment for cancer for over five years. During his eight-year professional career, Van Damme played for Cercle Brugge and made 40 appearances for the team.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

IFS officer Renu Singh appointed FRI director

- Dr Renu Singh has been appointed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF) as the next director of the Forest Research Institute (FRI) in Dehradun. She will be the institute's second woman director. Singh joined as FRI director after AS Rawat, director-general, ICFRE, handed over his additional charge of director FRI to her.
- Dr Renu Singh has an extensive experience in Forest Policy, Forest Management and Research Issues. She has a special interest in gender and development, climate change adaptation and mitigation issues in the forestry sector.
- She has participated in and represented various biodiversity, forest and climate change-related issues in international conventions like United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Indian-origin Raj Subramaniam appointed as CEO of FedEx

- The world's largest express transportation company FedEx has announced that its new Chief Executive Officer will be Indian American Raj Subramaniam. He has more than 30 years of global

experience across strategy and operations and has led the company through a period of tremendous growth.

- The US multinational courier delivery giant was previously helmed by Frederick W Smith. Smith, chairman and CEO, will step down from this position on June 1. He will now be its executive chairman. In his new role, Smith said he looks forward to focusing on Board governance as well as issues of global importance, including sustainability, innovation, and public policy. Smith had founded FedEx in 1971.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Drug Checking 2022: 31st March

- The International Day of Drug Checking takes place on March 31 every year since 2017 to ensure people are educated on drugs and aware of their effects. The day aims to promote harm reduction initiatives of drugs and reduce drug-related risks. Along with it, it also marks promoting harm reduction actions of drugs and reduces drug-related risks. Their goal on the 31st of March is to raise public awareness of the availability of drug checking services and companies from across the planet.
- By raising awareness and sharing the knowledge they hope to improve the accessibility of numerous substance oriented harm reduction methods – not only for users but also for the governmental organizations worldwide who have been searching for a solution to the substance use issues that their citizens face on a daily basis.

International Transgender Day of Visibility 2022 : 31st March

- The International Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) occurs annually on March 31 to raise awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, while also celebrating their contributions to society. The day is dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, as well as celebrating their contributions to society.
- The day was founded by US-based transgender activist Rachel Crandall of Michigan in 2009. As a reaction to the lack of LGBT recognition of transgender people, citing the frustration that the only well-known transgender-centred day was the Transgender Day of Remembrance which mourned the murders of transgender people but did not acknowledge and celebrate living members of the transgender community. The first International Transgender Day of Visibility was held on March 31, 2009. It has since been spearheaded by the U.S.-based youth advocacy organization Trans Student Educational Resources.

World Backup Day 2022:31st March

- World Backup Day is marked every year on March 31. The day reminds us to protect our precious digital documents as we've become more reliant on technology. It is a day for people to learn about the increasing role of data in our lives and the importance of regular backups. Originally, World Backup Day began as World Backup Month, by a hard drive company named Maxtor which was later acquired by Seagate Technology.
- The aim of the day is simple, to raise awareness of how to safely backup data to introduce people to the 3-2-1 strategy. This strategy leads the backup campaign and is a solid tried and tested approach that's easy for anyone to adapt.

- 3-2-1 backup is all about having three copies of your data, one on your computer, one on an external storage device and another offsite on a cloud storage solution.

RANKING

Virat Kohli tops celebrity brand rankings for fifth straight year

- According to the Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2021 (7th Edition) titled “Digital Acceleration 2.0.” released by Duff & Phelps (Now Kroll), Indian Cricketer Virat Kohli was ranked as the most valued celebrity for the 5th consecutive time in 2021. The brand value of Virat Kohli has dropped from USD 237.7 million in 2020 to USD 185.7 million in 2021.
- Alia Bhatt has ranked 4th with a brand value of USD 68.1 million and has become the most valued female celebrity. She is the youngest celebrity among the top 10 and she is the most valued brand amongst female Bollywood actors.

