

❖ India's exports decline by 8.8% to \$33.88 billion in February 2023

➤ India's exports in February 2023 dipped by 8.8% to \$33.88 billion as against \$37.15 billion in the same month last year, according to the data released by the Union Commerce Ministry.

➤ Imports decline by 8.2%

➤ India's trade deficit narrowed by 7.04% to \$17.43 billion in February 2023 compared to the same month in 2022.

❖ IIT Hyderabad launches Model G20 National Youth Challenge

➤ The Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IIT-H) in collaboration with the National Young Academy of Science (NYAS) is conducting a national youth challenge competition on G20 countries.

➤ The IIT-H and NYAS will conduct essay, debate and elocution competitions on six global themes of the G-20 summit, 2023.

➤ The winners will be presented with Rs.1.50 lakh worth of prize money.

❖ Eric Garcetti set to be U.S Ambassador to India

➤ President Joe Biden close aide Eric Garcetti is set to be confirmed as United States Ambassador to India after the Senate voted on the cloture motion limiting debate on his nomination, reflecting that the ruling Democratic Party has enough votes for his selection for the key post.

➤ In New Delhi, the 52 year old Garcetti will succeed Ken Juster, who was nominated by then President Donald Trump and became the envoy to Indian in May 2017.

❖ ICC player of the month for February

- The winners of the ICC player of the month awards for February 2023 have been revealed by the International Cricket Council.
- ICC women's player of the month - Ashleigh Gardner (Australia).
- ICC men's player of the month – Harry Brook (England).
- ICC chairman : Gerg Barclay
- ICC Headquarters : Dubai, UAE

❖ Andhra Pradesh tops in production of Eggs

- Andhra Pradesh ranked first and Telangana ranked third in egg production in the report released by the 'Animal Husbandry Basic Statistics – 2022' by the union animal husbandry minister Purushotam Rupala.
- Top five states in Egg production : Andhra Pradesh , Tamilnadu , Telangana , West Bengal , Karnataka.
- 129.60 billion eggs were produced in the country in 2021-22.
- Accordingly , Milk production in the country has reached 221.06 million tonnes in 2021-22.
- Top five states in milk production : Rajasthan , Uttar Pradesh , Madhya Pradesh , Gujarat , Andhra Pradesh.

❖ **National Vaccination Day 2023**

- National Vaccination Day or National Immunisation Day is celebrated on **March 16** every year across the country to spread awareness about the importance of vaccination in the human health.
- India is now moving towards the eradication of measles and rubella through the vaccination of over 324 million children through MR vaccination campaigns.
- WHO declared India polio free on **March 27 , 2014**.
- The first national vaccination day was observed on **October 2, 1995**, to coincide with the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

❖ **Suryodaya Small Finance Bank launched Blossom Women's Savings Account**

- Suryodaya Small Finance Bank announced the launch of 'Blossom Women's Savings Account' with 7% per annum interest rate with monthly interest credit.
- In addition to this, specially designed RuPay Platinum Debit Card offering discount on shopping and online purchases will also be available with the account.
- Blossom Women's Savings Account is designed to provide women a secure platform to save and grow their money with the best interest rates and a wide range of exclusive benefits and privileges.
- Part-time Chairperson and Independent Director of Suryodaya Small Finance Bank : **Ramachandran Rajaraman**.
- Headquarters : **Navi Mumbai**.

❖ **RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das Named 'Governor Of The Year' At Central Banking Awards 2023**

- For his leadership during difficult periods, such as the failure of a significant non-banking company, COVID-19 pandemic, and the inflationary effects caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- The **National Bank of Ukraine** was also awarded the **Central Bank of the Year award**.
- Central Banking is an international economic research journal.

❖ **India & World Bank signs loan agreement for construction of Green National Highway Corridors**

Project

- The Government of India and the World Bank have signed an agreement for the development of Green National Highway Corridors in 4 states, with loan assistance of **\$500 million**.
- Four states: Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.
- The agreements has been signed to construct **781 kilometers**.
- The total project cost is over **7,662 crore rupees**.
- It is used to demonstrate safe and green highways keeping in view climate resilience and the use of green technologies.
- President of World Bank: David Malpass.
- World Bank HQ: Washington, D.C.

❖ **US recognizes McMahon Line as international border**

- The US has formally recognized the McMohan Line as the international boundary between **India's Arunachal Pradesh and China.**
- The US has also rejected Beijing's claim that the northeastern state falls under Chinese territory.
- A bipartisan resolution acknowledged Arunachal Pradesh as an integral part of India.
- The resolution, titled 'Reaffirming the state of Arunachal Pradesh as Indian territory and condemning the People's Republic of China's provocations in South Asia.

❖ **Commercial Bank becomes Qatar's first Bank to launch UPI remittance service to India**

- With this decision, this bank becomes the first bank in Qatar to offer this service.
- Customers can use Commercial Banking digital platforms to initiate UPI payments using UPI-ID.
- The transactions can be completed within 60 seconds and are available 24/7.

❖ **Government appoints Deepak Mohanty as PFRDA chairman**

- Deepak Mohanty has been appointed as the chairman of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
- He replaces Supratim Bandyopadhyay, whose term ended in January 2023.
- Before this, Mohanty was a former executive director of the Reserve Bank of India.
- PFRDA was formed in 2003 to promote and develop the pension industry.