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# Daily News Analysis

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**Monday, 11 March 2024**

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**DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR**





**Monday, 11 March 2024**

## India receives 'Measles and Rubella Champion' Global Award

- India has been bestowed with the prestigious measles and rubella champion award for its exemplary efforts in combating these diseases.
- The award was received by the ambassador Sripriya Ranganathan on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at American Red Cross Headquarters in Washington. This accolade celebrates the country's unwavering commitment to public health and its outstanding leadership in curbing the spread of these infectious diseases among children.
- These efforts have resulted in 50 districts consistently not witnessing any measles case while 226 districts have not reported rubella cases over the past 12 months.
- The measles and rubella partnership comprises a multi-agency planning committee, including the American Red Cross, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), UNICEF and World Health Organisation. All of these organisations are dedicated to reducing global measles deaths and preventing rubella illness.
- Measles and Rubella are vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs) and MR Vaccine has been part of India's Universal Immunization Programme since 2017.

**Q.** Which nation has been bestowed with the prestigious measles and rubella champion award? **India**





**Monday, 11 March 2024**

## **NPCI ties up with Nepal's Fonepay for cross-border merchant payments**

- NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the international arm of NPCI and Fonepay Payment Service Ltd, Nepal's largest payment network, announced that Unified Payment Interface (UPI) for cross-border transactions between India and Nepal is live now. This will increase the convenience and efficiency in transaction for tourists traveling to Nepal. Both entities are now fully operational and ready to facilitate QR-code-based person-to-merchant (P2M) UPI transactions between the two countries.
- Nepal has 30% of its tourists as Indians, not taking into account religious tourists from India whose footfall can not be accounted due to free visit to religious places and free cross-border movement between the two neighbours. UPI transactions will aid in the ease of travel for Indian tourists headed to Nepal as well as boost the economy of Nepal.
- In its first phase, this partnership will enable Indian consumers to make instant, secure and convenient UPI payments across various business stores in Nepal by using UPI-enabled Apps. Merchants acquired by the participating members of Fonepay Network can seamlessly accept UPI payments from Indian customers. This digital connection serves to reinforce the deep-rooted people-to-people ties between the neighbouring nations.

**Q.** NPCI has tied up with which payment network of Nepal for cross border merchant payments? **Fonepay Payment Service Ltd**





**Monday, 11 March 2024**

## **Bichom becomes 27th district of Arunachal Pradesh**

- Bichom, carved out of West and East Kameng, became the 27th district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Chief Minister Pema Khandu inaugurated the district and laid the foundation of its headquarters at Napangphung.
- He also handed over responsibilities to Deputy Commissioner Akriti Sagar and Superintendent of Police Sudhanshu Dhama.
- The Chief Minister said that infrastructure will be created for the new district headquarters and all assets transferred to Bichom district from East Kameng will be replaced with new ones.
- In February this year, the state assembly passed the Arunachal Pradesh (Re-Organisation of Districts) (Amendment) Bill, 2024 for the creation of Bichom and Keyi Panyor districts.
- A total of 27 villages from West Kameng and 28 from East Kameng were made part of Bichom district.

**Q.** Name the 27th district of Arunachal Pradesh?  
**Bichom**





**Monday, 11 March 2024**

## **PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Sela Tunnel: world's longest twin-lane tunnel**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on a day-long visit to Arunachal Pradesh, inaugurated the world's longest twin-lane tunnel 'Sela Tunnel'.
- PM Modi also launched several other developmental projects in the state including the UNNATI scheme worth ₹10,000 crore.

### **Sela Tunnel:**

- The Sela Tunnel is situated at an elevation of 13,000 feet and is built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) at a cost of ₹825 crore. The project comprises two tunnels - Tunnel 1 is 1,003 meters long, and Tunnel 2 is a 1,595-meter twin-tube tunnel. The project also includes two roads measuring 8.6 km. The tunnel has been designed for a traffic density of 3,000 cars and 2,000 trucks per day, with a maximum speed of 80 kmph.
- The tunnel is significant as it will provide all-weather connectivity to Tawang bordering China. It will also cut down the travel time to Tawang by at least one hour, allowing faster deployment of weapons, soldiers, and equipment to forward areas near the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

**Q.** Name the world's longest twin-lane tunnel inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi? **Sela Tunnel**





**Monday, 11 March 2024**

## **Devendra Jhajharia elected Paralympic Committee of India president, Jayawant secretary general**

- Two-time Paralympics gold medallist Devendra Jhajharia elected as the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) president, succeeding another celebrated para athlete Deepa Malik.
- The 42-year-old javelin thrower, who had won a gold medal each in the 2004 Athens and 2016 Rio Paralympics in the F46 disability category, was the only candidate in the fray for the top post.
- The PCI elections were held for the posts of president, two vice-presidents, secretary general, treasurer, two joint secretaries and five executive committee members.
- Jayawant Hammanawar, an international coach and referee from Goa, was elected unopposed as the secretary general.
- R. Chandrashekhar and Satya Prakash Sangwan will be the two vice-presidents, while Sunil Pradhan was the lone candidate for the treasurer's post.
- Lalit Thakur and T. Diwakara are the two joint-secretaries.

