

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

26th & 27th Mar 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ Net direct tax growth to slow down 15% for 2022-23

- India's net direct tax collection growth, that was about 17% for the year as of early March, growth is expected to moderate to 15% for the entire fiscal year 2022-23.
- The net receipts of the government from direct taxes were to increase by about 49% to about ₹14.09 lakh crore in 2021-22. The sharp growth is attributed to the economy's gradual recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, which hit economic activity last year.
- Flow of direct taxes, which include corporate income tax, personal income tax and securities transaction tax (STT) increased by about 20% till mid-December 2022 But every successive month has registered a marginal decline in the growth rate.
- By February 10, the growth rate stood at 18.4% which further reduced to 16.8% by March 10 when the total net direct tax stood at ₹ 13.73 lakh crore. This amount was 96.7% of the Budget Estimates for 2022-23 and 83.2% of the Revised Estimates for direct taxes.

❖ Telangana signs three MoUs with Western Australian Government

- A total of three MoUs were signed between the governments of Telangana and Western Australia when a delegation led by Western Australia's Minister for Emergency Services, Innovation and Digital Economy, Stephen Dawson visited State-led startup incubators T-Hub and WE-Hub.
- The MoUs signed include one between Hyderabad's Cyber Security Centre of Excellence DSCI and Western Australia's Cyber West, a government-funded

innovation hub, which will harness the expertise of both organisations using innovation, design, workshops and industry engagement.

➤ The second MoU was between Cyber Security Centre of Excellence DSCI and Edith Cowan University, through this there will be a collaboration for mutual benefit including research, education, innovation, incubation, marketing, hackathons, corporate innovation and training programs.

➤ The third MoU was a letter of Intent between WE-HUB and CyberWest which will accelerate growth in the local and international ecosystem and support goals of diversity and inclusion within the cyber security sector.

❖ **Malayalam Actor And Former MP Innocent Vareed Thekkethala Passes Away**

➤ Innocent, one of the most popular actors of the Malayalam film industry, died in Kerala at 75

➤ The former MP -- a two-time cancer survivor, had contracted Covid and later suffered from pneumonia that eventually led to his death. The veteran actor who had acted in around 700 movies and produced many of them was a comedian and a character actor.

➤ He had won from the Chalakudy Lok Sabha constituency in 2014 as a CPI-M candidate, and had been quite a "significant voice" in the Parliament while representing the constituency.

➤ Innocent has written a popular Malayalam book, 'Cancer Wardile Chiri' or 'Smile in Cancer Ward'. Innocent was also the president of Association of Malayalam Movie Actors (AMMA) -- an organisation for Malayalam actors.

❖ **ISRO puts 36 OneWeb satellites in orbit**

➤ Indian Space Research Organisation's heaviest payload rocket, LVM3 carrying 36 OneWeb satellites onboard took off from the second launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre SDSC-SHAR, Sriharikota.

➤ LVM3 standing 43.5 metres tall and weighing 643 tonnes will lift off from the second launch pad rocket port in carrying OneWeb's final instalment of 36 Gen1 satellites". The LVM3 is a three-stage rocket with the first stage fired with liquid fuel, the two strap-on motors powered by solid fuel, the second by liquid fuel and the third is the cryogenic engine.

➤ The first set of 36 satellites of OneWeb Group company was launched on October 23, 2022 by ISRO. At the end of the 24.5 hour countdown, the 43.5 metre tall rocket blasted off from the second launch pad, about 135 km from Chennai. Bharti Enterprises is a major investor in OneWeb group, which is engaged in the implementation of the constellation of low earth satellites.

➤ ISRO Chairman: **S. Somanath**

➤ ISRO Headquarters: **Antariksh Bhavan in Bangalore**

❖ **MGNREGS wage rates revised by up to 10% for 2023-24 fiscal year**

➤ The Centre has notified a hike in wage rates under the rural job guarantee programme for the 2023-24 financial year with Haryana having the highest daily wage at ₹357 per day and Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh the lowest at ₹221.

➤ The Union Ministry of Rural Development issued a notification on the change in wage rates under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). The notification was issued under Section 6 (1) of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005.

➤ The wage hikes, which range from ₹7 to ₹26, will come into effect from April 1st. Compared to last year's rates, Rajasthan registered the highest percentage increase in wages. The revised wage for Rajasthan is ₹255 per day, up from ₹231 in 2022-23. The increase in the wages for states range between 2% and 10%. Karnataka, Goa, Meghalaya and Manipur are among the States to register the lowest percentage increase.

➤ The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is a flagship programme aimed at enhancing livelihood security of households in rural

areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer for unskilled manual work.

