

## 10 MARCH CURRETN AFFAIRS

### 1. Govt nod for setting up WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine



- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the establishment of a **World Health Organization Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO GCTM)** at **Jamnagar, Gujarat**.
- An agreement was signed by the Government of India with the world body in this regard. The move would help develop norms, standards, and guidelines in relevant technical areas, tools and methodologies for collecting data undertaking analytics and assessing impact.
- The WHO GCTM, to be established under the Ministry of AYUSH ( Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy), will be the first and only global outposted centre (office) for traditional medicines.
- **WHO Established: 7 April 1948**

- WHO Director General: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
- WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

## 2. India's largest reclining statue of Lord Buddha being built at Bodh Gaya



- India's largest reclining statue of Lord Buddha is being built in Bodh Gaya. Built by Buddha International Welfare Mission, the statue will be **100 feet long and 30 feet high**. Lord Buddha is in the sleeping posture in the statue.
- The construction of the giant statue started in the year 2019. It is being made with fibreglass and built by sculptors from Kolkata. Bodh Gaya is an important pilgrimage centre for Buddhism and is visited by devotees from all over the world.

- The idol of this posture of Lord Buddha is in **Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar** where he attained his Mahaparinirvana. The giant statue of Lord Buddha will be open for devotees from February 2023.

### 3. Tamil Nadu govt inaugurated India's largest floating solar power project

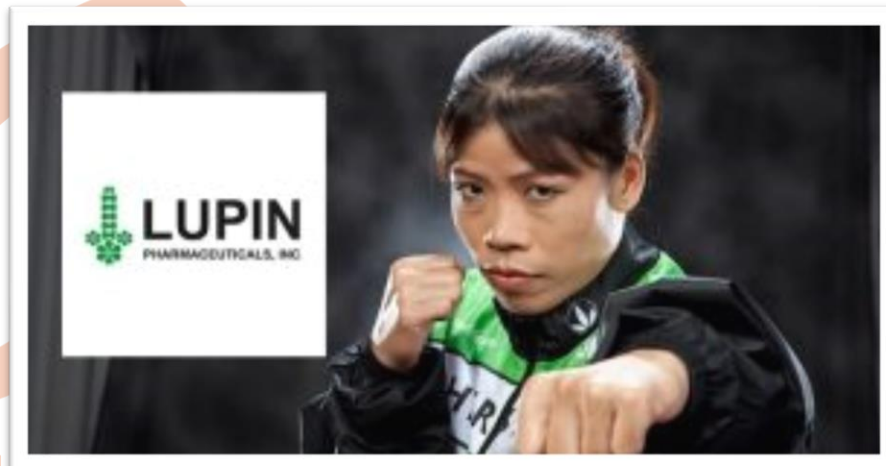


- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, **M K Stalin** has inaugurated India's largest **floating solar power plant** constructed at a cost of **Rs 150.4 crores**.
- The floating plant is established in **Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corporation Limited (SPIC)** factory at Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu to provide clean energy. It aims to provide environmentally sustainable power generation and to reduce carbon footprint.
- The floating power plant has the capacity to produce 42 million units of electricity per annum.
- The solar power plant is owned by Greenam Energy, a wholly-owned subsidiary of AM International. SPIC worked with France-based floating

solar power specialists and global leader Ceil & Terre for the constructions and designs.

- **Tamil Nadu Capital: Chennai**
- **Tamil Nadu Chief minister: K. Stalin**
- **Tamil Nadu Governor: N. Ravi**

#### 4. **Lupin named Mary Kom as brand ambassador for his Shakti initiative**



- Global pharma major **Lupin Limited (Lupin)** has announced that it has signed on six-time world boxing champion, **Mary Kom** as the brand ambassador for its Shakti campaign. The campaign is aimed at increasing awareness of heart diseases among women.
- With Mary Korn anchoring the campaign, to drive the much-needed awareness on the issue and encourage women to sign up for early screening checks and take corrective measures to avoid the future risk of heart diseases.

