

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-MARCH 2,2023

TAMIL NADU

- French carmaker, Citroën India - has announced that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Kamarajar Port Ltd to commence its export program from India.



- ✓ PAIPL, the Indian affiliate of Citroën India, will be exporting the Made-In-India 'New C3' B-hatch vehicles to countries in Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Africa.
- ✓ The shipping of the vehicles will commence in March 2023 as Completely Built Units (CBUs).
- ✓ In 2019, Citroën India, part of the Stellantis Group, has started exporting powertrains from its Hosur facility
- **The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) - has partnered with Denmark for research in climate change mitigation and green transition, which includes the development of next-generation fuels and energy systems.**

- ✓ The exchange of agreements happened in the presence of the Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Denmark Frederik André Henrik Christian, minister Lars Aagaard and Freddy Svane, ambassador of Denmark during the Danish energy delegation's visit to the IIT-M research park on March 1.



- ✓ During the visit, an MoU was signed under Indo-Danish Green Strategic Partnership for four projects, of which three will focus on the energy sector.
- ✓ The Innovation Fund Denmark (IFD) and Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India will jointly fund the projects.
- ✓ Under the partnership, Denmark is collaborating with Tamil Nadu to establish the first offshore wind farm in the state.
- ✓ Danish multi-national corporation, Danfoss exchanged two agreements with IIT-M for research in securing drinking water for coastal regions using renewable energy and green fuels
- ✓ Energy efficiency solutions company, Danfoss India and IIT-M are collaborating to convert seawater into freshwater through a Seawater Reverse Osmosis process leveraging ocean waves as an energy source with Danfoss high-pressure pumps.
- ✓ A pilot desalination plant will be run for the purpose of supplying water to remote islands and coastal hamlets.
- ✓ Denmark's Crown Prince Frederik André Henrik Christian and Crown Princess Mary Elizabeth arrived in India on February 26 on a four-day visit.
- ✓ It is the first visit to India from the Danish Royal family in two decades.

NATIONAL

- **The Ministry of Home Affairs - has suspended the FCRA licence of prominent public think-tank 'Centre for Policy Research' (CPR) for six months**
- ✓ The Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) licence of CPR has been suspended over alleged violation of laws
- ✓ With the suspension of its FCRA licence, the Centre for Policy Research will not be able to receive any funds from abroad.
- ✓ The donors of CPR included the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the University of Pennsylvania, the World Resources Institute and the Duke University



- ✓ The FCRA licence of CPR was last renewed in 2016 and was due for renewal in 2021.
- ✓ The think-tank has been asked to give clarification and documents regarding FCRA funds received by it
- ✓ According to CPR's website, its founder is Pai Panindiker and former members of the governing board include former prime minister Manmohan Singh, former Chief Justice of India Y V Chandrachud.
 - ✓ Founded in 1973, CPR has been one of India's leading policy research institutions, home to several eminent thinkers and policy practitioners whose contribution to policy in India is well recognised.
 - ✓ Through its five-decade long history, it has worked in partnership with governments and grassroots organisations which include partnerships with the ministries of environment, forest and climate change, rural development and jal shakti, and governments of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Meghalaya and Rajasthan amongst others
 - ✓ According to CPR's website, it has been recognised as a not-for-profit society by the Government of India, and contributions to the think tank are tax-exempt.
 - ✓ It further stated that the organisation receives grants from the Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR) and is a Department of Science and Technology (DST) recognised institution.
 - ✓ CPR is a member institution of the Think Tank Initiative (TTI), a programme of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).
 - ✓ The thinktank has listed several agencies as its partners and donors, including Namati that counts Open Society Foundation, founded by billionaire George Soros, as one of its "supporters".
 - ✓ In addition, CPR has listed the World Bank, UN agencies, international universities, Indian Council for Social Science Research, ICMR, NITI Aayog and William & Flora Hewlett Foundation as prominent donors.
- ✓ In September last year, the organisation had come under the I-T Department's scanner when it had conducted 'surveys' there along with Oxfam India and the Independent and Public-Spirited Media Foundation (IPSMF).
- ✓ Oxfam's FCRA licence was suspended in January last year, after which the NGO had filed a revision petition with the home ministry.

