

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

07th to 11th Mar 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ S.S. Dubey takes charge as the new Controller General of Accounts

➤ S.S. Dubey took charge as the new Controller General of Accounts (CGA). He is the 28th officer to hold the position of CGA.

➤ Prior to that, Dubey has served as Chief Controller of Accounts in Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion etc. and as Controller/Deputy Controller of Accounts in Ministry of Environment & Forest, Ministry of External Affairs, Department of Revenue, Department of Supply etc. and was in-charge of budgeting, accounting, payment, internal audit etc. He also served as Financial Advisor & Chief Accounts Officer in Bank Note Press, Dewas.

➤ Dubey, a 1989-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) officer, is appointed by the Government of India as the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) with effect from 6th March, 2023. Prior to taking charge as the CGA, Shri Dubey was Additional Controller of Accounts, Public Financial Management System (PFMS).

➤ Controller General of Accounts (CGA) is 'the Principal Advisor' on Accounting matters to the Union Government. CGA is responsible for establishing and managing a technically sound Management Accounting System and preparation & submission of the accounts of the Union government. CGA is also responsible for exchequer control and conduct of internal audits for the central government.

❖ All Pension portals to be integrated into Single Portal

➤ Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today announced that the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare has decided that all the Pension portals like Pension Disbursing Bank portals, ANUBHAV,

CPENGRAMS, CGHS etc. will be integrated into a Single portal in the form of the newly created “Integrated Pensioners’ Portal” (<https://ipension.nic.in>) to ensure “Ease of Living for elder citizens”.

➤ Addressing the Bankers Awareness Workshop in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, Dr Jitendra Singh said, in tune with Vision of Prime Minister for an “Integrated Approach to bring Ease of Living”, the move will mitigate the problems faced by the pensioners with the banks like Change of bank, Submission of life certificate, Submission of death certificate of pensioners, Pension slip and retrieval of pension slip, Income tax deduction data/form 16, Pension receipt information, the websites of Pension Disbursing Banks will also be integrated with the Integrated Pensioners Portal.

❖ Share of female borrowers in retail loans rises to 26%

➤ The share of female borrowers in the retail loans outstanding has gone up to 26 per cent at Rs 26.07 lakh crore as of December 2022 from 25 per cent (Rs 20.47 lakh crore) in December 2021, an increase of Rs 5.60 lakh crore.

➤ Among major retail loan products availed by female borrowers in India, gold loans (42 per cent share), education loans (35 per cent), home loans (32 per cent) and loan against property (29 per cent) have higher share of female borrowers (by portfolio outstanding), compared to other products, as of December 2022.

➤ The maximum Y-o-Y increase in portfolio outstanding of female borrowers for gold loans was 64 per cent, two-wheeler 42 per cent and personal loan 35 per cent as of December 2022.

➤ According to CRIF High Mark, female borrowers from southern states have higher credit exposure compared to western and northern states. As of December 2022, Maharashtra is top state with highest credit exposure for female borrowers availing home, business, property, auto and consumer durable loans. Tamil Nadu is top state for female borrowers availing personal, gold, education and two-wheeler loans.

❖ **RBI initiates 75 digital villages programme**

- Reserve Bank of India's Governor Shaktikanta Das announced the central bank will initiate a 75 Digital Villages programme to enable 75 villages across the country with digital payments through awareness and support from local entrepreneurs and merchants.
- Campaign theme: Digital Payment apnao, Auro ko bhi Sikhao (Adopt digital payments and Also teach others).
- Payment system operators (PSOs) will adopt these villages across the country.
- RBI Headquarters: **Mumbai**.
- RBI established: **April 1, 1935**.

