

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-MARCH 16, 2023

### STATES

- **The Uttarakhand state Cabinet - approved 10% horizontal reservation in government jobs for those who protested for statehood**
- ✓ The decision was taken in the cabinet meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on March 13



- ✓ For the last 10 years, demands have been repeatedly raised for reservation in government jobs for the dependents of people killed during statehood protests, and demonstrators who were injured or jailed.
- ✓ Carved out of northern Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand was formed as a separate state on November 9, 2000.
- ✓ The statehood movement, which began in 1994, witnessed many deaths, injuries, and arrests.
- ✓ In 2021, the BJP government increased pension for those who were jailed or injured during the movement.
- ✓ The decision on the reservation to Statehood activists assumes significance since the governor had returned the bill granting 10% reservation to the statehood activists in the past.

# NATIONAL

- **On March 15, the Bar Council of India (BCI) - has allowed foreign law firms and lawyers to practise in India, but in a restricted manner and on reciprocity basis.**
  - ✓ BCI is the country's apex disciplinary and regulatory body for legal education and profession
  - ✓ The BCI had opposed the entry of foreign law firms and lawyers for years.
  - ✓ On 10 March, the BCI released the Bar Council of India Rules For Registration and Regulation of Foreign Lawyers and Foreign Law Firms in India, 2022, to facilitate the registration and practice of international lawyers in India.
  - ✓ The scope of operation for foreign lawyers will be limited as they are allowed to practice not in Indian laws but only in the field of foreign laws and international issues in non-litigious matters.
  - ✓ Although appearing in courts is prohibited, foreign law firms can set up offices in India to practise transactional and corporate work on reciprocal basis.
    - ✓ Reciprocal laws are statutes of one state that give rights and privileges to the citizens of another state if it extends similar privileges to the citizens of the former.
    - ✓ The transactional work/corporate work includes joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions, intellectual property matters, drafting of contracts and other related matters
  - ✓ For a lawyer with a foreign law degree to be eligible to practise in India, he or she must be entitled to practise in his or her country and will also be required to register with the BCI.
  - ✓ The foreign lawyers or foreign law firms shall not be permitted to appear before any courts, tribunals or other statutory or regulatory authorities
  - ✓ The rules also clarify that such lawyers shall not be involved to do any work pertaining to property-linked matters.
  
- **On March 14, Atal Innovation Mission - NITI Aayog - launched ATL Sarthi, a comprehensive self-monitoring framework to strengthen the ecosystem of Atal Tinkering Labs.**



- ✓ Atal Tinkering Labs Sarthi was launched to enable the Atal Tinkering Labs to be efficient and effective.
- ✓ Atal Innovation Mission aims to improve curiosity, creativity, and imagination in the minds of millions of young innovators in India by setting up Atal Tinkering Labs in schools.
- ✓ ATL Sarthi will provide a monitoring and evaluation framework to enhance the performance of Atal Tinkering Labs.
- ✓ Under the new system, “MyATL Dashboard” will provide real-time information on the activities and achievements of each ATL, thereby enabling the authorities to understand the strengths and weaknesses of each ATL
- ✓ The ATL Sarthi system analyzes the performance of each ATL through a Performance-Enablement (PE) Matrix
- ✓ It also has a set of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for schools to ensure financial and non-financial compliance

## INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **The United States - formally recognized the McMahon Line as the international boundary between India’s Arunachal Pradesh and China**



- ✓ In this regard, the US Senate has passed a bipartisan resolution, which was first introduced last month, on March 14.
- ✓ The resolution was titled ‘Reaffirming the state of Arunachal Pradesh as Indian territory and condemning the People’s Republic of China’s provocations in South Asia’
- ✓ The resolution rejected the claim of China that the north-eastern state, Arunachal Pradesh falls under Chinese territory.
- ✓ It had acknowledged Arunachal Pradesh as an integral part of India and also supported India’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- ✓ The resolution commends the Government of India for taking steps to defend itself against aggression and security threats from the People's Republic of China

- ✓ It also condemned Chinese provocations in the region, including China's use of military force to change the status quo along the Line of Actual Control, construction of villages in contested areas, publication of maps with Mandarin-language names for cities featuring Arunachal Pradesh, and expansion of Beijing's territorial claims over Bhutan.