- ✓ The Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) was originally enacted in 1976 to regulate the inflow of money from abroad into the country.
- ✓ In 2010, the old law was repealed and a new FCRA was enacted
- ✓ Nearly 6,000 NGOs lost their FCRA licenses in January last year.
- ✓ These included Jamia Milia Islamia, Oxfam India, and Indian Medical Association (IMA).
- ✓ Before this, prominent organisations to have lost their licenses were the Leprosy Mission, the Tuberculosis Association of India, the Indira Gandhi National Centre For Arts, the India Islamic Cultural Centre and Greenpeace India.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **Australia-based Deakin and Wollongong - will be the first foreign universities to set up campuses in India.**
- ✓ The two Australian universities will soon establish campuses in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in Gandhinagar
- ✓ The universities will sign an agreement on setting up their campuses during Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's maiden visit to India next week.



- ✓ Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan made the announcement during an event at Delhi University's Venkateshwara College that hosted Australian education minister Jason Clare on March 1.
- ✓ Clare is accompanied by representatives from 10 Australian universities
- ✓ He is on a four-day visit to India during which he will sign the Mechanism for the Mutual Recognition of Qualifications with his Indian counterpart Dharmendra Pradhan
- ✓ The Mechanism seeks to provide the rules for mutual recognition to access education in both our countries.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The two-day G20 Foreign Ministers meeting under India's presidency – is scheduled to take place in New Delhi on March 1 and 2, 2023**



- ✓ The Foreign Ministers meeting is one of the most significant G20 meetings.
- ✓ Representatives of 40 countries and 30 multilateral organisations are participating in the G20 Foreign Ministers' meeting being held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Center.
- ✓ Besides the G20 member countries, the foreign ministers of nine guest countries are also participating in the meet - Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and the United Arab Emirates.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to address the foreign ministers of the member countries of G20 on March 2
- ✓ The formal G20 Foreign Ministers meeting will be held on March 2, with External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar chairing two sessions.
- ✓ The first session will focus on multilateralism and issues related to food and energy.
- ✓ The second session will focus on new and emerging threats including counter-terrorism and narcotics, global skill mapping, and focus on global talent pools.
- ✓ This will be second ministerial meeting being held under India's Presidency so far.
- ✓ The first ministerial meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors was held in Bengaluru.
- ✓ The Finance Ministers meeting failed to come out with a joint communique over sharp differences between the Western powers and Russia-China combine over the Ukraine conflict

- **The First Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting (ACWG) of G-20 under India's G20 Presidency - is set to take place in Gurugram, Haryana, from 1st to 3rd March 2023**
- ✓ Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated the meeting of G20, which is being organized by the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT)



- ✓ During the meeting, over 90 delegates from 20 members countries, 10 Invitee countries and 9 International Organizations will engage in detailed deliberations on strengthening International Anti-corruption mechanisms.
- ✓ The issues like food and energy security and development cooperation, counter-terrorism, new and emerging threats, global skill mapping and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief will be figured in the meeting.
- ✓ As part of the meeting, a side event was held on the theme 'Leveraging ICT for combating corruption in Public Sector'.
- ✓ Eminent experts from various walks of life spoke at the event, which was attended by delegates from various member countries.
- ✓ Since its inception in 2010, G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) has been at the forefront of guiding the anti-corruption initiatives of G20 countries.
- ✓ G 20 ACWG meetings have one Chair (Presidency country) and one co-chair country.
- ✓ The co-chair for the G20 ACWG 2023 is Italy.

