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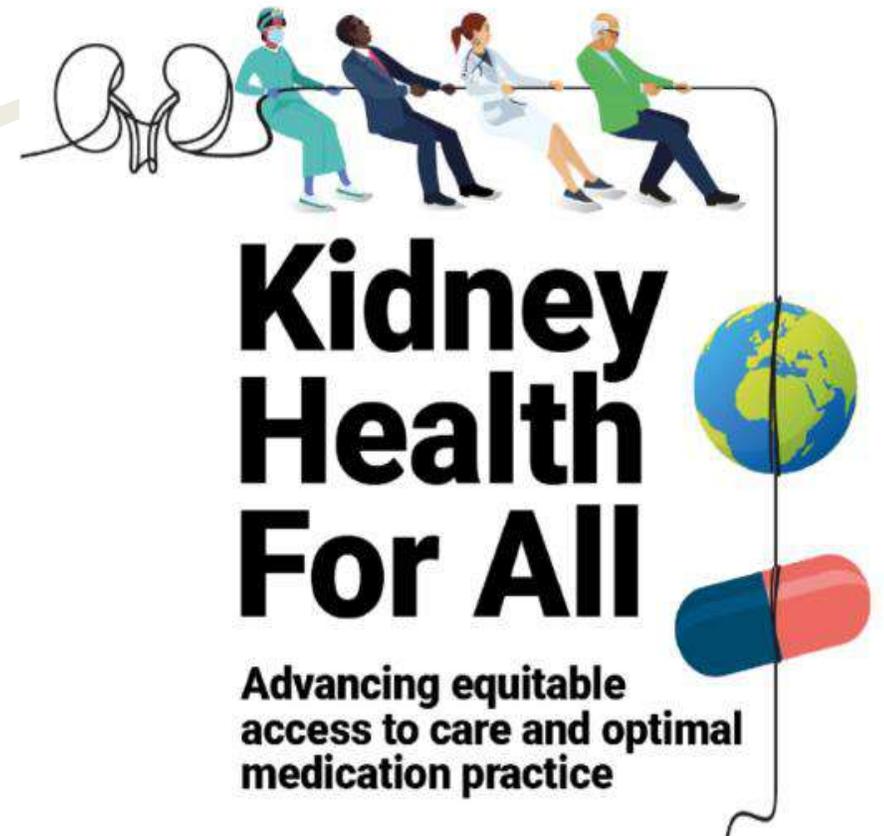
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- ❖ Ashwani Kumar elected as the new Chairman of FIEO
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- ❖ Vietnam urges respect of international law as China draws Gulf of Tonkin baseline

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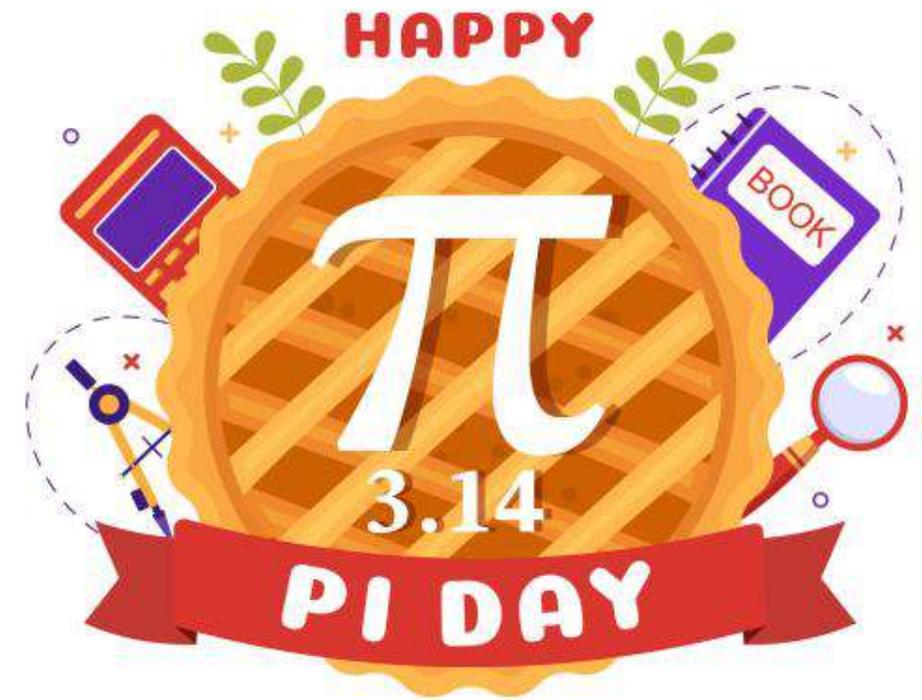
World Kidney Day 2024: 14 March