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal - inaugurated the Yoga Mahotsav, 2023 on March 13**



- ✓ The Yoga Mahotsav kickstarts the 100 days countdown to International Day of Yoga, which is held on June 21 every year since 2015 following its inception in the United Nations General Assembly in 2014
    - ✓ The draft resolution proposed by India was then endorsed by a record 177 member states.
  - ✓ The three-day 'Yoga Mahotsav - 2023' is being held at the Talkatora Stadium on March 13-14 and the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga on March 15 in New Delhi.
  - ✓ A total of 100 Cities and 100 Organizations will participate in the 100 days countdown to promote Yoga.
  - ✓ Union Ayush Minister Sonowal also launched a one-minute video on “Y- Break” App for enabling larger mass to include Yoga in their lifestyle.
  - ✓ The inauguration ceremony of Yoga Mahotsav was attended by G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of Culture Tourism and DoNER, N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister of Manipur, Meenakshi Lekhi, Union Minister of State for External Affairs & Culture and Dr Munjpara Mahendrabhai, Union Minister of State for Ayush.
- **The first Supreme Audit Institutions-20 (SAI20) Engagement Group Senior Officials Meeting – took place in Guwahati from March 13 to 15, 2023.**



- ✓ The meeting is being hosted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India as part of the country's G20 presidency.
  - ✓ The Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) of India is the Chair of the SAI20 Engagement Group under the India's G20 Presidency from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023
  - ✓ The delegates from G20 member countries, guest countries and other International Organizations attended the SAI20 event.
  - ✓ The SAIs of Australia, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Oman, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, and UAE have participated in the meeting.
  - ✓ The meeting focused on two priority areas — Blue Economy and Responsible Artificial Intelligence (AI).
  - ✓ Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Girish Chandra Murmu delivered the valedictory address of the meeting
- **The first international conference on Shared Buddhist Heritage – was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on March 14 -15, 2023**



- ✓ The conference was conducted with the aim of connecting Indian civilisation with the nations of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- ✓ The two-day meeting sought to re-establish cultural ties and seek common ground between Central Asian Buddhist art, artistic styles, archaeological sites and antiquity in various museum collections of the SCO countries.
- ✓ The SCO countries comprise of Member States, Observer States and Dialogue Partners, including China, Russia and Mongolia.
- ✓ The programme was organised by the ministries of culture and foreign affairs, as well as the International Buddhist Confederation, based in New Delhi.
- ✓ The event, a first of its kind, under India's leadership of SCO (for a period of one-year, from 17 September, 2022 until September 2023) brings together Central Asian, East Asian, South Asian and Arab countries on a common platform to discuss "Shared Buddhist Heritage".
- ✓ A number of Indian scholars of Buddhism also participated in the event.

## DEFENCE

- **The 13<sup>th</sup> edition of Exercise Bold Kurukshetra - was held between Singapore Army and Indian Army from March 6 to 13 at Jodhpur Military Station, Rajasthan**



- ✓ The exercise is being hosted by the Indian Army
- ✓ For the first time in the exercise series, both armies participated in a command post Exercise, which involved Battalion and Brigade level planning elements and computer wargaming.
- ✓ The exercise involved soldiers from the 42<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment and an Armoured Brigade of Indian Army
- ✓ The bilateral armour exercise was first conducted in 2005
- ✓ It underscores the strong and long-standing bilateral defence relationship between both countries and enhances cooperation between the two armies

## AWARDS

- **RBI governor Shaktikanta Das - bagged the 'Governor of the Year' award for 2023 conferred by international economic research journal, Central Banking**



- ✓ The journal has cited his work in strengthening the regulations governing the NBFC sector after the IL&FS crisis in 2018, banks' improving asset quality and Covid-19 crisis management as factors for the recognition.
- ✓ Das has also been credited with improving communication between the regulator and the government and overseeing the rise in India's digital payment infrastructure.
- ✓ Das took office in December 2018, just as the financial sector in India was on the brink of collapse and moving through the first and second waves of the Covid-19.
- ✓ He has overseen the resolution of several collapsed non-bank financial companies and the steady improvement of the banking sector
- ✓ Prior to Das's appointment, in August 2018, IL&FS, a significant non-banking financial company, went bankrupt, triggering a liquidity crunch
- ✓ Subsequently, several other firms, including Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank, also collapsed
- ✓ In October 2022, a new scale-based regulatory framework for NBFCs was introduced.
- ✓ Das has also managed the response to the Covid-19 pandemic and its economic impact, as well as Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its inflationary impact.