❖ **Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2023: 7th March**

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) in collaboration with Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI), the implementing agency of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) and States and Union Territories is celebrating 5th Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2023 under (PMBJP).
- Department of Pharmaceuticals has planned various events in different cities starting from 1st of March 2023 to 7th March 2023 which will focus on awareness about the Jan Aushadhi Scheme.
- Theme: **“Jan Aushadhi – Sasti bhi Acchi bhi”**.
- Every year, in the first week of March, ‘Jan Aushadhi Saptah’ or Generic Medicine Week is observed, while March 7 is observed as ‘Jan Aushadhi Diwas’ or Generic Medicine Day, to increase awareness about generic medicines among the people. This day was first observed on March 7 2019, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's declaration of the day as ‘Jan Aushadhi Diwas’.

❖ Red Bull's Max Verstappen wins 2023 Bahrain Grand Prix

- Red Bull's driver, Max Verstappen has won the season-opening Bahrain Grand Prix 2023, held at Bahrain International Circuit.
- He defeated Red Bull's Sergio Perez, who placed second in the race.
- It was the first time he had won in Bahrain and also the first time he had triumphed in a Formula One opener.
- Fernando Alonso (Aston Martin's driver) placed third followed by C. Sainz Jr. (Ferrari's driver).

❖ Conrad Sangma sworn-in as Meghalaya Chief Minister

- Conrad Kongkal Sangma was sworn in as the Meghalaya chief minister for the second successive term in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Governor Phagu Chauhan administered the oath of office to Sangma, along with his two deputies Prestone Tynsong and Sniawbhaland Dhar, and nine other ministers.
- Sangma won from the South Tura constituency with a margin of 5,016 against Bharatiya Janata Party's Bernard N Marak, as per the data shared by the Election Commission of India on March 2.
- 58 newly elected MLAs were sworn in as assembly members with pro-tem speaker Timothy D Shira administering the oath of office and secrecy to them. The new government, which will be called the Meghalaya Democratic Alliance 2.0, has one woman minister in M Ampareen Lyngdoh. Other members of the new cabinet include Rakkam A Sangma, Marcuise M Marak, AT Mondal and Comingone Ymbon, all from Sangma's National People's Party (NPP).

Capital: **Shillong.**

Chief Minister: **Conrad Kongkal Sangma.**

Governor: **Phagu Chauhan.**

❖ **Mauganj becomes Madhya Pradesh's 53rd district**

- Mauganj was declared as 53rd district of Madhya Pradesh by Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the chief minister of Madhya Pradesh. Mauganj is a tehsil of the Rewa district. CM Chouhan declared that Mauganj would become the 53rd MP district during a function in Rewa. It will be built by combining four of the Rewa district's tehsils.
- Mauganj, Hanumana, Nai Garhi, and Deotalab are the four tehsils. After the chief minister promised in 2013 that Mauganj would be established as a distinct district, residents of Mauganj have been calling for a separate district ever since.
- CM Chouhan released 605 crore as assistance in the bank accounts of 27,000 beneficiaries of the "Sambal Yojana" in a programme of financial distribution under the Sambal plan with a single click through a digital media. Along with this, the CM also announced a budget of 784 crore for construction projects to be carried out in the newly created district.
- Governor of Madhya Pradesh: **Mangubhai Patel**
- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh: **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**
- Capital: **Bhopal**

❖ **Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu wins BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year award**

- Tokyo Olympic Games silver-medallist weightlifter Mirabai Chanu has bagged the 2022 'BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year' award after a public vote.
- The 28-year-old weightlifter from Manipur became the first athlete to win the award twice in a row after bagging it in 2021 as well.
- At the Tokyo Games, she had become the first Indian to win a silver in the sport. Last year, she went on to secure gold at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. She also won a silver medal at the World Weightlifting Championships in 2022.

➤ The other short-listed contenders for the award were wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Sakshi Malik, boxer Nikhat Zareen and badminton player PV Sindhu.

➤ Table tennis player Bhavina Patel won the 'BBC Para Sportswoman of the Year' award, a category introduced this year. She won a silver at the 2020 Paralympics in Tokyo, becoming the first Indian paddler to achieve the feat. Bhavina also won gold at the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

❖ **Delhi International airport among cleanest in Asia-Pacific**

➤ Delhi airport has been ranked among the cleanest airports in Asia-Pacific as a part of the Airport Council International (ACI)'s annual service quality award.

