

# IACE

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Japan to invest **Rs 12,800 crore**  
for **9 projects** in various  
sectors in India

## **An investment of Rs 12,800 crore will be made by Japan for 9 projects in various sectors in India**

- On 20 February, the finance ministry said that the Japanese government has committed a loan of 232.209 billion yen (about Rs 12,800 crore) for nine projects related to various sectors in India.
- Vikas Sheel, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, and Suzuki Hiroshi, Ambassador of Japan to India, signed the agreement.
- The projects include North East Road Network Connectivity, Project for Promoting Start-up and Innovation in Telangana, and Project for the Construction of Chennai Peripheral Ring Road.
- This also includes the Project for Promoting Sustainable Horticulture in Haryana and the Project for Climate Change Response and Ecosystem Services Enhancement in Rajasthan.
- The aim of the road network connectivity projects is to improve infrastructure development in the north-east region of India.
- The aim of the Chennai Peripheral Ring Road project is to reduce traffic congestion and strengthen connections to the southern part of the state.
- By developing a medical college hospital contributing towards universal health coverage, the project in Nagaland will help develop tertiary-level medical service delivery.
- In Telangana, a unique project will help in exploring entrepreneurial skills and supporting the business expansion of MSMEs with a focus on women and the rural population.
- Since 1958, India and Japan have had a long and fruitful history of bilateral development cooperation.

## Aeronautical Development Agency Signs MoU With Indian Air Force

- The Aeronautical Development Agency and the Indian Air Force have signed an agreement for the integration of futuristic weapons and sensors into light combat aircraft Tejas.
- The MoU was signed by Shri Prabhulla Chandran VK, Technology Director (Avionics and Weapon Systems) of ADA and Air Vice Marshal KN Santosh of the IAF.
- In the current scenario, there is a continuous need for upgrading the weapons and sensors suite of the aircraft.
- ADA has started the know-how transfer for the integration of weapons and sensors to the Software Development Institute.
- The ADA is a premier organisation that works under the administrative control Department of Defence Research and Development.
- It was established in 1984 to oversee the development of India's Light Combat Aircraft programme.



### ADA and IAF Sign MoU

**For TEJAS WEAPONS INTEGRATION**



## PM inaugurates country's longest cable-stayed bridge, Sudarshan Setu

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Sudarshan Setu, the country's longest cable-stayed bridge of 2.32 km, on the Arabian sea connecting Beyt Dwarka island to mainland Okha in Gujarat's Devbhumi Dwarka district.
- The Sudarshan Setu is a four-lane cable-stayed bridge distinguished by its unique design, featuring a footpath adorned with verses from the Srimad Bhagavad Gita and images of Lord Krishna on both sides.
- The bridge spans 2.32 km, with a central double span cable-stayed portion measuring 900 meters and a 2.45 km long approach road, constructed at a cost of ₹979 crore.
- The bridge, formerly called the "**Signature Bridge**," has been renamed as the "**Sudarshan Setu**" or Sudarshan Bridge.
- Beyt Dwarka, an island close to the Okha port, lies approximately 30 km from Dwarka town, home to the renowned Dwarkadhish temple dedicated to Lord Krishna.
- At present, devotees visiting the temple at Beyt Dwarka can travel only during the day by boat, while the construction of the bridge will allow them to travel at all times.



## India-Japan joint exercise 'Dharma Guardian' commences in Rajasthan

- The fifth edition of the joint military exercise 'Dharma Guardian' between the Indian Army and the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Forces commenced at Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan.
- 'Dharma Guardian' is an annual exercise held alternately in India and Japan. The Japanese contingent is being represented by soldiers of the 34th Infantry Regiment, and the Indian Army contingent is being represented by a battalion of the Rajputana Rifles.
- The objective of the exercise is to promote military cooperation and enhance joint capabilities to conduct joint operations in semi-urban environments under Chapter VII of the United Nations mandate.
- The exercise will focus on the basics of high-level physical fitness, joint planning and special weapons skills.
- The 'Dharma Guardian' exercise will enable both sides to share their best practices in strategic operations strategies, techniques and procedures.



