

# IACE

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

### 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024 DESCRIPTIVE

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## Haryana's new chief minister - Nayab Singh Saini

- He is a leader of the BJP. He represents Kurukshetra as an MP.
- Governor Bandaru Dattatreya of Haryana administered the oath to him.
- In addition, five MLAs were sworn in as ministers. Four of them are BJP members and one is an independent.
- As ministers, Independent MLA Ranjit Singh Chautala and BJP members Kanwar Pal, Mool Chand Sharma, Jai Prakash Dalal, and Banwari Lal took an oath of office.
- They were all members of the Khattar cabinet that resigned earlier.
- Along with the other thirteen members of the BJP-led council of ministers, Khattar had earlier given resignation to the governor.
- The JJP now has 10 MLAs in the 90-member assembly. At present, the BJP has 41 MLAs in the 90-member assembly.
- **Haryana Capital:** Chandigarh
- **Haryana Governor:** Bandaru Dattatreya
- **Haryana Formation:** 1 November 1966



**sipri**



**INDIA**  
**BECOMES**  
**THE WORLD'S LARGEST**  
**ARMS IMPORTING COUNTRY** **SIPRI**

## India was the top arms importer in 2019-2023

- According to a report by **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**, **India is the world's top arms importer.**
- India's arms imports have registered a growth of 4.7 percent between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023.
- In the interim Budget presented in February for FY24, the total allocation for the **Defence Ministry** was **Rs 6.2 lakh crore**, of which the new procurements was Rs 1.72 lakh crore, 5.78% higher than the Budget Estimates of the last year.
- India has received 36% of its total arms imports from **Russia**.
- However, this is the first time since 1960-64 that Russia's share in India's arms imports was less than 50%. But Russia still remains India's main arms supplier.
- The five largest arms **importers** of arms in 2019–23 were **India, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Ukraine** and **Pakistan**.
- The five largest **exporters** were the **United States, France, Russia, China** and **Germany**.
- **SIPRI** is an international institute. It conducts research in the fields of wars, munitions, arms control and disarmament.



## Oscar Awards 2024: Oppenheimer bags 7 awards at the 96th Academy Awards

- The 96th Academy Awards, the most esteemed occasion in Hollywood was conducted at the Dolby Theater in California, US, with Jimmy Kimmel as the host for the fourth time.
- Christopher Nolan's biographical thriller "Oppenheimer" emerging as the big winner, securing victories in seven categories. The film, which received 13 nominations, clinched the top honours, including Best Picture and Best Director for Nolan, marking his first-ever directing award.
- **Best Picture:** Oppenheimer.
- **Best Actor:** Cillian Murphy, "Oppenheimer"
- **Best Actress:** Emma Stone, "Poor Things"
- **Best Director:** Christopher Nolan, "Oppenheimer"
- **Best Supporting Actor:** Robert Downey Jr., "Oppenheimer"
- **Best Animated Feature:** The Boy and the Heron