➤ The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), operated by Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), has bagged the award for Airport Service Quality (ASQ) best airport for 2022 in the category of over 40 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA).

➤ The airport service quality award is based on passenger surveys carried out to rate customer satisfaction on the day of travel. It covers over 30 performance indicators across key elements of a passenger's airport experience such as ease of finding your way and dining offerings.

❖ **Yaoshang festival begins in Manipur**

➤ The five-day-long Yaoshang festival, Manipur's version of Holi. The festival is celebrated every year on the full moon of Lamta (February-March) of the Meitei lunar calendar. Yaoshang begins just after sunset followed by Yaosang Mei thaba, also known as Burning of the Straw Hut. Children visit neighbours to ask for monetary donations, called nakatheng.

➤ Yaoshang, unlike Holi, is celebrated with a traditional twist in Manipur. During these five days Manipur comes alive with sporting events during the day and traditional "thabal chongba" dance in the night.

➤ The thabal chongba is a traditional dance of the Meitei, where boys and girls gathered in an open ground and dance in a circle. But these days thabal chongba is performed throughout the month of Lamta. Business activities and public

transportation come to a grinding halt during Yaoshang. All educational institutions, both private and government, will also remain shut.

➤ Manipur Capital: **Imphal**

➤ Manipur Chief Minister: *N Biren Singh*

➤ Manipur Governor: **Anusuiya Uikey**

❖ **Ashwini Vaishnaw released special 'Go Green, Go Organic' cover for Sikkim**

➤ Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and four Sikkim ministers released a unique cover of the Department of Posts, 'Go Green, Go Organic' cover for world's first organic state Sikkim.

➤ The special cover is a testament to the state's achievements in organic farming and progress and a reminder of the importance of sustainable development for the entire country.

➤ Sikkim is the first state in the world to get recognized as an Organic state by the World Book of Records (London).

➤ Capital: **Gangtok**

➤ Chief Minister: *Prem Singh Tamang*

➤ Governor: **Lakshman Acharya**

❖ **India installs 'World's first' bamboo crash barrier on Maharashtra Highway**

➤ The world's first 200-metre-long bamboo crash barrier has been installed on a highway connecting Chandrapur and Yavatmal districts in Maharashtra.

➤ Named 'Bahu Balli', the bamboo crash barrier underwent "rigorous testing" at various government-run institutions like the National Automotive Test Tracks (NATRAX) in Pithampur, Indore. This was rated as Class 1 during the Fire Rating Test conducted at the Central Building Research Institute (CBRI) in Roorkee and it has also been accredited by the Indian Road Congress, According to Nitin Gadkari-led Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

➤ Aatmanirbhar Bharat has been made with the development of the world's first bamboo-made crash barrier, which has been installed on the Vani-Warora Highway in Vidarbha, Maharashtra. Additionally, it has also been accredited by the Indian Road Congress. The recycling value of the bamboo barrier is 50-70 per cent whereas that of steel barriers is 30-50 per cent.

➤ Chief Minister: **Eknath Sambhaji Shinde**

➤ Governor: **Ramesh Bais**

➤ Capital: **Mumbai**

❖ **Max Life partners with Ujjivan SFB to offer life insurance solutions**

➤ Max Life Insurance and Ujjivan Small Finance Bank have partnered to offer life insurance offerings to Ujjivan SFB's customers.

➤ Through this partnership, both will offer a range of savings, protection, retirement, and group life insurance plans to Ujjivan SFB customers.

➤ Max Life Insurance Company Limited is a joint venture between Max Financial Services Limited and Axis Bank Limited.

➤ Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited began its operations in February 2017.

➤ Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer: **Mr. Ittira Davis**

❖ **International Women's Day 2023: 8th March**

➤ International Women's Day is observed every year on March 8 to raise awareness about gender equality and create a better society free of gender bias.

