

29 MARCH CURRENT

1. India's first steel road featured in Gujarat



- **Surat, Gujarat**, features a road created entirely of steel waste, which is one of the best instances of sustainable development. **ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India** collaborated on the steel slag road with the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) India**, the **Central Road Research Institute (CRRI)**, and the government think tank **Niti Aayog**.
- The trial project is a **one-kilometre road with six lanes**. So far, the path has proven to be reliable. Every day, almost 1,000 trucks, weighing between **18 and 30 tonnes**, drive along the steel road.
- Various plants across the country produce millions of tonnes of steel waste each year, which is disposed of in landfills. This one-of-a-kind initiative will now not only make use of a previously underutilised resource but will also result in more **durable roadways**.

2. Maltese PM Robert Abela sworn in after landslide election win



- The Prime Minister of Malta, **Robert Abela** has been sworn in for a second term after his ruling **Labour Party won the 2022 general election** in a landslide victory. He was administered the oath of office by President **George Vella**.
- Abela was first sworn in as prime minister in January 2020 after the former Labour Party leader and prime minister **Joseph Muscat** resigned.
- It was the first electoral test for Abela, a 44-year-old lawyer since he took the helm of the tiny Mediterranean island nation in January 2020 following a Labour party vote. Labour secured a majority of almost 40,000 votes over its Nationalist Party rivals — a huge margin in the tiny EU state which has just 355,000 registered voters.
- Malta Capital: Valletta; Currency: Euro

3. Pramod Sawant takes oath as Chief Minister of Goa for 2nd term



- **Pramod Sawant** took oath as the **Chief Minister of Goa** on March 28, 2022, for the second straight **five-year term**. Sawant led the BJP in the recently concluded 2022 Goa Assembly elections and won 20 seats in the 40-member Goa Assembly.
- Mr Sawant was administered the oath by Governor **PS Sreedharan Pillai** at the Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee stadium near Panaji. Mr Sawant is an Ayurveda Medical practitioner by profession.
- He was sworn in as Chief Minister in March 2019 after the death of the sitting chief minister **Manohar Parrikar**. Mr Sawant represents the Sanquelim constituency.

4. Shashi Sinha named as new Chairman of Broadcast Audience Research Council India



- The board of **Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) India** has elected IPG Mediabrands India CEO **Shashi Sinha** as the new chairman. He will take over from Punit Goenka, who served as chairman of the TV viewership measurement agency for the last three years.
- Sinha, who also represents the Advertising Agencies Association of India as its board member, has played a key role in the formation of BARC.
- The Broadcast Audience Research Council India is a joint industry body founded by organisations that represent Indian broadcasters, advertisers, and advertising and media agencies. It is the world's largest television measurement science industry body.
- **Broadcast Audience Research Council Founded: 2010**
- **Broadcast Audience Research Council Headquarters: Mumbai**
- **Broadcast Audience Research Council CEO: Nakul Chopra**

5. Gilbert Hougbo named next Director-General of International Labour Organization



- **Gilbert Hougbo** from Togo will be the next **Director-General** of the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**. Hougbo was elected by the UN agency's governing body, comprising representatives of governments, workers and employers during their meeting in Geneva.
- Hougbo, former Prime Minister of Togo, will be the 11th head of the agency and the first African to hold the post. His five-year term will begin on October 1, 2022. The current Director-General, **Guy Ryder**, from the United Kingdom, has held office since 2012.
- **International Labour Organisation Founded: 1919**
- **International Labour Organisation Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland**

6. RBI Governor dedicates Varnika Ink Manufacturing Unit of BRBNMPL



- **Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL)** has set up an Ink Manufacturing Unit named “**Varnika**” at **Mysuru, Karnataka**, with an annual ink manufacturing capacity of 1,500 MT to enhance the security of banknotes.
- Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL) a wholly-owned subsidiary of RBI. Shaktikanta Das (Governor of RBI) has dedicated “Varnika”, the Ink Manufacturing Unit of Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL) to the nation.
- It is a boost to the ‘Make in India’ initiative. It ensures that the entire requirement of banknote printing inks is produced in-house.
- This unit also manufactures **Colour Shift Intaglio Ink (CSII)** and meets the entire requirements of banknote printing presses in India, which has resulted in cost efficiency and self-sufficiency in banknote ink production.

