



## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 12-03-2022

### NATIONAL NEWS

#### National Youth Parliament Festival

- On 10 March 2022, **Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports Shri Anurag Thakur** addressed the inaugural meeting of **National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF) in New Delhi**.
- This year marks the **3rd edition**.
- Theme of this year National Youth Parliament Festival is '**be the voice of New India and find solutions and contribute to Policy**'.
- Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla will address the valedictory function of NYPF on 11th March, 2022.
- The aim of the NYPF is to hear the voice of the youth between 18 and less than 25 years of age.

#### India's Digital Economy to See Growth of 800 billion Dollars By 2030

- Finance Minister, **Nirmala Sitharaman** announced that India's digital economy is expected to witness exponential growth to **800 billion dollars by 2030** on the back of rising internet penetration and increasing income.
- She said India has over 6,300 fintechs, of which 28% are into investment technology, 27% into payments, 16% into lending, and 9% into banking infrastructure, while over 20% are into other fields.
- The combined valuation of India's fintech industry is set to surge to **150 billion dollars in the next three years**.

#### Indian Railways' 1st Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal commissioned

- The Asansol division of **Indian Railways** has successfully commissioned a private siding of **Maithan Power Limited at Thaparnagar, Jharkhand** in-line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision "Gati Shakti" and the Ministry of Railways policy on the "Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal" (GCT).

- Since the publication of the GCT policy in December of 2021, this is the **FIRST** such GCT to be commissioned in Indian Railways.
- The Maithan Power Project began construction in 2009, and power generation began in 2011.
- The power generation will increase earnings of Indian Railways around Rs. 11 crores.
- Coal was delivered to the power plant through a road which is converted into 120 inward coal rakes every month.

## Young Scientist Programme

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** organized a special programme for school children called "**Yuva Vigyani Karyakram**" (**YUVIKA**) or "**Young Scientist Programme**".
- The aim of this initiative is to provide basic knowledge on space technology, space science and space applications to young students, especially for those from rural areas.
- The programme aims to select 150 students who are studying in Class IX as on March 1, 2022 across the country. ISRO named the programme "catch them young".
- The programme is also expected to encourage more students to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) based careers and research work.
- The programme is planned to be held at **five ISRO centres** - Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram; U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), Bengaluru; Space Application Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad; National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad and North-East Space Application Centre (NE-SAC), Shillong.

## The Festival of Letters of Sahitya Akademi

- On 10th March 2022, Sahityotsav, the Festival of Letters of Sahitya Akademi, India's most inclusive literature festival began in New Delhi.
- Festival of Letters 2022 is being celebrated to commemorate 75th anniversary of India's Independence.
- The prestigious Sahitya Akademi Awards were presented to the **24 Award winners**.
- Dr. Chandrashekhar Kambar, President of Sahitya Akademi presented the awards to awardees.

# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement

- **India, Bangladesh and Nepal** held a meeting in New Delhi and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the implementation of **Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal Motor Vehicle Agreement (BBIN MVA)**.
- It will focus to boost trade and people-to-people connectivity between the BBIN countries by fostering greater sub-regional cooperation.
- Bhutan participated in the meeting as an observer and the pending ratification of the MVA by Bhutan was finalized.

- **Asian Development Bank** provided technical and knowledge support to the meeting.

## **BANKING**

### **Karnataka Bank with SELCO Solar**

- **Karnataka Bank** Ltd has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **SELCO Solar Light Pvt Ltd** to provide energy access to the underserved population.
- Under this initiative, Karnataka Bank provides financial support to purchase the solar energy products of SELCO Solar Light.
- The partnership also promotes the use of renewable energy products which in turn increase the usage of solar energy by reducing carbon emissions.
- Customers can take loans from the bank with a competitive interest rate for installing SELCO Solar energy products for both household and commercial use.

#### **About Karnataka Bank:**

- HQ: Mangalore, Karnataka.
- MD & CEO: Mahabaleshwara M S.

#### **About SELCO Solar:**

- HQ: Bangalore, Karnataka.
- CEO: Mohan Bhaskar Hegde.

## **RANKS, INDICES & REPORTS**

### **Skoch State of Governance Ranking 2021**

- The **SKOCH Group** released the **SKOCH Governance Report Card for 2021**, in New Delhi ranking the states according to their performance in various projects at state, district and municipal level.
- **Andhra Pradesh** secured first place for the second consecutive year.
- Top 5 states are Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Gujarat, Maharashtra.
- Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Odisha are doing remarkable work in a fields like Agriculture, Transport, eGovernance and Ease of Doing Business.