- World Kidney Day is observed on the **Second Thursday of March**. In 2024, it was celebrated on March 14.
- **'Kidney Health for All - Advancing Equitable Access to Care and Optimal Medication Practice'** is theme for 2024.
- The theme is focused on the increasing burden of chronic kidney disease and achieving optimal kidney care.
- It was first observed in 2006 with the slogan 'Are Your Kidneys ok?'.
- The main goal of the day is to support impartial access to kidney healthcare.
- It is a joint initiative of the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations – World Kidney Alliance (IFKF-WKA).
- The kidney is responsible for removing waste products from the body and maintaining electrolyte levels.



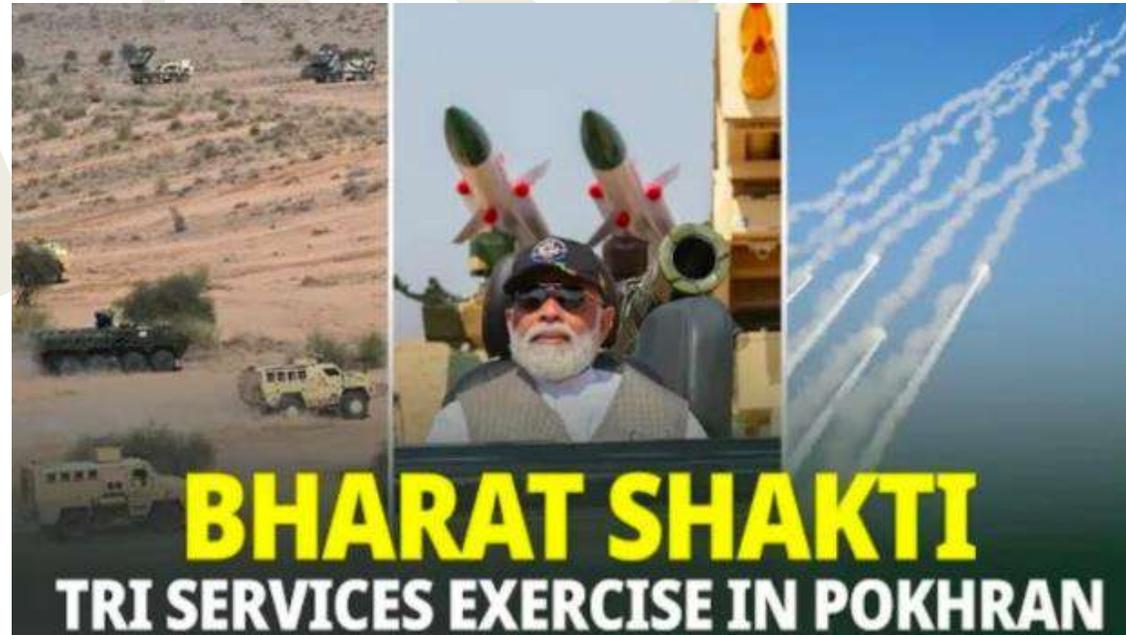
World Pi Day – March 14th

- Pi is a significant symbol in Mathematics, Statistics and Physics. The symbol represents the ratio of the circumference of the circle to its diameter, which has a value of 3.14.
- Pi Day is celebrated every year to commemorate the steady value of Pi and how it makes our lives easy.
- The value of Pi was first determined by **Mathematician Archimedes** of Syracuse. In 1737, Leonhard Euler used the symbol of Pi, paving the way for its acknowledgment in the scientific community.
- In the year 1988, the American physicist **Larry Shaw** celebrated the first Pi Day. As it turns out, Pi Day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of prestigious Physicist Albert Einstein.
- In 2024, the focus will be on “Engineering Solutions for a Sustainable World,” highlighting the role of math and π in solving global challenges.



