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Current Affairs: 11-13.03.2022

Third National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF) begins in New Delhi

The **third edition of the National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF)** has been organised jointly by Lok Sabha Secretariat and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on March 10 and 11, 2022, in the **Central Hall of Parliament, New Delhi.** **Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur** will address the inaugural session of NYPF on March 10, while the **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla** will address the valedictory function on March 11. The objective of the NYPF is to hear the voice of the youth, between 18 and less than 25 years of age, who will join various careers in coming years, including public services. The top three National level youth winners will get an opportunity to speak before the Lok Sabha Speaker during the valedictory function.

India's first fully women-owned industrial park becomes operational in Hyderabad

India's first 100% women-owned industrial park became operational on March 08, 2022, in **Hyderabad, Telangana.** The industrial park is promoted by the **FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO)** in partnership with the state government of Telangana. The first of its kind FLO industrial park is spread over 50-acre area in Sultanpur near Patancheru industrial area. The estimated investment cost of the project is Rs 250 crore. Initially, the park has 25 women owned and operated units, across 16 different green category industrial segments.

Chhattisgarh announces 'Kaushalya Matritva Yojana' to give Rs 5000 support on birth of second girl child

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel launched a new scheme titled '**Kaushalya Matritva Yojana**' on March 07, 2022. The scheme aims to give financial assistance of **Rs 5000** to women on the birth of second girl child. During the launch of the scheme, CM Baghel gave away cheques of Rs 5,000 each to five women beneficiaries for safe motherhood.

Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar announces Haryana Matrushakti Udaymita Scheme to support women entrepreneurs

Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar has announced a new scheme for women, '**Haryana Matrushakti Udaymita Scheme**', on International Women's Day, to provide financial support to women entrepreneurs. Khattar, who also holds the Finance portfolio, announced the scheme while presenting Budget estimates for 2022-23 in Haryana Vidhansabha. Under the scheme, those women who wish to become entrepreneurs in any enterprise, trade or business, will be provided access to soft loans by financial institutions.

Eligibility: Women whose families **annual income is less than Rs 5 lakh** based on Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) verified data will be eligible for the scheme. **Maximum Loan amount: Rs 3 lakh.** **Interest subsidy:** An **interest subvention of 7 percent** will be provided for three years **through the Haryana Women Development Corporation.**

India and World Bank inks US\$125 million loan to support access to Social Protection Services in West Bengal

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The World Bank has signed a \$125 million loan agreement with the Government of India and the Government of West Bengal to support efforts in giving access to social protection services to poor and vulnerable groups in the state.

The loan for the project titled **West Bengal Building State Capability for Inclusive Social Protection Project**, will be extended through IBRD.

NaBFID to be regulated as AIFI under RBI Act

RBI has announced that **National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)** will be regulated and supervised by it as an **All India Financial Institution (AIFI) under the RBI Act, 1934**. NaBFID will be regulated and supervised by RBI as an **AIFI under Sections 45L and 45N** of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. Presently **RBI has four AIFIs** under it namely EXIM Bank, NABARD, NHB and SIDBI. **NaBFID will be the fifth AIFI under RBI**. NaBFID has been set up as a Development Financial Institution (DFI) to support the development of long-term infrastructure financing in India.

Axis Bank launches 'HouseWorkIsWork' initiative to bring educated urban women to workforce

Axis Bank has rolled out an initiative called '**HouseWorkIsWork**' to offer opportunities to such **urban educated women** who want to rejoin the professional space. The initiative has been launched as the bank feels that the participation of urban educated women in the workforce is still not at desired levels. Through **HouseWorkIsWork** initiative, the bank aims to get these women back to work, by giving them confidence that they are employable, they have skills and they can fit in various job roles in a bank.

Yoon Suk-yeol elected as new President of South Korea

Yoon Suk-yeol has been declared as the winner of the 2022 **South Korean presidential election** on March 09, 2022, to be elected as the new **President** of the country. He is scheduled to assume office as president on May 10, 2022 for a fixed term of five-years. **Yoon Suk-yeol** will succeed incumbent President Moon Jae-in.

No Smoking Day 2022: 09 March (Second Wednesday of March)

No Smoking Day is marked on the **second Wednesday in the month of March** every year. In 2022, the day falls on **9th of March, 2022**. Theme is '**Quitting smoking doesn't have to be stressful**'. The basic objective of this day is to raise public awareness about the dangers and consequences of smoking, as well as to assist smokers in quitting. The day is mainly celebrated in the **United Kingdom** inspired by World No Tobacco Day (31 May).

World Kidney Day 2022 : 10 March (Second Thursday in March)

The **World Kidney Day** is held every year on the **Second Thursday in the month of March**. In 2022, the day falls on **March 10, 2022**. Theme 2022- **Kidney Health for All: Bridge the knowledge gap to better kidney care**. The day aims to raise global health awareness on the importance about conditions of the kidney and the impact of kidney disease and its associated health problems worldwide.

