

**September 2023**

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## Banking & Finance

### 1. All-India House Price Index Rises 5.1% In Q1FY24: RBI Data

- Reserve Bank of India released its quarterly house price index (HPI)1 (base: 2010-11=100) for Q1:2023-24, based on transaction-level data received from the registration authorities in ten major cities (viz., Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Jaipur, Kanpur, Kochi, Kolkata, Lucknow, and Mumbai).
- All India HPI growth (y-o-y) inched up to 5.1 per cent in Q1:2023-24 from 4.6 per cent in the previous quarter and 3.4 per cent a year ago; annual growth in HPI varied widely across the cities - ranging from the high growth of 14.9 per cent (Delhi) to a contraction of 6.6 per cent (Kolkata).
- On a sequential (q-o-q) basis, all India HPI increased by 2.6 per cent in Q1:2023-24; eight of the ten cities witnessed housing registration price increase vis-a-vis the previous quarter.

### 2. SEBI releases new guidelines to improve cybersecurity framework for stock exchanges

- SEBI has come out with guidelines to strengthen the existing cyber security and cyber resilience framework for stock exchanges and other market infrastructure institutions (MIIs).
- Under the guidelines, MIIs will have to maintain offline, encrypted backups of data and regularly test these backups at least every quarter to ensure confidentiality, integrity, and availability. SEBI is India's capital market regulator.
- The Market Infrastructure Institutions primarily consist of the following 3 entities from the Stock Market: **Stock**

Exchanges (including Commodity Exchanges), Clearing House or Clearing Corporation and Depository Organization.

### 3. Bajaj Auto's arm gets RBI nod to commence NBFC operations

- Bajaj Auto Consumer Finance, the wholly-owned subsidiary of Bajaj Auto, has received the Certificate of Registration from the RBI to commence the business of non-banking financial services, the company notified the exchanges.
- Shares of the company rose 1.8 per cent to touch an intraday high of '4,699 on the NSE. The stock later pared some gains to close 0.8 per cent higher

### 4. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das rated A in Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023

- Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das has been rated A in Global Finance's Central Banker Report Cards 2023.
- Mr. Das has been placed at the top of the list of three Central Bank Governors, by US-based Global Finance magazine.
- He is followed by Switzerland's Thomas J. Jordan and Vietnam's Nguyen Thi Hong.

### 5. SEBI Proposes Independent Body To Verify Claims Of Registered Entities

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed the establishment of an independent body known as the 'Performance Validation Agency (PVA)'

to verify performance claims made by SEBI-registered entities.

- **The proposal aims to allow registered intermediaries to disclose their performance to investors while ensuring safeguards against unsubstantiated claims.**
- SEBI envisions the PVA validating claims related to investment advice, recommendations (buy/sell/hold), mutual fund schemes, portfolio management services, algorithms, and more, offered by entities like Investment Advisors (IAs), Research Analysts (RAs), portfolio managers, Asset Management Companies (AMCs), and stock brokers.
- SEBI suggests that the PVA could be a wholly-owned subsidiary of a Market Infrastructure Institution (MII) or jointly supported by multiple MIIs, given their extensive experience in handling securities market data.

#### 6. PSB Alliance and Veefin Solutions announce strategic partnership to streamline supply chain financing

- **Public sector banks in India have partnered with technology firm Veefin Solutions Ltd to offer supply chain financing for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) on a cloud-based platform.**
- The collaboration, facilitated by PSB Alliance, a group of public sector banks, aims to bridge the estimated Rs 20-25 trillion (\$270-340 billion) credit gap for MSMEs.
- Each of the 12 public sector banks (PSB) owns 8.33% of PSB Alliance, which was founded in early 2022 and is jointly owned by them.
- Leading PSBs like Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra, Canara Bank, Central Bank of India, Indian Bank,

Indian Overseas Bank, Punjab National Bank, Punjab & Sind Bank, State Bank of India, UCO Bank, and Union Bank are part of the company, whose goal is to carry out common IT and business processes.

#### 7. SBI Rolls Out UPI On Its CBDC App To Promote Use Of Digital Rupee

- **State Bank of India (SBI) has introduced UPI interoperability in its Digital Rupee (e rupee), also known as the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).**
- This feature is accessible through the 'e rupee by SBI' application and allows SBI CBDC users to scan merchant UPI QR codes for transactions.
- SBI's participation in the RBI's retail digital e-rupee project in December 2022 paved the way for this integration, to promote the use of digital currencies in everyday transactions.

#### 8. SBI Card adds new features to AURUM super premium credit card

- **SBI Card, India's largest credit card issuer, launched new features of its super-premium card 'AURUM', targeted at the premium section of society, such as high-net-worth individuals.**
- With the enhancements, **AURUM cardholders will be able to avail benefits worth up to Rs 2 lakh annually**, based on their spending.
- The card offers unlimited international lounge access to cardholders, as well as four international lounge visits for accompanying guests.
- In addition, the card also offers a one-year Club Marriott membership as a welcome gift.
- The joining and annual membership fee for this by-invitation-only card is Rs



9,999, an amount that will be reversed once the cardholder achieves a milestone of Rs 12 lakh spending in the card membership year.

#### 9. RBI allows operation of pre-sanctioned credit lines at banks through UPI

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on the UPI System will also include pre-sanctioned credit lines issued by banks for transactions.**
- Earlier, only the deposited amount could be transacted through the UPI System.
- **In April, the RBI proposed to expand the scope of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) by enabling transfer to/from pre-sanctioned credit lines at banks.**
- The scope of UPI is now being expanded by the inclusion of credit lines as a funding account, it said in a circular on 'Operation of Pre-Sanctioned Credit Lines at Banks through UPI.
- **Under this facility, payments through a pre-sanctioned credit line issued by a Scheduled Commercial Bank to individuals, with the prior consent of the individual customer, are enabled for transactions using the UPI System.**

#### 10. IREDA inks MOUs with Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India to fund renewable energy projects

- **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Union Bank of India and Bank of Baroda to co-finance renewable energy (RE) projects.** Through the agreement, IREDA will collaborate with the banks in co-lending and loan syndication of emerging and established RE projects.

- Union Bank of India said the MOU will come into effect immediately and is valid for a period of 5 years.
- The MOU will be extended if both parties consent. Union Bank said the collaboration will include co-originating projects including small hydro projects and ethanol projects.
- IREDA recently have signed MOU with India Infrastructure Finance Company to co-finance RE projects.

#### 11. REC signs USD 100 million Foreign Currency Term Loan Agreement with EXIM Bank

- **REC Limited, the Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power, has signed a Foreign Currency Term Loan Agreement for USD 100 Million, with Export Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank).**
- The proceeds of the loan will be used towards refinance for on-lending to REC's borrowers in power, infrastructure and logistics sectors for importing capital equipment.

#### 12. Indian Bank Collaborates With IBM To Deploy Flexible, Secure Compute Infrastructure

- IBM announced that it has collaborated with Indian Bank to accelerate its modernisation path with flexible and secure compute infrastructure for deploying new front-end banking applications, while addressing the business growth of core banking solution workloads for the bank.
- **Shri. Shanti Lal Jain: Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Indian Bank.**
- As part of its Project Paradise, the public sector bank wanted to consolidate its

front branch servers for greater manageability and availability at both data centres and disaster recovery centres, while also running its CBS workloads on the latest generation of IBM Power servers.

- In order to meet Indian Bank's digital infrastructure needs, IBM suggested a hybrid cloud solution for all Advanced Interactive eXecutive, or AIX, workloads to increase agility and presented a combination of capex and opex models for consumption of compute resources.

### 13. SBI Card Launches 'SimplySAVE Merchant SBI Card' for MSME Segment

- SBI Card has launched 'SimplySAVE Merchant SBI Card' for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), with the offer of short-term credit options and other exclusive benefits.
- The SimplySAVE Merchant SBI Card operates on the RuPay network and can be linked to UPI for payments through UPI-enabled third-party apps.

### 14. Hitachi Payment Services launches India's first-ever UPI-ATM with NPCI

- **Hitachi Payment Services, a subsidiary of Japan-based Hitachi Ltd, announced the launch of India's first-ever UPI-ATM as a White Label ATM (WLA) named Hitachi Money Spot UPI ATM, with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).**
- A UPI-ATM allows users to withdraw cash from multiple accounts using the United Payments Interface (UPI) app. WLAs are operated by non-banking entities.
- Notably, Hitachi Payment Services is the **only White Label ATM operator to offer a cash deposit facility.**

### 15. SBI launches 'Nation First Transit Card' for digital fare payments

- The State Bank of India, country's largest lender, has launched the 'Nation First Transit Card' facilitate the seamless and convenient customer commuting experience and ensure easy digital ticketing fare payments in metro, buses, water ferries, parking, etc., through a single card.
- In addition, individuals can also use this card for making retail and e-commerce payments.

### 16. SBI launches RuPay NCMC Prepaid Card

- **State Bank of India has launched the 'RuPay NCMC Prepaid Card' to facilitate easy digital ticketing fare payments in metro, buses, water ferries, parking, etc., through a single card.**
- In addition, individuals can also use the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) for making retail and e-commerce payments Dinesh Kumar Khara, Chairman, State Bank of India
- SBI said it is also implementing an NCMC-based ticketing solution in MMRC Metro Line 3 and Agra Metro, which is in the advanced stage of execution and will be available to the public very soon.

