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22nd MARCH 2024 DESCRIPTIVE

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HEADLINES

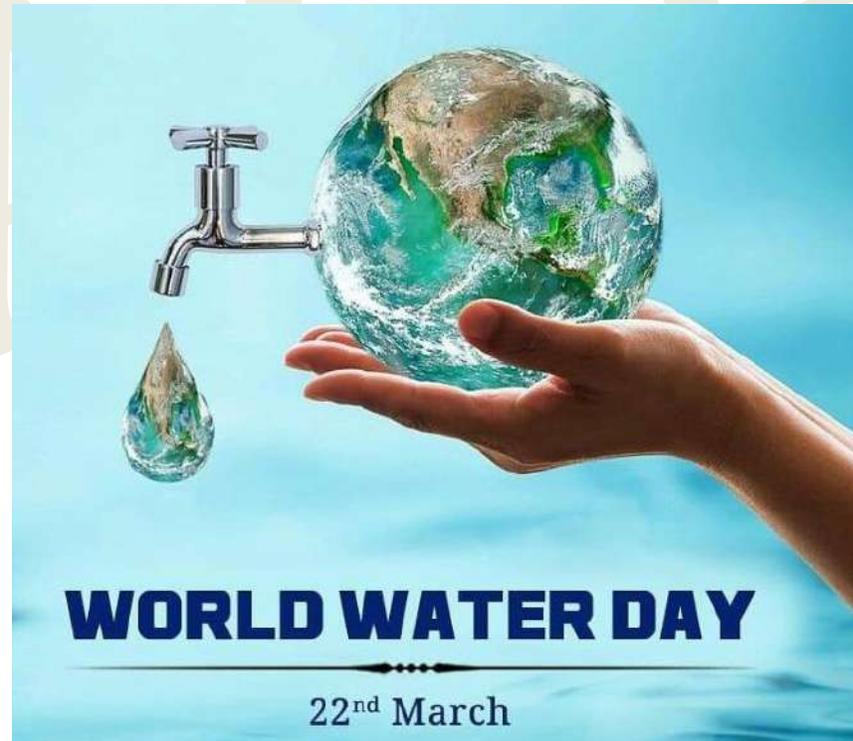
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World Water Day: 22nd March

- **World Water Day** is held annually on 22nd March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.
- **In 1993**, the United Nations General Assembly decided that a day should be dedicated to creating awareness about the conservation and significance of fresh water in our lives.
- Since 1993, March 22 has been observed as World Water Day.
- The achievement of **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030**.
- **Theme:** Water for Peace



Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has unveiled two jewel loan products

- Chennai-headquartered **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** has introduced **two new jewel loan products - IOB Gold Powered Card** and **Jewel Loan Suvidha**. It offers instant access to a card linked directly to their jewel loan overdraft accounts and catering for the unique needs of housing loan borrowers
- **'IOB Gold Powered Card'**, which provides customers with instant access to a card linked directly to their jewel loan accounts, offers the cash withdrawal at an ATM and used for POS & e-commerce transactions.
- The cash withdrawal limit in **Powered Card** as per transaction is **Rs 20,000** with a daily limit of **Rs 1 lakh**, the per day transaction is **Rs 25 lakh** for ecommerce and POS transactions.
- The **'Jewel Loan Suvidha'** is an exclusive jewel loan product crafted to cater to the unique needs of housing loan borrowers with IOB and other banking institutions.
- It is aimed at addressing critical financial requirements such as margin money, registration charges and unforeseen project escalation costs.
- Suvidha offers reimbursement within a **12-month** timeframe from the date of incurring expenses, adding that loan amounts ranging from **Rs 25,000 to Rs 50 lakh** is offered under the product.
- **About Indian Overseas Bank**
- **Founded:** 10 February 1937
- **Headquarters:** Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- **CEO:** Ajay Kumar Srivastava.



इण्डियन ओवरसीज़ बैंक
Indian Overseas Bank

Mahindra & Mahindra inks an agreement with Adani Total Energies on EV charging network

- Indian automaker **Mahindra & Mahindra** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with **Adani Total Energies E-Mobility Ltd (ATEL)** this MoU is to create an electric vehicle charging infrastructure across India.
- The partnership will also entail rolling out **e-mobility solutions** to provide seamless access to the charging network for the customers covering discovery, Availability, navigation, and transactions
- “This is one more step towards expanding the footprint of Adani Total Gas Ltd in the EV space.
- The collaboration with M&M will bolster the confidence of customers to embrace EV technology as part of the energy transition.
- **About Mahindra & Mahindra**
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **CEO:** Anish Shah



Naveen Jindal takes charge as the president of Indian Steel Association (ISA)