WKD is a joint initiative of the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations (IFKF).

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SC appoints Justice AK Sikri as Chairperson of High Powered Committee on Chardham project

The **Supreme Court** of India has appointed **Justice (retd) AK Sikri** as **Chairperson of the High Powered Committee (HPC), of the Chardham project**. The previous Chairperson **Professor Ravi Chopra** had resigned from his post in February 2022, after being appointed as the chairperson of the HPC on August 8, 2019. The HPC would look after the environmental concerns and other issues related to the Chardham project as well as the cumulative and independent impact of the Chardham project on the entire Himalayan valley. Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri is a former judge of the Supreme Court of India.

Six Indian airports named among best airports of Asia Pacific region in ACI Airport Service Quality Survey for 2021

From India, **six airports** have found place among the **'Best Airport by Size and Region'**, by the **Airports Council International (ACI)**, in its Airport Service Quality (ASQ) survey for the year 2021. The airports have been adjudged among the **Asia Pacific region** in different categories based on annual passenger traffic. The ACI Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards takes into account 33 parameters related to passenger amenities to recognize airport excellence in customer experience.

Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia inaugurates first drone school at Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh

The **Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia** and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan jointly inaugurated the **first drone school in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh** on March 10, 2022. This drone school is one of the five Drone Schools planned to be opened in different cities of Madhya Pradesh.

The other four cities are **Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur and Satna**.

Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar announces 'Sushma Swaraj Award' for women

The Chief Minister of Haryana, **Manohar Lal Khattar** has announced a new award named the **'Sushma Swaraj Award'**. The award will be given to **women for their significant contribution and achievements in different walks of life** in national and international spheres.

The Sushma Swaraj Award will carry a commendation and a cash prize of **Rs 5 lakh**.

The award has been named after Late Sushma Swaraj, a daughter of Haryana. She had served as former Chief Minister of Delhi and former Union Minister of External Affairs.

Karnataka launches Women@Work (WOW) Program to provide 5 lakh jobs to women

The **Government of Karnataka** has launched **'Women@Work (WOW) Program'**, in a bid to raise their workforce strength in workplaces by creating an equitable, inclusive and equal world for women. The Women@Work (W@W) programme aims to **provide five lakh jobs within 2026 to women with necessary employable skills**. The W@W Program is being organised jointly by Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM), KTECH and Karnataka Skill Development Corporation, Government of Karnataka. Under the W@W Program free certificate courses will be run for women for imparting them training in specialized skills to become employable in the next five years.

RBI directs Paytm Payments Bank Ltd to stop onboarding of new customers

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The Reserve Bank of India has directed **Paytm Payments Bank Ltd to stop the onboarding of new customers** with immediate effect. RBI has taken this step under the power conferred to it **under section 35 A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**. RBI has advised Paytm Payments Bank to appoint an **IT audit firm to conduct a comprehensive System Audit of its IT system**. Once the audit is over, RBI will review the reports of IT auditors and based on the reports grant or review its permission for onboarding of new customers.

Debasish Panda appointed as Chairman of IRDAI

Debasish Panda has been appointed as the **chairman** of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (**IRDAI**). Debasish Panda is a former financial services secretary. The post of Chairman of IRDAI was lying vacant since May 2021 when Subhash Chandra Khuntia completed his term.

Ratnakar Shetty launches his autobiography 'On Board: My Years in BCCI'

BCCI's first and one of the longest serving Chief Administrative Officer, **Ratnakar Shetty**, has come out with his autobiography titled '**On Board: My Years in BCCI**'. The book was released recently by Sharad Pawar, the former president of the MCA, BCCI and International Cricket Council. In his book, Shetty uses his administrative experience to offer the reader an opportunity to walk through the corridors of BCCI and enter its meeting rooms, where many issues were discussed and momentous decisions taken.

International Day of Women Judges 2022: 10 March

The first ever '**International Day of Women Judges**' was observed on **March 10, 2022** by all the Member States of United Nations. The day was proclaimed to be observed every year on March 10, by the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** on April 28, 2021.

The day aims to promote the full and equal participation of women at all levels of the judiciary. The Supreme Court of India celebrated the event by organising an online event in which the Chief Justice of India (CJI), NV Ramana and four women SC judges (Justices Indira Banerjee, Hima Kohli, BV Nagarathna and Bela M Trivedi) interacted online with all women judges of the high courts and the women judicial officers of the country.

Former Pakistani President and jurist Rafiq Tarar, passes away at 92

Veteran Pakistani politician and **former Supreme Court judge, Rafiq Tarar**, has passed away due to prolonged illness. He was 92. Tarar served as the **9th President of Pakistan** from January 1998 until his resignation in June 2001. Prior to joining politics, Tarar had served as a senior justice of Supreme Court of Pakistan from 1991 to 1994. He also served as the 28th Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court from March 6, 1989 to October 31, 1991.