➤ The day celebrates women and addresses issues such as women's equal rights, violence and abuse against women, and reproductive rights.

➤ 2023 Theme: DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality.

➤ This theme emphasizes the importance of technology in bringing gender issues to light.

❖ **Indian Navy successfully tests MRSAM from INS Visakhapatnam**

➤ The Indian Navy carried out a successful test-firing of a Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) from frontline warship INS Visakhapatnam. The test firing validated the capability to engage the weapon as an anti-ship missile.

➤ MRSAM was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and produced at Bharat Dynamics Ltd.

➤ The DRDO has already handed over two other versions to Indian Army and Indian Air Force to augment the country's air defence power.

➤ DRDO Chairman: **Dr Samir V Kamat**

➤ DRDO HQ: **DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi**

❖ **BSE & UN Women India launches a new programme 'FinEMPOWER'**

➤ FinEMPOWER, a new initiative from BSE and UN Women India, was introduced at the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). In order to empower women towards financial security, BSE and UN Women have collaborated on a year-long capacity-building programme.

➤ To increase investment in female leaders and entrepreneurs at BSE, BSE and UN Women India together organized the "Ring the Bell for Gender Equality ceremony" in observance of International Women's Day.

➤ Mr. Sundararaman Ramamurthy, MD and CEO of BSE, and Ms. Susan Ferguson, Country Representative of UN Women India, rang the bell for gender equality together. Mr. Ramamurthy emphasised the necessity for businesses to consider diversity from a variety of perspectives, including age, demographics, gender, and geography, in order to extend their perspective and meet the demands of many cross-sections of society.

❖ **First Indian-America judge in NY District court: Arun Subramanian**

- The United States Senate confirmed Indian-American Arun Subramanian to be District Judge for the Southern District of New York, thus making him the first South Asian judge to serve on this bench.
- His nomination was confirmation by Senate Majority Leader Senator Chuck Schumer by a vote of 58-37.
- He received his Juris Doctor (J.D) from Columbia Law School in 2004 and his BA from Case Western Reserve University in 2001.
- South District New York notably has one of the largest South Asian-American populations in the country.

❖ **Manik Saha takes oath as Tripura chief minister for second time**

- Dr Manik Saha took the oath as the chief minister of Tripura for the second consecutive term in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union home minister Amit Shah and BJP chief JP Nadda.
- Tripura governor **Satyadeo Narain Arya** administered the oath to him at Vivekananda Maidan in the capital city of Tripura, **Agartala**.
- The oath ceremony was attended by PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. In 2022, he was made the chief minister after replacing Biplab Deb.
- He joined the BJP in 2016 after quitting Congress. He was elected to the Rajya Sabha in March 2022.

❖ **PM Modi inaugurated 3rd Session of NPDRR**

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated 3rd Session of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Session's theme: **“Building Local Resilience in a Changing Climate”**.

➤ Chaired by Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, NPDRR is a multi-stakeholders National Platform, characterized by a process, where all stakeholders discuss and exchange ideas, practices and trends in disaster risk reduction (DRR).

➤ The NPDRR will be attended by over 1000 distinguished guests including Union Ministers, Ministers of Disaster Management from States, Parliamentarians, Representatives of local bodies, Heads of specialized disaster management agencies, academicians, representatives from private sector organizations, media and civil society organizations.

➤ It will comprise four Plenary Sessions, one Ministerial Session, and eight Thematic Sessions.

❖ **ISRO carries out controlled re-entry of aged satellite**

➤ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully carried out a controlled re-entry experiment of the decommissioned orbiting Megha-Tropiques-1 (MT-1) satellite.

➤ The satellite re-entered the Earth's atmosphere and the final impact region estimated is in the deep Pacific Ocean within the expected latitude and longitude boundaries.

➤ The low Earth satellite was launched on October 12, 2011, as a joint satellite venture of ISRO and the French space agency, CNES for tropical weather and climate studies.