7. Shaktikanta Das lays Foundation Stone of Learning and Development Centre of BRBNMPL in Mysuru



- Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), **Shaktikanta Das** has laid the foundation stone for the establishment of a **Learning and Development Centre (LDC)** of the Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL) in **Mysuru, Karnataka**. Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of RBI.
- LDC is being established with active collaboration from Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) and Bank Note Paper Mill India Private Limited (BNPMIPL).
- LDC will act as a forum for robust knowledge dissemination, thus ensuring that the best practices, experiences, and innovations are shared efficiently in a congenial environment to ensure uniformity in banknote production, quality and supply.

8. PVR & INOX Leisure announced merger combined entity to be called PVR Inox Ltd



- Multiplex companies **INOX Leisure Ltd** and **PVR Ltd** have announced the merger of their two companies. Inox will have a **16.66% stake** in the new firm and PVR will have a **10.62% stake**.
- After the formalities of the merger, the company will be known as **PVR Inox Limited**. **Ajay Bijli** will be Managing Director of PVR Inox Limited, **Sanjeev Kumar** will be executive director and **Pavan Kumar Jain** will be non-executive chairman of the consolidated board.
- The merger is subject to approval by the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**, **stock exchanges**, and **other regulatory approvals as required**. Merger to bring together two of India's best cinema brands to deliver an unparalleled consumer experience with a network of 1,546 screens across 341 properties in 109 cities.
- **PVR Cinemas Founded: June 1997**
- **PVR Cinemas Headquarters: Gurugram**

- PVR Cinemas Founder & CEO: Ajay Bijli

9. DRDO successfully test-fire Indian Army “MRSAM” Missile



- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has conducted two successful flight tests of the Indian Army version of **Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM)** against high-speed aerial targets at **Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.**
- The first test launch was to intercept a medium-altitude long-range target and the second launch was for a low altitude short-range target. The Indian Army version of MRSAM is a Surface-to-Air Missile. It has been developed jointly by DRDO and **Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Israel.**
- This MRSAM version is a Surface-to-Air Missile developed jointly by DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Israel for use by the Indian

Army. The MRSAM Army weapon system comprises multi-function radar, mobile launcher system and other vehicles. The flight tests were carried out with the weapon system in deliverable configuration.

- **Chairman DRDO: Dr G Satheesh Reddy**
- **DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi**
- **DRDO Established: 1958**

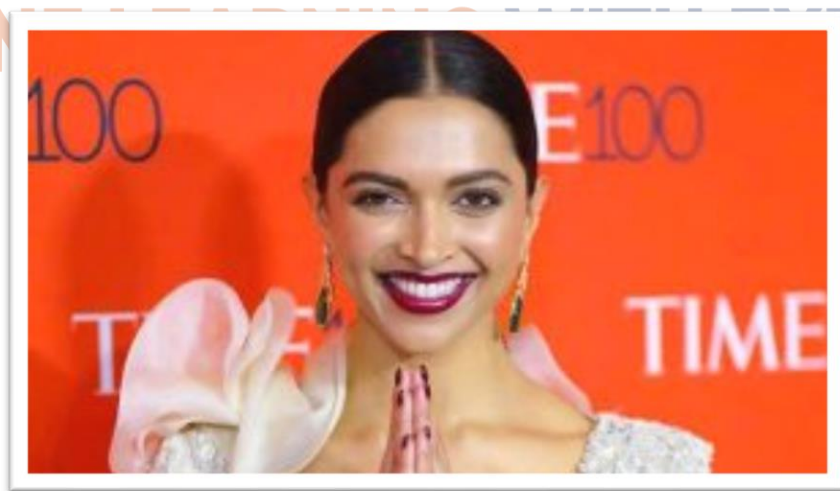
10. US, Philippines kick off ‘Balikatan 2022’ largest-ever military drills



- The **United States military** and the military of the **Philippines** kicked off the military drill **Balikatan 2022**. The Philippine-led annual exercise will take place across Luzon in the Philippines region near Taiwan, from March 28 to April 8, 2022.

- Around 8,900 Filipino and American troops are participating in the military drill, making it the largest Balikatan military exercise ever.
- According to the military, the drills will focus on “maritime security, amphibious operations, live-fire training, urban operations, aviation operations, counterterrorism, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief”.
- The **Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA)** gives US troops a legal basis to be in the Southeast Asian country for bilateral exercises and governs the conduct of American armed force personnel.
- **Philippines Capital: Manila**
- **Philippines Currency: Philippine peso**
- **Philippines President: Rodrigo Duterte**

11. Actress Deepika Padukone named in inaugural TIME100 Impact Award



- Bollywood actress **Deepika Padukone** has been named as one of the awardees of the **TIME100 Impact Awards 2022**. The actress has got featured on the inaugural **TIME100 Impact Awards list** for her work in mental health struggles and raising awareness, through her **LiveLoveLaugh Foundation**.
- The award recognizes global leaders who have gone above and beyond to move their industries and the world forward. Apart from Deepika, six other global leaders have also been honoured with the award. The awards were presented at the Museum of the Future in Dubai.

