

# Daily Current Affairs

## 06 March 2024

### India's First Underwater Metro

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate **India's first underwater metro rail** service in Kolkata.
- The new metro line, called the **Howrah Maidan-Esplanade section**, will be the country's **first transportation tunnel beneath** a major river.
- It passes beneath the **River Hooghly**, which separates Kolkata and Howrah cities on its east and west banks.



- The Howrah metro station, part of this new line, will hold the distinction of being India's deepest metro station.
- The Howrah Maidan-Esplanade stretch covers 4.8 kilometers and constitutes the second section of the East-West Metro corridor, connecting Howrah Maidan to the IT hub Salt Lake Sector -5. Of the total 16.6 kilometers of the East-West Metro, 10.8 kilometers consist of an underground corridor between Howrah Maidan and Phoolbagan, including the tunnel beneath the Hooghly River, while the remaining stretch is elevated.
- The project has been dubbed as a marvel, with trains traveling approximately 16 meters below the river's surface. The metro authorities anticipate a daily ridership of seven lakh people.



## India's First Indigenous Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor

- In a historic milestone marking entry into the vital second stage of **India's three stage nuclear programme**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi witnessed, commencement of **"Core Loading"** at **India's first indigenous Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) (500 MWe) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.**
- In line with the true spirit of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, PFBR has been fully designed and constructed **indigenously by BHAVINI** with significant contribution from more than 200 Indian industries including MSMEs.



- Once commissioned, India will only be the **second country after Russia** to have commercial operating Fast Breeder Reactor.
- The PFBR reactor core consists of control sub-assemblies, blanket subassemblies and fuel sub-assemblies. With minimised nuclear waste generated from the reactor and advanced safety features, FBRs will provide a safe, efficient and clean source of energy and contribute to the goal of net zero.

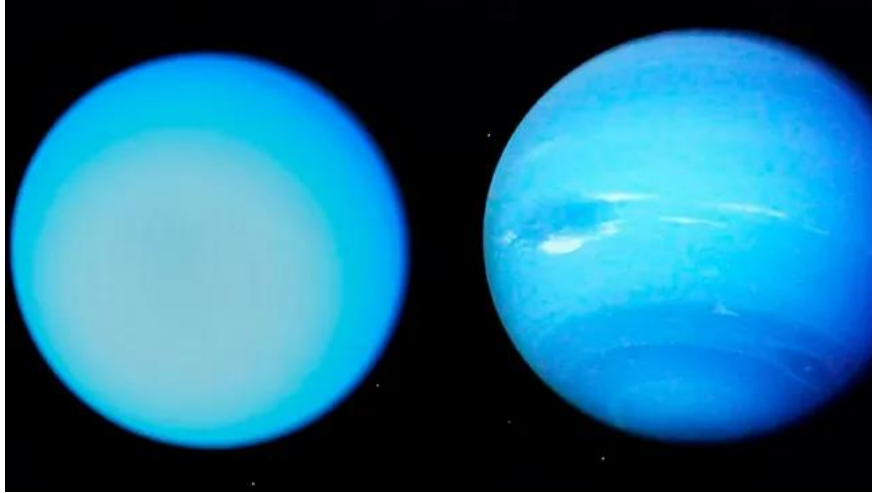


- In India's three stages of the Nuclear power programme, BHAVINI paves the way as a forerunner in the second stage by building a 500 MWe PFBR.
- is entrusted with a mandate to construct, **commission and operate the Fast Breeder Reactors** to provide energy security for the nation in the long run. In terms of safety, the PFBR is an advanced third generation reactor with inherent passive safety features ensuring a prompt and safe shut down of the plant in the event of an emergency.
- Since it uses the **spent fuel from the first stage**, it also offers great advantage in terms of significant reduction in nuclear waste generated, thereby avoiding the need for large geological disposal facilities.
- The growth of the Indian nuclear power program, is imperative to meet the twin goals of energy security and sustainable development.
- As a responsible **nuclear power with advanced technology**, India remains committed to expand peaceful applications of nuclear technology, both in power and non-power sector, while ensuring the security of nuclear and radiological materials.

