

# Daily Current Affairs

## 11 March 2024

### Free Trade Agreement With European Bloc

- India has signed the **Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)** with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in New Delhi.
- The deal was signed in the presence of Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal. Addressing the gathering, Mr Goyal said that under this agreement, EFTA nations will **invest 100 billion dollars in India**, creating many employment opportunities in different sectors.
- He added this TEPA brings optimism as it reflects a trusted and efficient partnership with accountability.
- He thanked the **partner countries** for being part of this agreement, these countries include- Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.



### Global Spirituality Mahotsav

- President Droupadi Murmu will be inaugurating the **Global Spirituality Mahotsav**, to be held from the 14th to 17th of this month at **Kanha Shanti Vanam** in Hyderabad.
- Vice President, Jagdeep Dhankhar will be attending the valedictory of the biggest global spiritual congregation.
- The Union Ministry of Culture in association with the Heartfulness Mission will be hosting the **one-of-its-kind Global Spirituality Mahotsav**.



- Briefing the media, Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy said the upcoming conference is in continuation of the country's '**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**' ideology with solidarity among all classes, castes, and religions.
- **Some of the organisations** coming together for the event include Ramakrishna Mission, Parmarth Niketan, The Art of Living Foundation, The Mata Amritanandamayi Math, Archbishop of Hyderabad and others.
- Besides bringing together spiritual leaders from all faiths at the world's largest meditation centre, the four-day Summit will have multiple panel discussions, an exhibition showcasing India's spiritual history, and an immersive experience through books and music.
- The event will **have the main theme, 'Inner Peace to World Peace'**. It will also have panchakarma centres set up for those who want to avail therapeutic sessions. Over one lakh participants are expected to attend the event.

## IndiaAI Mission

- Indian government, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved a new **\$1.24 billion investment for the IndiaAI mission**.
- This initiative aims to create an **all-Indian AI ecosystem** from scratch, bolstering India's technological prowess and fostering innovation in AI.
- Building a **Robust Compute Infrastructure** , Develop a powerful high-performance computing (HPC) system to serve as India's central AI infrastructure.



- The HPC system, expected to include **10,000 “or more” GPUs** as AI accelerators, will be developed through a public-private partnership to support startups and research organizations.
- **Enhancing Language Models** for Diverse Linguistic Needs The IndiaAI Innovation Centre will develop and deploy indigenous Large Multimodal Models (LMMs) and domain-specific foundational models.
- These models will cater to India’s diverse linguistic landscape, supporting the country’s **23 official languages** and facilitating more inclusive AI applications.
- **IndiaAI will establish local datasets** through the IndiaAI Datasets Platform, providing access to high-quality databases.



- The IndiaAI FutureSkills initiative aims to train new skilled workers for the growing AI job market, with new “Data and AI Labs” offering courses on

foundational models. IndiaAI Startup Financing program will support startups, fostering the development of the AI private sector and encouraging futuristic AI projects.

- IndiaAI will focus on **developing safe and “responsible”** AI initiatives through indigenous software frameworks, government guidelines, and proper guardrails.

## Bichom

- **Bichom, carved out of West and East Kameng**, has been declared the 27th district of Arunachal Pradesh. Chief Minister Pema Khandu led the inauguration ceremony, marking a significant milestone for the region.
- **Chief Minister Pema Khandu** inaugurated Bichom district and laid the foundation stone for its headquarters at Napangphung.



- In February, the state assembly passed the Arunachal Pradesh (Re-Organisation of Districts) (Amendment) Bill, 2024, facilitating the creation of Bichom and Keyi Panyor districts. Bichom district encompasses 27 villages from West Kameng and 28 from East Kameng, contributing to its formation.
- The Chief Minister **flagged off vehicles distributed to self-help groups** under the Arunachal Grameen Express Yojana.
- Additionally, he laid the **foundation for 18 projects** and inaugurated an equal number of projects, marking a concerted effort towards infrastructural development.

## Santosh Trophy

- In the **77th National Football Championship, Services lifted the Santosh Trophy** for the seventh time, beating Goa 1-0 in the Santosh Trophy final at the Golden Jubilee Stadium at Papum Pare District in Arunachal Pradesh.
- More than 15,000 passionate fans thronged the stadium to witness an exciting final.
- Services' Shafeel PP scored the only goal in the 68th minute, which later turned out to be the match-winner. With the win, Services took their title count to seven in the history of the competition.
- Services goalkeeper Sayad Bin Abdul Kadir was named player of the match.
- The **Services football team** is a football section of the **Indian Armed Forces**, representing them in various regional competitions. It is operated by the Services Sports Control Board.



## Bjarni Benediktsson

- **Foreign Minister of Iceland, Bjarni Benediktsson**, arrived in the national capital.
- The Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), extended a **warm welcome to the Icelandic Foreign Minister**.



- In a social media post, the External Affairs Ministry has said that his visit will further strengthen trade and investment relations between both countries.
- India and Iceland have, despite the distance and contrast in population size, reached out to each other to build friendships based on shared values and mutual interests.
- **Iceland was the first Nordic country** to publicly extend support to India's candidature for permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).



## Miss World 2024

- **Krystyna Pyszková of the Czech Republic** has been crowned the 71st Miss World in a grand ceremony held in Mumbai.
- The **24-year-old Pyszková** competed against contestants from 115 countries. Last year's winner, Miss World 2022 Karolina Bielawska of Poland crowned Krystyna as the 71st Miss World. Meanwhile, Yasmina Zaytoun of Lebanon was crowned the First Runner-Up at the beauty pageant.