- **Naveen Jindal**, Chairman of **Jindal Steel and Power**, has been elected as the President of the **Indian Steel Association (ISA)** by the apex committee, the governing body of **Indian Steel Association (ISA)**.
- He succeeds **Dilip Oommen**, CEO of **ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India**.
- “The steel Industry has taken the onus and is committed to decarbonise and reduce its carbon footprints to meet its target in-line with commitments of the Prime Minister of India to the world.
- The headquarters of Indian Steel Association in **New Delhi**





AVIATION WEEK
LAUREATES AWARD

Was Given To

ISRO FOR CHANDRAYAAN-3

Aviation Week Laureates Award was given to ISRO for Chandrayaan-3

- **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has been honoured with the prestigious **Aviation Week Laureates Award** for its achievements with the historic **Chandrayaan-3** mission, which made history with its successful landing at lunar South Pole.
- The award was **received on behalf of ISRO** by **Sripriya Ranganathan**, Deputy Ambassador at the **Indian Embassy in the US**.
- The Chandrayaan-3 elevated India's status and discovery of water opened new research avenues and potential habitation strategies for future missions.
- It equipped with the Chandrayaan-3's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChasTE), the mission lander, Vikram, provides valuable data on lunar surface temperature. The Pragyan rover conducted in-situ experiments, enriching our understanding of the moon.
- The Chandrayaan-3 mission was started on 14th July 2023 at Satish Dhawan Space Centre by ISRO. Rocket used in this mission is LVM3 M4, mass is 3900 kg. The mission landed on the moon on **23rd August 2023** and this day is observed as **National Space Day**.
- **About ISRO**
- **Founded:** 15th August 1969
- **Headquarters:** Bengaluru, Karnataka
- **Chairman:** S Somanath

GRID-INDIA has been elevated to the status of Miniratna Company

- The **Grid Controller of India Limited (GRID-India)** has been awarded the status of **Miniratna Category-I** Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) on 20 March 2024.
- This recognition given by the **Ministry of Power**, Government of India underlines the role of Grid-India in the power scenario of the country and the **total 62 companies** are there in **miniratna** status at present.
- Grid-India bears the immense responsibility of managing the **All India Synchronous Grid**, one of the largest and most complex power systems in the world. Under this, **five Regional Load Despatch Centres (RLDC) and National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC)** have been included.
- **About Grid Controller of India Limited (GRID-INDIA):**
- **Established:** 2009
- GRID-India was formerly known as 'Power System Operation Corporation Limited' (POSOCO). Grid-India is a wholly owned company of the Government of India under the Ministry of Power.
- The new name of POSOCO is Grid-India from 9 November 2022.



India's first Battery Energy Storage Gigafactory to be launched in Jammu & Kashmir

- **GoodEnough Energy** has announced plans to launch India's **first battery energy storage gigafactory in Jammu and Kashmir** by October.
- The facility aims to **reduce** over **5 million tons of carbon emissions** annually, supporting India's goal of achieving **net zero by 2070**. This reduction is equivalent to the **Indian Railway's** annual carbon reduction target of **4 million tonnes**.
- With an initial investment of \$18.07 million, the 7 GWH plant will see a further 3 billion rupees injected by 2027 to scale up to 20 GWH
- These projects are crucial for India's target to reach **500 GW of renewable energy** capacity by from the current 178 GW.
- The government is offering incentives worth \$452 million to promote battery storage initiatives, facilitating the storage and utilization of energy from various renewable sources like solar and wind.
- **About Jammu & Kashmir**
- **Capital:** Winter - Jammu, Summer - Srinagar
- **Le.Governor:** Manoj Sinha



INDIA'S FIRST BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE GIGA FACTORY

Will Be Launched in J&K

Meta plans to combat misinformation in 2024 Lok Sabha Elections

- **Facebook**-parent company **Meta** has announced its plans to limit misinformation during the upcoming elections in India.
- The company will also activate an India-specific Elections Operations Center to identify potential and mitigate potential threats.
- The world's largest democracy is preparing for the **18th General Elections** starting next month – from **April 19, to June 1**.
- Meta says that it will make efforts to limit misinformation, remove voter interference and enhance transparency and accountability across its platforms **Facebook, Instagram and Threads** to support free and fair elections.
- **About Meta:**
- **Founded:** February 2004
- **Headquarters:** California, USA
- **CEO:** Mark Zuckerberg



India has launched Operation Indravati to evacuate its nationals from Haiti to the Dominican Republic