## Three New Moons Discovered

- In an exciting development for space exploration, astronomers affiliated with the **International Astronomical Union** have identified **three new moons** in the outer reaches of our **solar system**.
- These **celestial bodies, with two orbiting Neptune and one around Uranus**, were detected through the use of powerful land-based telescopes across the globe.
- This discovery increases the count of known moons to **28 for Uranus and 16 for Neptune**. Among these, a particularly small moon measuring just five miles in

diameter circles Uranus, showcasing the diverse sizes and orbits of these distant moons.



- The addition of these moons offers scientists invaluable insights into the early, chaotic years of the solar system and the formation of celestial bodies.
- The prevailing theory suggests that the gravitational forces of Uranus and Neptune snagged these moons during the planets' formation or shortly thereafter, hinting at a dynamic history of planetary movement and moon capture at the solar system's fringes.
- The discovery was made possible through meticulous observation techniques. Astronomers utilized long-exposure photography over several nights, employing some of the largest telescopes worldwide.
- Scott Sheppard, speaking on the technique, explained how **combining multiple exposures** helped distinguish the moons from the background noise of space. By identifying objects moving in sync with the planets, astronomers could bring these previously hidden moons into focus.

## GI Tag

- In a significant nod to **India's rich heritage of craftsmanship and artistry**, the **Cuttack Rupa Tarakasi**, more widely known as **Silver Filigree**, has recently been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai.
- This recognition, sought by the **Odisha State Co-operative Handicrafts Corporation Limited** and supported by the Department of Textile and Handicrafts, Government of Odisha, places Cuttack's Silver Filigree on the map as a unique and protected form of art.



- **Silver Filigree, or Tarakasi**, is a testament to the unparalleled skill and precision of artisans in Cuttack.
- The craft's history traces back to over 500 years ago, with influences spanning from Persia to Indonesia, and finally making its home in Cuttack, Odisha.
- **This intricate form of metalwork involves twisting** thin silver wires to create delicate and complex designs, often used in jewelry and decorative items.
- Historical evidence suggests that the art of filigree was present as early as **3500 BCE in Mesopotamia**, evolving over millennia and across continents to become what it is today in Cuttack.
- The GI filing documents reveal fascinating insights into the craft's journey to India's eastern shores. Historians believe that Tarakasi work reached Cuttack through **maritime trade routes from Persia, via Indonesia**.
- This theory is supported by the striking similarities between the filigree work found in Cuttack and Indonesia.
- Literary works like the story of Ta-Poi further underscore the ancient maritime links between Kalinga (modern-day Odisha) and Indonesia, suggesting a shared heritage of craftsmanship and trade.
- The recognition of Cuttack's Silver Filigree is part of a broader effort to protect and promote India's diverse artisanal heritage.
- Alongside **Tarakasi**, other crafts such as **Banglar Muslin**, a fine cotton fabric from Bengal, **Narasapur Crochet Lace** from Andhra Pradesh, and the **Kutch Rogan Craft** have also been honoured with the GI tag. Each of these crafts tells a unique story of tradition, skill, and cultural exchange, contributing to the rich tapestry of Indian heritage.



## Prague International Chess Festival

- **Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa** defeated Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan in the sixth round of Prague International Chess Festival 2024 Masters to retain the fourth spot in the tournament.
- Abdusattorov remains as the sole leader despite the loss. On the other hand, India's Vidit Gujrathi went down against Germany's Vincent Keymer from a winning position.
- **Gukesh D also lost his match against Mateusz Bartel of Poland.** The Prague Chess Festival is taking place from February 27 to March 7 at Don Giovanni Hotel. Round 7 for Masters, Challengers and Futures will start today at 7:30 p.m. IST.



## Top USGA Honor

- **Legendary golfer Tiger Woods** has been named the winner of the prestigious **Bob Jones Award**, the highest honor bestowed by the **United States Golf Association (USGA)**.
- He was recognized for tremendous on-course achievements alongside an exemplary commitment to the game's traditions and integrity.



- Woods, a **15-time major champion and nine-time USGA champion**, has redefined the game of golf in the modern era, overcoming physical and personal challenges by displaying the characteristics of tenacity, mental strength and perseverance.
- The **Bob Jones Award represents the USGA's utmost accolade** granted since 1955 for sportsmanship in golf combined with distinguished character beyond championships.

