



CURRENT AFFAIRS 2nd March 2023

National News

1. Govt approves procurement of 70 HTT-40 Basic Trainer Aircraft for Indian Air Force



- The government has approved the procurement of 70 HTT-40 Basic Trainer Aircraft from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Indian Air Force at a cost of over six thousand 828 crore rupees. The aircraft will be supplied over a period of six years.
- The Ministry of Defence said, the aircraft will meet the shortage of basic trainer aircraft of IAF for the training of newly inducted pilots.
- The Ministry said, the HTT-40 is a turboprop aircraft and is designed to have good low-speed handling qualities and provide better training effectiveness.
- According to the Ministry, the procurement is expected to provide direct employment to one thousand 500 personnel and indirect employment for up to three thousand people spread over more than 100 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

- The acquisition of the HTT-40 provides a fillip to the Indian Aerospace Defence ecosystem and boosts efforts towards 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

2. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar to inaugurate Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela on Thursday



- Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar will inaugurate the Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela in New Delhi on Thursday.
- The three-day fair is being organised with the theme Nutrition, Food and Environmental Protection with Shree Anna.
- The event will hold Technical Sessions on important and contemporary issues in Agriculture including development of Shree Anna-based value chain, Smart Farming Model, Sustainable Agriculture and Farmer Producer Organisations.
- Live demonstrations of important varieties of wheat, mustard, gram, vegetables, flowers and fruits will be held at the fair.
- For the benefit of remote farmers and consumers, live webcasts of the fair will also be available.

3. Supreme Court rules selection of Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners



- **The Supreme Court today ruled that appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and Elections Commissioners will be done by the President on the advice of a committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India.**
- **A five-judge constitution bench headed by Justice K.M. Joseph said, this panel will be enforced until a law in this regard is made by Parliament.**
- **The bench was hearing a batch of petitions seeking reform in the process for the appointment of members of the Election Commission of India.**
- **The top court emphasized that the Election Commission has to remain aloof from all forms of subjugation by the executive.**

- The top court emphasized that the Election Commission is duty bound to act in a fair and legal manner and to abide by the provisions of the Constitution.

4. Counting of votes for assembly elections underway in Tripura, Meghalaya & Nagaland



- The counting of votes for Assembly elections in Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya is underway amid tight security.
- As per the trends available, the BJP-IPFT alliance is heading towards victory in Tripura, while the ruling NDPP-BJP combine is set to retain power in Nagaland.
- Meghalaya is heading towards a hung Assembly with the ruling NPP emerging as the single largest party.
- In Tripura, trends are available for all 60 seats. The ruling BJP-IPFT combine is leading in 34, the CPM-Congress alliance in 14 and TIPRA MOTHA in 12 seats.
- Chief Minister and BJP candidate Dr. Manik Saha is leading in town Bardowali constituency.
- In Nagaland, trends are available for all 60 seats. The ruling NDPP-BJP combine is leading on 39 seats, while Naga People's Front (NPF) is leading on 1, while others are leading at 20 seats.

- **BJP candidate Kazheto Kinimi has already won from the Akuluto constituency unopposed. In the Tuensang Sadar-I constituency, BJP candidate P. Bashangmongba Chang has defeated his nearest rival and NCP candidate Toyang Chang by a margin of 5,644 votes.**
- **In Tuensang Sadar-II, Imtichoba of RPI(Athawale) has been declared elected. In the Noksen constituency, Y Lima Onen Chang of RPI (Athawale) defeated H Chuba Chang of NDPP by a margin of 188 votes.**
- **In Shamator Chessore, S Keoshu Yimchunger of NDPP defeated R Tohanba of Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) by a margin of 2,295 votes. Incumbent Chief Minister and NDPP candidate Neiphui Rio is leading from the Northern Angami-II assembly constituency.**

5. Reliance Jio second-strongest telecom brand in world, says report



- **Reliance Jio has climbed up to number two rank — up from fifth place last year — in a list of the top 10 strongest telecom brands in the world.**
- **In this post we will explore the Top 150 most valuable and strongest telecoms operator brands according to Brand Finance 2023 rankings.**
- **As the telecommunications industry continues to grow and evolve, keeping track of who's-who in terms of establishing a strong presence can be difficult.**
- **Brand Finance has compiled a list of companies based on their brand value.**

- Brand Finance have developed a comprehensive evaluation process to not only assess the value of brands, but also ascertain their relative strength.
- Utilizing best-practice ISO 20671 guidelines and up-to-date research collated from an expansive survey spanning 38 countries and 31 sectors with over 150,000 respondents – Brand Finance provide crucial insights for businesses looking to make informed decisions about brand performance.

6. Nitin Gadkari inaugurates highway projects worth Rs 6,800 crore in MP



- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated 7 National Highway projects worth Rs 2,444 crore, totaling 204 km in Rewa, Madhya Pradesh.
- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari informed that with the construction of the Churhat tunnel and bypass, the length between Rewa to Sidhi has decreased by 7 km.
- Now instead of two and a half hours, people will be able to cover this distance in 45 minutes.
- The Minister informed that the movement of vehicles in the Rewa-Sidhi section will be facilitated by the construction of the tunnel, white tigers, and other wild animals, and the entire forest ecosystem will be protected.
- With the construction of the Devtalab-Naigarhi road, the connectivity of Rewa district with Prayagraj and Varanasi will be easy.

- Nitin Gadkari noted that with the construction of the Satna-Bela four-lane road, connectivity will become easier for the coal, cement, and diamond industries in the region.
- He informed me that with the construction of this route, the journey from Satna to Rewa can be completed in 40 minutes. Access to famous tourist places like Jhansi, Orchha, Khajuraho, Panna, and Satna will be easy.

7. Windsor Framework: What is the deal UK and EU have reached to solve the Northern Ireland Protocol tangle



- After months of intensive talks, the United Kingdom and European Union have unveiled an agreement on the Northern Ireland Protocol, called the Windsor Framework.
- This is not a new protocol or a fundamental rewrite of the current treaty.
- But the package announced this week is an improved deal that could substantively ease how the protocol will operate for businesses as well as individuals.
- It is a negotiating achievement that marks a turning point in the long road since Brexit for Northern Ireland.
- After the UK left the European Union, Northern Ireland remained its only constituent that shared a land border with an EU-member, the Republic of Ireland.
- Since the EU and the UK have different product standards, border checks would be necessary before goods could move from Northern Ireland to Ireland.

- **However, the two Irelands have had a long history of conflict, with a hard-fought peace secured only in 1998 under the Belfast Agreement, also called the Good Friday agreement.**
- **Fiddling with this border was thus considered too dangerous, and it was decided the checks would be conducted between Great Britain and Northern Ireland.**
- **This was called the Northern Ireland Protocol.**

PLUTUS ACADEMY