

# Daily Current Affairs

## 15 March 2024

### 'India's Techade: Chips For Viksit Bharat'

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in 'India's Techade: Chips for Viksit Bharat' and lay the foundation stone of three **semiconductor projects worth about 1.25 lakh crore rupees** through video conferencing.
- Prime Minister will also address the youth across the country on the occasion. The foundation stone will be laid for the **Semiconductor fabrication facility** at the Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR) in Gujarat and Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility in Assam and Gujarat.



- The Projects are in line with the vision of the Prime Minister to position India as a **global hub for semiconductor design**, manufacturing and technology development, fostering the creation of employment opportunities for the nation's youth.
- The units are slated to provide employment to thousands of youth in the semiconductor industry as well as catalyse employment generation in related sectors such as electronics and telecom.
- The programme will witness **massive participation of youngsters** including thousands of college students, along with leaders from the Semiconductor Industry.

## Tshering Tobgay

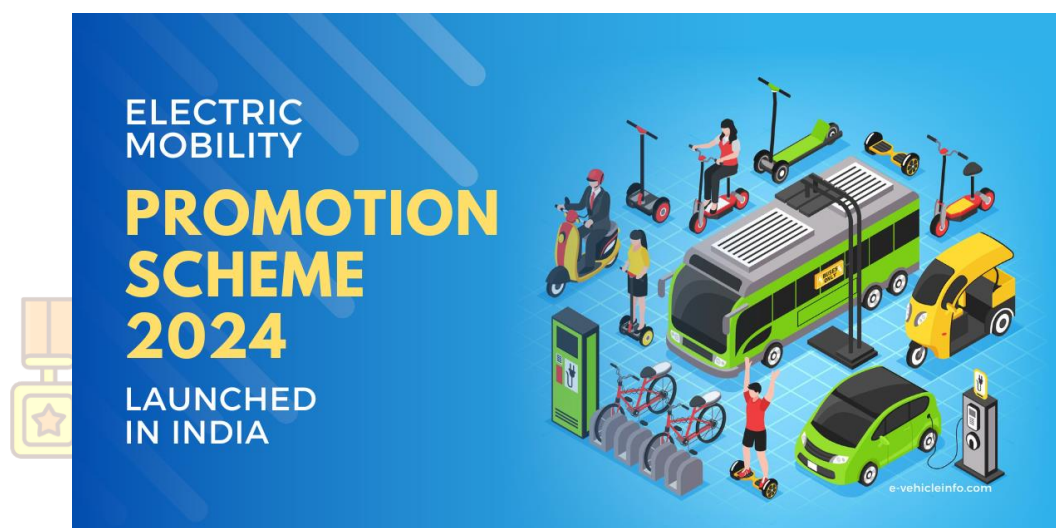
- **Prime Minister of Bhutan Dasho Tshering Tobgay** will be on a five day visit to India. This is his **first overseas visit** after assuming office in January this year.
- External Affairs Ministry said, during the visit, Prime Minister of Bhutan will call on the President Droupadi Murmu and hold bilateral talks with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- **Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay** will also visit Mumbai. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Minister for Industry, Commerce and Employment and senior officials from the Government of Bhutan will accompany the Prime Minister Dasho Tshering Tobgay.



- Ministry said, **India and Bhutan enjoy exemplary ties of friendship** and cooperation, based on trust, goodwill and mutual understanding at all levels.
- The visit of the Prime Minister of Bhutan will provide an opportunity to the two sides to review the progress in our unique partnership and to discuss ways and means to expand the enduring ties of friendship and cooperation between India and Bhutan.

## Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024

- The **Heavy Industries Ministry** has announced the **Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024** to accelerate the **adoption of Electronic Vehicles (EVs)** in India.
- The Ministry said that a **total outlay of 500 crore rupees** will be implemented for four months under the scheme.
- It added that **only electric two-wheelers (e-2W)** and electric three-wheelers (e-3W) will be eligible under the scheme, including registered e-rickshaws, e-carts and L5 automobiles.