➤ Although the mission life of the satellite originally was three years, it continued to provide valuable data services for more than a decade supporting regional and global climate models till 2021.

➤ The orbital lifetime of MT-1, weighing about 1,000 kg, would have been more than 100 years in its 20-degree inclined operational orbit of 867 km altitude.

➤ ISRO Chairman: **S. Somanath**; HQ: **Antariksh Bhavan in Bangalore.**

❖ **No Smoking Day 2023: March 8**

➤ Every year on the second Wednesday of March, No Smoking Day is observed. It falls on March 8 this year. Even though we all know that smoking is bad for our health, quitting the habit appears to be a difficult task. The day is celebrated to help those who wish to quit smoking as well as to raise awareness about the implications of smoking on an individual's health.

➤ 2023 Theme: **“Stopping smoking improves your brain health”**.

➤ The main goal of this day is to raise awareness about the detrimental health impacts of smoking and other forms of tobacco intake. The important message is to assist smokers in quitting their harmful habit.

➤ The United Kingdom witnessed that the people in the country are getting addicted to smoking. In 1984, the day was observed for the first time. Earlier, it was celebrated on the first Wednesday of March as it began on Ash Wednesday.

❖ **'SEBI' Comes Out With Restrictions On Cos Opting Share Buyback Via Stock Exchange Mechanism**

➤ Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** imposed restrictions on the placement of bids, price and volume for the companies undertaking share buyback through the stock exchange route.

➤ Under the restrictions, a company will not be able to purchase more than 25 per cent of the average daily trading volume (in value) of its shares in the 10 trading days preceding the day in which such purchases are made.

➤ Among others, the company will not place bids in the pre-open market, first 30 minutes and the last 30 minutes of the regular trading session and the firm's purchase order price should be within the range of 1 per cent on either side from the last traded price.

➤ Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairman: **Madhabi Puri Buch**

➤ SEBI HQ: **Mumbai, Maharashtra**

❖ ECI hosts the 3rd International Conference

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) hosted the 3rd International Conference on the theme ‘**Inclusive Elections and Elections Integrity**’ in virtual format on 09 March 2023.
- ECI is leading the Cohort on Elections Integrity which was established as a follow up to the ‘Summit for Democracy’ held virtually in December, 2021.
- The first international conference of the Cohort was organized on 31 Oct – 01 Nov, 2022 at New Delhi on the topic ‘Role, Framework and Capacity of Election Management Bodies’ where nearly 50 representatives from the Election Management Bodies (EMBs) of 11 countries participated.
- The 2nd Conference on the theme ‘Use of Technology and Elections Integrity’ was hosted by ECI at New Delhi on 23-24 January 2023 wherein over 40 participants from 16 countries including Heads/Dy. Heads of nine EMBs or Election Authorities and delegates from International IDEA and IFES participated besides diplomats from 8 foreign missions located at New Delhi.
- Chief Election Commissioner of India (ECI): **Rajiv Kumar**

❖ J&K Govt. launches plantation drive on International Women’s Day 2023

- Jammu and Kashmir government celebrated International Women’s Day in a unique way. It organised a plantation programme under the theme “**Ped Lagao Beti Ke Naam**”.
- The initiative involved women and girls in afforestation, environmental conservation and creating awareness. Over one thousand saplings of various species were planted along the National Highway Ring Road NH-44, at Chak Avtara Panchayat of Bishnah Tehsil of Jammu district today by over 300 participants.
- Women planted saplings in the name of their daughters and pledged to protect them and carry forward this initiative in other villages also.

➤ J&K Lieutenant Governor: **Sh. Manoj Sinha**

➤ J&K Capital: **Srinagar (summer) and Jammu (winter)**

❖ **Maharashtra to introduce 4th women's policy**

➤ Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis informed the Maharashtra's Legislative Council that the state will introduce the fourth women's policy to give more opportunities to women by considering the issues of women from all groups.