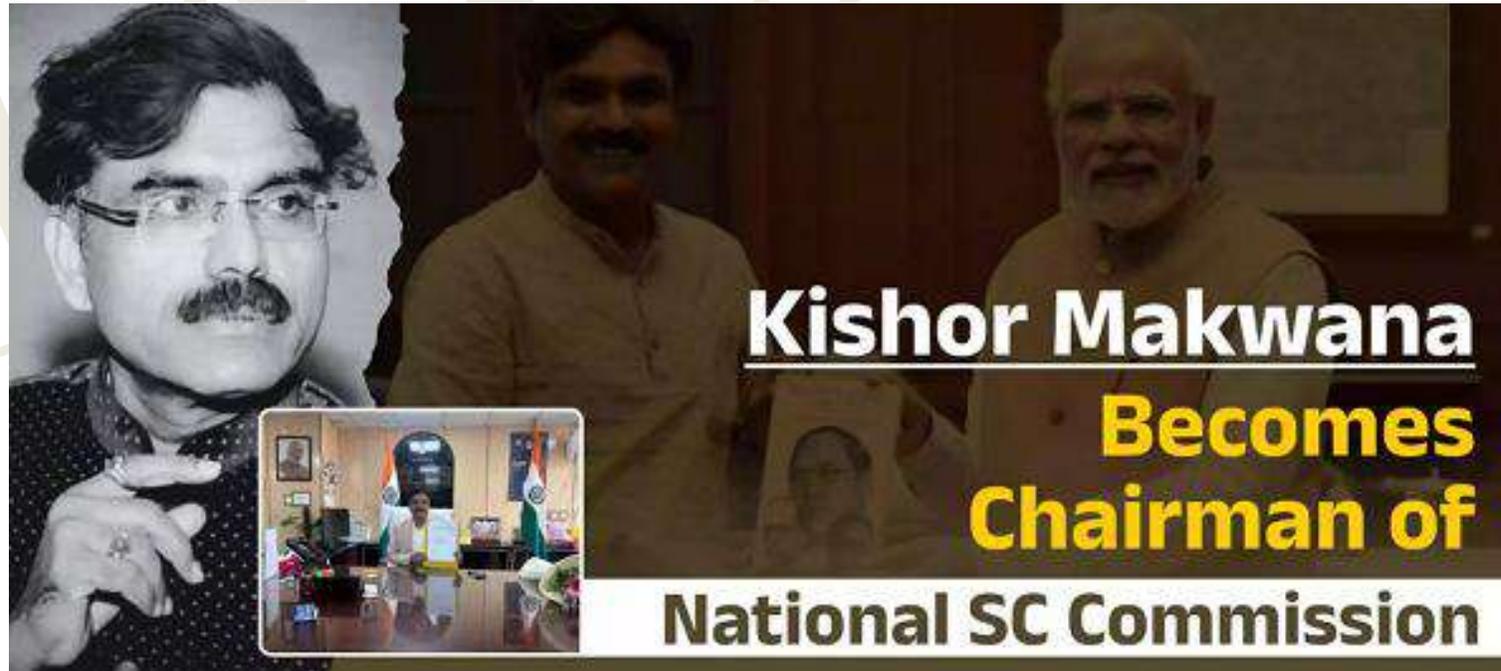
# ONE STATION, ONE PRODUCT

## **PM inaugurated ‘One Station One Product’ (OSOP) stalls at 205 railway stations**

- The ‘One Station One Product’ (OSOP) scheme promotes the **‘Local for Vocal’** vision of the Government of India.
- It provides a market for local products and generates income for the marginalised sections of the society.
- 10 new Vande Bharat Express trains have been flagged off by PM Modi on 12th March.
- Goods shed with warehousing facilities have been also inaugurated at Singaperumal Koil, Gangaikondan, Theni, Pattukottai, Thiruthuraipoondi and Valliyur.
- Prime Minister inaugurated Jan Aushadi Kendras at Dindigul, Erode, Tiruchi and Palakkad railway stations.
- A rail coach restaurant has been also inaugurated at Chennai Central.
- Two air-conditioned EMUs were allotted for Southern Railway and its service will start in May or June.

## Shri Kishore Makwana took over as Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) in New Delhi

- He assumed office after being appointed by the President of India.
- Mr. Makwana has served as the joint spokesperson of the Gujarat unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).
- He is also a journalist and has been the author of more than 33 books. He has written 9 books on Dr. Ambedkar.
- It includes the 'Samajik Kranti na Mahanayak Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar' (great hero of the social revolution – Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar), 'Swami Vivekananda', 'Safalta no Mantra' (Mantra of Success), etc.
- In addition, Shri Luv Kush Kumar also assumed charge as a member of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC).





## **Dhanaraj T has been appointed as the Executive Director of Indian Overseas Bank**

- He has been appointed for three years, effective from 10 March.
- Before joining the Indian Overseas Bank, he served as the Chief General Manager at Indian Bank.
- Indian Overseas Bank is a nationalized bank headquartered in **Chennai**.
- It is a government-owned bank. **Ajay Srivastava J** is its MD and CEO.