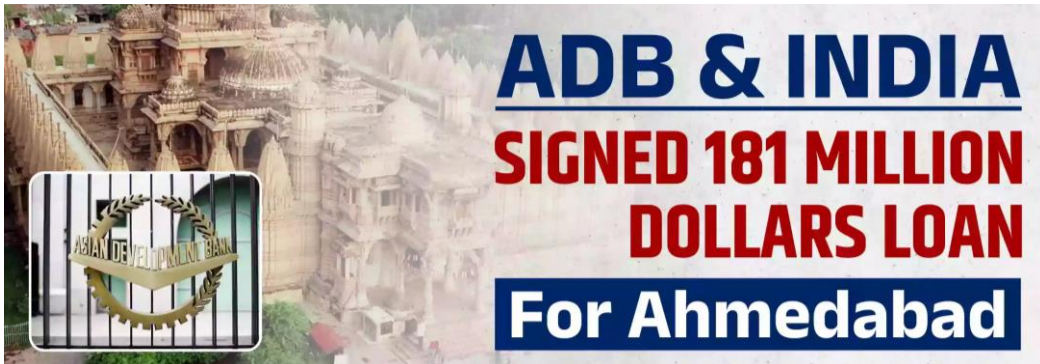


- Furthermore, only EVs fitted with **advanced batteries** will be subject to incentives to encourage the growth of advanced technologies.
- The Ministry has estimated that the scheme will help over **3 lakh 72 thousand EVs**.
- The Ministry hopes it will promote **faster adoption of electric vehicles** and provide further impetus to the green mobility and development of the EV manufacturing eco-system in the country.

## India Signed 181 Million Dollars Loan With ADB

- India has signed a **181 million dollars loan with the Asian Development Bank (ADB)** to improve urban livability and mobility in Ahmedabad.
- The loan will fund development in areas transitioning **from rural to urban, called Peri-urban areas**.
- The Finance Ministry said under the Ahmedabad Peri-urban Livability Improvement Project, 166 km of water distribution network, 126 km of climate-

resilient stormwater drainage, 300 km of sewerage systems, and four sewage treatment plants will be constructed.



- The Project will also support **10 junction improvements** along the existing Sardar Patel Ring Road to improve connectivity of peri-urban areas to Ahmedabad.
- It further added that the peri-urban project will support development of **recycling treated sewage for industrial use** through a public-private partnership. The Ministry said that this will benefit urban poor, women, and migrant workers through improved urban services and urban governance.

## Joint Economic And Trade Committee

- **India and the Dominican Republic** was achieved as the Protocol for the establishment of **the Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO)** was signed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic in **Santo Domingo**.
- This protocol, aimed at **fostering deeper collaboration** between the two nations.



- The proposal for signing the protocol for the establishment of JETCO had received approval from the **Union Cabinet of India** on January 24, 2024.
- The agreement comes at a momentous time, coinciding with the **25th anniversary of diplomatic relations** between India and the Dominican Republic.
- It signifies a crucial step forward in enhancing the existing economic and commercial ties between the two nations.
- The protocol outlines a **comprehensive framework aimed at strengthening and developing cooperation** in various sectors including trade, services, and industrial technologies.



- It emphasizes collaboration through technical assistance, training programs, and capacity building initiatives.
- By addressing challenges faced by trade and industry, the protocol aims to **create a platform for the exchange of knowledge and best practices between India and the Dominican Republic.**
- **India's trade relationship** with the Dominican Republic is characterized by complementary trade flows.
- **India primarily imports gold** from the Dominican Republic, while exporting pharmaceuticals, marine products, motor vehicles, two and three-wheelers, among others. The establishment of JETCO is expected to further facilitate and enhance bilateral trade between the two countries.

## UNDP Gender Inequality Index

- According to the **Human Development Report 2023-2024** released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), India has made significant progress in bridging the gender divide.
- The country **has improved its ranking by 14 positions on the Gender Inequality Index (GII) 2022** compared to the previous year. In the GI 2022, India ranked 108 out of 193 countries, with a score of 0.437. This marks a significant improvement from the 2021 ranking of 122 out of 191 countries, with a score of 0.490.



- The Gender Inequality Index (GII) is a composite measure that evaluates gender **inequality across three dimensions**: Reproductive health, Empowerment, Labor market participation.
- It takes into account indicators such as **maternal mortality ratio, adolescent birth rate, percentage of parliamentary seats held by women**, population with secondary education by gender, and labour force participation by gender.
- A lower GI value indicates lower inequality between women and men.
- **The 2023-2024 HDR builds on the 2021–2022 Human Development Report** findings, which saw the global HDI value fall for the first time—two years in a row.
- This report reveals that **human development recovery** is uneven in nature. While wealthy countries are showing signs of robust recovery, the poorest are struggling.
- All the member countries in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) have surpassed their 2019 HDI level.