**Q.** Who has been elected as the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) president, succeeding another celebrated para athlete Deepa Malik? **Devendra Jhajharia**





**Monday, 11 March 2024**

## **Asif Ali Zardari elected Pakistan President for second time**

- Pakistan Peoples Party co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari was elected as Pakistan's 14th President, becoming the head of state for a second time.
- He received 255 votes while his opponent got 119.
- Zardari, 68, was the joint candidate of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) while his rival Mahmood Khan Achakzai, 75, was the candidate of the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC).
- The new president was elected by the electoral college of the newly elected members of the National Assembly and the four provincial assemblies, as per the provisions of the Constitution.
- A businessman-turned-politician, Zardari is the husband of slain Pakistan prime minister Benazir Bhutto.
- Zardari would replace the incumbent Dr Arif Alvi, whose five-year term ended last year.
- However, he has continued since the new electoral college was not yet formed.
- Zardari, who served as the president from 2008 to 2013, will also be the first civilian to be elected for the second time as president.

**Q.** Who became Pakistan's 14th President, becoming the head of state for a second time? **Asif Ali Zardari**



## UGC launches 'SheRNI' to ensure women scientist representation



Monday, 11 March 2024

### UGC launches 'SheRNI' to ensure women scientist representation

- University Grants Commission's (UGC) Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre launched 'She Research Network in India' (SheRNI) to ensure equal representation of women scientists.
- The SheRNI platform will connect more than 81,000 profiles of Indian women in science and research across various domains.
- Recognising them is one of the core pillars of a developed India through their research outcomes and scalable solutions, the SheRNI confronts stereotypes and will inspire the next generation of female scientists, researchers and faculty members.
- The objective of SheRNI is to create a national-level expert platform for women faculty members and facilitate the exchange of expertise, insights, and experiences across diverse fields,
- The SheRNI database has 81,818 women faculty members registered and has 6,75,313 publications and 11,543 patents.

**Q.** The University Grants Commission has launched 'SheRNI' to ensure women scientist representation, in context to same what does 'SheRNI' stands for? **She Research Network in India**





**Monday, 11 March 2024**

## **Finland to participate in Red Sea operations**

- Finland will deploy soldiers to participate in two operations in the Red Sea.
- Finland will take part in the EUNAVFOR ASPIDES operation led by the EU with a maximum of five soldiers, and in Operation Prosperity Guardian led by the US with a maximum of two soldiers.
- The soldiers will carry out staff duties.
- Several European countries have been involved in both operations.
- According to the EU and the US, these operations aim to protect the passage of ships in the Red Sea region.

### **Background:**

- Following the escalation of the conflict in the Gaza Strip, the Ansarullah movement warned that it would strike Israeli territory and would not allow the ships concerned to pass through the waters of the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandeb Strait until the operation in the Palestinian territories ceased.
- The Houthis have attacked dozens of civilian ships in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden since mid-November last year.

**Q.** Following the escalation of the conflict in the Gaza Strip, the EU & US will conduct which exercise with an aim to protect the passage of ships in the Red Sea region?  
EUNAVFOR ASPIDES & Operation Prosperity **Guardian**





**Monday, 11 March 2024**

## **Indian Army to conduct tri-services firepower exercise at Pokhran**

- Integrated tri-service exercise ‘Bharat Shakti’ is slated to be held at Pokhran in Rajasthan and it will showcase the “shock and awe” that the armed forces seek to achieve in an operational situation by employing manoeuvre and fighting capabilities effectively.
- ‘Bharat Shakti’ will also demonstrate the prowess of indigenously manufactured defence equipment of the three services.
- The integrated tri-service firepower and manoeuvre exercise at Pokhran will be held for about 50 minutes.
- The exercise will showcase live integrated multi-domain operations of the three services in offensive operations using indigenous equipment.
- LCA Tejas, ALH Mk-IV, mobile anti-drone system, T90 tanks, Dhanush, K9 Vajra and Pinaka are among the platforms that will be demonstrated during Exercise Bharat Shakti.

### **Indian Armed Forces**

- Defence Secretary: Giridhar Aramane
- Chief of Defence Staff: General Anil Chauhan

**Q.** What is the name of the Integrated tri-service exercise which is slated to be held at Pokhran that demonstrates the prowess of indigenously manufactured defence equipment of the three services? **Bharat Shakti**





**Monday, 11 March 2024**

## **PM Modi unveils 125-foot statue of Lachit Borphukan in Assam**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a 125-foot bronze statue of 'Ahom general' Lachit Borphukan in Assam's Jorhat.
- The 'Statue of Valour' was unveiled by the PM at the Lachit Barphukan Maidam Development Project at Hollongapar near Teok.
- The height of the statute, built by Ram Vanji Sutar, is 84 feet and it is set on a pedestal of 41 feet, making the structure 125 feet tall.
- The foundation of the statue was laid by former President Ram Nath Kovind in February 2022.
- Lachit Borphukan was a legendary army commander of the Ahom kingdom (1228-1826).
- He is known for his leadership in the 1671 'Battle of Saraighat' that thwarted a drawn-out attempt by the mighty Mughal forces, led by Raja Ramsingh-I, to take back Assam.

**Q.** Recently PM Narendra Modi unveiled a 125-foot bronze 'Statue of Valour' in Assam's Jorhat. Which eminent's statue is this? **Lachit Borphukan**





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