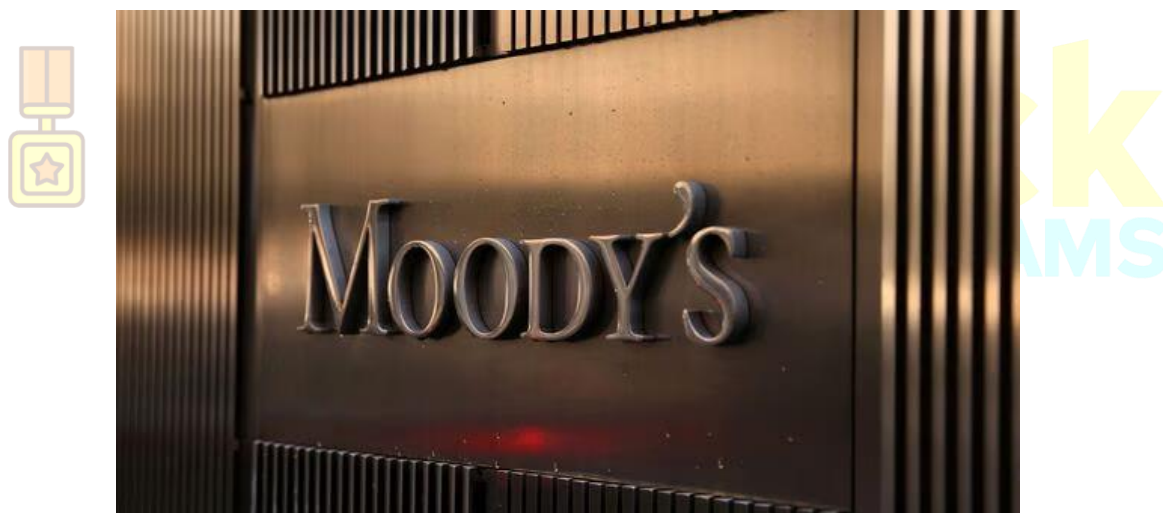


- It memorializes the spirit of amateur great **Bobby Jones – winner of 13 majors including a solitary Grand Slam in 1930** – who helped establish Augusta National Golf Club and co-founded the Masters Tournament.

- **Past recipients of the Bob Jones Award** include Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Ben Hogan, Mickey Wright, Francis Ouimet, Byron Nelson, Nancy Lopez, President George H.W. Bush, Patty Berg and Annika Sorenstam. The 2024 Bob Jones Award will be formally presented to Woods on June 12th during the U.S. Open Tournament week at Pinehurst Resort's famed Course No. 2 in North Carolina.

## Moody's Raises India's GDP Growth

- Recently, **Moody's, a prominent global credit rating agency**, revised its forecast for India's GDP growth in 2024 upwards from **6.1% to 6.8%**.
- The agency's decision reflects both global and domestic optimism in the country's economy, driven by robust manufacturing activity and substantial infrastructure spending.
- **Moody's raised its 2024 growth** estimate for India to 6.8% from the previous projection of 6.1%.



- The agency attributed this upward revision to stronger-than-expected economic data in 2023, highlighting India's resilience amidst global challenges. Moody's expects India to remain the fastest-growing economy among the G-20 nations over the forecast horizon. India's economy demonstrated remarkable growth in the December quarter (Q3 FY24), registering an impressive **8.4% expansion**.
- This growth surpassed expectations and allayed concerns of a potential slowdown.
- The manufacturing, electricity, and construction sectors played a crucial role in driving this robust performance. The statistics ministry of Govt. of India also



raised the GDP growth estimate for FY24 to 7.6% in its second revised estimate, up from the initial 7.3% projection in the first advance forecast.

- **This revision aligns with the Reserve Bank of India's GDP growth** estimate of 7% for FY24, while the International Monetary Fund forecasts a slightly lower growth rate of 6.7%.

## MYUVA Scheme

- In Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched an initiative to support young entrepreneurs called “**Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan (MYUVA)**.”
- This program offers **interest-free loans** to help **young people** kickstart their business ventures with projects valued up to **Rs 5 lakh**.
- The government aims to prepare one lakh young entrepreneurs every year through this initiative. A **substantial budget of Rs 1,000 crore** has been allocated for the fiscal year 2024-25 to support the implementation of the scheme.
- MYUVA targets educated and skilled youth across the state, providing them with opportunities for self-employment.