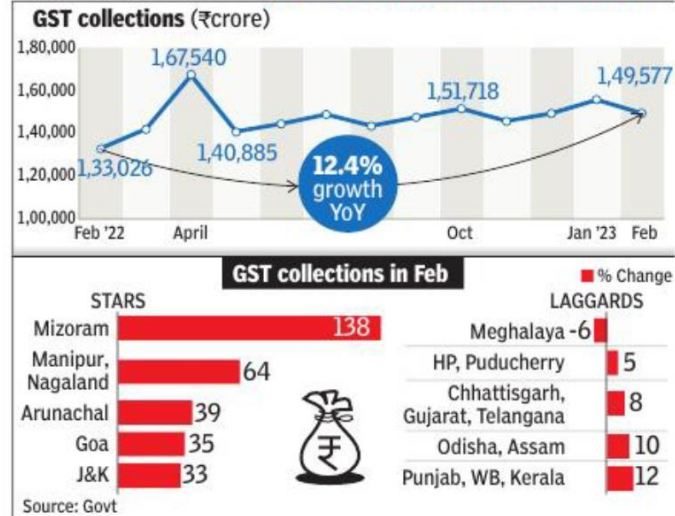
DEFENCE

- **The PM-led cabinet committee on security – cleared two major indigenous defence projects worth almost Rs.10,000 crore on March 1**
- ✓ The projects include the acquisition of 70 basic trainer aircraft for the IAF and three cadet training ships for the Navy
- ✓ The 70 Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40 (HTT-40) aircraft will be supplied by defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics at a cost of Rs.6,828 crore over the next six years.
- ✓ The three training ships, in turn, will be designed and built at the private Larsen & Toubro shipyard in Kattupalli, Tamil Nadu for Rs.3,108 crore, with the first vessel slated for delivery in 2026.

ECONOMY

- **The gross goods and service tax (GST) revenue collection in the month of February 2023 - stood at Rs 1,49,577 crore**

Over ₹1.4L Cr For 12th Mth In A Row



- ✓ The revenues for the month of February 2023 are 12% higher than the GST revenues in February 2022, which was Rs 1.33 lakh crore
- ✓ Of the total GST revenue collected in February, Rs 27,662 crore is CGST, Rs 34,915 crore is SGST, Rs 75,069 crore is IGST and Cess is Rs 11,931 crore
- ✓ The month witnessed the highest cess collection of Rs 11,931 crore since the implementation of GST in 2017.
- ✓ This is only the second time that the cess on luxury and sin goods such as cars, tobacco, soft drinks, yachts and aircraft and coal has crossed Rs.11,000 crore.
- ✓ This was the 12th-straight month of more than Rs 1.4 lakh crore per month collections
- ✓ Among the major states, Tamil Nadu recorded a growth of 19%, Karnataka of 18%, Maharashtra of 15%, Uttar Pradesh 14% and Gujarat of 8% in collections for February.
- ✓ The GST revenue in February is, however, lower than the second-highest GST collection recorded in January at over Rs 1.57 lakh crore.
- ✓ The collection reached an all-time high of Rs 1.68 lakh crore in April 2022.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Lt-General M V Suchindra Kumar** - took over as the new vice chief of the 12-lakh strong Indian Army on March 1.



- ✓ He has succeeded Lt-Gen B S Raju who, in turn, has become the commander-in-chief of the South-Western Command at Jaipur.
- ✓ Prior to taking over as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff, Lieutenant General Kumar was the Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy) at Army Headquarters.
- ✓ He has experience in intelligence, operations, force structuring, operational logistics and tech infusion in his recent appointments

RANKINGS

- **India - imposed the highest number of internet shutdowns globally in 2022, according to a report by digital rights advocacy firm Access Now.**
- ✓ Out of the 187 internet shutdowns recorded globally in the year, 84 took place in India, including 49 in Kashmir.
- ✓ India also topped the list as the country with the most internet shutdowns for the fifth successive year.
- ✓ Since the time New York-based Access Now started documenting shutdowns in 2016, India has accounted for approximately 58% of all shutdowns documented in its shutdown tracker database
- ✓ In 2022, authorities across 35 countries shut down the Internet — the highest number ever recorded in a single year, as per Access Now.
- ✓ Apart from India, Russia is at the second place after shutting down the internet at least 22 times in Ukraine.
- ✓ It was followed by Ethiopia, which extended the over two-year long shutdown in Tigray, and the military junta disconnected Internet in Myanmar at least seven times.