‘Bharat Shakti’- a Tri-Services Firing and Manoeuvre Exercise was held in Pokhran, Rajasthan

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and Army Chief General Manoj Pande witness the ‘Bharat Shakti’ - a Tri-Services Firing and Manoeuvre Exercise.
- The exercise was held for 50 minutes at Rajasthan's Pokhran field firing range.
- LCA Tejas combat aircraft, ALH Mk-IV helicopter, Arjun main battle tank, K-9 Vajra self-propelled howitzer, and the Dhanush and Sharang artillery gun systems were showcased at this exercise.
- Pinaka's multi-barrel rocket launcher system and a swarm of drones left the audience spellbound.
- ‘Bharat Shakti’ is the first of its kind exercise on such a large scale.
- 'Bharat Shakti' showed India's resilience, innovation and domestic defence capabilities on the global stage.



Jamshedpur to host 6th National Para Badminton Championship of first time

- The 6th National Para Badminton Championship 2023-2024 will be held from March 19-23, 2024 at Mohan Ahuja Stadium, Jamshedpur.
- The championship will bring together athletes from across the nation to showcase their exceptional athleticism and determination.
- The event will see elite Para Athletes from various states demonstrating their skill and passion for the sport.
- Participants include Paralympians, World Champions and Asian Para Games medalists.
- Jamshedpur will be hosting the championship for the first time.
- The event is being jointly organised by Badminton Association of India and Tata Steel.



Build More With Devin

US-based Cognition launches world's first fully autonomous AI software engineer “Devin”

- A US-based company called Cognition has announced the launch of a new artificial intelligence chatbot called Devin which it claims to be world's first fully autonomous AI software engineer.
- **About Devin AI:**
- The AI agent comes with some advanced capabilities in software development, including coding, debugging, problem-solving, etc.

- It uses machine learning algorithms to constantly learn and improve its performance and adapt according to new challenges.
- In simple words, Devin can build and deploy apps end-to-end and can also train and fine-tune its own AI models. It can plan and execute complex engineering tasks that would require thousands of decisions.
- It can recall relevant context at each step, self-learn over time, and even fix mistakes. This software engineer has the ability to proactively collaborate with the user.
- It reports progress in real-time, is capable of accepting feedback, and works along with the user through design choices as needed.
- Performance:
- On the SWE-Bench benchmark (a benchmark for evaluating large language models on real-world software issues found on GitHub), Devin correctly resolved 13.86 per cent of the issues without any assistance.
- It is capable of augmenting efficiency and speed within software development processes by automating repetitive tasks, instantly generating code, expediting project timelines, and cutting down development expenses substantially. It is immune to human errors or inconsistencies.

Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar inaugurated India's 1st FutureLABS center at C-DAC Thiruvananthapuram

- The “Centre for Semiconductor Chips & Systems for Strategic Electronics” has been inaugurated at C-DAC Thiruvananthapuram.
- It will play a critical role in catalyzing an ecosystem for next-generation chip design, manufacturing, and research.
- C-DAC (T) and the Ministry of Railways collaborated for the development of electric locomotive technologies.
- C-DAC (T) and Tata Power signed a MoU for the development and deployment of microgrid technologies.
- The announcement has been also made for the transfer of technology of the electric vehicle wireless charger developed by C-DAC (T) and VNIT Nagpur to BelRise Industries Limited.
- The idea of FutureLABS is a partnership between CDAC and industry, students, startups, and academia.





