

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

14th April 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ Industrial production growth rises marginally to 5.6% in February 2023

- India's industrial production growth rose marginally to 5.6 per cent in February from 5.5 per cent in January 2023, mainly due to good performance of the power, mining and manufacturing sectors.
- There was an improvement on an annual as well as sequential basis. The factory output growth measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) stood at 1.2 per cent in February 2022.
- As per the IIP data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the manufacturing sector's output grew 5.3 per cent in February 2023 from 0.2 percent in February 2023 from 0.2 per cent a year ago.
- Mining output growth remained flat at 4.6 per cent during the month under review compared to the year-ago period. Power generation surged 8.2 per cent in February 2023 against 4.5 percent.

❖ Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative to launch on 14th April 2023

- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala will be launching the “**Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative (APPI)**” as well as the World Bank funded Animal Health System Support for One Health (AHSSOH) project under the aegis of National One Health Mission tomorrow i.e. on 14th of April 2023 at India Habitat Center, New Delhi.
- The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has inked a collaborative project on the Animal Health System Support for One Health (AHSSOH) with the World Bank aiming to create an ecosystem for a better animal health management system using the One Health approach. The project will be implemented in five

States and it envisages improving capacity building of stakeholders involved in animal health and disease management.

➤ The project aims to cover 151 districts in five participating states, wherein it will target upgradation of 75 district/regional laboratories, upgradation/strengthening of 300 veterinary hospitals/dispensaries, aims to train 9000 para-veterinarians/diagnostic professionals and 5500 veterinary professionals. In addition to the above, the awareness campaign on prevention of zoonotic diseases and pandemic preparedness at community level by reaching out to six lakh households.

➤ The collaborative project will be implemented over a five-year period as Central sector scheme with a financial provision of Rs. 1228.70 Cr.

❖ **RBI to stop banks from capitalizing penal charges on loans defaults**

➤ The Reserve Bank of India proposed to prohibit capitalisation of penal charges and additional interest levied by banks on customers for loan defaults, in a bid to streamline divergent practices followed by lenders.

➤ The quantum of penal charges should be proportional to the defaults/non-compliance of material terms and conditions of loan contract up to a threshold, said its draft circular on 'Fair Lending Practice - Penal Charges in Loan Accounts'.

➤ Under the extant RBI's guidelines, lending institutions have the operational autonomy to formulate board-approved policy for levy of penal rates of interest.

➤ However, many RBI regulated entities (REs) use penal rates of interest, over and above the applicable interest rates, in case of defaults/non-compliance by the borrower with the terms on which credit facilities were sanctioned. Now, the central bank has issued drafts on 'Fair Lending Practice - Penal Charges in Loan Accounts' to streamline the practices.

❖ **Karnataka Bank authorised to collect direct, indirect taxes**

➤ Private sector lender Karnataka Bank has been authorised to collect direct and indirect taxes on behalf of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). This authorisation is provided by the Reserve Bank of India.

- The RBI gave this authorisation on the recommendation from the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).
- The statement further said that customers are already enjoying seamless online payments for custom duty by selecting Karnataka Bank in the Indian Customs Electronic Gateway 'ICEGATE' portal of CBIC. According to the filing, the (ICEGA TE) portal of CBIC provides e-filing services to the trade, cargo carriers and other trading partners electronically.

❖ **Ratnakar Patnaik is appointed as the new Chief Investment Officer of LIC**

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) appointed Ratnakar Patnaik as its new Chief Investment Officer.
- Patnaik has replaced PR Mishra on this post. Earlier, Patnaik had joined LIC in September 1990 as a direct recruit officer.
- LIC is a wholly owned company by the Government of India.
- It is the country's largest life insurance company as well as the largest investor company.
- It provides health insurance, life insurance, mutual funds, investment related services as its products.
- Establishment: **1956**
- Headquarters: **Mumbai**

❖ **India ranked 77th in the world's Most Criminal Countries ranking**

- World of Statistics released the ranking of the world's most criminal countries in which India is ranked 77th, while the US is at 55th and the UK at 65th.
- As per the ranking, Venezuela has been ranked first as the most criminal country, followed by Papua New Guinea in second place and South Africa in third place.

