

## CURRENT AFFAIRS 01st Mar. 2024

### National News

#### 1. Union Minister Pralhad Joshi Unveils Coal Logistics Plan And Policy



Union Minister For Coal, Mines, And Parliamentary Affairs, Pralhad Joshi, Announced The Launch Of The National Coal Logistics Plan And Policy, 2023 On February 29. The Policy Aims To Enhance Railway Utilization In Coal Transportation To Over 87 Percent By FY 2029-30, Anticipating A Surge In Coal Consumption From 980 Million Tons To 1.5 Billion Tons By 2030. Key Objectives Include Cost Savings, Reduced Environmental Impact, And Enhanced Efficiency In Coal Logistics.

#### 2. Cabinet Approval, Establishment Of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)



The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with its headquarters based in India.

This landmark decision comes with a one-time budgetary support of Rs. 150 crore for a period of five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28.

The International Big Cat Alliance focuses on conserving big cats, including Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah.

### **3.PM Modi Launches India's First Hydrogen Fuel Cell Ferry**



Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated India's inaugural hydrogen fuel cell ferry, a product of indigenous development and construction built by Cochin Shipyard. Participating from Thoothukudi.

Its inauguration ignites the use of hydrogen in marine sectors. Zero-emission, noise-free, and energy-efficient, it combats global warming. Embracing green hydrogen furthers India's goal of net-zero emissions by 2070.

International News

### **4.PM Modi & PM Jugnauth Inaugurate Airstrip, Jetty In Agalega Island**



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth jointly inaugurated significant infrastructure projects in Agalega Island, marking a milestone in bilateral cooperation between India and Mauritius.

The newly constructed airstrip will enhance connectivity to Agalega Island, facilitating smoother transportation and promoting economic growth in the region.

The inauguration of the St James Jetty provides crucial maritime infrastructure, facilitating trade and transportation between Agalega Island and the mainland.

### **5. Ghana Parliament Passes Anti-LGBTQ Bill**



Ghana's parliament has approved a controversial anti-LGBTQ bill, the Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Bill, which awaits presidential assent.

The bill aims to uphold traditional Ghanaian family values and regulate human sexual rights. It criminalizes identification with LGBTQ identities, imposing penalties of up to three years in prison.

Individuals found promoting or supporting LGBTQ activities could face up to five years in prison under the proposed law. Ghana already prohibits gay sexual acts, carrying a maximum prison sentence of three years.

### **State News**

### **6. 'Tawi Festival' In Jammu To Kick Off On March 1, 2024, For Four Days**





Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under the umbrella of the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) are poised to make a significant mark at the upcoming 4-day 'Tawi Festival' in Jammu.

This endeavor aims to spotlight the rich tapestry of art forms and cultural heritage of the region while highlighting the skills and creativity of local artisans.

## Defence News

### **7.DRDO Successfully Tests Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS)**



The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has conducted two successful flight tests of the Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile on February 28th and 29th, 2024.

The tests, carried out from a ground-based portable launcher off the coast of Odisha, demonstrated the system's capability to intercept and destroy high-speed unmanned aerial targets under various interception scenarios.



The missile is propelled by a dual-thrust solid motor and is specifically designed to neutralize low-altitude aerial threats at short ranges. Its design, including the launcher, has been optimized for easy portability, enhancing its usability in various operational scenarios.

## Economy News

### **8. India's Q3 FY24 GDP Surges To 8.4%: Exceeds Expectations**



India's GDP for the third quarter of FY24 experienced a significant acceleration, reaching 8.4% year-on-year growth, as reported by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on February 29.

The stellar performance in the construction and manufacturing sectors has been identified as pivotal factors driving the remarkable 8.4% GDP growth in the third quarter of the ongoing financial year.

### **9. Index Of Eight Core Industries Increase By 3.6 Percent In January 2024**

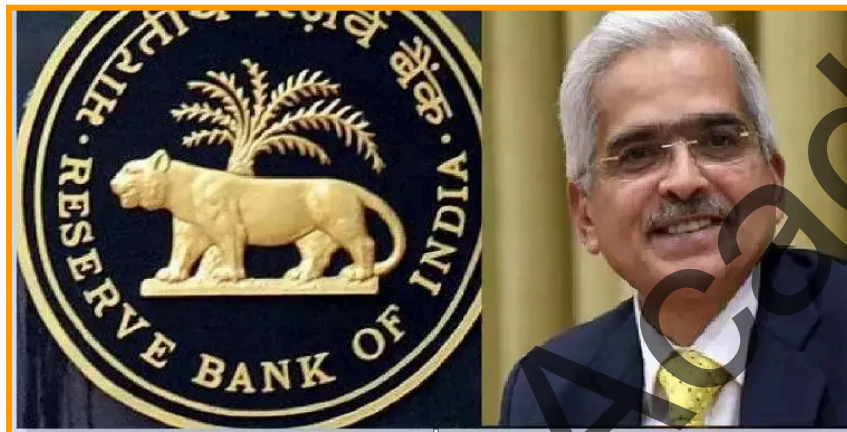


In January 2024, the Combined Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) demonstrated a notable increase of 3.6 percent (provisional) compared to January 2023.

This index reflects the collective performance of critical sectors including Cement, Coal, Crude Oil, Electricity, Fertilizers, Natural Gas, Petroleum Refinery Products, and Steel. These industries collectively constitute 40.27 percent of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), highlighting their significant contribution to the industrial landscape.

## **Banking News**

### **10.RBI Revamps BBPS Norms For Enhanced Efficiency**



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a revised regulatory framework for the Bharat Bill Payment Systems (BBPS), effective April 1, 2024.

This overhaul aims to streamline bill payments, foster wider participation, and bolster consumer protection measures in light of evolving payment landscape dynamics.

NPCI Bharat Bill Pay Ltd (NBBL), a subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), serves as the designated Payment System Provider for BBPS.

## **Important Days News**

### **11.World Seagrass Day 2024**



Celebrated annually on March 1, World Seagrass Day is a vital global observance aimed at highlighting the importance of seagrass in marine ecosystems. Established by the United Nations General Assembly on May 22, 2022, following Sri Lanka's resolution, the day underscores the urgent need for seagrass conservation. Seagrass originated around 100 million years ago, with its evolution marking a significant adaptation to marine environments.

## **12.Zero Discrimination Day 2024**



March 1 marks Zero Discrimination Day, a day dedicated to advocating for the right of every individual to live a life free from discrimination and prejudice.

This global observance, initiated by UNAIDS, aims to raise awareness about the detrimental effects of discrimination and the importance of promoting equality, compassion, and respect for all.

Zero Discrimination Day was first celebrated in 2014 following the launch of the Zero Discrimination Campaign by UNAIDS on World AIDS Day in December 2013.