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## DAILY NEWS ANALYSIS

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**Wednesday, 15 March 2023**

Wednesday, 15 March 2023

15 MAR



WORLD

CONSUMER RIGHTS



**Importance:** This day was inspired by U.S. President John F Kennedy, who sent a special message to the US Congress on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1962, to address the issue of consumer rights.

**Motto:** To raise global awareness about consumer rights and needs.

**2023 Theme: Clean Energy Transitions**

**Fact:** Ralph Nader is considered the father of the modern day consumer movement, who stated as "The right to be fully informed about the performance and quality of all goods and services, The right to free choice of goods and services."



**Wednesday, 15 March 2023**

## **Centre approves additional financial aid under National Disaster Response Fund for five states affected by natural calamities in 2022**

- The Centre has approved the additional Central assistance of over 1,816 crore rupees under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to 5 States which were affected by the floods, landslides, and cloudbursts in 2022.
- These States are Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Meghalaya and Nagaland.
- The assistance was approved by a High-Level Committee chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- Of the total amount, over 520 crore rupees have been approved for Assam, 239 crore rupees for Himachal Pradesh, 941 crore rupees for Karnataka, 47 crore rupees for Meghalaya and around 68 crore rupees for Nagaland.
- This additional assistance is over and above the funds released by the Centre to the States in the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), During the financial year 2022-23, the Central Government has released more than 15 thousand 770 crore rupees to 25 States in their SDRF and around 502 crore rupees to 4 States from NDRF.

**Q.** Recently The Centre has approved the additional Central assistance of over \_\_\_\_\_ rupees under the NDRF to 5 States which were affected by the floods, landslides, and cloudbursts in 2022. **1,816 crore**



**Wednesday, 15 March 2023**

## **India and Sweden sign a MoC to strengthen cooperation & promote research networking between research institutions from both countries**

- A Memorandum of Cooperation, MoC was signed between India and Sweden to strengthen cooperation and promote research networking between research institutions from both countries.
- It was signed between Science and Engineering Research Board and the Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education, Stockholm, Sweden.
- The MoC aims to promote mobility funding opportunities in both countries.
- It will facilitate academic cooperation through mobility activities as well as through seminars, workshops and conferences.
- The partnership between India and Sweden will take forward joint Science and Technology efforts particularly in smart cities, artificial intelligence, quantum computer, transportation, and many more futuristic technologies. This MoC will enable a smooth exchange of activities between India's young scientists and Swedish researchers.

**Q.** Recently with whom India has signed a MoC to strengthen cooperation & promote research networking between research institutions from both countries? **Sweden**



Wednesday, 15 March 2023

## List of world's biggest weapons importers for 2018-2022 released, India ranks on top

- The latest report by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has revealed that India was the world's largest arms importer between 2018 and 2022.
- Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Australia, and China were also among the top five, followed by Egypt, South Korea, Pakistan, Japan and the US.
- India's share of the global arms imports was the highest in the past five years at 11%, followed by Saudi Arabia (9.6%), Qatar (6.4%), Australia (4.7%) and China (4.7%).
- The data, part of SIPRI's Trends in International Arms Transfers 2022 report released adds that India was the biggest market for Russian arms exports from 2018 to 2022.
- India received 31 per cent of the total arms exported by Russia during this period.
- However, Russian arms exports to India dipped by 37 per cent compared to the 2013-17 period.
- Data released by SIPRI also sheds light on the "all-weather friendship" between Pakistan and China.
- According to it, China accounted for 77 per cent of Pakistan's arms imports in the 2018-2022 period, reflecting the extent to which Islamabad is dependent on Beijing for its military needs.

**Q.** According to the latest report by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), which country was the world's largest arms importer between 2018 and 2022? **India**

# QUAD JOIN FRANCE IN MEGA NAVAL EXERCISE



Wednesday, 15 March 2023

## Exercise La Perouse between navies of India, US, Japan, France, UK and Australia begins

- The Indian Ocean Area will host the third edition of the multilateral exercise La Perouse.
- The Royal Australian Navy, French Navy, Indian Navy, Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force, Royal Navy, and United States Navy will all have people, ships, and essential helicopters participating in this event.
- Every two years exercise La Perouse, an exercise run by the French Navy, aims to improve maritime domain awareness and maritime cooperation among the participating navies in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The two-day exercise gives like-minded navies the chance to forge stronger connections in terms of planning, coordination, and information sharing for seamless maritime operations.
- Surface warfare, anti-air warfare, air defence drills, cross-deck landings, and tactical manoeuvres are only a few of the complicated and sophisticated naval operations that will be performed during the exercise.
- This version of the drill will feature participation from the fleet tanker INS Jyoti and guided missile frigate INS Sahyadri, both of which were built domestically.