**Google Collaborates with ECI for Voter Information and Combats
Misinformation Ahead of Elections**

Google collaborates with ECI for voters

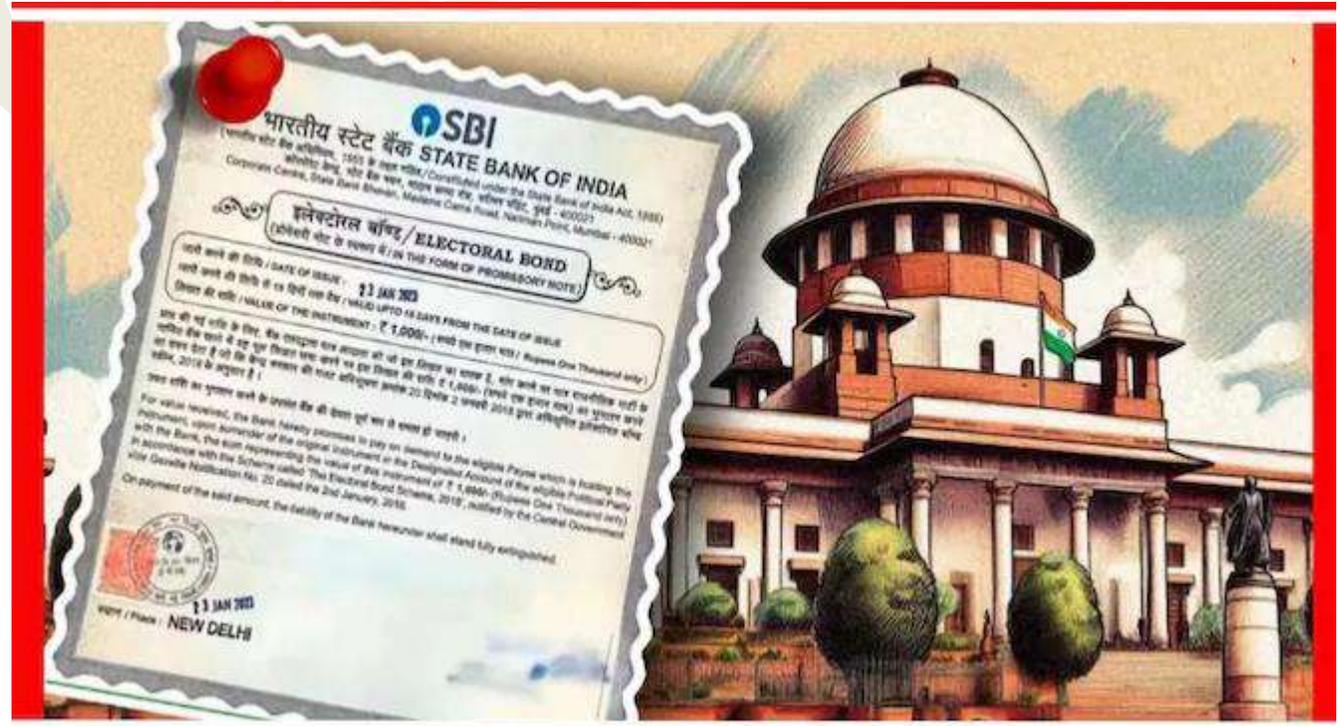
- Google is collaborating with the Election Commission of India (ECI) to provide critical voting details, such as registration and voting procedures, in English and Hindi through Google Search and YouTube.
- YouTube will feature election information panels, including candidate profiles and registration guidelines, ensuring that users have access to authoritative sources. The platform's recommendation system will prominently display content from trusted publishers on election-related topics.
- Google says that protecting the integrity of elections is a top priority and that it's employing a multi-pronged approach to combat misinformation and abuse on its platforms.
- The search giant has reiterated that it's got strict policies in place to address false claims, hate speech, harassment, and other forms of abuse that could undermine the democratic process.
- It's also leveraging advanced AI models and machine learning techniques to identify and remove content that violates its policies at scale.
- **About Election Commission of India**
- **Established Year:** 25 January 1950
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Chief Election Commissioner:** Rajiv Kumar