❖ **World Theatre Day 2023: 27th March**

- Every year on March 27, World Theatre Day is celebrated worldwide to promote the significance of theatrical forms. Theatre not only provides entertainment but also serves as an art form that educates and inspires individuals.
- World Theatre Day was first observed in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI). ITI is a worldwide organization that promotes international exchange in theatre arts and promotes the values of UNESCO.
- The theme of World Theatre Day is “**Theatre and a Culture of Peace**” set by the International Theatre Institute.
- International Theatre Institute Headquarters: Paris, France
- International Theatre Institute Founded: 1948
- International Theatre Institute Director-General: Tobias Biancone

❖ **ICICI Lombard becomes first to offer ‘Anywhere Cashless’ feature**

- In an industry-first, ICICI Lombard General Insurance launched ‘Anywhere Cashless’ feature for health insurance policyholders to avail cashless facilities at any hospital, even if not part of ICICI Lombard’s current network of hospitals.
- ICICI Lombard General Insurance is a leading insurance company in India that provides a range of insurance products, including health insurance, motor insurance, travel insurance, and home insurance. The company has a large network of hospitals across India where policyholders can receive cashless medical treatment.
- In addition, the company offers a range of innovative features and benefits to its policyholders, such as the ‘Anywhere Cashless’ feature that allows policyholders to avail cashless facilities at any hospital, even if it’s not part of the company’s current network of hospitals. ICICI Lombard General Insurance is known for its customer-

centric approach and its commitment in providing quality insurance products and services to its customers.

➤ ICICI Lombard Managing Director and CEO: **Bhargav Dasgupta**

➤ ICICI Lombard Headquarters: **Mumbai**

❖ **Shri Bhupender Yadav launches Aravalli Green Wall Project**

➤ Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav launched the Aravalli Green Wall Project, a major initiative to increase green cover in the 5 km buffer area around the Aravalli Hill Range in four states at a function organised to celebrate the International Day of Forests at Tikli Village in Haryana.

➤ The minister unveiled the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation Through Forestry Interventions and a FAQ on Agro-forestry published by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education.

➤ The Union Minister appreciated the efforts of the Haryana Forest Department and other stakeholders for their cooperation and support in implementing the project and reiterated the government's commitment to achieving the national goal of creating an additional 2.5 billion tonnes of carbon sink by 2030.

➤ Haryana Chief Minister: **Manohar Lal Khattar**

➤ Haryana Governor: **Bandaru Dattatreya**

➤ Haryana Capital: **Chandigarh**

❖ **Mumbai Indians beat Delhi Capitals by 7 wickets, win inaugural WPL**

➤ Mumbai Indians etched their name in the history book by becoming the first champions of the Women's Premier League (WPL). Led by India captain Harmanpreet Kaur, MI edged out Delhi Capitals by seven wickets in a thriller to cap a memorable first edition of the long-awaited T20 tournament.

➤ In response, the Mumbai Indians achieved the target by scoring 134/3 in 19.3 overs. Nat Sciver-Brunt played exceptionally well and remained unbeaten after

scoring 60 runs off 55 balls, while the team's captain Harmanpreet Kaur contributed 37 runs off 39 balls. The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side scripted history by becoming the winners of the 2023 edition of the tournament.

➤ After an outstanding performance throughout the tournament, Meg Lanning was crowned the winner of the WPL 2023 Orange Cap. Hayley Matthews, who plays for Mumbai Indians, was awarded the Purple Cap for her excellent performance in the WPL 2023 final.

❖ **'Call Before You Dig' app launched by PM Modi**

➤ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched an app called 'Call Before u Dig', to prevent uncoordinated digging that results in damage to underground utility assets like optical fibre cables, costing the government thousands of crores every year.

➤ The move is a bid to reduce financial losses that occur in executing infrastructure projects. The mobile application has been developed by the department of telecommunications and the Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo informatics functioning under the Gujarat government to protect underground public infrastructure across the country.

➤ The app will connect excavators and asset owners through SMS/Email notifications and click-to-call in bid to execute planned excavations. As per the government, its an adoption of a 'whole-of-government approach' in the ease of doing business as well the governance.

❖ **Asian Development Bank to provide Rs 754 crore loan to SAEL Industries**

➤ Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide a loan up to Rs 754 crore to *Sukhbir Agro Energy Ltd. (SAEL)* Industries Ltd for setting up of biomass power plants in Rajasthan. The lender and SAEL have entered into a loan agreement.

➤ SAEL is a solar and agricultural waste-to-energy company. It has developed a business model where crop residues are used as fuel in waste-to-energy projects.