## 5. RBI extends Interest subsidy scheme for exporters



- With the aim of expanding export shipments, the **Reserve Bank of India** extended the interest equalisation scheme for pre and post-shipment rupee loans for **MSME** exporters through **March 2024**.
- The ‘Interest Equalisation Scheme for pre and post-shipment **Rupee Export Credit**’ provides a subsidy to exporters. The scheme was first extended until the end of **June** last year, and then again until **September 2021**.
- The interest equalisation rates under the plan have been revised to **2% and 3%** for certain categories of **MSME** manufacturer exporters, according to the **RBI**.
- Scheme to equalise interest rates “The government has authorised the extension of the Interest Equalisation Scheme for **Pre- and Post-Shipment Rupee Export Credit** through **March 31, 2024**, or until further review, whichever comes first,” said the statement.
- The extension will take effect on **October 1, 2021**, and will end on **March 31, 2024**, according to a notification from the **RBI**. The scheme will not apply to telecom instruments or businesses that receive benefits under the government’s **Production Linked Incentive (PLI)** programme.

- The bank will be required to provide the prevailing interest rate, the interest subvention being provided, and the net rate being charged to each exporter when issuing approval to the exporter, according to the **RBI**, in order to ensure transparency and greater accountability in the scheme's operation.

## 6. Axis Bank launches the initiative - 'HouseWorkIsWork'



- **Axis Bank** has launched the '**HouseWorkIsWork**' project, which provides possibilities for those who want to return to the **workforce**. In an interview about the bank's recent hiring initiative '**HouseWorkIsWork**,'
- The intent behind this initiative is to give these women the confidence that they are **employable**, that they have **skills**, and that they can fit in various **job roles in a bank**, and it is about getting these women back to work.”
- She gave an example, saying that the concept of '**HouseWorkIsWork**' arose from an intriguing and innovative résumé of one of the company's newest hires, **Pallavi Sharma**, who skillfully compared her numerous home jobs to those at professional firms.

## 7. ToneTag launches VoiceSe UPI digital payments for feature phone users



- **ToneTag** has partnered with **NSDL Payments Bank and NPCI** to launch its “**VoiceSe UPI payments service**” for feature phone users. This comes after the Reserve Bank of India has launched the UPI 123Pay facility that enables UPI payments for feature phone users.
- ToneTag is a sound-based proximity communication and payments service provider based in Bengaluru, Karnataka. To access the “VoiceSe UPI payments service” feature phone users need to call on the IVRS number 6366 200 200.
- Every user can only proceed with the financial transaction through UPI PIN. They do not require internet connectivity or a smartphone for making payments. This is an all-inclusive technology that fills the gap in the existing financial ecosystem and brings many benefits to the customers.

## 8. Bangladeshi Rizwana Hasan to get US International Women of Courage Award 2022



- Bangladeshi environmental lawyer, **Rizwana Hasan** has been selected for the **International Women of Courage (IWOC) Award for 2022**. She is among the 12 women from around the world who will be honoured by the US Department of State with the award for showing exceptional courage and leadership to make a difference in their communities.
- The **International Women of Courage (IWOC) award** was established in **2007** by the US Department of State to honour women of exceptional courage, strength and leadership who work to bring change to their communities. Till now **170 women from 80 countries** have been honoured under the IWOC programme.



## 9. IPC banned Russian, Belarusian athletes from Beijing Winter Paralympics



- **International Paralympic Committee (IPC)** has banned the athlete's entries from the **Russian Paralympic Committee (RPC)** and **National Paralympic Committee (NPC) Belarus** for the **Beijing 2022 Winter Paralympics** due to the war in **Ukraine**. Beijing 2022 Winter Paralympics is scheduled to take place from 4th to 13th March 2022 & it marks the 13th Winter Paralympic Games.
- Previously IPC has stated that the athletes from both countries would be allowed to compete as neutrals in the games. The IPC joins the range of sporting bodies like Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) etc, that have banned the participation of Russians and Belarusians, which includes football, track, basketball, hockey, and others.
- **International Paralympic Committee Founded: 22 September 1989**
- **International Paralympic Committee Headquarters: Bonn, Germany**
- **International Paralympic Committee CEO: Xavier Gonzalez**

- **International Paralympic Committee President: Andrew Parsons (Brazil)**

## 10. S Sreesanth quits from all forms of first-class cricket



- India pacer **S Sreesanth** has announced his retirement from all forms of domestic cricket. Sreesanth played **27 Tests and 53 ODIs for India**, taking 87 and 75 wickets respectively. He has also taken seven wickets in 10 T20 Internationals.
- The temperamental pacer was also popular for his exuberant celebrations after taking wickets but his life and career went downhill after the spot-fixing scandal.