### 17. SEBI gives nod to Groww Mutual Fund to launch first index fund: Report

- **Groww, an online broking firm, has received approval from the market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch its first index fund.**
- The company will launch the Groww Nifty Total Markets Index Fund through a new fund offering (NFO).

- In 2021, Groww got the approval of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to acquire Indiabulls Asset Management Company (AMC) and Indiabulls Trustee Company. In May 2023, Groww acquired a 100 per cent stake in the MF business of Indiabulls Housing Finance for ₹175.62 crore in an all cash deal

#### **18. RBI decides to discontinue Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio in a phased manner**

- **RBI has decided to discontinue Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio which was put in place to absorb surplus liquidity following the withdrawal of 2,000 rupees currency notes, in a phased manner beginning 9th September.**
- The measure was intended to absorb the surplus liquidity generated by various factors, including the return of 2,000 rupee notes to the banking system.
- On August 10, the **RBI mandated banks to maintain an incremental cash reserve ratio (I-CRR) of 10 percent on the increase in their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) between May 19, 2023 and July 28, 2023.**
- The central bank in its statement said that based on an assessment of current and evolving liquidity conditions, it has been decided that the amounts impounded under the I-CRR would be released in stages so that system liquidity is not subjected to sudden shocks and money markets function in an orderly manner.
- The RBI further said 25 percent of the amount of I-CRR maintained by banks will be released by September 9th and another 25 percent on September 23. The rest will be released on October 7.

#### **19. ICICI Bank receives RBI's approval for making staffing solutions firm i-Process its subsidiary**

- **ICICI Bank said it has received the Reserve Bank of India's approval for making I-Process Services (India) Pvt Ltd (I-Process) its wholly owned subsidiary, subject to certain conditions, per the Bank's latest regulatory filing.**
- Started in 2005, i-Process was set up to provide staffing solutions services for some of India's top financial institutions.
- The total outgo for the acquisition is estimated at Rs. 15.40 crore, subject to finalisation of pricing, in accordance with applicable law/regulations, on receipt of necessary approval(s), the Bank said in its February 2023 regulatory filing.
- **The Bank currently holds 19 per cent stake in iProcess,** ICICI Bank then said.

#### **20. NSE to launch options on WTI crude oil futures and natural gas futures contracts**

- **The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has received approval from the SEBI to launch options (on futures) on NYMEX WTI Crude Oil and Natural Gas futures contracts in its commodity derivatives segment.**
- Earlier, NSE introduced rupee-denominated futures contracts for NYMEX WTI Crude Oil and Natural Gas within its commodity derivatives segment on May 15, 2023.
- WTI is a light, sweet crude oil that serves as one of the main global oil benchmarks.
- The inclusion of options on futures contracts will enhance the NSE's range of products within the broader commodity sector. NSE is the world's largest derivatives exchange by trading volume

(contracts) as per the statistics maintained by Futures Industry Association (FIA) for calendar year 2022. NSE is ranked 3rd in the world in the cash equities by number of trades as per the statistics maintained by the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE) for calendar year 2022.

### 21. SEBI implements online payment system for Investor Protection and Education Fund replacing payment via demand drafts

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has implemented an online payment mechanism for its Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF) to streamline the payment process and improve accessibility for all contributors to the fund.
- Intermediaries can conveniently make payments to IPEF using various online payment methods such as NEFT, RTGS, UPI, and net banking. SEBI regulates Indian Capital Market.
- **The Government of India has introduced the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) to protect investors' interests and promote awareness. It is established under Section 125 of the Companies Act, 2013 ('Act').**
- The unpaid or unclaimed amounts belonging to a company's investors are pooled and credited into the IEPF.

### 22. RBI likely to launch digital rupee pilot for interbank transactions by October, 2023

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to launch the pilot of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) for transactions for interbank borrowing or call money market by this October.**

- In November 2022, the pilot of the wholesale CBDC or Digital Rupee-Wholesale (e-W) was launched with the use case being limited to the settlement of secondary market transactions in government securities. CBDC was introduced in the Union Budget 2022-23.
- **The RBI picked nine banks - State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, YES Bank, IDFC First Bank, and HSBC for its pilot project for wholesale CBDC.**

### 23. RBI issues revised norms for classification, valuation of investment by banks

- The RBI issued revised norms for classification, valuation, and operation of investment portfolios of commercial banks, aligning them with global standards and best practices.
- **The revised 'Reserve Bank of India (Classification, Valuation and Operation of Investment Portfolio of Commercial Banks) Directions, 2023' will be applicable from April 1, 2024.**
- **It will be applicable to all Commercial Banks excluding Regional Rural Banks.**
- The revised directions include principle-based classification of investment portfolio, tightening of regulations around transfers to/from held to maturity (HTM) category and sales out of HTM, inclusion of non-SLR (statutory liquidity ratio) securities in HTM subject to fulfilment of certain conditions and symmetric recognition of gains and losses.
- As per the revised norms, banks will have to classify their entire investment portfolio under three categories -- Held to Maturity (HTM), Available for Sale (AFS) and Fair Value through Profit and Loss (FVTPL).



## 24. Cashfree Payments partners with NPCI to launch customer onboarding feature

- **Fintech company Cashfree Payments has launched 'AutoPay on QR' in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).**
- The feature helps in the customer onboarding process through a two-step workflow of scanning the QR code and approving an e-mandate via UPI apps within 30 seconds.
- Cashfree Payments' AutoPay on QR would enable subscription-based businesses to enhance customer acquisition, support retention, and facilitate rapid growth

## 25. Stable Money launches first fixed deposit marketplace

- Fixed return investment platform Stable Money has launched the country's first fixed deposit (FD) marketplace for retail investors.
- The platform offers FDs, comparing interest rates from over 200 banks and NBFCs, and enables customers to manage and track their FDs on the platform.

## 26. PSU bank stocks beat private peers in one-year returns, keep brokerages upbeat

- Amid turbulent market conditions marked by high interest rates and inflation, the Nifty PSU Bank Index tracking the performance of PSBs has surged by a noteworthy 52 percent over the past year. This is far higher than the Nifty Bank Index' 12 percent gain in the same period.
- Over the past one year, shares of PSBs such as UCO Bank and Punjab & Sind Bank have given astonishing returns of

over 187 percent and 148 percent, respectively.

- Bank of Maharashtra and Central Bank of India have also gained significantly, rising 126.12 percent and 92.72 percent, respectively.

## 27. ₹ worth '16.39 crore in circulation as of March, shows RBI data

- **The Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) or the e-rupee worth '16.39 crore was in circulation as of March 2023, shows the RBI's data from its Handbook of Statistics on the Indian Economy for FY23.**
- Of the total e-rupee in circulation, '10.69 crore was wholesale CBDC and '5.70 crore retail CBDC, data showed.
- **The circulation was highest for '500 CBDC notes at '2.71 crore, followed by '200 notes at 1.16 per cent.**
- Circulation for all other currency denominations from 50 paise to '100 ranged between 0.01 per cent and 0.83 per cent.
- **The retail pilot, known as CBDC (R) was launched a month later in December 2022,** within a closed user group comprising participating customers, banks and merchants. Initially launched with eight public and private sector banks, the retail e-rupee has now been extended to more banks and made interoperable with UPI QR codes.
- In July, RBI Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar had said that there are 13 banks involved in the retail CBDC pilot for UPI interoperability, however, extending it to the remaining top 20–25 banks will take some more time.
- UPI interoperability will facilitate e-rupee payments through the use of existing QR codes for the UPI ecosystem. Even if the merchant does not have a CBDC wallet,

CBDC payments via UPI will allow for the rupee to be deposited in the merchant's or receiver's bank account.

### 28. RBI releases list of 15 NBFCs in upper layer under scale based regulations

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the names of 15 non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) placed under the upper layer as per scale-based regulation (SBR) for 2023-24.**
- TMF Business Services (formerly Tata Motors Finance), eligible for categorisation under the upper layer, is not included in the current list due to ongoing business reorganisation. Some of the NBFCs in the upper layer include LIC Housing Finance, Bajaj Finance, and Tata
- The upper layer includes NBFCs specifically identified by the RBI as warranting enhanced regulatory requirements based on a set of parameters and scoring methodology.
- According to the RBI, the top 10 eligible NBFCs in terms of asset size will always reside in the upper layer, regardless of other factors.
- Once an NBFC is classified in the upper layer, it becomes subject to enhanced regulatory requirements for at least five years, even if it fails to meet the parametric criteria in subsequent years.

### 29. AU Small Finance Bank Launches Swadesh Banking For Rural Outreach

- **AU Small Finance Bank introduces 'Swadesh Banking,' a dedicated unit to bolster rural banking in India, as per a recent announcement.**
- Swadesh Banking consolidates various segments including rural branches,

banking outlets, banking correspondents, financial and digital inclusion units, and small and marginal farmer lending units.