12. Max Verstappen wins 2022 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix



- **Max Verstappen** (Red Bull – Netherlands) has won the **Formula One 2022 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix** at Jeddah Corniche Circuit, Saudi Arabia. **Charles Leclerc** (Ferrari- Monaco) came second and **Carlos Sainz Jr.** (Ferrari – Spain) came third.

- It was the second edition of the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix and the second round of the 2022 Formula One World Championship. Lewis Hamilton managed to get a point on the board after coming 10th.

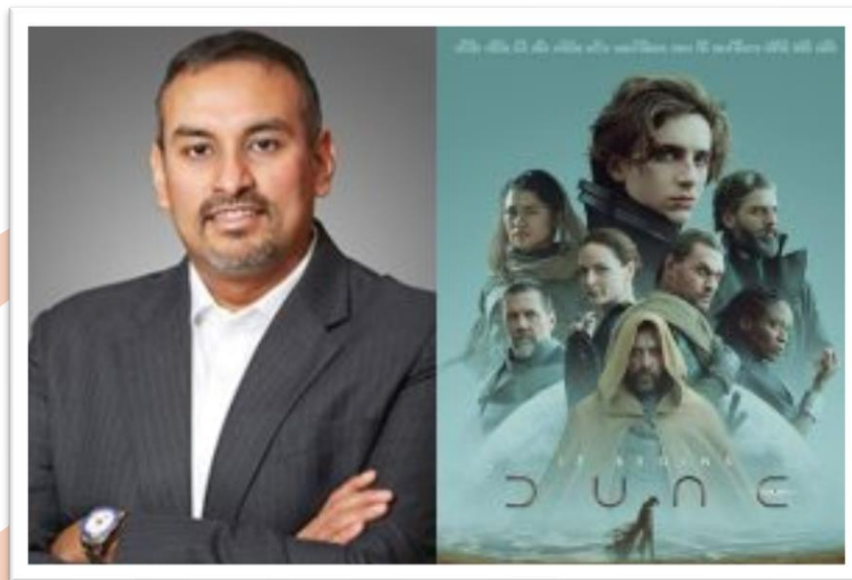
13. The men's and women's team has won gold in the National Cross Country Championship



- In **Kohima**, **Darshan Singh** of the Services and **Varsha Devi** of the Railways finally defended their **men's and women's titles** in the National Cross Country Championships by winning their **10 Km** events on the picturesque but difficult course, which was made more difficult by **60 per cent** humidity and wind gusts.
- After playing crucial roles in their respective teams' successes, they were ecstatic to win the South Asian crowns at the second **SAFF Cross Country Championships**, which were held concurrently.
- **Darshan Singh** was grouped at the front with his Services teammates **Rajendra Nath, Deepak Singh Rawat, Dipak Suhaug,**

reigning champion **Parasappa Madevappa Hajilol**, and Railways **Narendra Pratap Singh** even before the runners had completed the first loop of **2 kilometres**. He never lost his beat or his place.

14. India's Namit Malhotra on Oscars win for Dune



- This year's Oscars was named to **Dune as the Timothee Chalamet and Zendaya** starrer sci-fi thriller bagged six wins. Dune was nominated in 10 categories and it won in 6 of them.
- This win was a proud moment for India as **Namit Malhotra**, the CEO and Chairman of **Double Negative (DNEG)**, the studio that did the VFX for the film, brought home this honour.
- DNEG won the Academy Award for Best Visual Effects, beating Free Guy, Shang-Chi, Spider-Man: No Way Home and No Time to Die.
- Interestingly, this is DNEG's seventh win at the Academy Awards, with the studio winning big for Inception (2011), Ex Machina (2016), First

Man (2019), Tenet (2021), Interstellar (2015) and Blade Runner 2049 (2018).

- Namit is the son of Bollywood producer Naresh Malhotra and the grandson of cinematographer MN Malhotra and his company was behind the mind-blowing VFX.
- **DNEG Headquarters: London, United Kingdom**
- **DNEG Founded: 1998, London, United Kingdom**