➤ Mr Fadnis said that apart from education, and employment, the women's policy will consider other important aspects, including economic empowerment and gender equality. He also announced that the government will introduce a rehabilitation scheme for those above 18 years old girls from the orphanage.

➤ Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced in assembly that the state will start a Hirkani Room (Kaksha) for breastfeeding mothers at each police station in the state.

➤ Maharashtra Governor: **Ramesh Bais**

❖ **Australian PM Anthony Albanese arrives in India for four-day visit**

➤ Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese arrived in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on a state visit to India. During his four-day tour, he will also visit Mumbai and Delhi as well. It's the first visit by an Australian prime minister in six years and it came on the heels of the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), which entered into force in December.

➤ The Australian prime minister is accompanied by Australia's Minister for Trade and Tourism Senator Don Farrell, Minister for Resources and Northern Australia Madeleine King, and other senior officials, as well as a high-level corporate delegation.

➤ He will hold the Annual Summit with PM Modi to discuss areas of cooperation under the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

❖ **Group Captain Shaliza Dhama 1st woman to command frontline IAF combat unit**

- In the first command appointment for a woman officer in the Indian Air Force (IAF), Group Captain Shaliza Dhama has been selected to take over the command of a frontline combat unit in the Western sector.
- For the first time ever in the IAF's history, Shaliza Dhama a woman officer has been given command of a frontline combat unit – in this case, a missile squadron in the Western sector.
- The IAF's move comes just two months after Captain Shiva Chauhan of the Indian Army's Fire and Fury Corps became the first woman officer to be operationally deployed at the world's highest battlefield in Siachen.
- Group Captain Shaliza Dhama was commissioned in 2003 as a Helicopter pilot and has over 2,800 hours of flying experience. A Qualified Flying Instructor, she has served as Flight Commander of a Helicopter Unit in the Western sector.
- Chief of Air Staff: Air Chief *Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari*.

❖ **Xi Jinping elected China's president for historic third term**

- China's Xi Jinping secured an unprecedented third term as the country's president. Nearly 3,000 members of China's rubber-stamp parliament, the National People's Congress (NPC), voted unanimously for Xi Jinping to be president.
- There was no other candidate in the election. Xi was also elected for a third term as chairman of China's Central Military Commission.
- China's parliament also elected Zhao Leji as the new parliament chair and Han Zheng as the new vice president. Both of them were in Xi's previous team of party leaders at the Politburo Standing Committee.
- In October last year, Xi Jinping was re-elected as the General Secretary of the Communist Party for a record third five-year term. With the series of wins under his

belt, Xi is tightening his grip as the country's most powerful leader since Mao Zedong.

❖ **Rohit Jawa appointed as the CEO of Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL)**

- Rohit Jawa has been appointed as the MD &CEO of Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) with effect from 27th June 2023.
- He is presently the Chief of Transformation for Unilever and has been appointed for 5 years.
- He will succeed Sanjiv Mehta, who was the part of Hindustan Unilever since 2013.
- HUL is India's largest fast moving consumer goods company headquarter in Mumbai.

❖ **23rd Commonwealth Law Conference held at Goa**

- Commonwealth Law Conference is an international conference that brings together legal professionals, policy makers and academics from Commonwealth countries to discuss critical issues related to law and governance.
- Key focus of this conference: Good governance and welfare of people.
- Key speakers at this conference: 1. Kiren Rijiju (Union Minister for Law and Justice)
2. Dr. Pramod Sawant (CM of Goa)
- The event was inaugurated by Governor of Goa P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
- Important initiatives of this conference: 1. E-courts phase III and 2. Digitisation of processes
- e-courts started in India on 7th August 2013, to make Indian judiciary completely paperless

➤ The Commonwealth of Nations was formed in 1949 to maintain an association between countries that had once been a part of British colonies, but are considered free and equal.

❖ **FedEx selects Hyderabad for its first ACC**

➤ e-commerce and business services provider FedEx plans to open its first Advanced Capability Community (ACC) in Hyderabad.