### 30. HDFC Bank And TruCap Join Forces To Boost Credit Access For MSMEs

- TruCap Finance Limited (TRU) and HDFC Bank have joined forces for a co-lending partnership.
- TRU, a NBFC, specializes in gold and business loans.
- TRU will use its Lending-as-a-Service (L-a-a-S) model to provide credit solutions to underserved borrowers.
- The partnership focuses on offering MSME business loans and Gold Loans mainly to borrowers in non-urban areas.

### 31. SEBI Levies Rs 1 Crore Penalty On Money Classic For Flouting Market Norms

- **Capital markets watchdog SEBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on Money Classic for violating regulatory norms.**
- SEBI, through its order dated Aug. 7, 2019, conducted an inspection of Money Classic -- a SEBI-registered Investment Adviser (IA) -- during 2019-2020, as per rules. But the entity was not traceable and accordingly, the inspection could not be conducted.

### 32. RBI cancels licence of The Ananthasayanam Co-operative Bank

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on September 21 said it has cancelled the licence of The Ananthasayanam Co-operative Bank Ltd, Trivandrum.**
- Further the RBI allowed it to function as non-banking institution under Section

36A(2) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

### **33. RBI imposes monetary penalty on four co-operative banks.**

- RBI has imposed monetary penalties on four co-operative banks for deficiencies in regulatory compliance.
- These penalties are: Rs. 6 lakh on the Citizens' Co-operative Bank Ltd, Jammu, Rs. 11 lakh on HCBL Co-operative Bank Ltd, Lucknow, Rs. 1 lakh on Shree Warana Sahakari Bank Ltd, Kolhapur and Rs. 2 lakh on the State Transport Co-operative Bank Ltd, Mumbai.

### **34. SBI Introduces Digital Opening Of NRE/NRO Account Setup Through YONO**

- State Bank of India has introduced a digital facility for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to effortlessly open NRE and NRO accounts (both savings and current accounts) through its mobile app YONO.
- This service is designed for NTB or 'new to bank' customers, providing them with ease and efficiency in the account opening process.
- An Non-Residential External (NRE) account is a bank account opened in India in the name of an NRI, to park his foreign earnings; whereas, an Non-Resident Ordinary (NRO) account is opened in India in the name of an NRI, to manage the income earned by him/her in India. These incomes include rent, dividend, pension, interest, etc.

### **35. RBI proposes changes in instructions dealing wilful defaulters**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposed sweeping changes in norms concerning wilful defaulters, defining them as someone who has an outstanding

amount of Rs 25 lakh and above and has refused to repay despite having the capacity to pay.

- Wilful defaulters shall not be eligible for restructuring of credit facility and cannot be on the board on any other company.

### **36. RBI introduces Basel-III capital framework for All India Financial Institutions**

- The RBI has introduced norms on the Basel III capital framework, fund raising, exposure guidelines, and norms on classification and valuation of investment portfolios for All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs), which will come into effect from April 2024.
- For NHB, the implementation date will be July 2024, given that its accounting year is July' June.
- India has five AIFIs regulated by the central bank, namely the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank), the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard), the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID), the National Housing Bank (NHB), and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- Capital adequacy AIFIs will be required to maintain a minimum total capital of 9 per cent by April 2024, wherein minimum tier-I capital will need to be at 7 per cent and common equity tier-I (CET-1) capital at 5.5 per cent.

### **37. RBI cancels licence of Mumbai-based 'The Kapol Co-operative Bank'**

- The RBI said it has cancelled the licence of Mumbai-based The Kapol Co-operative Bank Limited as the lender does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.

- On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakh from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation(DICGC).

### 38. RBI imposes penalty on SBI, Indian Bank, Punjab & Sind Bank

- The Reserve Bank imposed penalties on three state-owned banks, including SBI and Indian Bank, for violation of various regulatory norms. **A penalty of Rs 1.3 crore has been imposed on the State Bank of India, Rs 1.62 crore on Indian Bank and Rs. 1 crore on Punjab & Sind Bank.**
- The RBI has also imposed a penalty of Rs 8.80 lakh on Fedbank Financial Services Limited.**
- A penalty of Rs 1.3 crore has been imposed on the State Bank of India for non-compliance with certain directions issued by the RBI on 'Loans and Advances - Statutory and Other Restrictions' and 'Guidelines on Management of Intra-Group Transactions and Exposures', it said in a statement.
- In another release, the RBI said a penalty of Rs 1.62 crore has been imposed on Indian Bank for contravention of certain directions on 'Loans and Advances - Statutory and Other Restrictions', KYC, and 'Reserve Bank of India (Interest Rate on Deposits) Directions, 2016'.
- A monetary penalty of Rs 1 crore on Punjab & Sind Bank was slapped for non-compliance with certain provisions of the depositor education and awareness fund scheme.
- The RBI has also imposed a penalty of Rs 8.80 lakh on Fedbank Financial Services Limited for non-compliance with certain

provisions of the directions on monitoring fraud in NBFCs.

### 39. RBI imposes restrictions on Ahmedabad-based Colour Merchants Co-op Bank

- The Reserve Bank has imposed several restrictions on Ahmedabad-based Colour Merchants Co-operative Bank, including capping withdrawal at Rs 50,000 per customer, in the wake of the deteriorating financial condition of the lender.**
- The restrictions, imposed in the form of 'directions', have come into effect with the close of business on September 25, 2023.
- The restrictions will remain in force for six months.

### 40. RBI approves merger of Sahebrao Deshmukh Co-op Bank with Cosmos Co-op Bank

- Pune-based Cosmos Coop Bank has merged Mumbai-based troubled Sahebrao Deshmukh Co-operative Bank (SDC Bank) with itself.**
- With this, Cosmos has added 11 branches to its network ' 10 in Mumbai and one in Satara. Now, Cosmos would have 170 branches in seven states across India.
- In May 2023, it had merged Marahta Co-op Bank. Till now it has acquired 18 small UCBs.

### 41. Nabard raises Rs 1,041 crore through India's first social impact bond

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) raised Rs 1,041 crore through its social impact bond, which matures in five years, at a coupon of 7.63 per cent.**



- Nabard's base issue size was Rs 1,000 crore, and a green shoe option of another Rs 2,000 crore.
- The five-year bonds were trading around 7.68- 7.70 per cent in the secondary market, so the bidding was around that line. But Nabard was expecting some 'greenium' on the bonds.
- **Greenium refers to the pricing benefits of green bonds, as investors are willing to pay a premium or settle for reduced returns due to their contribution to sustainable financing.**
- **A social impact bond (SIB) is a contract with the public sector or governing authority, whereby it pays for better social outcomes in certain areas and passes on part of the savings achieved to investors.** A social impact bond is not a bond, per se, since repayment and return on investment (ROI) are contingent upon the achievement of desired social outcomes. If the objectives are not achieved, investors receive neither a return nor repayment of principal.

#### 42. Poonawalla Fincorp gets RBI approval for co-branded credit card

- Poonawalla Fincorp, a Cyrus Poonawalla group- promoted NBFC, has received Reserve Bank of India's approval to issue co-branded credit card with IndusInd Bank.
- This partnership will enable Poonawalla Fincorp to usher in a new age of flexible and versatile retail credit.

#### 43. RBI imposes penalty on Saraswat Co-operative Bank, Bassein Catholic Co-operative Bank, Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank

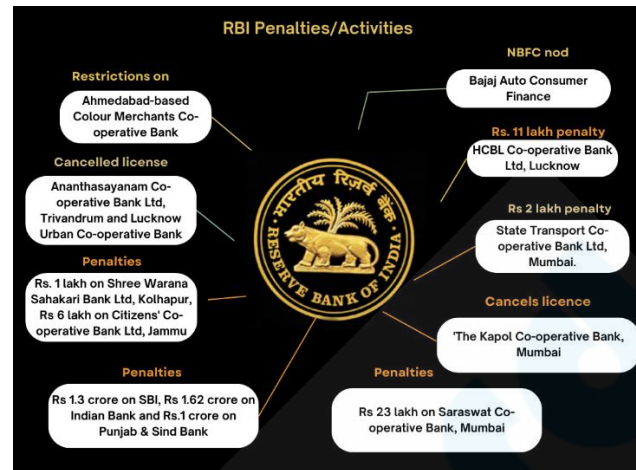
- The Reserve Bank of India imposed a monetary penalty of '23 lakh (Rupees

Twenty Three lakh only) on Saraswat Co-operative Bank Limited, Mumbai for contravention of various provisions Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (BR Act), and the directions issued by RBI on 'Loans and advances to directors, their relatives, and firms/concerns in which they are interested'.

- **The Bassein Catholic Co-operative Bank Ltd, Vasai, Maharashtra, faced a monetary penalty of '25 lakh (Rupees Twenty Five lakh only) the RBI said in an order dated September 22, 2023 for contravention of the provisions of Section 20 read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (BR Act), and the directions issued by RBI on 'Exposure Norms and Statutory / Other Restrictions'.**
- The Bassein Catholic Co-operative Bank had granted multiple unsecured loans to one of its director/his proprietorship firm.
- **The Reserve Bank imposed a monetary penalty of '13 lakh (Rupees Thirteen lakh only) on Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd., Rajkot for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on 'Interest Rate on Deposits'.**

#### 44. RBI Cancels License Of Lucknow Urban Co-operative Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India said it has cancelled the banking license of Lucknow Urban Co-operative Bank, as the lender does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.
- The Commissioner and Registrar of Cooperative, Uttar Pradesh, has also been requested to issue an order for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator for the cooperative bank, the Reserve Bank.