Kashmiri Hand-Knotted Carpets gets QR Code-based GI Tag

The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has launched a **quick response (QR) code for its GI-tagged Kashmiri carpet**, to preserve the authenticity and genuineness of the hand-knotted carpets. The main objective of this QR Code attached to GI tag is to help in reviving the sheen and glory of the Kashmiri carpet industry. The QR code will contain relevant information of the artisans, manufacturer, weaver, district, raw material used etc. Meanwhile,

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the first ever consignment of GI-tagged hand-knotted carpets were exported to Germany from New Delhi on March 11, 2022.



MoHUA Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launches 'India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Challenge' under AMRUT 2.0

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has organised 'India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Conclave' at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi on March 12, 2022.

The conclave was inaugurated by MoHUA Minister Shri Hardeep Singh Puri. During the conclave, the minister also launched 'India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Challenge' under Atal mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 scheme. The Challenge has been launched on MyGov platform. MoHUA Ministry will select 100 start-ups which will be provided funding support of Rs.20 lakhs as well as mentorship.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah addresses 37th Foundation Day celebrations of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) observed its 37th Foundation Day celebrations on March 11, 2022 in New Delhi. The celebration was attended by Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah as the Chief Guest.

He is the first Union Home Minister to attend a Foundation Day function of the NCRB. NCRB was formed on March 11, 1986, under Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). The current Director of National Crime Record Bureau is Ramphal Pawar (IPS).

PM Modi dedicates building of Rashtriya Raksha University in Gandhinagar to nation

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation a new campus building complex of the Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on March 12, 2022.

PM also addressed the first convocation of RRU Gandhinagar as a Chief Guest. Prime Minister Modi is on a two-day visit to Gujarat from March 11 and 12, 2022. Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU), Gandhinagar is an Institution of National Importance, which commenced its operations from October 01, 2020. RRU provides different academic courses to meet the need for high quality trained manpower in various wings of policing, criminal justice and correctional administration.

India's first medical city 'Indrayani Medicity' to come up in Pune

The state government of Maharashtra has announced to set up country's first medical city named as 'Indrayani Medicity' in Pune, to provide all kinds of specialised treatment under one roof. It will come up in 300-acre of land area in Khed taluka of Pune. The project is estimated to attract investment worth over Rs. 10,000 crore. Indrayani Medicity will have hospitals, centres for medical research, pharmaceutical manufacturing, wellness and physiotherapy, and will be first-of-its-kind city in the country to have all the treatments available at one place.

Morgan Stanely projects India's GDP for FY23 at 7.9%

Rating Agency Morgan Stanely has projected India's GDP growth forecast for 2022-23 (FY23) at 7.9%. This is 50 bps less than its earlier projection due to the impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on oil prices.

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EPFO lowers interest rate on PF deposits to 8.1 pc for 2021-22

The retirement fund body, **Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** has slashed interest rate on **provident fund deposits to 8.10% for 2021-22**. This rate is **0.4%** lower than previous year. The interest rate on PF deposit was 8.5% in 2020-21 and 2019-20. The decision was taken at the 230th meeting of Central Board of Trustees, EPF on March 12, 2022 under the Chairmanship of Shri Bhupendra Yadav, Union Minister for Labour & Employment and Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

Abhinav Chandrachud pens biography of Attorney General of India 'Soli Sorabjee'

The biography of the **former Attorney General of India, Soli Sorabjee**, titled "**Soli Sorabjee: Life and Times**", is all set to hit stands in April 2022. The book has been written by advocate and legal scholar **Abhinav Chandrachud**. It will be published by **Penguin Random House India (PRHI)**. Sorabjee's biography reveals his personal details of life, his family background, his journey in becoming a practitioner of law among other things. He had served as the Attorney-General for India from 1989 to 1990, and again from 1998 to 2004.

Ajay Bhushan Pandey appointed as chairman of the NFRA

Ajay Bhushan Pandey has been appointed as the **chairman of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)**. Before this, he was the chief executive of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). NFRA has been **set up under the Companies Act, 2013**, and was approved by the Cabinet in May 2018. NFRA acts as an independent **regulator for the auditing profession**. It has powers to review the financial statement of companies, can seek explanations and probe irregularities with respect to accounting and auditing issues.

Gabriel Boric Font has been appointed as the new and 36th President of Chile

Gabriel Boric Font has been appointed as the new and **36th President of Chile** on March 11, 2022. The 36-year-old leftist is the youngest leader to hold the office in Chile's history. Gabriel Boric Font succeeds Sebastián Piñera. He will hold the office for the period between 2022-2026.