

## CURRENT AFFAIRS 13th March 2024

### National News

#### **1. Inauguration Of Kochrab Ashram And Launch Of Gandhi Ashram Memorial Master Plan By PM Modi**



Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Sabarmati Ashram to inaugurate Kochrab Ashram and launch the Master Plan of the Gandhi Ashram Memorial.

Established by Gandhi on May 25, 1915, upon his return from South Africa. It was Gandhi's first Ashram in India, emphasizing experiments in farming, cow breeding, Khadi, and constructive activities.

Originally situated on barren land near the Sabarmati River, the Ashram was later relocated for practical and symbolic reasons.

#### **2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates India's First Automobile In-Plant Railway Siding**



In a historic moment, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the inaugural automobile in-plant railway siding at Suzuki Motor Gujarat Private Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL).

The ceremony, conducted via video conferencing, signifies a pivotal advancement in the execution of the Prime Minister's flagship Gati Shakti programme.

The primary objectives of this in-plant railway siding are to reduce the carbon footprint in logistics, decrease fossil fuel consumption, and alleviate road congestion.

## **State News**

### **3.Odisha Extends Support To Women Employees With Extra Casual Leave**



In a move to empower and support women employees in the state, the Odisha government led by Naveen Patnaik has announced an additional 10 days of casual leave for women working in various government departments.

This decision aims to recognize the multitude of responsibilities women shoulder and provide them with greater flexibility to strike a better work-life balance.

Previously, all government employees in Odisha were entitled to 15 days of casual leave (CL) per year. However, with this latest announcement, women employees will now receive a total of 25 days of CL annually.

### **4.Union Minister Inaugurates India's 1st FutureLABS At C-DAC Thiruvananthapuram**

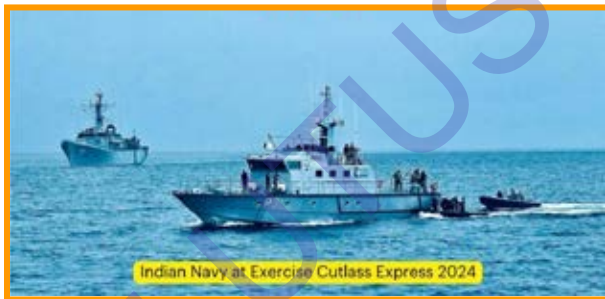


Union Minister Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, responsible for Electronics and IT, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship, and Jal Shakti, inaugurated India's first FutureLABS center at C-DAC Thiruvananthapuram.

Named the "Centre for Semiconductor Chips & Systems for Strategic Electronics," this pioneering initiative aims to catalyze an ecosystem for next-generation chip design, manufacturing, and research.

### Defence News

#### **5.Indian Navy At Exercise Cutlass Express 2024**



The Indian Navy recently took part in a major maritime exercise called Exercise Cutlass Express – 24 (CE-24). This exercise was held in Port Victoria, Seychelles from 26 February to 08 March 2024.

The Indian Navy was represented by the ship INS Tir, which is the lead ship of the First Training Squadron. INS Tir was led by Senior Officer, First Training Squadron, Capt Anshul Kishore.

Exercise Cutlass Express is a multinational maritime exercise sponsored by the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) and led by U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. Sixth Fleet.

## Economy News

### **6. Industrial Growth Slows To 3.8% In January 2024**



The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for January 2024 reflects a growth rate of 3.8%, indicating a slowdown compared to December 2023.

The manufacturing sector, a significant contributor to industrial output, witnessed a deceleration in growth, dropping from 4.5% in December 2023 to 3.2% in January 2024. Manufacturing, constituting around 15% of Gross Value Added (GVA), holds a pivotal role in job creation and indirect tax revenue generation.

### **7. Retail Inflation Steadies At 5.09% In February 2024**



Retail inflation in February 2024 saw a decline to a four-month low of 5.09 per cent, remaining well within the Reserve Bank of India's comfort zone of 6 per cent for the sixth consecutive month.

The inflation rate within the food basket saw a marginal uptick, rising to 8.66 per cent in February from 8.3 per cent in the previous month.

Notably, prices of specific items such as vegetables, fruits, oils and fats, and pulses and products witnessed a slight decrease on a month-on-month basis.

## **Banking News**

### **8.CCI Approves Merger Of Garagepreneurs Internet With North East Small Finance Bank**



The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the merger of a financial technology company, Garagepreneurs Internet Private Limited (GIPL), with the North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB).

The proposed transaction involves the merger of GIPL, including its subsidiaries Quadrillion Finance Private Limited (QFPL) and Intergalactory Foundry Private Limited (IFPL), with NESFB and its subsidiary RGVN (North-East) Microfinance Limited (RGVN).

### **9.Sidbi Gets \$24.5 Million From GCF For 'Avaana' Fund**



The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has secured \$24.5 million from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for its inaugural anchored project, the Avaana Sustainability Fund (ASF), valued at \$120 million.

The ASF project's primary objective is to invest in early-stage companies leveraging technology-led innovation to drive climate solutions and sustainability in India.

SIDBI projects significant contributions to climate change mitigation, adaptation, and the enhancement of resilience in vulnerable sectors of the Indian economy through the ASF project.

## **10.SBI Partners With Aurionpro For Its Transaction Banking Platform**



Aurionpro Solutions has clinched a significant deal with the State Bank of India (SBI) for the license, implementation, and support of its cutting-edge cash management and transaction banking platform, iCashpro+.

Valued at nearly Rs 100 crore, this prestigious contract entails phased delivery of license and implementation over 12 months, followed by a 6-year maintenance and support period.