- Turkey, Germany and Japan are among the least criminal countries, ranked 92nd, 100th and 135th respectively.
- According to this report, Afghanistan ranks fourth with a crime rate of more than 76 crimes per 100,000 people.
- The overall crime rate is calculated by dividing the total number of reported crimes by the total population and multiplying by 100,000.

❖ **Gond painting of Madhya Pradesh gets GI tag**

- Gond paintings from Madhya Pradesh have bagged the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, a recognition that protects and acknowledges the work of tribal artists.
- Patangarh village in Dindori district is home to many Gond artists, one in every household whose artwork is popular in the state and recognized internationally.
- Narbadia Armo, a physically challenged tribal woman from Khannat village, makes mouth paintings and acts as a role model for women who feel helpless.
- With the GI tag, Narbadiya Armo's paintings will get recognition, a unique identity and a fair price for her artwork.

❖ **'Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origin of Empire' is authored by Nandini Das**

- The book titled Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origin of Empire is authored by Nandini Das, Professor of English Literature at the University of Liverpool.
- The book explores the cultural and literary exchange between England and Mughal India in the early modern period.
- The book focuses on Thomas Roe's four-year mission as the English ambassador to the court of the Mughal emperor Jahangir in India in 1615.
- The book highlights the challenges faced by English merchants in finding new markets after their excommunication by Pope Pius V in 1570.

❖ **Freedom House Index: Tibet ranked world's least free country**

- A recent report by Tibet Press highlights that, according to the Freedom in the World Index for 2023 published by international watchdog Freedom House, Tibet is the country with the least freedom.
- This is the third annual report after the 2021 and 2022 Freedom House reports.
- The report stated that residents of Tibet were deprived of basic rights, both Chinese and Tibetan, and that the Chinese government is ruthless in suppressing any signs of dissent among Tibetans.
- People living in Tibet are not even getting basic human rights. A number of issues relating to the human rights of the Tibetan people require serious and urgent attention from the international community.
- Every move by the Communist Party of China (CPC) to Sinicize Tibet is being closely watched by the rest of the world.
- Tibetan children have been completely cut off from Buddhist teachings. Along with this, hatred against Buddhism and culture is being created in children through school education.

❖ **ADR report: Jagan Mohan Reddy is the wealthiest CM**

- Twenty-nine of the 30 incumbent chief ministers are crorepatists with Andhra Pradesh's Jagan Mohan Reddy having the highest assets totalling Rs 510 crore, according to poll affidavits analysed by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).
- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has the lowest total assets of about Rs 15 lakh.
- The top three chief ministers in terms of assets are Andhra Pradesh's Jagan Mohan Reddy (over Rs 510 crore), Arunachal Pradesh's Pema Khandu (over Rs 163 crore) and Odisha's Naveen Patnaik (over Rs 63 crore). The three CMs with the lowest declared assets are – West Bengal's Mamata Banerjee (over Rs 15 lakh),

Kerala's Pinarayi Vijayan (over Rs 1 crore) and Haryana's Manohar Lal (over Rs 1 crore).

➤ Out of the 30 CMs analysed, 29 (97 per cent) are crorepatists with the average assets being Rs 33.96 crore for every CM. According to the ADR report, out of the 30 CMs, 13 (43 per cent) have declared serious criminal cases including those related to murder, attempt to murder, kidnapping and criminal intimidation.

❖ **Piyush Goyal's two-day visit to Italy**

➤ Union Minister of Commerce and Industry **Piyush Goyal** was visiting **Rome** on a two-day visit to **Italy**.

➤ Shri Goyal met Antonio Tajani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of Italy to review all aspects of bilateral trade and economic relations. Both the Ministers exchanged views on leveraging the India-Italy trade and economic partnership for development in various sectors.

➤ After the state visit of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni to India on 2 March 2023, efforts were made to elevate the bilateral relationship to the level of a strategic partnership.

➤ Bilateral trade between India and Italy to be around US\$ 16 billion in 2022. Shri Goyal briefed about the progress made in India-EU FTA negotiations. Both the Ministers underlined the importance of a free, balanced and fair Free Trade Agreement and hoped that it would be concluded soon.