BOOKS & AUTHOR

NITI Aayog and FAO Launched A Book “Indian Agriculture towards 2030”

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare (MoA&FW), Narendra Singh Tomar has released a book titled “Indian Agriculture towards 2030: Pathways for Enhancing Farmers’ Income, Nutritional Security and Sustainable Food and Farm Systems”, at an event organized by NITI Aayog and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.
- Indian Agriculture towards 2030 captures the outcomes of the deliberative process of national dialogue by NITI Aayog and the Ministries of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare; and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and facilitated by FAO since 2019.

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SPORTS

Darshan, Varsha win maiden SAFF and National Cross Country men’s and women’s titles

- In Kohima, Darshan Singh of the Services and Varsha Devi of the Railways finally defended their men’s and women’s titles in the National Cross Country Championships by winning their 10 Km events on the picturesque but difficult course, which was made more difficult by 60 per cent humidity and wind gusts.
- After playing crucial roles in their respective teams’ successes, they were ecstatic to win the South Asian crowns at the second SAFF Cross Country Championships, which were held concurrently.
- They tasted international victory right away, despite missing out on the 2020 competition in Sri Lanka, which was first postponed and then relocated here.
- Darshan Singh was grouped at the front with his Services teammates Rajendra Nath, Deepak Singh Rawat, Dipak Suhaug, reigning champion Parasappa Madevappa Hajilol, and Railways Narendra Pratap Singh even before the runners had completed the first loop of 2 kilometres. He never lost his beat or his place.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Himanta Biswa Sarma re-elected as BAI president

- The incumbent president of the Badminton Association of India (BAI), Himanta Biswa Sarma has been re-elected unopposed for a second four years term, from 2022 to 2026. He was elected during the General Body Meeting of BAI in Guwahati on March 25, 2022. He is also the current Chief Minister of Assam. He was first elected as BAI chief in 2017. Apart from this, Sarma also serves as Vice President of Badminton Asia and a member of the Badminton World Federation Executive Council.
- Badminton Association of India is the governing body of badminton in India. BAI is an association registered under the Society's act. It was formed in 1934 and has been holding national-level tournaments in India since 1936.

Uday Kotak to step down as the Chairman of IL&FS

- Uday Kotak has announced to step down as the Chairman of the board of the Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS), after his term ends on April 2, 2022. CS Rajan, Managing Director, IL&FS has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director for six months with effect from April 3 by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- Crisis-hit Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Ltd (IL&FS) has resolved nearly 55% of the group's outstanding debt over the last three-and-a-half years, managing director C.S. Rajan said on Tuesday. Among others, the company sold its iconic headquarters at Bandra Kurla Complex for ₹1,080 crore to reduce debt.

New Director-General of the International Labour Organization elected

- Gilbert Hougbo from Togo will be the next Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Hougbo was elected by the UN agency's governing body, comprising representatives of governments, workers and employers during their meeting in Geneva. Hougbo, former Prime Minister of Togo, will be the 11th head of the agency and the first African to hold the post. His five-year term will begin on October 1, 2022. The current Director-General, Guy Ryder, from the United Kingdom, has held office since 2012.

Shashi Sinha appointed as new BARC India Chairman

- The board of Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) India has elected IPG Mediabrands India CEO Shashi Sinha as the new chairman. He will take over from Punit Goenka, who served as chairman of the TV viewership measurement agency for the last three years. Sinha, who also represents the Advertising Agencies Association of India as its board member, has played a key role in the formation of BARC.
- The Broadcast Audience Research Council India is a joint industry body founded by organisations that represent Indian broadcasters, advertisers, and advertising and media agencies. It is the world's largest television measurement science industry body.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

President Ram Nath Kovind to confer National Water Awards

- The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has presented the 3rd National Water Awards in New Delhi. National Water Awards is given for exemplary work in the field of water resource management. The first National Water Award was launched in 2018, by the Jal Shakti Ministry. A

total of 57 National Water Awards for 2022 have been conferred to states, organizations and others in 11 different categories.

