



## CURRENT AFFAIRS 23rd Feb 2024

### National News

#### 1. India Sends Sacred Relics Of Buddha To Thailand



In a significant event that marks a deep connection between India and Thailand, four revered relics of Lord Buddha and his disciples have arrived in Bangkok, Thailand, accompanied by a delegation from India.

The delegation, led by Governor of Bihar Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar and Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar, includes esteemed monks, officials, curators, artists, and scholars.

The holy relics were received with great reverence and ceremony at Bangkok Military Airport by H.E Mr. Sermsak Pongpanit, Minister of Culture, Royal Thai Government, and other dignitaries.

#### 2. CJI Chandrachud Inaugurates Ayush Wellness Center At Supreme Court Premises



The Chief Justice of India, Justice DY Chandrachud, inaugurated the 'Ayush Holistic Wellness Centre' within the premises of the Supreme Court of India. The Ayush Holistic Wellness Centre situated within the Supreme Court premises is a facility designed to provide comprehensive care addressing physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

An important aspect of the inauguration was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Supreme Court and the All-India Institute of Ayurveda.

### **3.PM Modi To Lay Foundation For 550 Amrit Bharat Stations**



Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the foundation stone laying ceremony for 550 Amrit Bharat stations on February 26. The initiative aims to improve railway station facilities by developing rooftop plazas and city centers, with an investment of Rs 40,000 crore. Additionally, the Prime Minister will lay foundation stones for about 1,500 road overbridges and underbridges across different states.

#### **4.India's Mineral Output Rises By 5.1% In December 2023**



In December 2023, India's mineral output witnessed a notable increase of 5.1% compared to the same period in 2022, according to the Ministry of Mines. The mining and quarrying sector's index of mineral production for December reached 139.4, marking a significant rise from the previous year. The production of coal reached 929 lakh tonnes, lignite 40 lakh tonnes, iron ore 255 lakh tonnes, and limestone 372 lakh tonnes in December. Positive growth was observed in the production of lignite, limestone, coal, bauxite, and natural gas.

#### **International News**

#### **5.Sri Lanka To Host Geeta Mahotsav's 5th Edition From March 1**



The International Gita Mahotsav (IGM), a celebration deeply rooted in the spiritual and cultural heritage of India, is set to embark on a new journey as it finds its foreign soil in Sri Lanka.

Scheduled from March 1 to 3, the fifth edition of the IGM promises to be a grand affair, bringing together devotees and enthusiasts from around the world.



Having previously been held in Mauritius, London, Canada, and Australia, the Mahotsav's expansion into Sri Lanka reflects its growing global appeal.

## **Defence News**

### **6. Trilateral Exercise 'Dosti-16' Kicks Off In Maldives**



Indian and Sri Lankan coast guard ships joined the Dosti 16 exercise held in the Maldives from February 22-25.

This year marked a significant development with Bangladesh participating as an observer, indicating a widening scope for the exercise and underlining the growing importance of maritime collaboration in tackling evolving challenges.

By fostering cooperation, the exercise addresses traditional security concerns while collectively preparing for non-traditional threats like piracy, smuggling, and environmental disasters.

### **7. India Approves Acquisition Of BrahMos Extended Range Supersonic Cruise Missiles For Navy**



The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has approved the acquisition of over 200 BrahMos Extended Range (ER) supersonic cruise missiles for deployment on Indian Navy warships.

The deal, valued at ₹19,000 crore, signifies a significant step towards bolstering India's naval capabilities. The BrahMos ER variant boasts an extended range of 400 to 500 km, significantly augmenting the Navy's operational reach.

A formal agreement between BrahMos Aerospace and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) is anticipated to be signed early next month to initiate the process of inducting these weapons into the Indian Navy.

## Economy News

### **8. India Ratings Forecasts Moderation In GDP Growth To 6.5% For FY25**



India Ratings and Research projects a moderation in India's GDP growth to 6.5% for the financial year 2024-25, slightly lower than the Reserve Bank of India's estimate of 7%. Despite the base effect, the agency notes positive indicators for economic recovery including sustained government capital expenditure, healthy corporate performance, and softness in global commodity prices.

Cites sustained government capital expenditure, healthy corporate performance, and global commodity price trends as factors contributing to economic recovery.

### **9. Flash Composite PMI Hits 7-Month High In February At 61.5: Reveals Positive Trends Despite Job Market Concerns**



The Flash Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for India, compiled by HSBC, reached a seven-month high of 61.5 in February, indicating strong performance in both manufacturing and services sectors.

Composite PMI rose to 61.5 in February from 61.2 in January, reflecting improved performance in manufacturing and services. Flash Manufacturing PMI increased to 60.4, up from 59.7 in January.

Private sector companies refrained from hiring, ending a 20-month streak of job creation. Despite growing new orders, payroll numbers remained unchanged, highlighting workforce sufficiency for current demands

## Banking News

### **10. India Surpasses China As HSBC's Third-Largest Profit Hub**



In 2023, India surpassed China to become HSBC's third-largest profit hub, showcasing a remarkable surge in profitability.

The fiscal year ending December 2023 saw India's profits soar by 25% to reach an impressive \$1.5 billion. HSBC's annual report for the fiscal year ending December 2023 unveiled key insights into India's exceptional performance. Anticipated credit loss provisions decreased significantly from \$90 million in 2022 to \$51 million in 2023, contributing to improved profitability.

## Important Days News

### **11.Guru Ravidas Jayanti 2024**



Guru Ravidas Jayanti 2024, marks the 647th anniversary of the birth of Guru Ravidas, observed on February 23rd. Guru Ravidas, also known as Raidas, stands as one of the eminent saints of the North Indian Bhakti movement.

Born into a marginalized untouchable leather-working caste in Varanasi, his life and works profoundly reflect the challenges and struggles of his social background. Guru Ravidas, also known as Raidas, was an Indian mystic poet-saint who lived during the 15th to 16th century CE. Revered as a guru across various regions of India, including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab, and Maharashtra,.