SBI has submitted Electoral bond data

- The State Bank of India (SBI) submitted all data related to electoral bonds to the Election Commission of India (ECI) on March 12 2024 in compliance with the strict Supreme Court regarding the matter.
- Previously, the national bank told the top court it needs time to submit details of electoral bonds to the Election Commission of India till June 30 .
- The five-judge SC bench - headed by CJI Chandrachud, had directed the bank to disclose all details.
- The SBI has issued electoral bonds worth **Rs 16,518 crore** in 30 tranches since the inception of the scheme in 2018.

➤ About SBI

- **Founded:** 1 July 1955
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Chairman:** Dinesh Kumar Khara
- **Tagline:** Pure banking, nothing else



**State Bank of India
Partners with Aurionpro
for Next-Gen Cash
Management Solution**



SBI partners with Aurionpro

- **Mumbai-based tech company Aurionpro** Solutions has secured a **Rs 100-crore** contract from State Bank of India for the licence, implementation and support of its transaction banking platform, **iCashpro+**, the company said in a statement.
- The company will have to deliver the licence and implementation in phases over 12 months, along with maintenance and support for six years.
- Aurionpro Solutions reported a 40% rise in net profit in the quarter ended December as compared to the previous quarter. The revenue growth over the quarter was 5.7%, a rise from Rs 132.25 crore to Rs 139.84 crore in the third quarter of FY24.
- The announcement comes after the company associated with the Haryana government as a technology partner for its Haryana Antyodaya Parivar Parivahan Yojana (HAPPY) Scheme to provide free transportation to people below the poverty line within the state.



GORSAM KORA

Festival

in Tawang's Zemithang

Celebrated



Gorsam Kora festival in Arunachal Pradesh celebrates India-Bhutan friendship

- The **Gorsam Kora festival**, also known as the festival of friendship between India and Bhutan, honours the bond between the two countries. The festival was celebrated at the **Gorsam Chorten Stupa in Arunachal Pradesh's Zemithang**.
- The festival, which showcases the rich cultural and religious heritage of the region, draws pilgrims from both India and Bhutan. The three-day festival will start on March 18 .
- The 93-foot-high Gorsam Chorten Stupa was built in the 13th century AD and is modelled after the Boudhanath Khasti Stupa of Nepal.
- Thousands of devotees visit during the Gorsam Kora festival to observe the virtuous occasion of the **last day of the first month of the lunar calendar**.
- **About Bhutan**
- **Capital:** Thimphu
- **Prime Minister:** Tshering Tobgay
- **Currency:** Bhutanese ngultrum
- **About Arunachal Pradesh**
- **Capital:** Itanagar
- **Chief Minister:** Pema Khandu
- **Governor:** Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik

Gorsam Kora festival in Arunachal Pradesh celebrates India-Bhutan friendship

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- **Maritime Security Belt 2024:** China, Iran, and Russia Commence Naval Exercise at Gulf of Oman



Saudi Woman Constructed **WORLD'S FIRST 3D PRINTED** MOSQUE

World's first 3D printed mosque constructed in Saudi Arabia

- Saudi Arabia recently unveiled the world's first-ever mosque crafted through the revolutionary technique of 3D printing in Jeddah.
- This mosque is named after the late **Abdulaziz Abdullah Sharbatly**, as a heartfelt tribute from his wife, the prominent Saudi entrepreneur Wajnat Abdul wahed.
- The **5,600-square-meter** (~60,277 square foot) mosque was made in a collaboration between **Fursan Real Estate Company** and **Guanli, a Chinese company** specializing in construction 3D printing Chinese company specializing in construction 3D printing.
- The commencement of Ramadan, one of Islam's holiest months, the unveiling of the 3D-printed mosque showcases a blend of tradition and modernity.
- This monumental project, spearheaded by Abdul wahed, serves as a beacon of progress in line with Saudi Vision 2030, aimed at diversifying the country's economy and embracing innovative technologies.
- **About Saudi Arabia**
- **Capital:** Riyadh
- **Prime minister:** Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud
- **Currency:** Saudi riyal

