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DESCRIPTIVE

❖ **Telangana state bags awards for best-performing gram panchayats**

- The Telangana government bagged 13 national panchayat awards under various categories announced by the Union Ministry of Panchayat Raj.
- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has conferred awards to 19 Panchayats in Telangana. The awards were bagged under four categories which are Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar, Child-friendly Gram Panchayat Award, Gram Panchayat Development Plan Award, Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar.
- While eight national awards of the total 23 were announced to the rural local bodies of Telangana under Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (DDUPSVP) for the year 2021-2022, the state got another four under Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar 2023.
- The awards will be presented to the panchayats on April 17 in New Delhi by President Droupadi Murmu.
- Telangana panchayat raj minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao said that the state once again proved its strength and efficiency through these awards.

❖ **Sundram Fasteners bags GM's supplier of year award for 10th time**

- Auto parts major Sundram Fasteners Ltd's (SFL) Powertrain Components Division has received the prestigious 'Supplier of the Year Award' from General Motors (GM) at its 31st Annual Supplier of the Year awards.
- This marks the tenth time that Sundram Fasteners Ltd's (SFL) has received the award. The company has a unique record of receiving the Supplier of the Year

award for five consecutive years from 1996 to 2000, and in 2009, 2019, 2020, 2021, and now, in 2022.

- The winners of supplier of the year awards were chosen by the global team of General Motors purchasing, engineering, quality, manufacturing and logistics executives.
- Arathi Krishna, Managing Director, SF, noted that the company's long-standing association with GM has been built on mutual trust, collaboration, and an unyielding focus on delivering exceptional quality and customer satisfaction.

❖ **India's forex reserves drop by \$329 mn to \$578.45 bn**

- India's forex reserves dropped by \$329 million to \$578.449 billion for the week ended March 31, on decline in gold reserves.
- The forex kitty had risen handsomely in the previous two reporting weeks, and rose by \$5.977 billion to \$578.778 billion for the week ended March 24.
- For FY23, the overall kitty has dropped by \$28.86 billion. It can be noted that in October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of \$645 billion.
- The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments. For the week ended March 31, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by \$36 million to \$509.691 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

❖ **Over Rs 23.2 lakh crore loans sanctioned in eight years under Mudra Yojana**

- Since the launch of the **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)** eight years ago, more than 40.82 crore loans worth Rs 23.2 lakh crore have been sanctioned so far.

- According to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, since the launch of the scheme on April 8, 2015, till March 24, 2023, about Rs 23.2 lakh crore has been sanctioned in 40.82 crore loan accounts.
- About 68 per cent accounts under the scheme are for women entrepreneurs and 51 per cent accounts are for SC, ST and OBC categories of entrepreneurs. This shows that easy availability of credit to budding entrepreneurs of the country has encouraged innovation and sustained growth in per capita income.
- Under the scheme, the people of the country are given loans up to a maximum of 10 lakhs to start their own small business. Any person who wants to further his business can take a loan under this scheme. Mudra card is issued to the people for taking loans under this scheme.

❖ **Shah Rukh Khan Tops 2023 TIME100 Reader Poll**

- Superstar Shah Rukh Khan topped Time magazine's poll, the annual list of Time 100. He won the election beating other notable figures like Prince Harry, Lionel Messi and META founder Mark Zuckerberg.
- This is a significant achievement for Shah Rukh Khan, who is a hugely popular Bollywood actor with a massive global following. The Time100 is an annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world.
- This list is compiled by Time magazine, an American news magazine known for its coverage of current affairs and culture. It was first published in 1999 following debate among American academics, politicians and journalists.

❖ **'Subby' Subramaniam appointed Warrant Officer of UK's Royal Air Force (RAF)**

- Indian-origin man Subby Subramaniam has been commissioned as a Warrant Officer in the Royal Air Force of the United Kingdom in April 2023.
- His role will include advising the Chief of the Air Staff on matters relating to RAF personnel, a significant responsibility.

➤ Subramaniam will take over from Warrant Officer Jake Alpert, who previously held the role. Notably, Subramaniam was appointed as the inaugural Command Warrant Officer of the United Kingdom Space Command in 2021, demonstrating his experience and aptitude for the new post.

➤ Royal Air Force (RAF) is a branch of the armed forces of the United Kingdom that specialises in aerial warfare and space operations.