- Beneficiaries include individuals who have undergone training in various **government-supported schemes** and those with educational qualifications. Successful repayment of the initial loan qualifies participants for second-stage financing, enabling them to expand their businesses further.
- The scheme promotes digital transactions in business operations and provides grants to encourage the adoption of digital payment methods.
- Applying for assistance is simplified through an online platform, ensuring accessibility for aspiring entrepreneurs. Financial support is provided in

collaboration with banks and other financial institutions, facilitating widespread access to funding opportunities.

- **MYUVA is dedicated to encouraging young people** in Uttar Pradesh to become entrepreneurs by offering them the essential support and resources to establish and expand their businesses. Supported by substantial funding and meticulous planning, MYUVA aims to provide the necessary assistance to young entrepreneurs and enhance the state's economy.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

### 1. India's First Underwater Metro Built In

- A. Mumbai
- B. Kolkata
- C. Odisha
- D. Vishakhapatnam

**ANSWER: B**

### 2. Silver Filigree Recently Got GI Tag Belongs From

- A. Odisha
- B. Kerala
- C. Jharkhand
- D. Punjab

**ANSWER: A**

### 3. MYUVA Scheme Is Launched To Support

- A. Entrepreneurs
- B. Students
- C. Artisans
- D. Farmers

**ANSWER: A**

**4. Election Commission Of India Started The 'Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye' Campaign With Which Ministry**

- A. Ministry of Education
- B. Ministry of Home Affairs
- C. Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- D. Ministry of Defence

**ANSWER: A**

**5. Koraput Kalajeera Rice Got GI Status, Is Cultivated In Which State**

- A. Punjab
- B. Odisha
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Uttar Pradesh

**ANSWER: B**

**6. Kulasekarapattinam Spaceport Is Located In Which State**

- A. Karnataka
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Gujarat

**ANSWER: B**

**7. What is ' BioTRIG ', Recently Seen In The News**

- A. Waste management technology
- B. Method used for environmental conservation
- C. Tank cleaning robot
- D. Technique to remove pest from crop

**ANSWER: A**

**8. Which South American Country Has Declared A Health Emergency Due To The Rising Cases Of Dengue Fever**

- A. Chile
- B. Peru
- C. Argentina
- D. Bolivia

**ANSWER: B**

**9. National Institute Of Ayurveda Signed An Agreement With Which Country To Promote Ayurveda & Thai Traditional Medicine**

- A. Singapore
- B. Vietnam
- C. Thailand
- D. Japan

**ANSWER: C**

**10. Vikramaditya Vedic Clock Is Located In Which City**

- A. Ujjain
- B. Indore
- C. Bikaner
- D. Lucknow

**ANSWER: A**

**11. Global Waste Management Outlook 2024 Is Published By Which One Of The Following Organization**

- A. UNEP
- B. UNDP
- C. UNESCO
- D. IMF

**ANSWER: A**

**12. Brian Mulroney Passed Away, Was Former Prime Minister Of Which Country**

- A. Israel
- B. Canada
- C. Chile
- D. France

**ANSWER: B**

**13. How Many Railway Stations Have Successfully Achieved The Prestigious “Eat Right Station” Certification**

- A. 157
- B. 154
- C. 152
- D. 150

**ANSWER: D**

**14. Melanochlamys Droupadi, Belongs To Which One Of The Following Species**

- A. Octopus
- B. Sea slug
- C. Crab
- D. Turtle

**ANSWER: B**

**15. Recently, Which State Government Has Decided To Establish A State Water Information Centre**

- A. Bihar
- B. Odisha
- C. Gujarat
- D. Jharkhand

**ANSWER: B**

**16. Sindri Fertiliser Plant, Recently Seen In The News, Is Located In**

- A. Jharkhand
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Gujarat

**ANSWER: A**

**17. Which State Became The First State To Issue Five Crore Ayushman Cards Under AB-PMJAY**

- A. Gujarat
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Maharashtra

**ANSWER: C**

**18. Amrabad Tiger Reserve Is Located In Which State**

- A. Telangana
- B. Kerala
- C. Karnataka
- D. Odisha

**ANSWER: A**

**19. Where Was 66th Meeting Of Network Planning Group (NPG) Held**

- A. Chennai
- B. New Delhi
- C. Bengaluru
- D. Jaipur

**ANSWER: D**

**20. Ibn Battuta Famous Muslim Explorer Who Came To India During Regime Of Mohammad Bin Tughlaq, Belonged To Which Country**

- A. Afghanistan
- B. Morocco
- C. Iraq
- D. Iran

**ANSWER: B**