- Uttar Pradesh has been awarded first prize, followed by Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.
- The 'Best District' awards for the north zone was bagged by Muzaffarnagar (Uttar Pradesh) and Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar (Punjab);

RANKING

Info - Hurun Global U40 Self-made Billionaires 2022

- Hurun Research Institute has released the Hurun Global Forty and Under Self-Made Billionaires 2022, which ranks the self-made billionaires in the world (in terms of US dollars) aged forty years and under. The Hurun Report 2022 lists 87 Self-Made Billionaires in the world aged 40 and under, which is up by 8 from last year.
- The USA leads the list with 37 self-made billionaires. China is second with 25 billionaires, followed by the United Kingdom (8), India (6) and Sweden (3) respectively in the top five.
- Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg is the world's richest self-made billionaire aged 40 and under with a total wealth of \$76 billion. He is followed by ByteDance CEO Zhang Yiming, FTX CEO Sam Bankman-Fried, Airbnb CEO Brian Chesky, and Facebook co-founder Dustin Moskovitz, respectively.
- 20 of the Hurun Global U40 are born and brought up in countries different to where they live today. These immigrant billionaires chose the USA (8), UK (7) and UAE (2) to live in today, and came originally from Russia mostly, followed by China, India and Ireland.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Bank of India allotted shares in NARCL under preferential allotment

- On March 21, the Bank of India (BoI) announced a Rs 109 crore investment in National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd. (NARCL). In a regulatory statement, the bank stated, "We thus announce that on March 21, 2022, the bank invested Rs 108.81 crore in National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) under preferential share issue."
- As of March 21, 2022, the bank's stake in NARCL will be nine per cent. NARCL is a government-backed asset reconstruction firm that was founded in July 2021.
- On the BSE, BoI shares closed at Rs 47.50 per share, down 1.14 per cent from the previous close.

SIDBI inks MoU with Meghalaya govt for MSME ecosystem to grow

- The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), a financial institution for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), has announced that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Meghalaya's Meghalaya Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Ltd. [MiDFC] to develop the state's MSME ecosystem.
- SIDBI and the Government of Meghalaya will collaborate closely to support the growth of the MSME ecosystem in the state, according to the MoU.
- Among the MoU's general aims are the growth of entrepreneurship in the state, the establishment of MSME clusters, and the capacity building of NGOs, development organisations, and MSMEs. Support and promote replicable livelihood projects that are compatible with the State's priorities.

- Expanding digital products for the state's SMEs, mapping state-specific livelihood opportunities with the help of expert consultants SIDBI's Promotional and Developmental Initiatives in the State are being expanded.

PVR, INOX announce merger, combined entity to be named PVR INOX Limited

- Multiplex companies INOX Leisure Ltd and PVR Ltd have announced the merger of their two companies. Inox will have a 16.66% stake in the new firm and PVR will have a 10.62% stake. After the formalities of the merger, the company will be known as PVR Inox Limited. Ajay Bijli will be Managing Director of PVR Inox Limited, Sanjeev Kumar will be executive director and Pavan Kumar Jain will be non-executive chairman of the consolidated board.
- The merger is subject to approval by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), stock exchanges, and other regulatory approvals as required. Merger to bring together two of India's best cinema brands to deliver an unparalleled consumer experience with a network of 1,546 screens across 341 properties in 109 cities.

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INTERNATIONAL

Malta's PM sworn in after Labour party's landslide election win

- The Prime Minister of Malta, Robert Abela has been sworn in for a second term after his ruling Labour Party won the 2022 general election in a landslide victory. He was administered the oath of office by President George Vella. Abela was first sworn in as prime minister in January 2020 after the former Labour Party leader and prime minister Joseph Muscat resigned.
- It was the first electoral test for Abela, a 44-year-old lawyer since he took the helm of the tiny Mediterranean island nation in January 2020 following a Labour party vote. Labour secured a majority of almost 40,000 votes over its Nationalist Party rivals — a huge margin in the tiny EU state which has just 355,000 registered voters.

NATIONAL

Union minister G Kishan Reddy inaugurates mega northeast cultural festival 'Ishan Manthan' in Delhi

- Union Minister for Culture, Tourism & DONER, G Kishan Reddy has inaugurated the three-day North-East festival called 'Ishan Manthan' at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in New Delhi. The three-day Ishan Manthan programme will celebrate the rich ethnicity and colours of North East India, from March 25 to 27, 2022. The event will give an opportunity to know about the culture, art, music, folk dances, handicrafts and traditional cuisines of Northeast India.
- Ishan Manthan is an attempt to celebrate the plural expressions of northeast India. It can be understood as "North East Brainstorming". The inaugural session also witnessed the release of two books titled 'Lok Beyond Folk', a book on the Lok Culture which was edited by Shri J Nandalumar and 'Jewels of North East India'.