- Telangana has showed good improvement and secured 6<sup>th</sup> position by entering into performer state category.

## AWARDS & PRIZES

### National Award for Outstanding Performance

- Ministry of Rural Development (GoI), Giriraj Singh honoured the **Jammu & Kashmir Bank** with the '**National Award for Outstanding Performance for FY 2020-21**' in recognition of its best performance in Self Help Group Bank Linkage.
- Zonal Head Delhi Kirti Sharma received the national award on behalf of Bank.
- The event was organized by the Ministry of Rural Development (GoI) to celebrate Women's Day at Vigyan Bhawan Delhi.
- J&K Bank has expanded its footprint by commissioning four Business Units (BUs) to extend banking facilities and financial services into the under-banked areas of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Baldev Prakash, MD & CEO of the bank inaugurated the Business Unit Pattan Village in Baramulla.

### Airports Council International (ACI) World- ASQ Award 2021

- **Airports Council International (ACI) World** in partnership with **Amadeus**, Global travel technology company has announced the **Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards 2021**.
- The awards are the result of data collected in 2021 from more than 370,000 surveys.
- The airports were declared as the Best Airports by **Size (passengers per year) and Region**.
- ASQ is the world's leading airport passenger satisfaction program with 400 participating airports in 95 countries.
- ACI has honoured **Six Indian Airports** by Size and Region under Asia-Pacific Category based on data from ASQ's Departures and Arrivals Surveys.
- **2 to 5 million passengers per year** - Chandigarh Airport - Chandigarh, India
- **5 to 15 million passengers per year**
- Cochin International Airport - Cochin, India
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport - Ahmedabad, India
- **Over 40 million passengers per year**
- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport - Mumbai, India
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- Indira Gandhi International Airport - Delhi, India
- The **Chandigarh Airport - Chandigarh**, India has been adjudged as the Best Hygiene Measures by Region under Asia-Pacific Category.

# APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

## SBI MD as SEBI Member

- The government has appointed veteran banker **Ashwani Bhatia** as the whole-time member of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).
- Bhatia is currently working as the managing director — stressed assets and information technology at State Bank of India.
- He has been appointed for a period of three years.
- Prior to his elevation as MD of SBI, Bhatia was the chief executive of SBI Mutual Fund.

## First Female President of Hungary

- **Katalin Novák** has been elected as first female president of Hungary.
- She recently served as a minister for family policy, portrayed her election as a victory for women.
- Novak will succeed Janos Ader, a co-founder of Orban's governing right - wing Fidesz party who has held the job since 2012.
- She will take oath after Ader's term completes in May.

## Chairperson of NFRA

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed former Finance & Revenue Secretary **Ajay Bhushan Pandey** as the Chairperson of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), independent audit regulator.
- He was appointed for a period of three years from the date of assumption of charge or till he attains the age of 65 years.
- The ACC has also appointed two full-time members of NFRA.
- Praveen Kumar Tiwari, a retired Indian Audit and Accounts Service official, and Smita Jhingran, an Indian Revenue Service officer, appointed to the post of full-time members of NFRA.
- Prior to becoming the Finance & Revenue Secretary of India, he was acting as the Chief Executive Officer of Unique Identification Authority of India.

# IMPORTANT DAYS

## International Day of Women Judges

- International Day of Women Judges will be celebrated on **March 10**.
- The day will be **celebrated and observed for the first time by the UN General Assembly**.
- Starting from 2022, March 10 will be annually celebrated across the globe as International Day of Women Judges.
- The International Day of Women Judges aims to recognise the efforts and contributions being made by women judges.

- The Supreme Court of India commemorated the first ever International Day of Women Judges.

## BOOKS AND AUTHOR

### A Biography of Late Soli Sorabjee

- Advocate and legal scholar **Abhinav Chandrachud** authored a biography of Soli Sorabjee titled “**Soli Sorabjee: Life and Times**”.
- It was announced by the Penguin Random House India on the occasion of the 92nd birth anniversary of Soli Sorabjee.
- The book will be released in April 2022.
- The book highlights the personal details of life of Soli Sorabjee.
- He was the former Attorney General of India for two times.



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