➤ The company aims to grow its portfolio to 3.5 GW over the next four years by adding 100 MW of new biomass and 600 MW of new solar capacity annually.

➤ ADB's support will fund the construction of five biomass powerplants in the districts of Bikaner, Churu, Hanumangarh, Jhunjhunu, and Sikar of Rajasthan.

➤ Asian Development Bank (ADB) President: **Masatsugu Asakawa**

➤ Asian Development Bank (ADB) Headquarters: **Manila, Philippines**

❖ **Centre appoints 3 New Chief Justices for High Courts**

➤ Centre has appointed three new Chief Justices for the High Courts of **Allahabad, Patna** and **Chhattisgarh**. The *Ministry of Law and Justice* notified these new appointments.

➤ At Allahabad High Court, Justice Pritinker Diwaker has been appointed as the Chief Justice. He previously served as a Judge for Allahabad High Court.

➤ For the Chhattisgarh High Court, Justice Ramesh Sinha has been appointed as the new Chief Justice, He also served at the Allahabad High Court before his appointment as CJ of Chhattisgarh HC.

➤ Justice K Vinod Chandran has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court, He previously served as a judge at the Kerala High Court.

➤ In February 2023, the SC Collegium recommended several judges as Chief Justices of HC.

❖ **Isha Ambani wins GenNext Entrepreneur award at Forbes India Leadership Awards 2023**

➤ At the 12th edition of Forbes India Leadership Awards, Isha Ambani received GenNext Entrepreneur award from Oscar-winning producer Guneet Monga and Moelis India CEO Manisha Girotra.

➤ Isha, director of Reliance Retail Ventures, won this award for scaling up the company into the biggest retailer in India by revenue and store network, building a

formidable omni-channel presence with interests spanning from grocery, fashion and lifestyle to electronics, FMCG, luxury, and more.

➤ Isha is steering the growth of Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd and wants to dominate every aspect of India's \$800 billion retail market. At the 2016 Lakme Fashion Week, she had launched the online fashion retailer, Ajio, a subsidiary of Reliance Retail. The digital marketplace for fashion and lifestyle products is now the number one branded apparel business in India by revenue.

❖ **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty win Swiss Open doubles title**

➤ India's top-ranked doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won their first title of the 2023 season when they went all the way at the Swiss Open 2023 in Basel, Switzerland. Satwik and Chirag won the doubles title, beating Ren Xiang Yu and Tang Qiang of China in straight games in the final.

➤ Other winners: Men's singles: **Koki Watanabe** (Japan)

➤ Women's singles: **Pornpawee Chochuwong** (Thailand)

➤ Women's doubles: **Rena Miyaura** and **Ayako Sakuramoto** (Japan)

➤ Mixed doubles: **Jiang Zhenbang** and **Wei Yaxin** (China)

❖ **Rajasthan becomes first state to pass Right to Health Bill**

➤ Rajasthan became the first-ever state to pass the Right to Health Bill in Assembly which now gives every resident of the state a right to avail free Out Patient Department (OPD) services and In Patient Department (IPD) services at all the public healthcare facilities.

➤ Additionally, similar healthcare services in this would be provided free of cost at select private facilities. The bill was passed despite protests by BJP and a section of doctors – while the former stated that wanted to introduce change to the provisions, the latter demanded withdrawal of the legislation.

➤ As per the Bill, free healthcare services including diagnostics, drugs, emergency transport, emergency care and procedure will be provided at the public institutions

and select private facilities subject to conditions which will be formulated now. All citizens of the state will be entitled to emergency and accidental emergency care free of cost.

➤ Rajasthan Chief Minister: **Ashok Gehlot**

➤ Rajasthan Governor: **Kalraj Mishra**

➤ Rajasthan Capital: **Jaipur**

❖ **NGO from Assam honoured with Children's Champion Award**

➤ Students' Welfare Mission, an NGO from Assam's Pathshala which has been working for special and autistic children, has been conferred with the Children's Champion Award 2023.

➤ Instituted by the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights last year to recognise individuals and institutions that have championed the cause of children across education, justice, health, nutrition, sports and artistic expression categories, the Mission, which is popularly known as Tapoban, has been awarded in the health and nutrition category.

➤ The awards were handed out by Justice P S Narasimha of the Supreme Court, Chief Justice of the Odisha High Court S Muralidhar and Delhi Education Minister Atishi Marlena. Founder president of the Mission, **Kumud Kalita**, received the award that carries Rs 75,000, a certificate and a plaque.

➤ Assam Chief Minister: **Himanta Biswa Sarma**

➤ Assam Governor: **Gulab Chand Kataria**

➤ Assam Capital: **Dispur.**