President Kovind presents President's Colour to INS Valsura for its yeoman service to nation

- President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has presented the prestigious President's Colour to Indian Naval Ship (INS) Valsura at Jamnagar in Gujarat. The 'Nishan Adhikari' Lt Arun Singh Sambhal received the President's Colour on behalf of the unit, for its 80 years of exceptional service. INS

Valsura is a premier training facility of the Indian Navy established on December 05, 1942, in Jamnagar of Gujarat, to provide training in the domain of Torpedo handling (Underwater missile) and operations.

- The President's Colour is bestowed upon a military unit in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the Nation, both in peace and in war. The Indian Navy was the first Indian Armed Force, to get President Colour by then President Dr Rajendra Prasad on 27 May 1951.

Pramod Sawant takes oath as Goa CM for second consecutive term

- Pramod Sawant took oath as the Chief Minister of Goa on March 28, 2022, for the second straight five-year term. Sawant led the BJP in the recently concluded 2022 Goa Assembly elections and won 20 seats in the 40-member Goa Assembly. Mr Sawant was administered the oath by Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai at the Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee stadium near Panaji.
- Mr Sawant is an Ayurveda Medical practitioner by profession. He was sworn in as Chief Minister in March 2019 after the death of the sitting chief minister Manohar Parrikar. Mr Sawant represents the Sanquelim constituency.
- The event was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with other ministers like Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, BJP national president JP Nadda, Himachal Pradesh Governor Rajendra Arlekar, former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis among others.

US, Philippines kick off their largest-ever military drills

- The United States military and the military of the Philippines kicked off the military drill Balikatan 2022. The Philippine-led annual exercise will take place across Luzon in the Philippines region near Taiwan, from March 28 to April 8, 2022. Around 8,900 Filipino and American troops are participating in the military drill, making it the largest Balikatan military exercise ever.
- According to the military, the drills will focus on "maritime security, amphibious operations, live-fire training, urban operations, aviation operations, counterterrorism, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief". The Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) gives US troops a legal basis to be in the Southeast Asian country for bilateral exercises and governs the conduct of American armed force personnel.

SPORTS

Indian team clinches SAFF U-18 Women's Championship title

- India has been declared the winner of the 3rd edition of the SAFF U-18 Women's Football Championship. The 2022 edition of the international football competition for women's under-18 national teams was held in Jharkhand at JRD Tata Sports Complex, Jamshedpur. The valuable player of the tournament and the highest goal scorer was Lynda Kom who scored five goals in total.
- Although India lost to Bangladesh, 0-1 in the final league match, but still emerged champions of the tournament on account of better goal difference. India enjoyed a better goal difference of +11 in comparison to +3 of Bangladesh.

F1 2022: Max Verstappen Wins Saudi Arabian Grand Prix

- Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) has won the Formula One 2022 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix at Jeddah Corniche Circuit, Saudi Arabia. Charles Leclerc (Ferrari- Monaco) came second and Carlos Sainz Jr. (Ferrari – Spain) came third. It was the second edition of the Saudi Arabian Grand

Prix and the second round of the 2022 Formula One World Championship. Lewis Hamilton managed to get a point on the board after coming 10th.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Deepika Padukone gets inaugural TIME100 Impact Award

- Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone has been named as one of the awardees of the TIME100 Impact Awards 2022. The actress has got featured on the inaugural TIME100 Impact Awards list for her work in mental health struggles and raising awareness, through her LiveLoveLaugh Foundation. The award recognizes global leaders who have gone above and beyond to move their industries and the world forward. Apart from Deepika, six other global leaders have also been honored with the award. The awards were presented at the Museum of the Future in Dubai.

