

March - 14

NATIONAL

BBC awards

- ❖ Kerala-based long jumper and Olympian Anju Bobby George has bagged the BBC lifetime achievement award for best athlete in India.
- ❖ Anju Bobby George is a native of Changanassery in Kottayam of Kerala.
- ❖ Anju bagged a bronze medal by clearing 6.70 m in the long jump at the World Athletic Championship 2003 in Paris.
- ❖ She is the first Indian athlete ever to win a medal in the world athletics championship.
- ❖ Chess champion Grandmaster Koneru Humpy bagged the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the year 2021 award.
- ❖ The Shooting star Manu Bhaker won the BBC's emerging player of the year award.
- ❖ In 2020, BBC honoured Olympian PT Usha from Kerala with the lifetime achievement award.

INS Karanj



- ❖ Indian Navy's third stealth Scorpene class Submarine INS Karanj, was commissioned in Mumbai.
- ❖ It is equipped with potent weapons and sensors to neutralise any threat above or below the sea surface.



- ❖ Six Scorpene class submarines are being built in India by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited Mumbai, under collaboration with French company Direction des Constructions Navales (DCNS).
- ❖ INS Karanj is the third Kalavari-class submarine to be commissioned into the Navy.
- ❖ INS Kalvari was the first Scorpene-class submarine to be commissioned in October 2017.
- ❖ Subsequently, INS Khanderi was commissioned in September 2019.
- ❖ Both INS Kalvari and INS Khanderi are in active service.
- ❖ All remaining submarines as part of this programme are expected to be delivered by 2022-2023.
- ❖ INS Vela and INS Vagir are currently under sea trials.
- ❖ INS Vagsheer is under construction.

INTERNATIONAL

AsterX - military exercise

- ❖ France has successfully launched the first military exercise in space.
- ❖ It will help the country to evaluate its ability to defend its satellites and other defence equipment from an attack.
- ❖ The exercise has been codenamed as 'AsterX'.
- ❖ The German Space force and the US space force have also been participating in it.
- ❖ France wants to become the third space superpower in the world after the US and China.

Digital Payment Scorecard

- ❖ The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has released the list of "Digital Payment Scorecard".
- ❖ In the list, the State Bank of India (SBI) has topped the list for 3 consecutive months.
- ❖ The scorecard tracks Commercial Banks' performance on various digital parameters.
- ❖ SBI remained the top remitter bank by recording the highest UPI transaction volume of nearly INR 640 million.

- ❖ SBI is also among the largest issuers of debit cards.

Arjuna Sahayak Irrigation Project

- ❖ The “Arjuna Sahayak Irrigation Project” will be launched in the state of Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The project will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister.
- ❖ This irrigation project will bring positive changes for farmers.
- ❖ It is being built on the river Dhasan.
- ❖ The project will provide irrigation facilities to 1.5 lakh farmers across 168 villages of Banda, Mahoba and Hamirpur in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ After this project is completed, around four lakh people will get pure drinking water.
- ❖ The irrigation facility will be provided to the area of 15,000 hectares under this project.

National Rail Plan

- ❖ National Rail Plan is prepared in order to establish a future ready Railway system by the year 2030.
- ❖ The Union Railway Minister highlighted that the National Rail Plan has been prepared with the aim of formulating the strategies on the basis of both operational capacities as well as the commercial policy initiatives.
- ❖ The plan also seeks to create the capacity ahead of the demand in the country.
- ❖ It will also cater to the future growth in demand up to the year 2050.
- ❖ It also aims to increase the modal share of Railways to 45 percent in freight traffic.

ECONOMY

RBI removes PCA restrictions on IDBI Bank

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has removed IDBI Bank from its enhanced regulatory supervision or Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework.
- ❖ As per published results for the quarter ending December 31, 2020, the bank is not in breach of the PCA parameters on regulatory capital, net NPA and leverage ratio.
- ❖ IDBI was placed under the PCA framework in May 2017 due to weak financial metrics.



- ❖ Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) is a framework under which financially weak and mismanaged banks are put under watch by the RBI.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Indigenours torpedo - shynea

- ❖ The maiden flight trials of the indigenously developed 'Advanced Light Torpedo (TAL) Shyena' was conducted successfully.
- ❖ It was fired from Indian Navy's Ilyushin Il-38 Patrol Aircraft.
- ❖ TAL Shyena is an anti-submarine torpedo developed by the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL).
- ❖ NSTL is a lab of the Defence Research & Development Organisation.
- ❖ The trial was the first of its kind in India.
- ❖ 'TAL Shyena' was fired from a fixed-wing aircraft.

STATES

First forest healing centre

- ❖ The First Forest Healing centre of the country was inaugurated near Ranikhet in Kalika, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The forest healing centre has been developed by the Research Wing of Uttarakhand Forest Department.
- ❖ This centre would involve in many activities like forest walking, tree-hugging, forest meditation and sky gazing.

First Milk ATM in Kashmir

- ❖ A milk ATM was installed in Pulwama town of South Kashmir by a local businessman.
- ❖ It was set up with the help of the animal husbandry department.
- ❖ The government helped the local entrepreneur to set up the machine under the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme.
- ❖ The machine will help locals in the town to get quality milk at their will like any other money ATM.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Global women excellence award

- ❖ Telangana governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan was conferred with the Top-20 Global Women of Excellence-2021 award (9th Edition).
- ❖ It was given through virtual mode from Illinois, United States.
- ❖ Vice President of the USA Kamala Harris, was also one among the recipients.

Frontier Gandhi's autobiography in English

- ❖ The autobiography of freedom fighter Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan was first published in Pashto language in 1983.
- ❖ It is now translated by former Pakistani civil servant and author Imitiaz Ahmad Sahibzada.
- ❖ The book is titled as 'The Frontier Gandhi: My Life and Struggle'.
- ❖ This is the “first time” that Khan’s autobiography is available in English.
- ❖ Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan is known as Bacha Khan or Badshah Khan.