Yaounde Declaration: African Health Ministers Commit to Ending Malaria Deaths

- A historic gathering in Cameroon's capital, Yaoundé Declaration, the health ministers of 11 African countries join hands with global malaria partners, scientists, and stakeholders to pledge an unwavering commitment to end malaria deaths.
- 11 African countries are – Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, Uganda, and Tanzania – carry the highest burden of infections and deaths.
- This commitment comes amid a significant surge in global malaria cases in 2022, particularly impacting the African region.
- The global number of malaria cases rose from 233 million in 2019 to a staggering 249 million in 2022.
- Africa, the epicenter of the malaria crisis, witnessed an alarming increase from 218 million to 233 million cases during the same period, constituting 94% of all global malaria cases.
- Africa continues to bear an immense burden, representing 95% of global malaria-related deaths, totaling approximately 580,000 deaths in 2022.

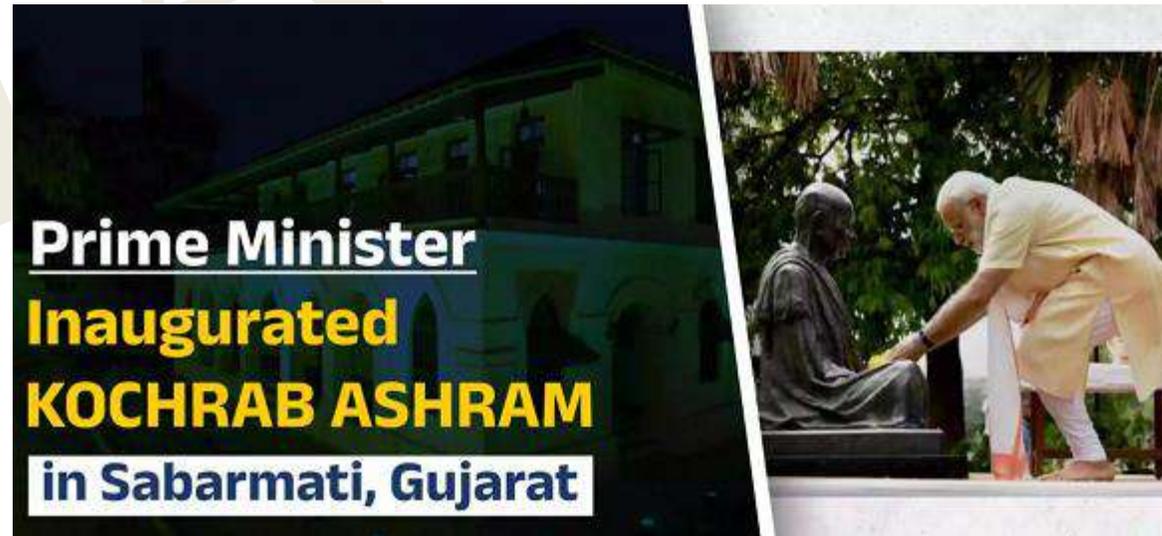
➤ About Cameroon

- **Capital:** Yaounde
- **Prime minister:** Joseph Ngute
- **President:** Paul Biya
- **Currency:** Franc



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kochrab Ashram in Sabarmati, Gujarat

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the redeveloped Kochrab Ashram and launched the Master plan of the Gandhi Ashram Memorial, at Mahatma Gandhi Ashram at Sabarmati, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- The Kochrab Ashram was the **first Ashram established by Mahatma Gandhi after coming to India from South Africa in 1915**. It is still preserved as a memorial and tourist space by Gujarat Vidyapeeth.
- The Prime Minister also launched the Master Plan of the Gandhi Ashram Memorial.
- It has been the constant endeavour of the Prime Minister to uphold and cherish the ideals that Mahatma Gandhi stood for and also develop avenues that showcase his ideals and bring him closer to the people.
- In yet another effort in this endeavour, the Gandhi Ashram Memorial Project will help revitalise Mahatma Gandhi's teachings and philosophy for present and future generations.