- According to **Miss World Organisation**, **Krystyna Pyszková** is a student, volunteer, and international model.
- The 24-year-old is studying for two degrees in Law and Business Administration while working as a model. She founded the Krystyna Pyszko Foundation and continues to support the work there.
- **Krystyna's proudest moment** includes opening an English school for underprivileged children in Tanzania. She has a passion for Music and Art having spent nine years in an Art Academy.

## 96<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards

- The **96th Academy Awards** is set to take place, tomorrow, with all the glitz and glamour of the international movie industry stalwarts assembling at the Dolby Theatre in the Hollywood neighborhood of **Los Angeles in California**, for one of the biggest awards nights of the year.
- This year, the show will be **hosted by Jimmy Kimmel**, who also hosted the ceremony last year.



- Director Christopher Nolan's global blockbuster **Oppenheimer is dominating** the nominations, earning an impressive 13 nods.
- Filmmaker Yorgos Lanthimos' Poor Things has bagged 11 nominations, followed by Filmmaker Martin Scorsese's Killers of the Flower Moon which has been nominated in 10 categories.
- The **2024 Oscars come after a historic last year** for India at the Academy Awards, where RRR's "Naatu Naatu" won the award for Best Music (Original Song) and the Guneet Monga-backed documentary, The Elephant Whisperers, bagged an award under the category Documentary Short Film.

- This time, Indian fans will be keenly watching the Documentary Feature Film category in which the Canadian documentary To Kill a Tiger, directed by India-born Canadian filmmaker Nisha Pahuja has been nominated.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

### 1. Who Won Santosh Trophy 2024

- A. Football Services
- B. Goa Team
- C. Bengal Team
- D. Karnataka Team

**ANSWER: A**

### 2. Bjarni Benediktsson Seen In News Is Related To

- A. Greece
- B. Sweden
- C. Iceland
- D. Finland

**ANSWER: A**

### 3. Who Is Awarded As Miss World 2024

- A. Krystyna Pyszkova
- B. Yukta Inderlal Mookhey
- C. Diana Hayden
- D. Karolina Bielawska

**ANSWER: A**

### 4. Operation Kamdhenu Is Launched By Which State/UT To Curb Cattle Smuggling

- A. Jammu & Kashmir
- B. Delhi
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Kerala

**ANSWER: A**



**5. Which Country Became 32nd Member Of North Atlantic Treaty Organization**

- A. Egypt
- B. Sweden
- C. India
- D. Malaysia

**ANSWER: B**

**6. School Soil Health Programme Is A Joint Initiative Of Which Ministries**

- A. Ministry of Power & Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- B. Ministry of Rural Development & Ministry of Jal Shakti
- C. Ministry of Tribal Affairs & Ministry of Mines
- D. Ministry of Education & Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

**ANSWER: D**

**7. Which Country Hosted 17th Annual International Biocuration Conference**

- A. Myanmar
- B. Nepal
- C. India
- D. Bangladesh

**ANSWER: C**

**8. Which Day Is Celebrated As 'Jan Aushadhi Day' Every Year**

- A. 6 March
- B. 7 March
- C. 8 March
- D. 9 March

**ANSWER: B**

**9. Taeniogonolus Deepaki Belongs To Which One Of Following Species**

- A. Flowering plant
- B. Wasp
- C. Frog
- D. Snake

**ANSWER: B**

**10. Who Was Recently Declared As Winner Of Pritzker Architecture Prize 2024**

- A. Riken Yamamoto
- B. David Chipperfield
- C. B.V Doshi
- D. Yvonne Farrell

**ANSWER: A**

**11. Neengalum Nalama Scheme, Is Launched By Which State**

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

**ANSWER: C**

**12. Union Government Partnered With Which Organization To Connect Tribal Villages With Internet Services**

- A. ISRO
- B. ILO
- C. WTO
- D. UNESCO

**ANSWER: A**

**13. Which Institute Hosted Webinar On 'Viksit Bharat: Corporate Governance For 2047**

- A. Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)
- B. Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)
- C. Indian Institute of Science (IISc)
- D. Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs)

**ANSWER: B**

**14. Which State Recently Discovered The Neolithic Child Burial Site**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**15. Claude 3 Is Associated With Which One Of The Following**

- A. Large Language Model
- B. Medicinal Plant
- C. Ancient Irrigation Technique
- D. Asteroid

**ANSWER: A**

**16. Gabon Which Was Seen In The News, Is Located In Which Region**

- A. Africa
- B. Europe
- C. Australia
- D. Asia

**ANSWER: A**

**17. Who Received Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2024 In Recognition Of His Contributions To The Field Of Regenerative Medicine**

- A. Pradeep Mahajan
- B. Ashok Saraf
- C. Babasaheb Purandare
- D. Anil Kakodkar

**ANSWER: A**

**18. Nhava Sheva Port Is Located In Which State**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**19. What is 'VSHORADS', Recently Seen In The News**

- A. Man Portable Air Defence System
- B. Military exercise between India and Europe
- C. Peacekeeping operations in Europe
- D. Mobile Short Range Air Defence System

**ANSWER: A**

**20. What Is 'Regulatory Sandbox', Recently Seen In The News**

- A. Single Window System To Get Loan For AI Startups
- B. Framework To Curb Illegal Trafficking Across The Country
- C. Live Testing Of New Low-cost Financial Products
- D. Framework For Environmental Protection

**ANSWER: C**