The Indo-Japan "Dharma Guardian" Military Exercise Begins

## **NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd's first solar project of 70MW has started operations in Chhattargarh, Rajasthan**

- NTPC Renewable Energy Limited's first solar project at Chhattargarh, Rajasthan has announced the commencement of commercial operations on February 21, 2024.
- With the operationalization of Chhattargarh's first solar project, the total installed capacity of NTPC Group has reached 73,958 MW.
- At present, 17 projects of NTPC Renewable Energy Limited are under implementation. Their total capacity is more than 6,000 MW. With this, the total renewable energy operating capacity of NTPC Group has reached 3,448 MW.
- The project has been launched to generate 370 million units of energy per year. This project is enough for 60,000 houses. Along with this, it also saves 3 lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per year and conserves 1,000 MMTPA water.
- The project is sufficient for more than 5,000 houses a year.
- The commencement of commercial operations at Chhattargarh Solar Project underlines NTPC-REL's role in the transition towards cleaner and more sustainable energy sources.



## Bhopal duo completed toughest Frozen Lake Marathon

- Pangong Frozen Lake Marathon 2024 was held in Leh-Ladakh, India. **Bhagwan Singh and Mahesh Khurana**, two men from Bhopal, have joined the select group of athletes after completing the Pangong Frozen Lake Marathon.
- The marathon was inaugurated by Sports Secretary Ravinder Kumar and Chushul Constituency councilor Konchok Stanzin.
- Ladakh's Pangong Frozen Lake is the second edition of the marathon. It is known as the '**world's highest frozen lake marathon**'.
- The race was held amidst heavy snowfall at an altitude of 14,273 feet. The temperature here dropped to -15 degrees Celsius, making it one of the toughest marathons in the world.
- Bhagwan, a sports department employee, is also the first mountaineer from Madhya Pradesh to scale the world's highest peak, Mount Everest.
- The event was organized by the Adventure Sports Foundation of Ladakh in collaboration with the administration of Union Territory Ladakh and 14 Corps of the Indian Army.



## Jacintha Kalyan becomes India's first female pitch curator

- In a groundbreaking move for Indian cricket, Jacintha Kalyan has etched her name in the annals of sports history as the country's first female pitch curator.
- Previously she served in the administrative sector and made a bold transition to curatorship driven by her unwavering passion for the game.
- Undeterred by the challenges and comments about being the sole woman in her role, she remains focused on her task, poised to leave her mark on the cricketing landscape
- Her commitment to excellence is evident as she immerses herself in the intricacies of pitch preparation, learning and evolving with each passing day.



## Ashok Saraf awarded with Maharashtra Bhushan Award

- Veteran actor Ashok Saraf who has acted in more than 250 Marathi films was presented with the Maharashtra Bhushan Award for 2023, the highest civilian honour of the state.
- He was joined by other distinguished honorees including Suresh Wadkar, Aruna Irani, Mithun Chakraborty, and many more, who were recognized for their contributions to the film industry.
- Saraf (75), in an acting career spanning nearly five decades, has also featured in several Hindi films and popular comedy drama television series 'Hum Paanch', among others.
- The prestigious award, comprising a **cash prize of Rs 25 lakh, a medal and a citation**, was presented to the celebrated actor at the 57th Maharashtra State Marathi Film Awards ceremony here by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis.



## Mobile World Congress 2024

- The Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2024 is scheduled to take place from February 26 to February 29, 2024 at the Fira Gran Via in Barcelona, Spain.
- It serves as a platform where companies unveil their latest products and advancements.
- It is attended primarily by device manufacturers, network equipment providers, representatives of wireless carriers, and the press, among others. Its annual attendance is generally around 100,000 people, while mobile phone manufacturers often use the conference to unveil upcoming devices.
- The event is organised by the GSM Association (GSMA).
- Till now, companies such as HONOR, Tecno, Lenovo, HMD, Xiaomi, ZTE, and several others have affirmed their presence at MWC 2024.
- It's important to highlight that Apple typically abstains from participating or exhibiting its products during consumer tech exhibitions.



## Central Excise Day – 24 Feb

- February 24th marks the annual celebration of 'Central Excise Day' in India.
- This day commemorates the enactment of the Central Excise and Salt Act of 1944. This day was celebrated for the first time in **1944**.
- The significance of celebrating Central Excise Day is to recognize the contribution of CBIC and its officials to the country. It serves as a reminder to citizens to fulfill their tax obligations promptly, thereby contributing to the nation's development.
- The government is dedicated to modernizing and streamlining the tax system in India, aiming for enhanced user-friendliness.
- The Board has organized various programmes and events to create awareness about the importance of payment of taxes and the role of the Excise Department in the economy.
- The day is also used to honor the contributions of CBIC officers. They work tirelessly to ensure that the goods produced and consumed in India are of good quality. These products must meet safety standards.