➤ Capital: **Rome**; Currency: **Euro**; President: **Sergio Mattarella**; Prime Minister: **Giorgia Meloni**

❖ **World Chagas Disease Day: 14 April**

➤ World Chagas Disease Day is observed every year on 14 April to raise awareness about the deadly disease caused by the Trypanosoma cruzi parasite.

➤ The theme for World Chagas Disease Day 2023 is "**Time to integrate Chagas disease into primary health care**" to encourage universal care and surveillance at the most decentralised level of the health system.

➤ The disease is commonly known as American trypanosomiasis, the silent disease and mainly affects people living in rural areas with poor sanitary conditions.

➤ In humans, the disease is transmitted by the triatomine bug, commonly known as the kissing bug. Without treatment, Chagas disease can cause severe heart and digestive changes and can be fatal.

➤ Chagas disease can be transmitted to humans through various means such as consumption of contaminated food, blood transfusions, or contact with infected wild animals.

❖ **India's first semi-high-speed regional rail service named 'RAPIDX'**

➤ The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has named India's first semi-high-speed regional rail services as 'RAPIDX'. These trains will operate on the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridors, which are being constructed to link important urban nodes across the National Capital Region (NCR).

➤ The name 'RAPIDX' has been selected because it is simple to read and pronounce in different languages.

➤ The brand's logo features a green leaf symbol that represents the brand's objective of decarbonization. The brand intends to reduce the number of vehicles on the road, thereby decongesting the National Capital Region (NCR).

➤ According to the NCRTC, 'RAPIDX' will connect the people who choose to live in their hometowns in NCR, with the national capital through a modern, sustainable, convenient, fast, safe, and comfortable means of travel. The RAPIDX services on the first Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor will bring down the travel time between Delhi to Meerut significantly.

➤ The NCRTC is targeting to commission the entire Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor for the public by 2025. Before that, it will operationalise a 17-km long priority section between Sahibabad and Duhai in 2023, before its scheduled time.

❖ Aman Sehrawat won gold medal in Asian Wrestling Championship 2023

➤ Indian wrestler Aman Sehrawat won the gold medal in the men's 57 kg freestyle category at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2023 held in Astana, Kazakhstan.

➤ Sehrawat won the gold medal by defeating Almaz Samanbekov of Kyrgyzstan with a score of 9-4. India got its first gold medal in the Asian Wrestling Championship 2023.

➤ It was Aman Sehrawat's second podium finish of the year. He had earlier won the gold medal in the Under-23 World Championship held in Spain last year.

➤ India won 13 medals at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2023 with two freestyle medals, four Greco-Roman medals and seven women's wrestling medals.

❖ IAF to participate in Multilateral International Air Exercise 'ORION' in France

➤ The Indian Air Force (IAF) arrived at the Air Force Base Station of the French Air and Space Force (FASF) in Mont de Marsan, France to participate in the Orion exercise.

➤ The ORION exercise program is being conducted from 17 April to 05 May 2023. The IAF contingent for the exercise includes four Rafale aircraft, two C-17 and two Il-78 aircraft and 165 airmen. This will be the first overseas exercise for the Rafale aircraft inducted into the IAF.

➤ Apart from IAF and French Air and Space Force, air forces from Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, UK, Spain and USA are also participating in the exercise. The participation during this exercise will further enrich the working style of IAF with air forces of other countries.

➤ The exercise is the largest ever multinational exercise of the French Defense Forces, involving their Army, Navy and Air Force along with their main partner countries.

❖ **Canara Bank, Bharat BillPay tie up for cross border bill payments**

➤ Canara Bank and NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL) have announced the launch of cross-border inward bill payment services for Indians based in Oman.

➤ NRIs can now leverage the robust platform offered by the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) to make bill payments on behalf of their families through the Musandam Exchange.

➤ With this, Canara Bank becomes the first public sector bank in India to offer inbound cross-border bill payments through BBPS.

➤ With the development, it said, Indians living in Oman will now be able to make quick, simple and secure payments of bills for services back home. Musandam Exchange, managed by Canara Bank, is also the first exchange house in Oman to go live on cross-border inbound bill payments.