**Q.** Which country runs the third edition of the multilateral exercise La Perouse among India, US, Japan, France, UK and Australia? **France**



# Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd

Wednesday, 15 March 2023

## IREDA gets 'Infrastructure Finance Company' status from RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted an 'Infrastructure Finance Company (IFC)' status to Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA).
- It was earlier classified as an 'Investment and Credit Company (ICC)'.

### Significance:

- With the IFC status, IREDA will be able to take higher exposure in RE financing.
- The IFC status will also help the company to access a wider investor base for fund mobilisation, resulting in competitive rates for fundraising.
- The recognition of IREDA as an IFC will increase the investors' confidence, enhance the brand value and generate a positive outlook in the market.
- The grant of IFC status is a recognition of IREDA's 36 years of infrastructure financing and development with focused development of renewable energy.
- With IFC status, IREDA will keep contributing towards the government target of 500 GW installed capacity of non-fossil fuels by 2030.

**Q.** Recently RBI granted an 'Infrastructure Finance Company (IFC)' status to IREDA. In context to same what does the term 'R' stands for in the abbreviation "IREDA"? **Renewable**



Wednesday, 15 March 2023

## Asia's 1st woman loco pilot Surekha becomes 1st female to drive Vande Bharat train

- Asia's first female locomotive pilot Surekha Yadav has now become the first female to operate the semi-high speed Vande Bharat Express train.
- She achieved the feat as she piloted the semi-high speed train between Solapur station and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in Mumbai.
- Surekha Yadav became India's first female train driver in 1988.
- Hailing from Satara in the western Maharashtra region, Yadav has won many awards at the state and national levels so far for her achievements.
- Earlier on International Women's Day (8 March), the Central Railways operated the prestigious Mumbai-Pune Deccan Queen Express and CSMT-Kalyan ladies' special local train with all-women crews.
- On that day, Yadav operated the Deccan Queen with Sayali Sawardekar as an assistant loco pilot.

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**Q.** Name Asia's first female locomotive pilot, who has now become the first female to operate the semi-high speed Vande Bharat Express train? **Surekha Yadav**





Wednesday, 15 March 2023

## Manipur government decided to withdraw from the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement with 2 hill-based tribal militant groups.

- Suspension of Operations (SoO) is a tripartite pact between the Government of India, the Government of Manipur and Kuki insurgent groups in Manipur.
- As many as 17 are under the umbrella group Kuki National Organisation (KNO), and 8 are under the United People's Front (UPF).

### Particulars :

- The SoO pact was signed on August 22, 2008 between the tripartite.
- The primary objective of SoO pact is initiating political dialogue.
- The Kuki outfits who were initially demanding a separate Kuki state have come down to a 'Kukiland territorial council'.
- Kuki Territorial Council would have financial and administrative powers independent of the Manipur Assembly and government.
- The Joint Monitoring Group (JMG) with representatives from all the signatories, has been formed to oversee the effective implementation of the SoO pact.

**Q.** Which state government has decided to withdraw from the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement with Kuki insurgent groups? **Manipur**



Wednesday, 15 March 2023

## EU, Algeria to develop renewable energy projects

- The European Union (EU) will develop renewable energy projects with Algeria, stressing the key role of the nation in fighting terrorism and maintaining security and stability in the region.
- Undoubtedly, Algeria and the EU share a good partnership in energy, as 90 per cent of Algerian gas exports go to Europe.
- Stressing the large potential of Algeria in the field of renewable energy and the importance of bilateral cooperation in gas, Borrell further expressed his hope for settling all trade problems in a bid to boost trade exchange between the two parties.
- The EU has agreed to re-launch the high-level security dialogue with Algeria, as the first meeting should be held before the end of the year.
- In 2013, Algeria and the EU signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in such areas as oil and gas, renewable energy, and energy efficiency, as well as the legal and regulatory framework.
- For now, the EU relies on Algeria as a main gas supplier amid the Ukraine-Russia war.