**14**

## Economy

### 1. Manufacturing PMI Rises To Three-Month High Of 58.6 In August

- The India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index stood at 58.6 in August, the highest since May and up from 57.7 in July, according to IHS Markit.
- A print above 50 means expansion, while a reading below 50 indicates contraction.
- Demand strength was pivotal to August's robust performance, spurring the fastest upturn in new orders since January 2021.

### 2. Moody's upgrades India's growth forecast to 6.7% for current year

- In the Global Macro Outlook 2023-24 (August update) report, **Moody's Investors Service has raised India's growth projection for the 2023 calendar year to 6.7% citing upside to growth performance helped up robust underlying economic momentum.**
- The global rating agency, however, lowered 2024 growth forecast to 6.1% from 6.5%, citing a high base of 2023.
- **Moody's Investors Service is a credit rating agency headquartered in New York, United States of America.**

### 3. Average processing time of Income Tax Returns reduced to 10 days

- **Average processing time of Income Tax Returns (ITR) has reduced to ten days in the Assessment Year 2023-24.**
- Average processing time of ITR was 82 days in the Assessment Year 2019-20, and 16 days in Assessment Year 2022-23.
- According to the Department, six crore 98 lakh ITRs for Assessment Year 2023-

24 were filed, out of which 6 crore 84 lakh ITRs have been verified.

### 4. India's overall exports estimated to be 60.87 Billion dollars for August 2023

- India's overall exports are estimated to be 60.87 billion dollars for the last month.
- **The country's Engineering Goods exports have recorded a growth of 7.73 percent during the period as compared to the same month last year. It now stands at 9.05 billion dollars.**
- Smartphone exports also registered a 99.54 percent growth during the April-July period this year at 4673.37 million dollars.
- Drugs and Pharma exports continued to grow at 4.53 percent in the last month and at 15.74 percent between April and August.
- **The Government data also shows that the trade deficit has decreased to 11.63 billion dollars in the last month as compared to 13.58 billion dollars in the last year same period.**

### 5. Direct Tax collections register over 23.5 % growth in current financial year so far

- **India's direct tax collection recorded over eight lakh 65 thousand crore rupees (till mid september of this financial years) which is 23.51 percent higher than the corresponding period of last year.**
- The Direct Tax collection for the last financial year stood at seven lakh 416 crore rupees.
- The Gross Direct Tax collections have also witnessed robust growth of 18.29 percent so far this financial year with



over nine lakh 87 thousand crore rupees. In the last financial year, over eight lakh 34 thousand crore rupees gross direct tax collections were recorded.

- Meanwhile, the Advance Tax collections for this financial year stood at three lakh 55 thousand crore rupees with a growth of 20.73 percent.
- The Advance Tax collections for the corresponding period were recorded at two lakh 94 thousand 433 crore rupees. According to the Ministry of Finance, refunds amounting to one lakh 21 thousand crore rupees have also been issued so far.

#### **6. ADB Marginally Lowers India's Growth Projection To 6.3% For Current Fiscal**

- The Asian Development Bank in its Asian Development Outlook September 2023, marginally lowered India's growth forecast to 6.3% for the current financial year from its earlier projection of 6.4% on account of slowing exports and the likely impact of erratic rainfall on agriculture output.
- The forecast is retained at 6.7% for FY2024. On inflation, the ADB report said, it moderated from 6.7% in 2022 to 5.5% in 2023.
- As per the RBI's latest forecast, the Indian economy is likely to grow at 6.5% in the financial year 2023-24.
- The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development in the latest report upped the GDP growth projection for India to 6.3% from the previous estimate of 6%.
- While global rating agency Fitch retained India's growth forecast at 6.3%, S&P Global Market Intelligence raised it to 6.6% from the earlier projection of 5.9%.

#### **7. Finance Ministry stands by 6.5% GDP growth estimate for FY24**

- In its Monthly Economic Review, holding that economic activities in July-September (Q2) are shaping up well, the finance ministry has kept its estimate for the country's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2023-24 (FY24) unchanged at 6.5 per cent.

#### **8. JP Morgan to add India G-Secs to its emerging market bond index**

- JPMorgan Chase & Co. will add Indian government bonds to its benchmark emerging-market index.
- The inclusion of the IGBs will be staggered over a 10-month period from June 28, 2024 to March 31, 2025, indicating 1% increment on its index weight.
- The South Asian nation will have a maximum weight of 10% on the index.

#### **9. S&P retains India's FY24 growth forecast at 6% on slowing world economy**

- S&P Global Ratings retained India's growth forecast for current fiscal at 6 per cent citing slowing world economy, rising risk of subnormal monsoons and delayed effect of rate hike.
- While retaining its growth forecast for the current fiscal at 6 per cent, S&P also maintained that India's economy will grow 6.9 per cent in both 2024-25 and 2025-26 fiscal years.
- Indian economy grew 7.2 per cent in 2022-23 fiscal year which ended March 2023.



### 10. Apple plans to scale up production by 5 times in India to \$40 billion in next 5 years: Report

- In the next 4-5 years, iPhone maker Apple has plans to scale up production in India by over five-fold to around \$40 billion (about 3.32 lakh crore), reported news agency PTI citing government sources.
- According to the report, the firm has crossed the \$7 billion production mark in the last financial year.

### 11. Centre keeps borrowing plan unchanged for H2FY24, introduces 50-year bond

- **The central government has decided to stick to its market borrowing plan of Rs 6.55 trillion in the second half (October-March) of financial year 2023-24 (H2FY24).**
- This will include the issuance of sovereign green bonds worth Rs 20,000 crore, as against the Rs 16,000 crore maiden green bonds issued in FY23.
- The Centre's fiscal deficit for the first four months of FY24 through July stood at 33.9 per cent of the full-year target, a three-year high.
- Out of the gross market borrowing of Rs 15.43 trillion projected for FY24, the Centre borrowed Rs 8.88 trillion (57.55 per cent) in the first half (April-September).
- The remaining Rs 6.55 trillion, earmarked for the second half, amounts to 42.45 per cent of the total borrowing and will be completed through 20 weekly auctions.

### 12. India's external debt at \$629.1 bn at Jun-end, debt-GDP ratio declines: RBI

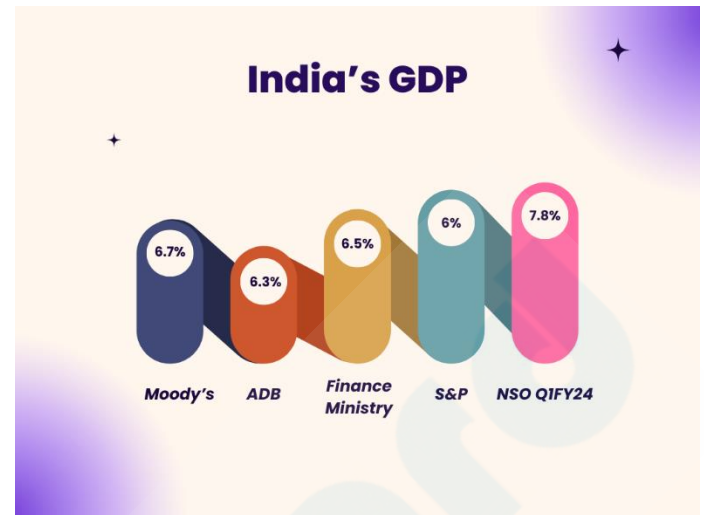
- **India's external debt rose marginally to USD 629.1 billion at June-end 2023, although the debt-GDP ratio declined, according to a Reserve Bank data.**
- The debt rose by about USD 4.7 billion from USD 624.3 billion at March-end. The lending to industry 'small, medium and large' also slowed to 6.1 per cent Y-o-Y in August 2023 from 11.4 per cent in August 2022.
- **US dollar-denominated debt remained the largest component of India's external debt, with a share of 54.4 per cent at end-June 2023, followed by debt denominated in the Indian rupee (30.4 per cent), SDR (5.9 per cent), yen (5.7 per cent), and the euro (3.0 per cent).**
- Excluding the valuation effect, external debt would have increased by USD 7.8 billion instead of USD 4.7 billion at end-June 2023 over end-March 2023.
- Credit growth to the services sector accelerated to 20.7 per cent Y-o-Y from 17.4 per cent a year ago, primarily due to 'non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)' and 'commercial real estate'. The loans to NBFC improved to 25.8 per cent in August 2023 from 25.5 per cent a year ago. The bank loans to commercial real estate showed a substantial rise to 13.9 per cent Y-o-Y, up from 4.8 per cent a year ago.
- Credit growth to agriculture and allied activities improved to 16.6 per cent Y-o-Y in August 2023 from 13.4 per cent a year ago, RBI said.