➤ The ACC will enable latest technology and innovation for the firm to provide industry leading supply chain expertise.

❖ **IIT Basar signs MoU with TSCOST to encourage students in science**

➤ Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies (RGUKT) Basar and Telangana State Council of Science and Technology (TSCOST) signed an MoU to establish Nirmal Innovation Hub.

➤ This initiative is to encourage women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) identify young innovators and provide design and innovation training.

❖ **Assam sets record for most essays on a person**

➤ Assam has earned a place in the Guinness World Records for the largest number of handwritten notes submitted for a common purpose during an essay writing to mark the 400th birth anniversary of the legendary Ahom general : Lachit Borphukan

❖ **Telangana Government to launch ‘Griha Lakshmi Scheme’ for women.**

➤ The state government of Telangana announced a new scheme “Griha Lakshmi” to fulfill the aspirations of the people to construct house in their own land.

➤ A one-time grant of Rs.3 lakhs will be provided to each beneficiary under this scheme, to construct a house as per their needs.

➤ The houses under this scheme will be sanctioned only in the name of women beneficiaries where Rs 1 lakh each will be deposited into the bank of beneficiary in three instalments.

❖ **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launches “Unpause Initiative”**

➤ Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has launched the “Unpause Initiative” to assist women who have taken a career break and are now ready to return to the workforce.

➤ The initiative is part of the bank’s commitment to promoting workplace diversity and inclusion.

➤ The bank’s employees participated in a 3km walk from its registered headquarters in Koramangala to support an initiative.

❖ **Yes Bank and Aadhar Housing Finance ink co-lending partnership**

➤ Yes Bank has partnered with Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd to offer home loans at competitive interest rates to customers from lower and middle-income groups.

➤ This partnership is in accordance with the co-lending framework of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

➤ Under this framework, the RBI enables banks and non-banking companies to jointly bring forth financial solutions that cater to the requirements of unserved and underserved sections of society.

❖ **WINS Awards 2023 launched by MoHUA**

➤ The Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri has launched the ‘Women Icons Leading Swachhata (WINS) Awards 2023.

➤ Aim: To recognize celebrate and disseminate inspiring and exemplary initiatives in urban sanitation and waste management by women-led organizations and individual women.

➤ The awards are given in the categories of SHG, Micro-enterprises, NGOs, Startups and Individuals.

❖ **International Day of Women Judges 2023: March 10**

- The International Day of Women Judges is observed every year on March 10 to honour all female judges who have taken the lead in the fight against social injustice.
- This day is being observed with the campaign “Women in Justice, Women for Justice”.
- It is symbolic day for the fight for gender equality and the fight against gender based discrimination.
- In April 2021, UNGA enacted resolution 75/274 designating March 10 as the International Day of Women Judges.

❖ **India bags Golden & Silver Star at ITB, Berlin 2023**

- The Ministry of Tourism of India has bagged a Golden & Silver Star at The International ‘Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2023’ at ITB, Berlin.
- Category: TV/Cinema Commercials International and Country International
- Arvind Singh, Secretary (Tourism) received awards on 8th March 2023 at Berlin.
- The Golden City Gate Tourism Multi-media Awards are given annually in various categories related to the Tourism and Hospitality sectors.

❖ **IDFC Mutual Fund rebrands itself as Bandhan Mutual Fund**

- IDFC Mutual Fund has been rebranded itself as Bandhan Mutual Fund and its schemes are reflected with the name with effect from March 12,2023.
- It also unveiled a new logo as the company was acquired by Bandhan Financial Holdings led consortium in April 2022.

❖ **Govt. releases Rs. 1.4 trillion monthly installment tax devolution to states**

- Central government has released Rs 1,40,318 crores as monthly installment for March towards tax devolution to states, which is much more than the normal monthly devolution of Rs 70,159 crore made for states.
- This is in line with the commitment to strengthen the hands of states to accelerate their capital and development expenditure, an official statement said.
- Uttar Pradesh has received the highest instalment of Rs 24,783 crore among all states.