

Weekly Current Affairs 4th March to 9th March 2024 - English

National News

Geological Survey of India Celebrates 174th Foundation Day
The Geological Survey of India (GSI) commemorated its 174th Foundation Day on March 4th, 2024, with zeal and enthusiasm resonating across all its offices nationwide. The event was a grand affair, with celebrations held in Kolkata, the Central Headquarters of GSI, and the Southern Region's headquarters in Hyderabad.

Steel Minister Unveils India's First Green Hydrogen Plant In Stainless Steel Sector

Union Minister for Steel and Civil Aviation, **Sh. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia**, virtually inaugurated India's 1st Green Hydrogen Plant in Stainless Steel Sector located at Jindal Stainless Limited, Hisar, on 4th March, 2024. The inauguration also witnessed the presence of Secretary, Ministry of Steel **Sh. Nagendra Nath Sinha**, Managing Director (Jindal Stainless Limited), **Sh. Abhyuday Jindal**, Founder, Hygenco **Sh. Amit Bansal**, and other officials of the Ministry of Steel.

IIHR Kicks Off 3-Day Horticulture Fair In Hessarghatta, Bengaluru

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

Government Raises Minimum Age for Postal Voting to 85 Years

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

Minister Hardeep S Puri Inaugurates 201 CNG Stations And GAIL's First Small Scale LNG Unit

Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, overseeing Petroleum and Natural Gas as well as Housing and Urban Affairs, dedicated 201 CNG Stations and India's inaugural Small Scale LNG Unit of GAIL to the nation via video conferencing. The event, graced by numerous dignitaries, underscored the government's pledge to elevate the share of natural gas in the primary energy basket to 15% by 2030.

Raksha Mantri Inaugurates 'Chola' Building At Naval War College, Goa

Raksha Mantri **Shri Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the new Administrative & Training building at the Naval War College (NWC), Goa on March 5, 2024. The modern edifice, named the 'Chola', pays homage to the mighty maritime empire of the Chola dynasty of ancient India. The event marked a significant milestone in the history of the NWC, reinforcing its commitment to excellence in military education and nurturing maritime thought.

Goa Airline Fly91 Receives Air Operator Certificate (AOC) From DGCA

Fly91, a regional airline headquartered in Goa, has reached a significant milestone in its journey with the issuance of its Air Operator Certificate (AOC) by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation. AOC is an authorization that is a must for an operator to carry out specified commercial air transport operations.

PM Modi Virtually Launches Agra Metro

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

International News

Tuvalu Appoints Feleti Teo as New Prime Minister

Tuvalu has named **Feleti Teo**, the former Attorney General, as the Pacific Island nation's new prime minister. This appointment comes in the aftermath of a general election that placed the country's diplomatic affiliations, especially its ties with Taiwan, under intense scrutiny.

State News

Himachal Pradesh Announces "Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojna"

In a significant move, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister **Sukhvinder Sukhu** has announced a groundbreaking initiative aimed at empowering women in the state. The announcement comes as part of the Congress party's pre-election promises, marking a pivotal step towards fulfilling its commitments to the electorate.

India's 1st Dolphin Research Centre Inaugurated In Patna

India's first National Dolphin Research Center (NDRC) was officially inaugurated by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. This landmark facility, built at a cost of Rs 30 crore, is situated on the banks of the Ganges River within the Patna University campus. The NDRC's primary objective is to aid researchers and students in understanding the behavior and ecology of freshwater dolphins, particularly the endangered Gangetic dolphin. These fascinating creatures inhabit the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems of South Asia and were first documented in 1801.

The First Bharat Steam Boiler Expo 2024 in Guwahati

The inaugural Bharat Steam Boiler Expo 2024 has officially commenced in Guwahati, Assam, marking a significant milestone in India's industrial journey. This pioneering expo is the result of a collaborative effort among industry stalwarts including Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Oil India Ltd (OIL), Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL), Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Ltd (BCPL), Assam Petro Chemicals Ltd, and NTPC Ltd.

Kerala to launch India's first government-backed OTT platform

Kerala, renowned for its cultural richness and cinematic brilliance, is set to make history in the digital entertainment landscape with the launch of CSpace, India's maiden government-backed Over-The-Top (OTT) platform. The much-anticipated unveiling ceremony will take place at Kairali Theatre on Thursday, March 7, at 9:30 am, with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan spearheading the event.