### 13. Bank credit growth to dip to 13-13.5% in FY24, 13.5-14% in FY25: CRISIL

- **Bank credit growth is expected to dip to 13-13.5 per cent in the current financial year, before inching up to 13.5-14 per cent in FY25 compared with 15.9 per**

cent in FY23, according to CRISIL Ratings.

- The moderation of the credit growth in FY24 will be due to the expected decline in GDP growth to 6 per cent from 7.2 per cent.
- Growth in wholesale credit, which accounts for around 60 per cent of credit, is seen slowing to 11-11.5 per cent in FY24 from a decadal high of 15 per cent. Retail credit, which comprises 28 per cent of bank credit, is expected to grow at a similar rate of 19-20 per cent as compared with FY23.





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## National

### 1. Jalan Kalrock Consortium commits Rs 100 crore to secure Jet Airways control

- **Jalan Kalrock Consortium, the successful bidder for financially challenged Jet Airways, has deposited Rs 100 crore into the airline.**
- This action follows the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal's (NCLAT) directive permitting the execution of the revival strategy.
- With this recent contribution, JKC's total investment in Jet Airways has reached Rs 250 crore.

### 2. ASI launches "Adopt a Heritage 2.0 programme" Indian Heritage app and e-permission portal

- The Archaeological Survey of India - ASI will launch the 'Adopt a Heritage 2.0' programme on, that seeks to invite corporate stakeholders to enhance amenities at monuments by utilising their CSR funds.
- The ASI has 3,696 monuments under protection, spread throughout the country. Union Minister of Culture, Tourism and DoNER: Sh. G Kishan Reddy.

### 3. NCERT gets deemed university status, announces Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan

- **The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has been granted deemed university status.**
- Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan made this announcement while attending the 63rd Foundation Day Celebration Programme of NCERT in New Delhi.

- He also announced that Bal Bhavan will be merged with NCERT soon.

### 4. Stock trades to be settled in 1 hr from March 2024

- In a little more than a year from now, investors in the Indian stock market could get their trades settled instantaneously, the first country to achieve such a feat globally.
- As a precursor, the market would move to a one-hour settlement cycle around March, a Sebi source said. The faster settlement cycle, however, will be optional for stock market investors.
- Currently, the Indian market operates on a T+1 cycle. Shares bought reflect in the demat account the next day. Ditto proceeds of stock sales in the bank account.
- ASBA, or application supported by blocked amount, is a process used for applying in IPOs, where the fund required for the application in the offer is not moved out of the investor's bank account, but the amount is blocked for debit. Once shares are allotted to the IPO applicant, the money is debited. If no shares are allotted, the block is lifted.

### 5. Country's first solar city to be inaugurated in Sanchi of Madhya Pradesh

- **In Madhya Pradesh, the country's first solar city Sanchi will be inaugurated by state Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.**
- It is noteworthy that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a target of developing a solar city in every state of the country by 2070.



- An effort has also been made to attract tourism by reducing environmental pollution through eco-friendly facilities in Sanchi. Battery operated e-rickshaws and garbage vehicles will also run in the city. E-vehicle charging stations have also been installed.

#### **6. Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy launches G20 Tourism and SDG Dashboard**

- The Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the United Nations World Tourism Organisation unveiled the G20 Tourism and SDG Dashboard on Tuesday.
- Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy launched the dashboard in a virtual ceremony.
- This dashboard is a lasting legacy of India's G20 Presidency, reflecting its dedication to sustainable growth in the global tourism industry.

#### **7. World's tallest Nataraja statue installed at G20 summit venue**

- The world's tallest Nataraja statue has been installed at Bharat Mandapam, the venue of the G20 summit in Delhi.
- The 28-foot-tall statue weighing 20 tonnes was made in a record time of seven months by sculptor Radhakrishnan Sthapathy and his team at Swamimalai in Thanjavur District of Tamil Nadu.
- The statue was built in Ashtadhatu using the traditional casting method.

#### **8. Oil India plans to invest \$2 billion in projects, aims net zero by 2040**

- **Oil India Ltd aims to invest 165 billion rupees (\$1.98 billion) in clean energy projects to meet its 2040 net zero carbon emissions goal, said two sources**

#### **familiar with state-run energy companies' net zero strategy.**

- State-run energy companies - Indian Oil Corp, Bharat Petroleum Corp, Hindustan Petroleum Corp, GAIL (India) Ltd, Oil and Natural Gas Corp have already announced their net zero goal.
- Together with Oil India, the six-state run energy companies plan to invest 6.38 trillion rupees, the sources said.

#### **9. Union Cabinet approves 75 lakh more LPG connections under Ujjwala, eCourts phase III, FDI in Suven Pharmaceuticals**

- An additional 75 lakh beneficiaries under the PM Ujjwala scheme, the third phase of eCourts program, and a foreign direct investment proposal to the tune of up to ₹9,589 crore in Suven Pharmaceuticals Limited by Berhyanda Limited of Cyprus were among the decisions taken by the Union Cabinet.
- Venkat Jasti is the current MD & CEO of Suven Pharmaceuticals.
- The additional LPG connections to be provided in the course of the next three years will come with a financial implication of ₹1,650 crore, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said at a press conference on Wednesday.
- As per the existing modalities of Ujjawala 2.0, the first refill and stove will also be provided free of cost to beneficiaries.
- Coming to the eCourts project, it will have a financial outlay of ₹7,210 crore. The eCourts mission mode project is the prime mover for improving access to justice using technology. As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the e-Courts project is under implementation since 2007 and Phase II of which has just concluded.



- The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of eCourts Phase III is being implemented under the joint partnership of Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India and eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, in a decentralized manner through the respective High Courts to develop a judicial system that would promote ease of justice by making the system more accessible, affordable, reliable, predictable, and transparent for all stakeholders.
- Further, the proposal for investment in **Suven Pharmaceuticals** was taken by the Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- In a statement, the government said the approval is for the acquisition of up to 76.1 per cent equity shares of Suven Pharmaceuticals. It is an Indian pharmaceutical company listed on the exchanges “The aggregate foreign investment may increase up to 90.1 per cent in M/s Suven Pharmaceuticals Limited,” the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) said in a release.
- The proposal has been evaluated by SEBI, RBI, CCI, and other relevant agencies. The approval has been granted after examination of the proposal by Departments concerned, RBI and SEBI, and is subject to the fulfillment of all rules and regulations as applicable in this regard.” As per the FDI Policy, 100 per cent foreign investment is allowed under automatic route in greenfield pharmaceutical projects.
- **In brownfield pharmaceutical projects, FDI upto 74 per cent are allowed under the automatic route and government approval is required for investment beyond 74 per cent.**

- Total FDI inflows in pharmaceutical sector have been ₹43,713 crore during the last five years (from 2018-19 to 2022-23).

#### 10. PM to dedicate MGR System at NTPC Lara

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate the MGR (Merry-Go-Round) system connecting Talaipalli Coal Mine to NTPC Lara to the nation on September 14, 2023.
- The 65-km-long electrified MGR System will boost the generation of low cost and reliable power from NTPC Lara, thus strengthening energy security of the country.
- The MGR system built at a cost of Rs 2071 crore will be utilised for delivery of low cost, higher grade coal from NTPC’s Talaipalli coal mine to 1600 (2x800) MW NTPC Lara Super Thermal Power Station in Chhattisgarh. The coveted project will also be connected to Howrah - Mumbai main railway line, which can be utilized for transportation of coal to other parts of the country. Further, the existing transportation system which is delivering 20,000 tonnes of coal on a daily basis will reach up to 8 MMTPA of coal transportation at its full capacity.

#### 11. PM Narendra Modi to lay the foundation stone of the Ethylene Cracker Project in Madhya Pradesh

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of the Ethylene Cracker Project worth 49 thousand crore rupees at Bina Refinery in Madhya Pradesh.**
- The Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone of 10 other new industrial projects in the state.

- This state-of-the-art ethylene cracker project at Bina Refinery will produce poly-ethylene and poly-propylene, which are used in various sectors like plastics, textiles, packaging and pharma.
- Commercial production of this unit will start by 2028. This petrochemical complex will open doors to various downstream commercial manufacturing units in terms of plastics, pipes, packaging materials, plastic sheets, automotive parts, medical devices, moulded furniture as well as other items of domestic and industrial use.

#### **12. PM Modi lays foundation stone; BPCL plans Rs 49,000 cr petrochem-refinery project at Bina**

- PM Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of petrochemical complex and refinery expansion project at Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd's Bina refinery in Madhya Pradesh.
- The refinery will be developed at a cost of about Rs 49,000 crore, and will produce about 1,200 kilo tonne per annum of ethylene and propylene, component for various sectors like textiles, packaging and pharma.

#### **13. PM to inaugurate mega exhibition-conference centre in Dwarka on Sep 17**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate an exhibition-conference hub, developed as part of the phase-I of the India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC), at Dwarka on September 17.
- The first phase of the project has been built at a cost of over Rs 5,400 crore.
- **The IICC is being developed as a modern centre to promote meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE)**

**activities to attract and promote business and industry. The project is being developed in two phases.**

- In phase-I, a convention centre and two exhibition halls with adjoining foyer and related support facilities have been developed. Phase-II will include three exhibition complexes, arena, hotels, retail and office spaces.

