

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-MARCH 12, 2023

### STATES

- **Assam - has entered in the Guinness World Records for the largest number of handwritten notes submitted for a common purpose**



- ✓ The authorities of the Guinness World Records handed over the certificate to Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma at an event held in Guwahati on March 9
- ✓ A total of 42,94,350 handwritten essays on Ahom General Lachin Borphukan were submitted by the people of Assam
  - ✓ This is the largest number of handwritten notes ever submitted on an occasion, according to the Guinness World Records.
- ✓ The essays were submitted as part of the 400<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Lachit Borphukan, which was celebrated by the Assam government through a year-long event.
- ✓ The government of Assam had appealed to the people to pay tribute to the legendary Ahom army commander by writing essays on him as part of the celebrations
- ✓ In November 2022, the Assam government launched a portal and a mobile App, as part of the initiative, where people from all across the world could upload their essays.

- ✓ The essays were contributed by students, government officials, and individuals from within and outside Assam, and were written in various languages such as Assamese, English, Bengali, Bodo and others.
- ✓ The essays were uploaded online between October 26 and November 26 last year to celebrate the life and legacy of this iconic historical leader.

## **NATIONAL**

- **India - has proposed to launch a mega global alliance 'International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)' under its leadership for the protection and support of seven big cats**
  - ✓ The proposed alliance will provide guaranteed funding of \$100 million over the next five years
  - ✓ It will work towards the protection and conservation of the seven major big cats — tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, puma, jaguar and cheetah
  - ✓ The membership to the alliance will be open to 97 “range” countries, which contain the natural habitat of these big cats, as well as other interested nations, international organisations, etc.
  - ✓ The alliance will provide a platform for “dissemination of information on benchmarked practices, capacity building, resources repository, research and development, awareness creation”, etc., on the protection and conservation of big cats.
  - ✓ Its major activities will include “advocacy, partnership, knowledge e-portal, capacity building, eco-tourism, partnerships between expert groups and finance tapping”.
  - ✓ According to a proposed timeline, the alliance is expected to be launched next month in a “suitable office complex” in India.
- **The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) - has launched the Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) in 57 Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs) from the academic session 2023-24 throughout the country under the National Education Policy, 2020**
  - ✓ ITEP is a four-year dual-major holistic undergraduate degree offering B.A. B.Ed./ B. Sc. B. Ed. and B.Com. B.Ed.
  - ✓ This training will prepare instructors for the new school system's Foundational, Preparatory, Middle, and Secondary (5+3+3+4) phases
  - ✓ The course will save students one year by completing it in 4 years instead of 5 years
  - ✓ The program is initially being run in a pilot mode in reputed Central/State Government Universities/Institutes.
  - ✓ The National Testing Agency (NTA) will administer the National Common Entrance Examination for the admission under the new programme.

- **The Central Railway - has achieved 100% electrification of its broad gauge network of 3,825 kilometers**

**Central Railway achieves a Significant Milestone with 100% Electrification of entire Broad Gauge Network**

**CENTRAL RAILWAY SAVES 5.204 LAKH TONNES CARBON FOOTPRINTS ANNUALLY**

**INDIAN RAILWAYS MARCHING TOWARDS 100% ELECTRIFICATION**

**Electrification offers advantages like:**

- Environmental-friendly mode of transport
- Reduced dependence on imported diesel fuel, thereby saving precious foreign currency and reduced carbon footprints
- Reduced operating cost
- Haulage of heavier freight trains and longer passenger trains with high haulage capacity of Electric Locomotives leading to increased throughput
- Increased sectional capacity by eliminating detention on account of traction change

- ✓ The achievement will result in an annual reduction of 5.204 lakh tonnes of carbon footprints and also saves Rs. 1,670 crore annually
- ✓ According to the Railways, the 52-kilometre Ausa Road-Latur Road stretch in Solapur division was the last non-electrified section and its electrification was completed on February 23, 2023
- ✓ Railways have planned the electrification of Broad Gauge routes to facilitate the elimination of diesel traction
- ✓ Indian Railways is working in mission mode to become the largest Green Railway in the world and is moving towards becoming a "net zero carbon emitter" before 2030
- ✓ The first electric train ran in India between the then Bombay Victoria Terminus (now Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus) and Kurla on Harbour line on February 3, 1925
- ✓ Central Railway is strategically located in the middle part of the country and it connects most of the Indian cities and other locations with the major cities in its jurisdiction like Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune, Nasik, Solapur, Kolhapur etc.