Bengaluru to Get India's First Driverless Metro Train

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

Agreement News

BPCL Teams Up With Neeraj Chopra As Brand Ambassador For 'Speed' Petrol

Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL), one of India's leading petroleum companies, has recently announced its partnership with Olympic and World Javelin Champion Neeraj Chopra. Neeraj Chopra will serve as the brand ambassador for BPCL's premium petrol variant, 'Speed.' This collaboration adds to BPCL's list of esteemed brand ambassadors.

Airbus Collaborates with IIM Mumbai to Elevate Aviation Training Standards

Airbus, a prominent name in the aviation industry, has announced a significant partnership with the esteemed Indian Institute of Management Mumbai (IIM Mumbai) to deliver high-quality aviation training to professionals. This collaboration marks a crucial step towards enhancing industry-ready skills among aspiring and working individuals in the aviation sector.

Sweden Joins NATO, Ends Decades Neutral Stance

Sweden formally became the 32nd member of NATO after completing its accession process in Washington. This decision comes two years after Sweden's application, triggered by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, highlighting concerns about regional security.

Appointment News

Brajesh Mehrotra appointed as new chief secretary of Bihar

The Bihar government made a significant announcement, appointing senior IAS officer Brajesh Mehrotra as the new chief secretary of the state. This appointment underscores the government's commitment to efficient governance and administrative excellence.

SAP Appoints New President and MD for Indian Subcontinent

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

Science & Technology News

New Species of Amazon Anaconda Discovered

Researchers in Ecuador's rainforest have uncovered a new species of anaconda, Eunectes Akiyama, which split from its closest relatives 10 million years ago. Despite their genetic distinction, these anacondas are visually identical to the previously known species, Eunectes murinus.

Iran launches 'Pars 1' satellite into orbit from Russia

Iran's venture into space exploration and satellite deployment continues with the launch of the "Pars 1" satellite, facilitated by Russia from the Vostochny Cosmodrome. This event underscores the technological collaboration between Iran and Russia, occurring against a backdrop of heightened scrutiny and concern from Western nations.

Three new moons discovered orbiting Uranus and Neptune
In an exciting development for space exploration, astronomers affiliated with the **International Astronomical Union** have identified three new moons in the outer reaches of our solar system. These celestial bodies, with **two orbiting Neptune and one around Uranus**, were detected through the use of powerful land-based telescopes across the globe.

Tata Motors Unveils Next-Generation Green-Fuel Powered Fleet To Tata Steel

Tata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, has recently unveiled its next-generation, green-fuel powered commercial vehicles to Tata Steel. The fleet comprises Prima tractors, tippers, and the Ultra EV bus, which are powered by Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and battery electric technologies. The flag-off ceremony took place during Tata Group's Founder's Day celebrations in Jamshedpur, officiated by Mr. N Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Sons.

Karnataka and World Economic Forum Join Forces to Establish AI Centre

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

ISRO Gearing Up for Next Lunar Mission Chandrayaan-4

ISRO chief **S Somnath** informed at the National Space Science Symposium (NSSS 2024) that the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is preparing to launch the **next lunar mission Chandrayaan-4**. This mission will include **five spacecraft modules**.

Summits & Conference News

IIT Madras Hosts Four-Day Long All India Research Scholars' Summit 2024

Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) is hosting the **All India Research Scholars' Summit (AIRSS) 2024** from 4th to 7th March 2024. Organized by the Research Affairs Council of IIT Madras, this event promises to be a gathering of minds from diverse disciplines across India, aiming to showcase and explore the latest advancements in various research domains.

Awards & Honors News

Dr Pradeep Mahajan receives Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2024

In a remarkable recognition of his contributions to the field of regenerative medicine, **Dr. Pradeep Mahajan**, the Founder and Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of StemRx

Hospital and Research Centre, along with StemRx Bioscience Solutions, has been awarded the prestigious **Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2024**. This accolade is a testament to his pioneering efforts and substantial impact in advancing regenerative medicine, offering new hope and innovative treatments to patients worldwide.

Yatin Bhaskar Duggal Wins First Prize in National Youth Parliament Festival 2024

Yatin Bhaskar Duggal, a promising talent from Haryana, has emerged triumphant as the winner of the esteemed National Youth Parliament Festival, 2024. The announcement came during the conclusive session held in New Delhi, where Duggal was awarded the first prize for his exceptional performance.

Zoya Akhtar, Asma Khan Honored at 'India-UK Achievers' Awards in London

Renowned filmmaker **Zoya Akhtar** and British Indian chef **Asma Khan** were honored at the annual **'India-UK Achievers'** awards in London. The event celebrated Akhtar's acclaimed work in cinema and Khan's contributions to culinary arts.