#### **14. Ministry of Railways launches 'Swachhata Pakhwada-2023**

- Ministry of Railways has launched Swachhata Pakhwada 2023. Swachhata Pakhwada ' 2023 was inaugurated by Smt. Jaya Varma Sinha, Chairperson & CEO, Railway Board on 15th September 2023 by administering Swachhata Pledge in Rail Bhawan.
- **Swachhata Pakhwada is being observed from 16th Sept. to 2nd Oct. 2023.**
- Ministry of Railways is observing Swachhata Pakhwada from 16th September 2023 to 30th September 2023. Ministry of Railways has extended it suo-moto up to 02nd October and has decided to culminate it with Mahatma Gandhi's Jayanti.
- Swachhata Pledge taken by entire Railway family focused on one's commitment towards cleanliness, devoting hundred hours per year for cleanliness and propagating the message of Swachh Bharat Mission.
- This year, joint campaign of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and Ministry of Jal Shakti namely 'Swachhata hi Sewa' (SHS) Campaign (from 15.09.23 to 02.10.23) is also being celebrated. Activities of SHS have been integrated with Indian Railways' Swachhata Pakhwada programme.

### 15. TRAI releases Telecommunication Services Interconnection (Fifth Amendment) Regulations, 2023 (4 of 2023)

- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Interconnection (Addressable Systems) (Fifth Amendment) Regulations, 2023 (4 of 2023).
- **DRM is a systematic approach to copyright protection for digital media.** The purpose of DRM is to prevent unauthorized redistribution of digital media and restrict the ways consumers can copy content they've purchased.
- DRM products were developed in response to the rapid increase in online piracy of commercially marketed material, which proliferated through the widespread use of peer-to-peer file exchange programs.
- Typically, DRM is implemented by embedding code that prevents copying, specifies a time period in which the content can be accessed or limits the number of devices the media can be installed on.
- The Authority analysed the comments of the stakeholders and to protect the interests of service providers and consumers has notified amendment to Interconnection Regulations.

- The main features of the amendments are as follows:(a) A new schedule X has been prescribed for Digital Rights Management (DRM) System Requirements which include:

1. DRM requirements in so far as they relate to subscriber

- management systems (SMS) for IPTV services.
  2. DRM requirements for conditional access by subscribers and encryption for IPTV services.
  3. DRM requirements in so far as they relate to fingerprinting for IPTV services
  4. DRM requirements in so far as they relate to STBs/unique consumer subscription
- (b) An enabling, technology neutral, light-touch regulatory regime, which facilitates growth and technological developments while protecting the consumer's interest is promoted to foster overall growth.

### 16. Shantiniketan included in UNESCO World Heritage list

- **Shantiniketan has been included in the UNESCO World Heritage list.** The UNESCO made the announcement in a post on 'X'.
- The decision to include Santiniketan in the list was taken during the **45th session of the World Heritage Committee currently underway in Saudi Arabia.**
- Established in 1901 by **Maharshi Debendranath Tagore**, father of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, Shantiniketan is located in Birbhum district of West Bengal.

### 17. FOOT CARE UNIT inaugurated by the Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

- The Secretary, Government of India, DEPwD, Joint Secretary Government of

India, DEPwD and other dignitaries were briefed step by step about the Foot Care Unit , Equipments and Materials including diagnosis , Fabrication process and treatment of various foot deformities and it's management with Customized Insoles.

- The department of Prosthetics and Orthotics PDUNIPPD, fabricated a pair of customized Insoles in the presence of Secretary, Government of India while showing step by step of Fabrication process.
- This Unit is most advanced foot care management system, especially for diabetic foot management.
- PDUNIPPD is proud to inform that this is the only National Institute which is having the ultra modern foot care unit in India.

### **18. Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia inaugurates 'Udaan Bhawan' an integrated office complex at Safdarjung Airport**

- Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia inaugurated the integrated office complex for aviation regulators in the national capital.
- The integrated office complex 'Udaan Bhawan' in the national capital will house DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation), BCAS (Bureau of Civil Aviation Security), AERA (Airports Economic Regulatory Authority), AAIB and AAI.
- Sh. Scindia also launched the Bharatkosh Advance Deposit (e-wallet) facility for the civil aviation ministry. The integrated office complex has been built at a cost of ₹374.98 crore.

### **19. Karnataka's Hoysala temples inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage List**

- **Karnataka's Hoysala Temples' sacred ensembles have been inscribed on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage list.**
- Notably, the Hoysala Temples of Belur, Halebid, and Somnathapura in Karnataka that are now included in the UNESCO World Heritage list make them the **42nd UNESCO World Heritage Site of India.**

### **20. AAI inducts two new advanced B-360 aircraft into flight inspection fleet**

- The Airport Authority of India (AAI) added two new B-360 type of aircraft to meet the flying requirement for Flight Calibration of the increased number of Ground Navigational aids installed at airports in India.
- The new B-360 type of aircraft equipped with an advanced state-of-the-art Flight Inspection system into the AAI Flight Inspection Fleet.
- With the induction of these new aircraft in its fleet, AAI will be able to accomplish the timely flight calibration of the Ground Radio Navigational at all airports in the country. AAI will also validate ANS procedures, which will generate revenue by undertaking flight calibrations in the neighboring countries.

### **21. Old Parliament building renamed 'Samvidhan Sadan'**

- **The old Parliament building will now be known as 'Samvidhan Sadan', Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said.**
- The Speaker also announced that henceforth, terms such as 'House', 'Lobby', and 'Galleries' used in the proceedings of the Lok Sabha will refer to the new building, which is now the Parliament House of India.



- The old Parliament Building which was designed by British architects **Sir Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker** and was **completed in 1927** witnessed some of the great moments in Indian history like the passing of India's constitution.

## 22. LS passes Women's Reservation Bill providing one-third reservation of seats for women

- The Lok Sabha has given its nod to the Constitution (**One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment**) Bill, seeking to reserve one-third of the total number of seats for women in Lower House and State legislative assemblies.
- **The Bill is called Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam.**
- The Bill was passed last evening after a division of vote in which 454 MPs voted in favor of the Bill while two MPs against it

## 23. Fourth G20 Infrastructure Working Group meeting starts in Madhya Pradesh

- The fourth G20 Infrastructure Working Group meeting under the India Presidency has begun in Madhya Pradesh. The two-day meeting will be held in Khajuraho.
- The fourth G20 Infrastructure Working Group meeting would be the last meeting of the Infrastructure Working Group.
- The meeting will be hosted and chaired by the Ministry of Finance along with Australia and Brazil .

## 24. Centre To Disclose Mechanism For Controlling Prices Of Life-Saving Drugs In Supreme Court

- The Centre has agreed to present its mechanism for controlling the price of life-saving and essential drugs to the Supreme Court.
- This decision was made in response to a petition filed by the All India Drug Action Network, represented by senior advocate Colin Gonsalves.
- The petitioner said the formula promoted 'super-profits in the guise of price control'.
- The government will file an updated affidavit with the court, as confirmed by Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati during a hearing on 13 September.
- In November 2022, the government made revisions to the list and prices of essential medicines.
- These changes were implemented with the aim of making these drugs more accessible and affordable to the general population. The government's efforts in this regard will be presented and discussed in the Supreme Court, as part of the ongoing case on drug pricing.
- The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority, a government regulatory agency in India, initiated the revision of the applicable ceiling price of pharmaceutical drugs under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order of 2013.
- In April, the Health Ministry announced that it successfully capped the ceiling prices of 651 essential medicines listed under the National List of Essential Medicines. This resulted in an average decrease of 16.62 per cent in the approved prices of these medicines.
- After years of hearings, the court is still deliberating on a case that raised objections to the formula used for drug pricing.
- The formula for drug pricing was criticised for promoting "super-profits"

under the guise of price control. It was also accused of excluding life-saving medicines for diseases like malaria and TB, as well as disregarding fixed dose combinations that make up a significant portion of the market.

- According to the NGO, the government's pricing policy not only excluded essential medicines of the same chemical class, but also neglected drugs provided in national health programs such as those for HIV, diabetes, hypertension, and anemia.
- Additionally, medicines with appropriate dosages for children and patented medicines were also left out.

#### 25. Northeast's mithun gets 'food animal' tag and its meat a leg-up

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) recognised Mithun, a semi-domesticated bovine animal as a food animal.
- Found in altitudes ranging between 300 to 3,000 meters, mithuns have traditionally been part of the culture of various tribes in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram.

#### 26. 75 per cent Indian villages declared ODF Plus: Jal Shakti minister

- **According to Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, 75% of India's villages, approximately 4.4 lakh, have achieved the "ODF Plus" status.**
- This means they have sustained their Open Defecation Free (ODF) status while implementing solid or liquid waste management systems.
- Shekhawat said over 4.43 lakh villages so far have declared themselves ODF Plus, which is a significant step towards achieving the goals of the second phase

of the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin by 2024-25.