- **India** has launched '**Operation Indravati**' to evacuate its nationals from **Haiti** where streets have been taken over by criminal gangs- to **Dominican Republic**. As part of the ongoing operation, **12 Indians** were evacuated.
- Hundreds of thousands have been displaced within Haiti and thousands killed amid widespread reports of rape, arson and ransom kidnappings, while food prices soar and hospitals run short of key supplies such as blood and oxygen, reported Reuters.
- With no embassy in Haiti, India is monitoring the situation by its mission at **Santo Domingo**, capital of **Dominican Republic** and there are 75 to 90 Indians in Haiti.
- **About Haiti:**
- **Capital:** Port-au-Prince
- **Currency:** Haitian gourde
- **Acting PM and President:** Ariel Henry





Ministry of Electronics &
Information Technology,
Government of India

MeitY & NIXI successfully unveils BhashaNet portal at Universal Acceptance Day event

- **National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)** is proud to announce the launch of the **BhashaNet portal** for the upcoming **Universal Acceptance (UA) Day**, scheduled to take place on **March 21**, 2024, at **Dr Ambedkar International Centre** in the New Delhi.
- The theme of the event, “**BhashaNet: Impetus towards Universal Acceptance** and **Shri S Krishnan, Secretary MeitY** Government of India, will grace the event as the **Chief Guest**.
- Through UA Day, NIXI and MeitY aim to mobilise stakeholders and raise awareness about the importance of UA readiness in digital landscape.
- The event will feature engaging sessions, including keynote addresses, panel discussions and technical workshops, led by distinguished speakers from various sectors
- This will be the **second event** hosted between NIXI and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), underscoring their joint commitment to promote the UA and advancing digital inclusion across the nation.
- The National Internet Exchange of India is a not-for-profit (Section 8) company under the aegis of MeitY.
- **About NIXI:**
- **Founded:** 19th June 2003
- **CEO:** Devesh Tyagi
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi

RBI finalizes framework for SROs in regulated entities

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has finalised the **Omnibus Framework** for recognising **Self-Regulatory Organisations (SRO)** for its Regulated Entities.
- The omnibus framework contains broad parameters like objectives, responsibilities, eligibility criteria, governance standards, application process and other basic conditions for grant of recognition, which will be common for any SRO proposed to be recognized by the Reserve Bank.
- Other sector-specific guidelines like number of SROs, membership, etc., shall be issued separately by the respective departments of the Reserve Bank wherever a sectoral SRO is intended to be set up.
- The SROs enhance the effectiveness of regulations by drawing upon the technical expertise of practitioners and also aid in framing/ fine-tuning regulatory policies by providing inputs on technical and practical aspects, nuances and trade-offs involved.
- **About RBI:**
- **Founded:** 1st April 1935
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Governor:** Shaktikanta Das (25th)

MV Rao appointed as the chairman of Indian Bank's Association

- **Central Bank of India managing director and chief executive officer MV Rao** was elected as the chairman of the **The Indian Banks' Association (IBA)**.
- Three Deputy Chairmans are appointed for IBA they are **Dinesh Kumar Khara**, Chairman, **State Bank of India (SBI)**; **Shanti Lal Jain**, MD and CEO of **Indian Bank** and **N Kamakodi**, MD and CEO of **City Union Bank (CUB)**.
- They also elected **Madhav Nair**, the Country Head and Chief Executive of **Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait** as the honorary **secretary**.
- **About the IBA:**
- **Founded:** 17 February 1947
- **Headquarters:** London, United Kingdom



Former Pakistan captain Saeed Ahmed passed away

- Former **Pakistan Test captain** and renowned **batsman Saeed Ahmed** passed away at the age of 86.
- Ahmed's illustrious career spanned **41 Test matches**, during which he amassed **2,991 runs**, including **five centuries** and **16 half-centuries**. Additionally, he contributed with 22 wickets through his off-spin bowling.
- Ahmed made his Test debut against the West Indies during the famous drawn Bridgetown Test in 1958 when he was 20 and played his last Test for Pakistan in Melbourne against Australia during the 1972-73 tour.



Former captain of Pakistan cricket team Saeed Ahmed passed away



CBI and Europol officials sign working agreement

- The **Central Bureau of Investigation** (CBI) and **the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation** (Europol) signed a working arrangement on cooperation to prevent and combat serious crime and terrorism.
- The working arrangement includes **26 articles** with modalities for cooperation in more than **30 different crime categories**.
- This arrangement will link **law enforcement authorities** in India with counterparts in the **27 member** states of **the European Union (EU)**, and three countries and organisations associated with Europol.
- The working arrangement was signed by CBI director Praveen Sood and Europol executive director Catherine De Bolle at a virtual event held in New Delhi and the Hague.
- **About CBI:**
- **Founded:** 1 April 1963
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Director:** Praveen Sood.