## **CONFERENCES & SUMMITS**

- **The first edition of the Naval Commanders' Conference 2023 – was recently held onboard India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant**
- ✓ The conference served as a platform for Naval Commanders to discuss important security issues at the military-strategic level



- ✓ The first phase of the Commanders' Conference was held at sea, and for the first-time, onboard INS Vikrant.
- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addressed the Naval Commanders onboard INS Vikrant on the opening day on March 6
- ✓ During the conference, Naval Commanders were provided with an update on 'Agnipath Scheme' executed in the Indian Navy in November last year.
- ✓ The first batch of Agniveers, which also includes the first batch of women Agniveers, will complete training at INS Chilka by March end.
- ✓ The main focus of the conference will be on the Agnipath scheme and women's enrolment apart from covering issues related to operations, combat readiness, logistics, training, human resource development and training.
- ✓ INS Vikrant, the Navy's first indigenous aircraft carrier, was delivered to the force in July 2022 and commissioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September 2022.
- ✓ It has been made with an estimated 76% indigenisation component at an approximate cost of Rs 20,000 crore.

## PERSONALITIES

- **Indian-American Arun Subramaniam - has been confirmed as first South Asian District Judge for the Southern District of New York.**



- ✓ Indian-origin attorney Arun Subramanian became the first Indian-American to become the Judge of the Manhattan Federal District Court
- ✓ He's been directly engaged in every aspect of civil litigation and has worked at every level of the federal judiciary
- ✓ Notably, earlier in September 2022, US President Joe Biden announced the nomination of Subramanian for the District Court of the Southern District of New York.
- ✓ Subramanian has been a partner at Susman Godfrey LLP in New York since 2007 and worked as a law clerk for three renowned judges
- ✓ South District New York notably has one of the largest South Asian-American populations in the country.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **California-based Relativity Space - aborted the back-to-back launches of Terran 1, the world's first 3D-printed rocket before the scheduled lift-off on March 11**



- ✓ The two-stage, 110 feet tall, 7.5 feet wide, expendable rocket was attempting to launch into Low Earth Orbit from the launch pad at Launch Complex 16 in Cape Canaveral, Florida.
- ✓ The rocket was not carrying anything for this test flight except for a memento - the first metal 3D print from the company's printers.
- ✓ Relativity Space blamed the first launch problem on automation software and the second on low fuel pressure.
- ✓ While 85% of the current rocket is made by 3D printed parts, the company is working to reach its goal of being 95% 3D printed parts at its headquarters in Long Beach, California.
- ✓ The rocket has nine Aeon engines in its first stage, and one Aeon Vac on its second stage, all of which are 3D printed too and use liquid oxygen (LOX) and liquid natural gas (LNG).

- ✓ The first launch attempt, on March 8, was aborted at the one-minute mark because of a bad valve.
- ✓ SpaceX's Falcon rockets have been flying with 3D-printed parts for years, but not nearly to the extent of Relativity Space's new rocket.
- **Researchers – have spotted *Mimeusemia ceylonica*, a rare moth species, for the first time in India in Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli districts in Tamil Nadu**