BOOKS & AUTHOR

Granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi inaugurates 'Modi Story'

- The granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi 'Sumitra Gandhi Kulkarni' has inaugurated the web portal 'Modi Story'. The Modi story website is a volunteer-driven initiative which aims to bring together "inspiring" stories related to Prime Minister Narendra Modi from those who have interacted with him during his life journey over the decades. The portal can be accessed at modistory.in
- Any person who has closely witnessed the Prime Minister's life can submit write-ups, audio or visual stories of any such experience or anecdote along with photos with PM Modi, letters or personal memorabilia associated with him. The website has several stories shared by the people who crossed paths with the Prime Minister at some point in his life.

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NATIONAL

K'taka govt to establish Chitrakala galleries in 6 regions across State

- Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday said Chitrakala art galleries will be set up in six places in Karnataka as he laid emphasis on extending the art of drawing and painting across the state.
- Noting that there is a demand to make Chitrakala Parishath, an autonomous institution, into a deemed university, he said steps in this direction would be taken in the next session of the State Legislature.
- "Chitrakala Parishath is the epicentre for 'Chitrakale' (art of drawing and painting) in Karnataka. It needs to be extended all over the State. Action would be taken to establish Chitrakala galleries in six regional spots," Bommai said after inaugurating the 19th edition of the 'Chitra Santhe' organised by the Parishath.

First direct flight between Gorakhpur-Varanasi under UDAN-RCS flagged-off

- The first direct flight between Gorakhpur and Varanasi was flagged-off on Sunday.
- SpiceJet was awarded the route under the RCS-UDAN 4.1, as per a press release by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

- The airline will be operating daily flights and will deploy its Q400, 78-seater turboprop aircraft designed for shorter-distance flights on the route. SpiceJet is India's largest regional carrier. The airline operates 63 daily flights under UDAN connecting 14 UDAN destinations to various parts of the country, stated the press release.

Amit Shah inaugurates Integrated Command and Control Centre in Chandigarh

- Union Minister Amit Shah on Sunday inaugurated Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) here in Chandigarh under which around 2,000 CCTV cameras have been installed.
- "Chandigarh is one of the most developed cities in the country. With the inauguration of this Integrated Command and Control Centre in the UT, citizens' services, security, traffic discipline etc. can be monitored from one place," said Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- The inauguration ceremony was also attended by Punjab Governor and Chandigarh Administrator Banwarilal Purohit.
- Speaking on the occasion, Shah said, "I am confident that Chandigarh, in the days to come, shall become one of the most advanced cities of India and the world."

Union Minister Of Women And Child Development, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani Inaugurates Ten-Day Mega 'Red Fort Festival – Bharat Bhagya Vidhata'

- Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Smriti Irani has inaugurated the ten-day mega Red Fort Festival, 'Bharat Bhagya Vidhata' at Red Fort in Delhi. The Red Fort festival has been organised by the Union Ministry of Culture, as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. The ministry has collaborated with the Dalmia Bharat Group (DBG) to organise the event as DBG has adopted the Red Fort as its Monument Mitra. The festival will commemorate the heritage, culture and diversity of every part of India.
- The festival aims to commemorate the heritage of the country and the culture of every part of India. The festival Bharat Bhagya Vidhata will help everyone to appreciate the diversity of India. More than 70 master craftsmen have displayed their craftsmanship at the venue.

SPORTS

Railway lifts Obaidullah Khan Hockey Cup

- Indian Railways' men Hockey team won the prestigious Obaidullah Khan Heritage Hockey Cup held at Bhopal (MP) from 21.03.2022 to 27.03.2022. In the final match held on Sunday, Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) team beat Army XI.
- The prestigious hockey tournament was played at Major Dhyanchand Stadium, Bhopal where Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the tournament on 21st March.
- Started in year 1931 as Obaidullah Gold Cup, the prestigious tournament carried on for decades and has produced many international players during its journey. It was last played in year 2016 and was organized after a gap of six years this year. Last time, in the year 2016, the tournament was won by BPCL and Railways team was runners up.

OBITURY

Country singer Jeff Carson dies of heart attack at age 58

- Country music star and Academy of Country Music award-winner Jeff Carson died of a heart attack at Williamson Medical Center in Franklin, Tennessee on Saturday night. He was 58 years old.
- Born Jeffrey Lee Herndon in Tulsa, Oklahoma on December 16, 1963, Carson pursued a number of musical outlets, performing with bands in Arkansas and Missouri, before finding his commercial success in Nashville.