## **Asia's first certified green municipal bond has been issued by the Vadodara Municipal Corporation**

- Vadodara Municipal Corporation has raised 1 billion rupees (\$12.07 million) by issuing Asia's first certified green municipal bond.
- It has set a semi-annual coupon of 7.90% on the issue.
- It will be used to build and enhance liquid wastewater management infrastructure across the city.
- **India Ratings has rated the bond as AA+ and received a green security certificate from the Climate Bond Initiative.**
- SBI Capital Markets and Tipsons Consultancy Services have arranged the bond issuance.
- The Vadodara civic body last issued a bond in 2022 and raised 1 billion rupees via bonds maturing in five years.

**India's Gujarat  
state civic body  
issues Asia's first  
certified green  
municipal bond**





**Kempegowda International Airport tops global on-time performance rankings**

## **Kempegowda International Airport has been recognised as the best airport for arrivals globally**

- In the **Airports Council International's (ACI)** Airport Service Quality Awards 2023, Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in **Bengaluru** has been recognised as the best airport for arrivals.
- Kempegowda International Airport has shared this honour with two other airports — **Thiruvananthapuram International Airport in Kerala**, and the **Zayed International Airport – Terminal A in Abu Dhabi, UAE**.
- 31 airports — 27 airports from Asia-Pacific and four from the Middle East received ACI Airport Service Quality Awards.
- A total of six Indian airports have been recognised by the **ACI Airport Service Quality Awards**.
- In the category of over **40 million in the Asia-Pacific region**, **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai and Indira Gandhi International Airport** have been recognized as the best airports.
- In the **15 to 25 million passengers category in the Asia-Pacific region**, **Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad** has been recognised as the best airport.
- **Chandigarh airport** is recognized as the best airport in the **2 to 5 million passenger category in the Asia-Pacific region**.

## Ashwini Vaishnaw launched India's fastest router with 2.4 tbps capacity

- India's fastest and indigenously designed **IP/MPLS router** has been launched by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in Bengaluru.
- This router was developed by the collaboration of the government's **Department of Telecom, CDOT, and Nivetti**.
- The indigenously developed router will give a major boost to the Prime Minister's vision of Digital India.
- It has a speed of **2.4 Mbps** and will be helpful in the growth of several sectors, including railway communication networks, power grids, telecommunications, and television media.
- **Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS)** is a routing technique used in telecommunications networks that directs data from one node to the next.
- The MPLS technique was first developed in the 1990s. Its main aim is to speed up network connections by sending packets along predetermined network paths.



## IndusInd Bank launched 'allin one payment 'wearables

- IndusInd Bank announced the launch of its contactless payments wearables, '**Indus PayWear,**' India's first **All-in-One tokenizable wearables** for both debit and credit cards exclusively on Mastercard, with the offering to be extended to other card networks
- The three versatile wearables, i.e. ring, watch clasp, and stickers, cater to diverse preferences of customers, with an affordable price ranging from Rs. 499 to Rs. 2999.
- Indus PayWear is all set to revolutionize the payment experience by allowing users to effortlessly tokenize their IndusInd Bank credit or debit card onto a chip-enabled wearable device. This will facilitate swift and secure tap-and-pay transactions at any contactless Point-of-Sale (PoS) terminal across the globe.
- While transactions below Rs. 5000 are seamlessly done as a tap-and-pay using the wearable, transactions exceeding Rs. 5000 will necessitate the added security of the PIN of the linked card to be entered on the PoS machine, as per RBI guidelines.
- **About Indusind Bank**
- **Establishment Year:** 17 April 1994
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **MD and CEO:** Sumant Kathpalia
- **Chairman:** Sunil Mehta
- **Tagline:** We Care Dil Se, We Make You Feel Richer



## **Aditya Birla Finance to merge with its parent company**

- Aditya Birla Finance, a systemically important non-banking financial company (NBFC), is set to merge with its parent Aditya Birla Capital (ABCL) in about a year's time to create a large unified NBFC.
- This will increase total capital adequacy by approximately 150 basis points (bps) and reduce leverage to 4.15 per cent for the amalgamated entity on a proforma basis
- The amalgamation will result in compliance with the scale-based regulations of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which require mandatory listing of Aditya Birla Finance by September 30, 2025.