Important Dates News

National Safety Day 2024

National Safety Day is celebrated each year on **March 4**. In India, this date also signals the commencement of National Safety Week, extending the focus on safety measures beyond just a day. In 2024, National Safety Day will be observed on a Monday, marking a week-long endeavor to highlight and improve safety standards in various sectors.

International Women's Day 2024: Date, Theme, History, Significance and Wishes

International Women's Day (IWD) is an annual global event celebrated on March 8th each year. International Women's Day 2024 falls on March 8th, marking a global celebration of women's achievements and a call to action for gender equality. The United Nations has chosen the theme 'Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress' for International Women's Day 2024.

Sports News

Spain Wins First UEFA Women's Nations League

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

Former WC Bronze Winner Sai Praneeth Announces Retirement from Badminton

B. Sai Praneeth, the decorated Indian badminton player, has announced his retirement from the sport. Praneeth's career has been adorned with multiple team accolades as well. He played a pivotal role in securing bronze medals for India at the Asian Team Championships in both 2020 and 2016. Furthermore, his contribution was crucial in India's gold medal victory at the South Asian Games in 2016. His journey, which began with a bronze medal at the 2010 World Junior Badminton Championships, has been full of significant milestones and achievements.

Defence News

Indian Navy To Commission New Base INS Jatayu On Minicoy Island

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

INAS 334 Squadron To Welcome MH 60R 'Seahawks' Into The Indian Navy

The Indian Navy is poised to achieve a significant milestone on March 6, 2024, with the commissioning of the **MH 60R Seahawk helicopter at INS Garuda, Kochi**. This induction marks a crucial juncture in India's defense modernization efforts, further bolstering its maritime capabilities. The Seahawks squadron will be designated as **INAS 334**, symbolizing a new era in naval aviation for the country. These helicopters are part of a 24-aircraft Foreign Military Sales (FMS) contract inked with the US government in February 2020.

DefConnect 2024: Rajnath Singh Launches ADITI Scheme to Boost Defence Innovation

During **DefConnect 2024** in New Delhi on March 4, 2024, Raksha Mantri **Rajnath Singh** unveiled the **Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme**. The scheme aims to promote innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies, providing start-ups with significant grants for research and development.

INS Jatayu Commissioned By Indian Navy At Lakshadweep

The Indian Navy took a significant stride in fortifying its operational prowess with the commissioning of its new base, **INS Jatayu**, at Minicoy island of Lakshadweep. The commissioning ceremony of **INS Jatayu** was graced by Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar, along with notable dignitaries including Lakshadweep administrator Praful Patel, Southern Naval Command Chief Vice Admiral V Srinivas, and Western Naval Command Chief Vice Admiral Sanjay J Singh.

Indian Armed Forces to Conduct Mega 'Bharat-Shakti' Exercise in Jaisalmer

The three forces of India – Army, Navy, and Air Force – are going to conduct the biggest exercise called **'Bharat-Shakti'** at Asia's largest field firing range located in **Jaisalmer** district of Rajasthan. **PM Modi's Likely Visit** Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** may visit **Pokhran** on **March 12, 2024**, to witness this show of strength by the Indian Armed Forces.

Books & Authors News

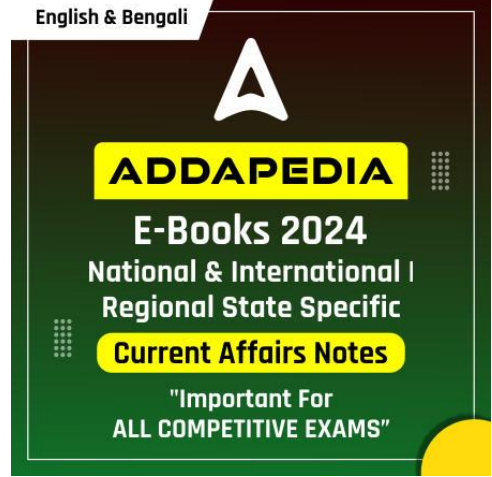
A book on Indian modern art "The Gems of Indian Art" launched

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

Miscellaneous News

Cuttack Rupa Tarakasi, Banglar muslin get GI tag

In a significant nod to India's rich heritage of craftsmanship and artistry, the **Cuttack Rupa Tarakasi**, more widely known as **Silver Filigree**, has recently been awarded the **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag by the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai. This recognition, sought by the Odisha State Co-operative Handicrafts Corporation Limited and supported by the Department of Textile and Handicrafts, Government of Odisha, places **Cuttack's Silver Filigree** on the map as a unique and protected form of art.



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