IMPORTANT DAYS

October 5 to be National Dolphin Day, decides National Board for Wildlife

- The Union Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change has designated the 5th of October to be celebrated as National Dolphin Day every year as a historic step in creating awareness for the conservation of Dolphins, beginning from 2022. This information was given by Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupendra Yadav on March 25, 2022, during the 67th meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life in New Delhi.
- Dolphins act as ideal ecological indicators of a healthy aquatic ecosystem and conservation of the dolphins will, therefore, benefit the survival of the species and also, the people dependent on the aquatic system for their livelihood.

Earth Hour 2022 : 26th March

- Every year, the Earth Hour is celebrated worldwide on the last Saturday of March month to show support for the fight against climate change and commitment towards a better planet. Earth Hour 2022 is being marked on March 26, 2022. The Earth Hour 2022 theme will focus on 'Shape Our Future'.
- The Day is a worldwide movement organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), encouraging individuals, communities, corporates, and households to turn off their lights for one hour, from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. It was started as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia, in 2007 to raise awareness for energy consumption and its effects on the environment.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Cochin International Airport bags 'Covid Champion Award'

- The Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) has won the 'Covid champion' award at Wings India 2022. The Covid champion award was received by CIAL Managing Director S Suhas IAS from Civil Aviation Minister, Jyotiraditya Scindia. CIAL has been awarded for the successful implementation of a meticulous project named 'Mission Safeguarding' during the pandemic time to ensure safe travel at Kochi Airport.
- The Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru won two the 'Best Airport' under the General Category and the 'Aviation Innovation' Award at the event.

- Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) won the 'Aviation Sustainability & Environment' award by Wings India Awards 2022 for its efficient green practices.

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INTERNATIONAL

Russia delivers all the contracted 70,000 AK-203 to India

- Russia delivered all the contracted 70,000 AK-203 Kalashnikov assault rifles to the Indian Armed Forces. The Indian Armed Forces had placed an order for 670,000 rifles, for which the contract was signed on December 06, 2021, between India and Kalashnikov (Russian defence manufacturing unit). The total cost of the contract is around Rs 5,124 crore. The contract included procuring 70,000 rifles off the shelf.
- The remaining 600,000 rifles will be manufactured by an Indo-Russian joint venture company, Indo-Russia Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL), based at Amethi, Uttar Pradesh India under transfer of technology (ToT). [at Korwa Rifle Factory, Amethi]. The lightweight AK-203 Rifles will replace the military's in-service INSAS (Indian Small Arms System) Rifle.

Iran, Russia and China begin naval drill

- The Russian, Chinese and Iranian navies undertook naval exercises CHIRU-2Q22 in the Gulf of Oman. The maritime drills conducted in the northern parts of the Indian Ocean aimed at deepening practical cooperation among the navies of the three countries. The participants practised various tactics and operations, such as rescuing ablaze vessels, saving hijacked vessels, shooting at targets, nocturnal shooting at aerial targets, and other tactical manoeuvres as a part of the drill. At least 140 warships and over 60 aircraft with nearly 10,000 military personnel would be taking part in the military exercises.

Apple Retains Most Valuable Brand Title in 2022

- Apple has retained its position as the most valuable brand in 2022 as well, according to the Brand Finance 2022 Global 500 report. The brand valuation of Apple was recorded at \$355.1 billion in 2022, which is an increase of 35% from last year. This is the highest brand value ever recorded in the Brand Finance Global 500 ranking history.
- TikTok (18th) has been named the world's fastest-growing brand in the list. Its brand value increased from US\$18.7 billion in 2021 to US\$59.0 billion in 2022.
- Tech remained the most valuable industry in the list in terms of sector. This was followed by Retail, Banking, Media and Telecoms in top 5 respectively.

NATIONAL

Indian Navy conducts 20-day joint maritime exercise at Arabian Sea

- Western Naval Command of the Indian Navy conducted a joint maritime exercise Paschim Lehar (XPL-2022) off the West Coast which concluded. The exercise continued for 20 days and was conducted with an aim to enhance Inter-Service synergy among the Indian Navy, IAF, Indian Army and Coast Guard. The Western Naval Command (HQ- Mumbai) is one of the three command-level formations of the Indian Navy. The other two are Eastern Naval Command (HQ- Visakhapatnam) and Southern Naval Command (HQ- Kochi).