### **➤ About Aadithya Birla Capital**

- Established year:2001
- Headquarters:Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman: Kumar Mangalam Birla



## Telangana State launches T-Safe service

- Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy launched **T-Safe**, India's first ride-monitoring service.
- Aimed at making travel safer for women, children and other vulnerable groups in Telangana, Travel Safe (T-Safe) will be monitored by the police.
- To avail the T-Safe service, one does not necessarily require a smartphone or an application. They can simply dial '100' or '112' and request monitoring by pressing "8" in the IVR option. After dialling, the traveller will get an automated link to fill in their travel details so that the police can monitor their journey.
- The service can also be availed via the Travel Safe Application available in Google Play store or the T-Safe web page.
- While using the service, citizens will get automated alerts on app or by call at periodic intervals, which, if not responded to in the prescribed manner, will initiate prompt police response.
- In case of emergency, this technology also helps send a live tracking link to the police patrol vehicle.



### T-Safe from Telangana Police

India's first citizen-initiated police ride monitoring service



## Tamil Nadu launches 'Neengal Nalama' scheme to review implementation of welfare programs

- The Tamil Nadu government has launched the '**Neengal Nalama**' (Are you fine?) scheme, a beneficiary outreach program aimed at reviewing the implementation of flagship schemes and addressing the grievances of the public.
- The initiative involves direct interaction with beneficiaries, with **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin**, other ministers, senior officials, and district collectors reaching out to people across the state to inquire about their level of benefit and identify any bottlenecks related to various government schemes.
- As part of the scheme, a web portal has been launched where beneficiaries can express their opinions and provide feedback on the welfare projects of the Tamil Nadu government. This initiative aims to improve government services by eliciting views directly from beneficiaries.
- The '**Neengal Nalama**' scheme focuses on flagship programs like **Kalaigiar Magalir Urimai Thittam, Vidiyal Payana Thittam, Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam**, and the Free Breakfast Scheme, among others.
- By directly interacting with beneficiaries and gathering their feedback, the state government aims to improve service delivery, ensure transparency, and enhance the implementation of welfare programs. The initiative emphasizes the commitment of the government to uplift every family in Tamil Nadu despite various challenges.



## **‘Mahtari Vandana Yojana’ has been launched by PM Modi in Chhattisgarh**

- Mahtari Vandana Yojana’s scheme is a financial assistance scheme for married women.
- Under this scheme, **₹1,000 per month is given to eligible married women in Chhattisgarh.**
- As the first payment installment under the scheme, ₹655 crore was transferred.
- The scheme will provide benefits to all eligible married women of the state who are above 21 years of age as of January 1, 2024.
- Widows, divorced, and deserted women will also be eligible for this scheme. About 70 lakh women will benefit from the scheme.
- PM Modi also expressed gratitude towards the Nari Shakti connected to the various locations.
- 50 percent of Jan Dhan accounts are held by women, and 65 per cent of Mudra loans have been availed of by women.



## PM opens railway siding at SUZUKI's Gujarat plant

- India's first automobile in-plant railway siding project (of Maruti Suzuki) was inaugurated by PM Modi at Hansalpur in Gujarat's Mehsana district.
- The project is under PM Gati Shakti mission, in collaboration with the Gujarat government, Indian Railways, and Maruthi Suzuki India Ltd (MSIC).
- **The cost of the project is Rs 976 crore.**
- This is the first time in India that an automobile company has established an in-plant railway siding.
- This new railway siding can be a good way of **reducing carbon**. By eliminating 50,000 truck trips per annum, we will be saving 35 million litres of fossil fuel and reducing carbon emissions by 1650 metric tonnes.
- Modi also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of Rs 85,000 crore railway projects, including the launch of 10 new Vande Bharat trains, from Sabarmati area of Ahmedabad.