Ashwani Kumar
Elected Chairman of
FIEO

Ashwani Kumar elected as the new Chairman of FIEO

- Ashwani Kumar was elected unanimously the new chairman of the premier exporter body, the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO).
- He has replaced A Sakthivel.
- Mr Ashwani Kumar, who is based in Jalandhar (Punjab), is a business entrepreneur in the engineering sector. He served as the Regional Chairman (Northern Region) of FIEO.
- Mr Ashwani Kumar has also been associated with various business forums in Jalandhar, such as its Focal Point Industries Association, Effluent Treatment Society, Management Association, Badminton Association, Integrated Association of SMEs, and Doaba Airport Association.
- **About Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO)**
- The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) was established in 1965 as an Apex Body of Export Promotion Organisations.
- It is registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 and has its Headquarters in Delhi.
- FIEO has Regional Offices in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.
- Its Chapters are in Jaipur, Kanpur, Ludhiana, Amritsar, Ahmedabad, Indore, Hyderabad, Kochi, Bangalore, Coimbatore, Bhubaneswar, Ranchi and Guwahati.



Haryana, Karnataka and Punjab lead in used water management

- **The Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)** released a report on used water management in the country. Here **Haryana, Karnataka and Punjab** have been placed at the forefront in the country in terms of used water management.
- The demand for water in cities is continuously increasing. Whereas the ground water level is continuously decreasing.
- There is a need to increase the treatment and reuse of water used for non-drinking purposes at the level of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in the country.
- There is a need to increase the treatment and reuse of water used for non-drinking purposes at the level of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in the country.
- Currently, lack of financial planning and investment remains a major hurdle for water management in 90 percent of ULBs.

- According to 2021 data, only 28 percent of the country's 72,000 million liters of used water is treated.
- There is a need to identify priority areas to strengthen treatment of used water and increase its re-use.
- Keeping this in view, CEEW has also prepared the first of its kind Municipal Used Water Management (MUWM) Index in this report.
- **The Municipal Used Water Management (MUWM) index focuses on 503 ULBs across 10 states. These ten states are as follows:**
- Andhra Pradesh
- Chhattisgarh
- Gujarat
- Haryana
- Jharkhand
- Madhya Pradesh
- Karnataka
- Punjab
- Rajasthan
- West Bengal
- These states have adopted the policy of reusing treated water.
- The index comparatively ranks ULBs based on five themes. These themes are: finance, infrastructure, efficiency, governance and data & information.

Vietnam urges respect of international law as China draws Gulf of Tonkin baseline

- **China** has declared a new territorial sea baseline in the northern part of the **Gulf of Tonkin**, shared with Vietnam, raising concerns about potential territorial disputes and impacts on regional stability.
- The announcement includes seven base points forming the baseline for China's sovereignty claims in the Gulf of Tonkin, a historically significant area for maritime demarcation between China and Vietnam in the South China Sea.
- Despite a 2004 agreement delineating boundaries, maritime disputes persisted, leading to China's fresh delineation, with assurances from China's Foreign Ministry that it wouldn't harm Vietnam's interests or those of other nations.
- China views the delineation as an exercise of national sovereignty and jurisdiction, aiming to foster international maritime cooperation and benefit the global maritime industry.
- The delineation is seen as crucial for standardized sea use, management, and economic development in provinces and regions along the northern Beibu Gulf.
- Territorial sea baselines serve as the foundation for maritime jurisdiction claims, following the UNCLOS framework where coastal states are entitled to territorial seas, exclusive economic zones, and continental shelves.
- Concerns arise about potential impacts on the 2000 demarcation agreement between Vietnam and China, raising questions about the economic interests of Vietnam if China pushes for renegotiation of existing agreements.