- He added that all villages in 14 states and Union Territories (UT) have achieved ODF Plus Status, of which four have been declared 'ODF Plus Model'.
- **The top performing states and UTs which have 100 per cent ODF Plus villages are Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra Nagar Haveli, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Ladakh, Puducherry, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Tripura.**
- Of these, Andaman and Nicobar, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu, Jammu and Kashmir and Sikkim have achieved the 'ODF Plus Model' status.
- Out of the 4,43,964 ODF Plus villages so far, 2,92,497 villages are 'ODF Plus Aspiring' with arrangements for solid waste or liquid waste management systems, 55,549 are 'ODF Plus Rising' with arrangements for both solid and liquid waste management and 96,018 are 'ODF Plus model'.

#### 27. PM Modi lays foundation stone of the International Cricket Stadium in Varanasi

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the International Cricket Stadium in his parliamentary constituency Varanasi.**
- The project is expected to cost approximately Rs 450 crores and will be able to accommodate 30,000 spectators.
- **The thematic architecture of this stadium draws inspiration from Lord Shiva.**
- The thematic architecture of this stadium draws inspiration from Lord Shiva, with designs developed for crescent-shaped roof covers, trident-

shaped floodlights, ghat steps-based seating, and Bilvipatra-shaped metallic sheets on the facade.

### 28. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) unveils India's first green hydrogen-run bus that emits just water

- **IOC unveiled the nation's first green hydrogen-powered bus that emits just water as it takes the lead in bringing out unrivaled tools to replace fossil fuels.**
- IOC will produce close to 75 kg of hydrogen by splitting water using electricity from renewable sources. This hydrogen will be used to power two buses which will ply across the national capital region for trial runs.
- The green hydrogen-powered buses emits just water and will eventually undertake a pilot run across identified routes in **Delhi, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh**. The Indian Oil Corporation's R&D Centre at Faridabad is producing green hydrogen for the trials. This facility can refuel green hydrogen produced through electrolysis using solar photovoltaic panels.
- The buses have been equipped with four cylinders that have a capacity of 30 kg and can run the buses for 350 km. Re-fuelling time has also been cut down and it will now take 0-12 minutes for the four tanks to fill. Green hydrogen is 100% sustainable and does not emit polluting gases during combustion or production.

### 29. Oscars 2024: Malayalam Film 2018 Is India's Official Entry

- **Malayalam film 2018 is India official entry for the Oscars.**
- **2018, subtitled Everyone Is A Hero, is a survival drama about the floods that devastated Kerala in 2018.**
- It has been chosen as India's official entry to the Best Foreign Language Film category at the 96th Academy Awards, making it only the fourth film from the language to be chosen for the honour.
- Directed by Jude Anthany Joseph, the film stars Tovino Thomas, Kunchacko Boban, Asif Ali, Vineeth Sreenivasan, Narain and Lal.

### 30. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to launch Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav and Technology & Bharatiya Bhasha Summit in New Delhi

- Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will launch Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav and Technology and Bharatiya Bhasha Summit in New Delhi today.
- The two-day summit aims to set course for a technologically enriched future for Bharatiya languages in education.
- The summit will encompass three pivotal thematic sessions with special focus on the integration of technology in promoting Bharatiya Bhasha, including its role in teaching, training, examination, and translating educational materials.

## International

### 1. Indian-origin economist Shanmugaratnam wins the Presidential election in Singapore

- **Indian-origin Economist and Former Senior Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam has registered a landslide victory in Singapore's Presidential election.**
- The Minister won over 70 percent of votes in the country's first contested presidential polls since 2011. Sixty-six-year-old Tharman Shanmugaratnam had served as Singapore's Deputy prime minister from 2011 to 2019.

### 2. India to participate in 48th Toronto International Film Festival commencing 7th September 2023

- India will participate in the 48th Toronto International Film Festival.
- This year, the focus will be to showcase India as a hub of talent
- This year, six Indian films have been shortlisted in the official selection at TIFF.
- The films include Dear Jassi directed by Tarsem Singh Dhandwar, Kill directed by Nikhil Nagesh Bhatt, and Thank You For Coming, directed by Karan Boolan

### 3. North Korea launches first operational tactical nuclear attack submarine

- **North Korea has launched its first operational tactical nuclear attack submarine, and assigned it to the fleet that patrols the waters between the Korean peninsula and Japan.**
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who attended the launch ceremony on Wednesday, said arming the navy with nuclear weapons was an urgent task and

promised to transfer more underwater and surface vessels

### 4. UK commits \$2 billion to UN-backed climate fund

- At G20 Leaders Summit in New Delhi, **Britain has committed to provide \$2 billion to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to help developing countries cope with climate change.**
- The pledge would be the biggest single funding commitment the UK has made to date to help the world tackle climate change.
- The Green Climate Fund (GFC) - the world's largest such fund - was set up under United Nations' climate change negotiations to help channel money needed by poor states to meet their targets to reduce carbon emissions, develop cleaner energy sources and adjust to a warming world.

### 5. DFC approves up to \$ 425 million for Tata Power Renewable Energy project

- **The US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) has approved a financial aid of up to USD 425 million (Rs 3,521 crore) to Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd for setting up a 4.3 GW solar cell in Tamil Nadu by its subsidiary.**
- The U.S. DFC basically partners with the private sector to finance solutions to the most critical challenges facing the developing world today.

### 6. Kilauea volcano on Hawaii's Big Island began to erupt

- US Geological Survey (USGS) has said that the **Kilauea volcano on Hawaii's Big**



Island began to erupt, with flows currently confined to the surrounding crater floor.

- Located in a closed area of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Kilauea is one of the world's most active volcanoes. In 2019, a string of earthquakes and major eruption at Kilauea led to the destruction of hundreds.

#### **7. US city declares September 3 as Sanatana Dharma Day amid row in India**

- Amid a row in India over Sanatana Dharma remarks by Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) leader Udhayanidhi Stalin and Congress's Priyank Kharge, a city in the United States has declared September 3 as Sanatana Dharma Day.
- The mayor of Louisville, Kentucky in the United States, has declared September 3 as Sanatana Dharma Day in the city.

#### **8. Genesys International to provide advanced mapping service to Saudi Arabia**

- Mumbai-headquartered Genesys International a leading provider of advanced mapping, survey and geospatial services has bagged an order worth Rs 67 crore from Saudi Arabia to provide advanced mapping services to the country.
- The company will work on digital twin program for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's ambitious NEOM project, envisioned by Royal Highness Mohammed bin Salman.

#### **9. Gandhi walk resumed in Johannesburg, South Africa after Covid-19 pandemic**

- The 35th edition of the annual Gandhi Walk in Johannesburg, South Africa took place yesterday. The event was organised after

three years of delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- More than 2,000 people joined the new format of a fun six-kilometre walk that ended with a wide range of entertainment.

#### **10. African Union to launch own credit ratings agency**

- The African Union plans to launch a new African credit rating agency next year in response to its concerns about what it views as unfair ratings given to African countries.
- The agency will generate its own evaluation of lending risks associated with African countries.
- The African Union and its member nations' leaders assert that the "big three" ratings agencies – Moody's, Fitch, and S&P Global Ratings – do not fairly assess the lending risks associated with African countries.
- They also allege that these agencies are quicker to downgrade African countries, especially during crises such as the global health crisis.
- A study by the UN earlier had shown that subjective biases in credit ratings had cost African countries a combined US\$74.5 billion.
- This was through funding opportunities lost and excess interest paid on public debt.
- In essence, credit ratings serve to assess the likelihood of a borrower defaulting and influence the terms under which banks and other entities extend loans to them.
- Moody's, Fitch, and S&P Global Ratings have consistently denied any bias in their assessments and maintain that their rating methodologies remain consistent worldwide.

### 11. Wales becomes first nation of UK to drop speed limit from 30mph to 20mph

- Wales has emerged as the first nation in the United Kingdom to reduce speed limits from 30mph to 20mph in built-up areas in Wales. it would "keep people from losing their lives".
- The environmental and road safety groups of the United Nations have supported the move. Wales is a country in southwest Great Britain. Wales capital is Cardiff.

### 12. India, US, UAE & Israel (I2U2) announce joint space venture to tackle environment issues, climate change

- The I2U2 grouping has announced a new joint space venture on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.
- The I2U2 grouping consists of four nations: India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates and the United States.
- It was initially formed in October 2021.
- Established in 2021, the I2U2 aims to strengthen technological and private sector cooperation in six key areas ' water, energy, transportation, space, health and food security. The forum also serves as a platform to discuss strategic infrastructure projects in the Middle East as a counter to China's increasing influence in the region.



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Ex-GM, Syndicate Bank



Mr. K.T. Rai  
Rtd. GM, Syndicate Bank



Aditya Sir  
Interview Expert

## Sports

### 1. India qualify for FIH Men's Hockey 5s World Cup 2024 in Oman.

- In Hockey, India beat Pakistan in penalty shootout in the final to win the inaugural Men's Hockey 5s Asia Cup 2023 in Salalah, Oman.
- The win also served as Asia's qualifying tournament for the FIH Men's Hockey5s World Cup Oman 2024.
- Subsequently, India qualified for the FIH Men's Hockey5s World Cup Oman 2024.