- ✓ The findings are based on moth surveys conducted twice a month since 2018.
- ✓ According to the researchers, George Hampson recorded *Mimeusemia ceylonica* at Thirukonamalai in Sri Lanka in 1893 and it was not recorded elsewhere across the world since then.
- ✓ *Mimeusemia ceylonica* species belongs to the subfamily Agaristinae and family Noctuidae
- ✓ It was first sighted in India during a moth survey conducted at the Agasthyamalai Community-based Conservation Centre situated in the buffer zone of Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR) in Tirunelveli district.
- ✓ The other species found in India on the same genus *Mimeusemia* are namely *M. basalis*, *M. peshwa*, *M. postica*, *M. albicilia*
- ✓ Interestingly, *M. ceylonica* has been recorded only during the northeast monsoon since 2020

## DEFENCE

- **INS Trikand - is participating in the International Maritime Exercise/ Cutlass Express 2023 (IMX/CE-23) being held in the Gulf region from February 26 to March 16, 2023**
- ✓ IMX/CE-23 is one of the largest multinational maritime exercises in the world organised by the US-led Combined Maritime Forces, a 34-nation naval group, in Mina Salman seaport, Bahrain
- ✓ The exercise will witness participants from over 50 nations and international maritime agencies with the common aim of enhancing maritime security and keeping sea lanes in the region safe for maritime commerce.



- ✓ During the period, the ship exercised with naval units of Bahrain, Japan, Oman, Saudi Arabia, UAE, UK and USA
- ✓ This is Indian Navy's first ever IMX participation, and also marks the second occasion where an Indian Naval ship is participating in an exercise conducted by the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF).
- ✓ Earlier, in November 2022, INS Trikand had participated in the CMF led 'Operation Sea Sword 2'.
- ✓ INS Trikand is part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet and operates under the Western Naval Command headquartered at Mumbai.

## **BUSINESS/ECONOMY**

- **The Mission 'Har Payment Digital' launched by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on the occasion of Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW) 2023 – is to be concluded on March 12, 2023**



- ✓ Launched on March 6, the mission is part of RBI's endeavour to make every person in India a user of digital payments.
- ✓ The campaign theme is "Digital Payment Apnao, Auron ko bhi Sikhao" (Adopt digital payments and also teach others).

- ✓ Various campaigns highlighting the digital payment channels available were held during the week by the banks and non-bank payment system operators
- ✓ RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das while launching the campaign said that the RBI will initiate a '75 Digital Villages' programme in observance of 75 years of the Independence.
  - ✓ Under this programme, payment system operators (PSOs) will adopt 75 villages across the country and convert them into digital payment-enabled villages
- ✓ This year, 'Har Payment Digital' (HPD) mission would run till the period of Vision 2025 and intends to convert these non-users into users of digital payments
  - ✓ India has set Vision 2025 – A plan to achieve 100% digital payment by 2025 - with the theme "E-Payments for Everyone, Everywhere, and every time".
- ✓ The Unified Payments Interface (UPI), which was launched in 2016, has clocked transactions ranging from Rs.0.45 crore in January 2017 to Rs.804 crore in January 2023.
- ✓ Even in the value terms, UPI transactions have risen from just Rs 1,700 crore to Rs 12.98 lakh crore during the same period.
- ✓ The payment systems in the country have witnessed over Rs.1000 crore transactions every month since December 2022.

## SPORTS

- **Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur - inaugurated the Khelo India Dus Ka Dum Tournament at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi on March 10**



- ✓ The Department of Sports, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is organizing the Khelo India Dus Ka Dum event from March 10 to 31, as a celebration for the International Women's Day 2023
- ✓ This is the first time that such a sports initiative is being taken to celebrate the international event and the Union Ministry has sanctioned a total budget of Rs 50 Lakh for the tournament



- ✓ The tournament features 10 sports items that will be held across 10 cities in the country with around 15000 women athletes participating
- ✓ The sports disciplines that will be a part of the event include Kho Kho, Wushu, Wrestling, Fencing, Archery, Swimming, Basketball, Judo, Athletics and Yogasana.
- ✓ The main purpose of organising the tournament is to provide a platform to the women athletes who were unable to participate in national/state level competitions and also ensure that competitive sports reach untapped geographical areas.