## 11. Olympic champion Duplantis sets pole vault world record of 6.19m in Belgrade



- Sweden's Olympic pole vault champion **Armand Gustav "Mondo" Duplantis** cleared **6.19m** to smash his own world record by one centimetre at the World Indoor Tour Silver meeting in Belgrade.
- Duplantis set the record of 6.18 in February 2020 indoors in Glasgow. This is the fourth world record of the 22-year-old's career. His first record came in February 2020 when he surpassed London 2012 gold medallist Renaud Lavillenie's world record by clearing 6.17m in Torun, Poland before improving that the following week in Glasgow.
- In September of that year, he cleared 6.15m at the Rome Diamond League meeting to eclipse Sergey Bubka's outdoor pole vault world best of 6.14m set in Sestriere in July 1994.

## 12. India's S L Narayanan wins Grandiscacchi Cattolica International Open Chess Tournament



- In Chess, Indian Grandmaster, **S L Narayanan** was declared the winner in the **Grandiscacchi Cattolica International Open, held in Italy**. Meanwhile, his compatriot **R Praggnanandhaa** came second.
- Though Narayanan and six others, including Praggnanandhaa, finished equal first with 6.5 points after nine rounds. But, Narayanan took the top spot on the basis of a better tie-break score. The 24-year old S L Narayanan from Thiruvananthapuram earned the title of Grandmaster in 2015 and is the **41st Grandmaster from India**.

### 13. CISF raising day observed every year on March 10



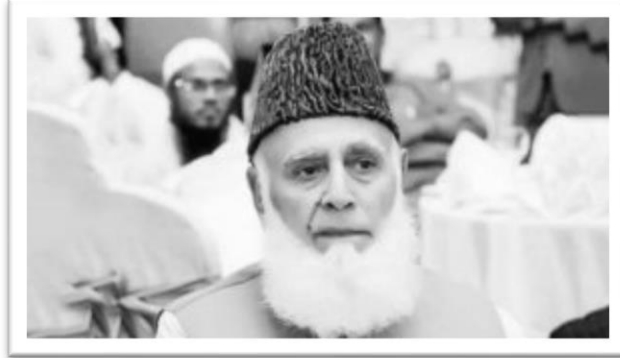
- In the year **1969**, the CISF was set up on **March 10** and three battalions were formed under the **CISF act 1968**, which was passed by the Parliament of India. Since then, the day is celebrated as CISF Raising Day every year.
- **Central Industrial Security Force**, is for the central armed police force in India. It is one of the six paramilitary forces in India functioning under the Union Home Ministry.
- The CISF, which was set up in **1969**, is assigned to look after the security of the vital government and industrial buildings. The CISF was established under the CISF Act, which has a strength of over 3,000. In 2017, the government raised the sanctioned strength of personnel from 145,000 to 180,000.
- **Director-General of CISF: Sheel Vardhan Singh.**

## 14. No Smoking Day 2022 is celebrated on 9th March



- **No Smoking Day** is celebrated on the **second Wednesday** in the month of March every year across the world. This year No Smoking Day will be celebrated on **9th March**. The day is celebrated to help those who wish to quit smoking as well as to raise awareness about the implications of smoking on an individual's health.
- The main reason to observe this day is to spread awareness and educate people about the adverse impacts of tobacco on their health through cigarettes and other means.
- No Smoking Day was first observed in the year **1984 in the Republic of Ireland** on Ash Wednesday. It was on this day that the clergy determined that giving up cigarettes will be a good thing for Lent.

## 15. Former Pakistani President Rafiq Tarar passes away



- Veteran politician, former Supreme Court judge, and President of Pakistan, **Rafiq Tarar** passed away at the age of 92 years. Muhammad Rafiq Tarar was born on 2 November 1929 in **Peer Kot, Pakistan**.
- He served as a **Supreme Court judge from 1991 to 1994**. He also served as the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court from 1989 to 1991. Later, he became Pakistan's President for the period of 1997 to 2001.