❖ **Cabinet approves revised domestic gas pricing guidelines**

➤ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the revised domestic natural gas pricing guidelines for gas produced from nomination fields of ONGC/OIL, New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) blocks and pre-NELP blocks, where Production Sharing Contract (PSC) provides for Government's approval of prices.

➤ The price of such natural gas shall be 10% of the monthly average of Indian Crude Basket and shall be notified on a monthly basis.

➤ The new guidelines are intended to ensure stable pricing regime for domestic gas consumers while at the same time providing adequate protection to producers from adverse market fluctuation with incentives for enhancing production.

➤ Government has targeted to increase the share of natural gas in primary energy mix in India from current 6.5% to 15% by 2030. The reforms shall help expand the consumption of natural gas and will contribute to achievement of target of emission reduction and net zero.

❖ **Bangladesh gets 450 MW power from Adani**

➤ The Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) received 450 MW of electricity from Adani Power, a subsidiary of the Indian Adani Group, on a trial basis. Power is supplied from Adani's power plant in Godda, Jharkhand.

➤ Bangladesh has been importing electricity from India since 2013, and now receives 1,000MW daily from Baharampur in West Bengal and 160MW from Suryamoni in Tripura.

➤ Adani and BPDB completed the transmission line ahead of the test run, and the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh installed a substation at Bogra to transmit power from the Godda plant and a 134 km transmission line from the Chapainawabganj border.

➤ As per the MoU signed between Adani Power and BPDB in 2015, the entire production from the project can be supplied to Bangladesh.

❖ **Second meeting of G20 Development Working Group held in Kumarakom**

➤ The second meeting of the G20 Development Working Group was held in Kumarakom, Kerala on 7 April and in this meeting the delegates emphasised the importance of digital technologies to achieve the 2030 Agenda and bridge the digital divide.

➤ The formal proceedings were inaugurated by Dammu Ravi, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs.

➤ The session focused on "Transformative Change through Data for Development". Presentations were made by experts from the International Telecommunications Union, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and the United Nations Office of the Special Envoy on Technology.

➤ Another session on "**Transformative Change**" discussed the role of women in accelerating the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and stressed the need for women's empowerment and leadership. The session on "**Just Green Development**" highlighted the importance of balancing the green transition with social and development dimensions.

❖ **Honda Motor Appoints Tsutsumu Otani As Its New President, CEO And MD**

➤ Honda Motor Company Limited appointed Tsutsumu Otani as the new President, CEO and Managing Director of Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India.

- Otani was serving as vice president of Honda Motor in Japan and took over from Atsushi Ogata. Otani began his career with Honda Japan in 1997 and has held several leadership positions within the company.
- Honda Motor Company Limited is a multinational conglomerate manufacturer based in Japan and this company manufactures automobiles, motorcycles and power equipment.
- As of 2021, Honda is one of the most valuable automobile brands in the world, with a brand value of over \$25 billion.

❖ **Amit Shah unveils 54 feet tall statue of Lord Hanuman at Gujarat**

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah unveiled a 54 feet tall statue of Lord Hanuman at Sarangpur temple in Botad district of Gujarat.
- The statue was unveiled on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti, which is celebrated to mark the birth of Lord Hanuman. The idol is located in the Sarangpur Temple, a popular pilgrimage site for devotees of Lord Hanuman.
- The idol is 54 feet tall, making it one of the tallest idols of Lord Hanuman in the country.
- Apart from unveiling the statue, Amit Shah also inaugurated the temple's new community kitchen. The new community kitchen has the capacity to serve around 4,000 pilgrims at a time, making it easier for devotees to get food during their visit to the temple.

➤ Capital – **Gandhinagar**

➤ Governor - **Acharya Devvrat**

➤ Chief Minister - **Bhupendrabhai Patel**

❖ **Govt. approves Kirit Parikh panel recommendations on natural gas pricing**

- The government on April 7 fixed natural gas price at \$7.92 per MMBTU (million British thermal units) for the rest of April under the new pricing formula suggested

by the Kirit Parekh Committee. However, the final rates for consumers have been capped at \$6.5 per MMBTU.

➤ The Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the oil ministry said in the order that the price of natural gas for April 8 to April 30 would be \$7.92 per million British thermal units.

➤ This price has been fixed on the basis of 10 per cent of the average cost of imported crude oil. The Union Cabinet, while changing the pricing formula, capped the rates for consumers at \$6.5 per MMBTU. This limit will be applicable for two years till March 31, 2025.