- A variety of weapon firings in a realistic tactical scenario, besides validation of operational missions and tasks under varying settings, were undertaken during the exercise. The exercise provided all participating forces an opportunity to operate together under realistic conditions, in responding to contemporary maritime challenges, across the areas of the Command's responsibility.

Rajasthan set to get its fourth tiger reserve

- Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary, which is among the proposed five sites in the country, is expected to be formally notified as tiger reserve (TR) soon before the Global Tiger Summit, which is to be held at Vladivostok, Russia. The Centre also announced the development during the 4th Asia ministerial conference on tiger conservation. The Centre has already given its approval of granting tiger reserve status to Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary, along with MM Hills in Karnataka, Guru Ghasidas National Park in Chhattisgarh.
- The Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary will be spread across 1,071 sq kms. A 302 Sq Km area in the proposed tiger sanctuary will be left as critical habitat for Tigers and the rest of the area will act as a buffer zone for the Ranthambore National Park.
- Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary was established in 1982. The core areas of the sanctuary have 8 villages and are home to large numbers of wild animals like sambhars, caracals, wild boars, nilgai, and striped Hyena.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2022: 27th January

- International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust (International Holocaust Remembrance Day) is observed on 27 January. In 2022, the theme guiding the United Nations Holocaust remembrance and education is "Memory, Dignity and Justice". The objective of the day is to commemorate the anniversary of the tragedy of the Holocaust that occurred during the Second World War.
- A genocide occurred during World War II in which Nazi Germany, aided by its collaborators, systematically murdered some six million European Jews, around two-thirds of the Jewish population of Europe, between 1941 and 1945. United Nations designated the day in 2005 to serve as a date for official commemoration of the victims of the Nazi regime and to promote Holocaust education throughout the world.

RANKING

India ranks 85th out of 180 countries in Corruption Perceptions Index

- Transparency International has released the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2021 in which India has been ranked at 85th spot (Score of 40). The ranking has been topped jointly by three countries- Denmark, Finland and New Zealand (Score of 88). This ranking measures how corrupt each country's public sector is perceived to be. The results are given on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). 180 countries are ranked in it.
- Last year (for 2020) India was ranked 86th with a score of 40. This year's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) reveals that corruption levels are at a worldwide standstill. The global average remains unchanged for the tenth year in a row, at just 43 out of 100 points.

BANKING AND ECONOMIC

Government approves PMC Bank merger with Unity Small Finance Bank

- The Government of India has sanctioned and notified the Scheme for the amalgamation of the Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank Ltd with Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd. This means that from January 25, 2022 all the branches of the PMC Bank will function as branches of Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd. Unity Small Finance Bank Limited is promoted by Centrum Financial Services Limited along with Resilient Innovation Private Limited. Both the promoters have infused capital of Rs 1105.10 crore in the bank.
- After the amalgamation of PMC Bank with Unity SFB, Unity SFB will pay the customers of PMC Bank the amount it receives from DICGC (maximum up to amount insured by DICGC i.e Rs 5 Lakh) in instalments of 10 years. Section 45 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 empowers the Reserve Bank of India to prepare a scheme of reconstruction or amalgamation of banking companies (which include co-operative banks).

IMF cuts India's GDP forecast for FY22 to 9% from 9.5%

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cut India's economic growth forecast for the current fiscal 2021-22 (FY22) to 9 per cent, in its latest world economic outlook report. Earlier this was estimated at 9.5%. IMF has projected the growth forecast for India in 2022-23 (FY23) at 7.1% IMF has projected the global growth rate in 2022 to 4.4%, and in 2023 to 3.8%.
- According to the IMF, India's prospects for 2023 are marked up on expected improvements to credit growth and, subsequently, investment and consumption, building on the better-than-anticipated performance of the financial sector. A revised assumption removing the Build Back Better fiscal policy package from the baseline, earlier withdrawal of monetary accommodation, and continued supply shortages produced a downward 1.2 percentage-point revision for the United States.