**Q.** Recently the European Union (EU) will develop renewable energy projects with which nation in order to full fill its oil & gas needs amid the Ukraine-Russia war? **Algeria**



Wednesday, 15 March 2023

## Pakistan, Iran signed a contract to increase electricity exchange

- Pakistan and Iran have signed a contract to increase their electricity exchange.
- Under the deal, the electricity exchange capacity between the two countries via the newly built 132-kilovolt transmission lines will increase by 100 megawatts (MW) to reach 200 MW in the first phase.
- In the second phase, the two countries will install 70 km of 230-kilovolt electricity transmission lines in Pakistan to raise the electricity exchange capacity to 400 MW.
- Iran's electricity network is currently linked with several neighbouring states, which improved the sustainability of the country's power network, said Mehrabian.

### Pakistan:

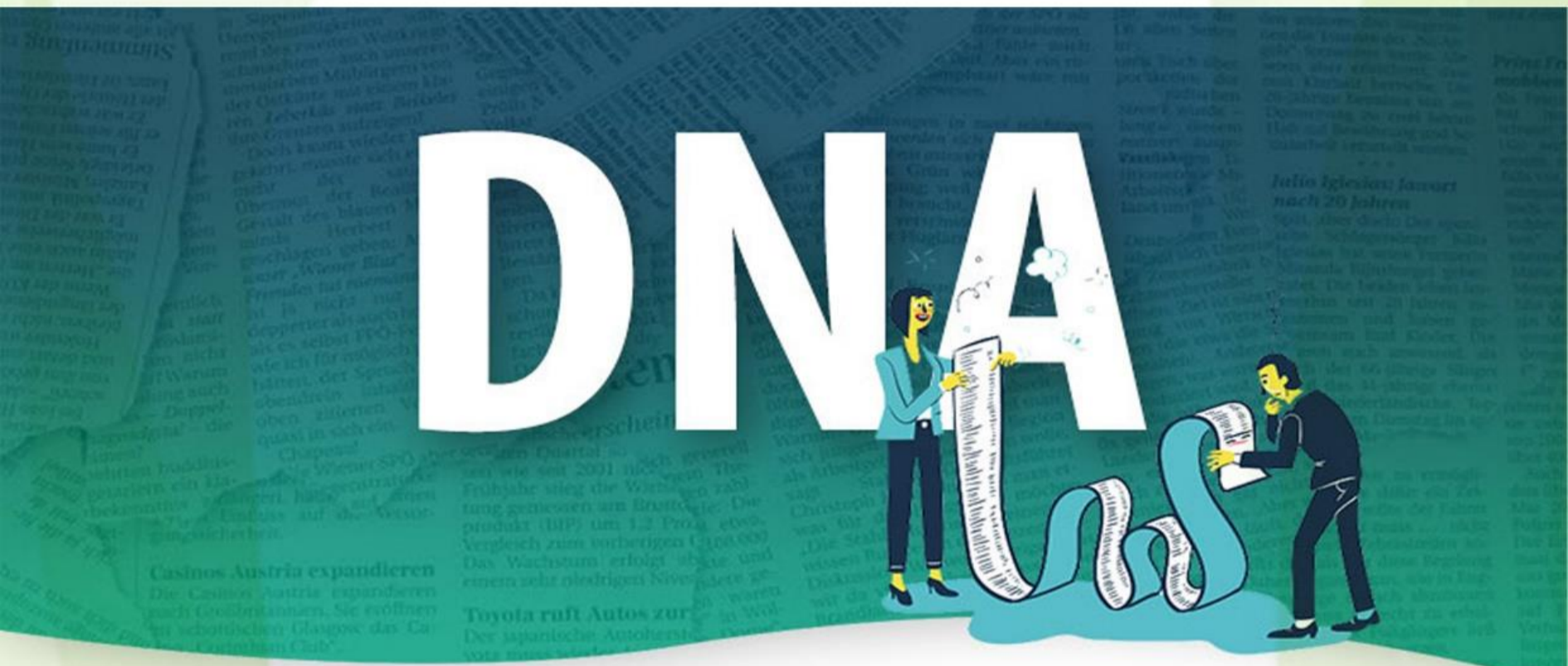
- Capital: Islamabad
- President: Arif Alvi
- Prime Minister: Shehbaz Sharif
- Currency: Pakistani rupee

**Q.** Recently Pakistan has signed a contract to increase their electricity exchange with which country? **Iran**



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