### ➤ **About Maruthi Suzuki**

➤ **Formation year:** 24th February 1981

➤ **Headquarters:** Gurugram

➤ **Chairman:** RC Bhargava

### ➤ **About Gujarat**

➤ **Capital:** Gandhinagar

➤ **CM:** Bhupendrabhai patel

➤ **Governor:** Acharya Devvrat

**Telegram:** [Click here](#)

**PM MODI  
TO  
INAUGURATE  
MARUTI  
SUZUKI PLANT**



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## ICC's player of the month for February 2024

- **India** opener **Yashasvi Jaiswal** won the **ICC Men's Player of the Month** title for **February 2024**, beating competition from Sri Lankan opener Pathum Nissanka and seasoned New Zealand veteran Kane Williamson.
- **Australia's star all-rounder Annabel Sutherland** has been named the **ICC Women's Player of the Month for February 2024**. She became the fifth Australian player to claim the ICC Women's Player of the Month Award.
- **About International Cricket Council**
- **Formation year:** 1909
- **Headquarters:** Dubai, United Arab Emirates



## No Smoking Day 2024

- **No Smoking Day** is observed on the **second Wednesday of March**.
- The day is observed to spread awareness about the harmful impact of smoking.
- No Smoking Day, originated in the **United Kingdom in 1984** as a campaign to raise awareness about the health risks associated with smoking and to encourage smokers to quit.
- The Nobel initiative was spearheaded by a group of health professionals and has since gained global recognition, with participation from various organizations and individuals worldwide.
- No Smoking Day serves as a reminder of the importance of tobacco control efforts and provides support and resources for those looking to quit smoking and improve their health.



# Bajaj Allianz General Insurance unveils 'Insurance Samjho' AI bot, enhancing policy understanding for customers

- Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, launched an initiative called "Insurance Samjho", a Gen AI Powered Bot to simplify the understanding of insurance for customers.
- In the Indian landscape, insurance penetration has faced challenges, often leaving customers with the complexities of policy language and intricate details.
- Understanding insurance jargon and deciphering fine print can be daunting, leading to a lack of confidence among policyholders.
- Recognising this gap, **"Insurance Samjho"** emerges as a pivotal solution to bridge the information divide and assisting individuals to comprehend their policies more effectively.
- **About Bajaj Allianz General Insurance:**
- **Headquarters:** Pune, Maharashtra
- **CEO:** Tapan Singhel
- **Founded:** 2000



## Bank of Baroda launches green term deposit scheme with 7.15% interest



- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has announced the launch of the "**bob Earth Green Term Deposit Scheme**", aimed at raising deposits for financing eligible environment-friendly projects and sectors.
- The scheme offers customers the dual benefits of stable financial returns and contribution to a greener planet.
- It offers annual interest rates, ranging from **6.75 per cent** for a tenure of **12 to 18 months** to **7.15 per cent** for **777 days**.
- Additionally, for longer tenures of **1,111 days, 1,717 days, and 2,201 days**, the interest rates are set at **6.40 per cent** per annum.
- Funds collected through this scheme will be directed towards financing green initiatives such as renewable energy and clean transportation.
- Both existing and new customers of Bank of Baroda can avail themselves of the Green Deposits at any of its branches across India, according to the statement.
- **About Bank of Baroda:**
- **Founder:** Sayajirao Gaekwad III
- **Founded:** 20 July 1908
- **Headquarters:** Alkapuri, Vadodara

## President Murmu conferred with honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law by University of Mauritius

- President Droupadi Murmu was conferred with the honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law by the University of Mauritius, demonstrating the depth of bilateral ties.
- Murmu has been there on a three-day state visit during which she will be the chief guest at the country's National Day celebrations.
- She urged Mauritian youth to stay connected with India, expressed gratitude for enduring India-Mauritius relations, and emphasized the transformative power of education.
- **About Mauritius:**
- **Capital:** Port Louis
- **Currency:** Mauritian Rupee
- **Prime Minister:** Pravind Jugnauth
- **President:** Prithvirajsing Roopun