## Vocal For Local Initiative

- NITI Aayog launched the **'Vocal for Local' initiative** under its Aspirational Blocks Programme. This initiative aims to bolster local economies and promote grassroots entrepreneurship, ultimately fostering self-reliance and sustainable growth.
- Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog, unveiled the logo for **'Aakanksha' under the 'Vocal for Local' initiative**.



- The initiative aims to **consolidate indigenous local products** from 500 Aspirational Blocks under the brand 'Aakanksha'.
- A dedicated window for Aspirational Blocks Programme under the brand name **'Aakanksha' on the GeM portal** has been created to promote local products.
- Partners will offer technical and operational **support for e-commerce** onboarding, linkages establishment, financial/digital literacy, certification, and skill enhancement.
- NITI Aayog remains committed to realizing the full potential of every Aspirational Block, driving inclusive growth and prosperity through collective action.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. Who Has Been Appointed As The Chairman Of The National Commission For Scheduled Castes**

- A. Vijay Sampla
- B. Kishor Makwana
- C. Subhash Ramnath Pardhi
- D. Anju Bala

**ANSWER: B**

**2. According CEEW's Report, Which State Placed On Top In Water Management**

- A. Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Kerala
- B. Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand
- C. Haryana, Karnataka and Punjab
- D. Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan

**ANSWER: C**

**3. AT SIPRI Report, Which Country Ranked As World's Leading Arms Importer From 2019 To 2023**

- A. Vietnam
- B. Israel
- C. China
- D. India

**ANSWER: D**

**4. India Signed Protocol For Establishment Of Joint Economic And Trade Committee With Which Country**

- A. Cuba
- B. Dominican Republic
- C. Jamaica
- D. Egypt

**ANSWER: B**



**5. Phani Yerava Tribe Is Mostly Found In Which State**

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Karnataka
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Gujarat

**ANSWER: B**

**6. Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary Is Located In Which State**

- A. Gujarat
- B. Manipur
- C. Assam
- D. Rajasthan

**ANSWER: C**

**7. Ministry Of Earth Sciences Inaugurated First Phase Of Atmospheric Research Testbed In Central India In Which State**

- A. Jharkhand
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Chhattisgarh

**ANSWER: B**

**8. Where Was The MSME Technology Center Inaugurated By Union Minister Narayan Rane**

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

**ANSWER: B**

**9. Right To Repair Portal Is An Initiative Of Which Ministry**

- A. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- B. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- C. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- D. Ministry of Consumer Affairs

**ANSWER: D**

**10. NPCI Has Collaborated With Which Country's Fonepay Payment Service Ltd**

- A. Bhutan
- B. Nepal
- C. Myanmar
- D. Australia

**ANSWER: B**

**11. Primary Objective Of The 'UNNATI – 2024 Scheme**

- A. Promoting Tourism In North East Region
- B. Enhancing Agricultural Productivity In South Region
- C. Developing Industries And Generating Employment In The North East Region
- D. Encouraging International Trade In India

**ANSWER: C**

**12. Which Country Discovered A 5,000-year-old Cemetery Belonging To A Copper Age Society**

- A. Iran
- B. Egypt
- C. Italy
- D. Vietnam

**ANSWER: C**

**13. Which State Government Recently Approved The Green Hydrogen Policy**

- A. Kerala
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Rajasthan

**ANSWER: C**

**14. Which City Of Maharashtra Launched The India's First City-specific Zero Carbon Buildings Action Plan**

- A. Nagpur
- B. Pune
- C. Bombay
- D. Nasik

**ANSWER: D**

**15. Where Was The First Bharat Steam Boiler Expo 2024 Held**

- A. Guwahati, Assam
- B. Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- C. Pune, Maharashtra
- D. Indore, Madhya Pradesh

**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. India's first Green Hydrogen Plant in the Stainless Steel Sector has been inaugurated in which state**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**18. Which Country Became The First Country To Include The Right To Abortion In Its Constitution**

- A. Germany
- B. France
- C. Poland
- D. Malaysia

**ANSWER: B**

**19. which institute hosted the 'All India Research Scholars' Summit (AIRSS) 2024'**

- A. IIT Madras
- B. IIM Ahmedabad
- C. IIT Kanpur
- D. IIT Bombay August 20

**ANSWER: A**

**20. What Is New Minimum Age For Senior Citizens Eligible For Voting By Postal Ballot**

- A. 83 years
- B. 84 years
- C. 85 years
- D. 86 years

**ANSWER: C**