### 2. Mohun Bagan clinch Durand Cup title for first time after 23 years

- Arch rivals in Indian football- Mohun Bagan Super Giant and East Bengal FC- faced off each other to clinch the Durand Cup finals win. In the match that took place at Kolkata's Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan,
- **Mohun Bagan SG emerged as winner, defeating East Bengal 1-0, for the first time in twenty three years.**
- Mohun Bagan SG and East Bengal FC are two of the most successful sides in the Durand Cup, having won a record 16 titles each in the tournament.

### 3. Danielle McGahey set to become first transgender woman to play international cricket

- Danielle McGahey is set to become the first transgender player to feature in international cricket after being named in Canada's squad for the Women's T20 Americas Qualifier, the pathway tournament to the 2024 T20 World Cup.
- McGahey, a 29-year-old batter, is originally from Australia but moved to Canada in 2020.

- McGahey played four matches for Canada at the South American Women's Championship held last October in Brazil, which Canada won.

### 4. RITES & iHUB DivyaSampark IIT-Roorkee sign MoU to explore business avenues

- RITES Limited, a leading transport infrastructure consultancy and engineering PSU has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with iHUB DivyaSampark, IIT-Roorkee for jointly exploration of new business opportunities related to innovative technologies.
- Both entities will collaborate on projects to explore opportunities for Cyber Physical Systems-related innovation.

### 6. Indian armwrestlers win 11 medals at World Armwrestling Championship 2023

- The Indian delegation which participated in the 44th World Armwrestling Championship 2023 and the 25th PARA Armwrestling Championship showed great aptitude and decisiveness.
- Held in Almaty, Kazakhstan from August 24-September 3, the Indian contingent has bagged 11 medals - three gold, six silver, and two bronze.

### 7. Coco Gauff beats Aryna Sabalenka in US Open final to win first Grand Slam

- United States teenager Coco Gauff has beaten Belarusian second seed Aryna Sabalenka 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 in the US Open women's final to claim her first Grand Slam title. With the win on Saturday, sixth seed Gauff became the first American to win a US Open singles title since Sloane Stephens in 2017.



- Gauff, who is from Florida, is the first American teenager to win the country's major tennis tournament since Serena Williams in 1999.

#### **8. Novak Djokovic wins 24th Grand Slam singles title at 2023 US Open**

- **Novak Djokovic handled the weight of history to defeat Daniil Medvedev in the 2023 US Open men's singles final.**
- With a 6-3, 7-6(5), 6-3 victory, the 36-year-old won his 24th Grand Slam singles title.
- Djokovic is now the first man to win three Grand Slams singles titles in a season four times (2011, 2015, 2021, 2023).
- Already the sole owner of the record for men's Grand Slam singles titles, Djokovic now moves ahead of **Serena Williams** and level with **Margaret Court** at 24 for first in the all-time count. He also moves two majors ahead of Rafael Nadal's 22 and four clear of Roger Federer's 20.

#### **9. Virat Kohli becomes fastest to reach 13,000 ODI runs**

- Virat Kohli stunned fans after he broke Sachin Tendulkar's record of the fastest batter to score 13000 runs in ODI.
- He achieved the feat in the ongoing match between India and Pakistan at Asia Cup 2023.

#### **10. SAFF U-16 Championship: India crowned champions after 2-0 win over Bangladesh in final**

- India's U-16 team became winners of the SAFF U-16 Championship by beating Bangladesh 2-0 in the title clash in Thimpu.

- Bharat Lairenjam (8th minute) found the net in the first half, while Levis Zangminlun (74th) sealed the victory with a second-half goal at the Changlimithang Stadium.

#### **11. 62nd edition of Subroto Cup International Football Tournament will be held from 19th September**

- The 62nd edition of the Subroto Cup International Football Tournament will be held from 19th September this year.
- A total of 109 teams from 27 States and Union Territories will participate in the tournament. Under - 17 Junior Boys and Girls tournaments will be held in Delhi and Gurugram, While Under-14 Sub Junior Boys Competition will be held in Bengaluru.

#### **12. Indian rugby celebrates as Maharashtra clinches Wheelchair Rugby title**

- Maharashtra beat Karnataka with the final score 31'10 in the finals at the recently concluded 5th National Wheelchair Rugby Championship 2023 held at Balewadi.
- The championship was conducted by The Indian Rugby Football Union, the sole governing body for the sport of rugby in India, in association with the Wheelchair Rugby Federation of India and Mitsubishi Corporation.

#### **13. Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra finishes second in men's event at Diamond League Final in Eugene, US**

- Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra finished second in the men's event at the Diamond League Final in Eugene, Oregon, USA.
- The Indian's best throw of 83.80 meter came in his second attempt. However,



Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch, won his third title with a best throw of 84.24 meter.

#### 14. Indian shooter Elavenil Valarivan wins Gold medal in women's 10 metre air rifle event at ISSF World Cup

- Indian shooter Elavenil Valarivan has won the gold medal in the women's 10 metre air rifle event at the ISSF World Cup 2023 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Olympian Elavenil Valarivan shot 252.2 from her series of 24 shots in the final and narrowly beat France's Oceanne Muller. A total of eight shooters qualified for the final.
- Earlier, Elavenil Valarivan finished 9th in the qualification round with 630.5. The Rio meet is the last rifle and pistol ISSF World Cup of 2023. The ongoing event in the Brazilian city will be followed by the finals in Doha, Qatar, scheduled from November 18 to 27. India have sent a 16-member squad for the ISSF World Cup.

#### 15. India bag their 8th Asia Cup title; stun SL in epic finale clash

- India cruised to a comfortable ten-wicket win in the Asia Cup final, handing Sri Lanka a historically heavy defeat at R. Premadasa Stadium on Sunday.
- After bowling out Sri Lanka for a mere 50 runs, the Indian opening duo of Ishan Kishan and Shubhman Gill efficiently chased down the target in just 6.1 overs, securing a resounding win.
- Mohammed Siraj won the Man of the Match Award.** He gave the Man of the Match award money to Colombo ground staff.
- Kuldeep Yadav won the Man of the Tournament Award.**

#### 16. Indian Oil Becomes MotoGP Bharat's Title Sponsor

- The first-ever Indian Grand Prix will be contested at the Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida from September 22 to 24, and Indian Oil has agreed to serve as title sponsor.
- 42 teams and 84 riders will compete in the MotoGP, Moto2, and Moto3 categories at the MotoGP Bharat, which is being staged by Fair Street Sports in collaboration with Dorna Sports. IndianOil is the top-ranked energy PSU in the country in the Fortune 500 of 2023.

#### 17. ICC Player of the Month 2023: Babar Azam and Arlene Kelly Bag August Awards

- Pakistan skipper Babar Azam becomes the first player to win three ICC Men's Player of the Month prizes with August triumph
- Ireland's Arlene Kelly is named Women's Player of the Month for her bowling exploits in convincing T20I wins over Netherlands.
- In total, Babar's 264 runs in the month came at an average of 66 and at a strike rate of 92.30.

##### ICC PLAYER OF THE MONTHS 2023 :

- JANUARY :- 'Shubman Gill (India). 'Grace Scrivens (England).
- FEBRUARY :- 'Harry Brook (England). 'Ashleigh Gardner (Australia).
- MARCH :- 'Shakib Al Hasan (Bangladesh). 'Henriette Ishimwe (Rwanda).
- APRIL :- 'Fakhar Zaman (Pakistan). 'Naruemol Chaiwai (Thailand).

- MAY :-'Harry Tector(Ireland). 'Thipatcha Putthawong(Thailand).
- JUNE :-'Wanindu Hasaranga(Sri Lanka). 'Ashleigh Gardner(Australia).
- JULY :-'Chris Woakes (England). 'Ashleigh Gardner (Australia).

### 18. Indian pacer Mohammed Siraj grabs top spot in ICC bowler's rankings

- Indian pacer Mohammed Siraj has grabbed the top spot in the latest ICC bowler's rankings. His latest match-winning performance against Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup final provided eight spot leaps to take him to the top.
- Kuldeep Yadav is another Indian bowler who made it into the top ten.

### 19. In Wrestling, India's Antim Panghal wins bronze medal at World Championships in Serbia

- 19-year-old Indian wrestler Antim Panghal secured a bronze medal in the women's 53 kg category at the ongoing World Championships in Belgrade, Serbia.
- She also secured Paris Olympics 2024 quota for India.
- Antim beat two-time European Champion Emma Jonna Denise Malmgren in the bronze medal bout by 16-6.
- This is India's first medal at the ongoing edition of the tournament.

### 20. India becomes No 1 ranked team in all formats after defeating Australia in 1st ODI

- After their 5-wicket win against Australia on September 22, India became the

number 1 ranked team in all three formats i.e. Tests, ODIs, and T20Is.

- India displaced Pakistan from the top of the ODI rankings while they lead England in the T20I rankings.
- In the longest format, they are in the first place while Australia are right behind them.

### 21. MotoGP Bharat 2023: Italy's Marco Bezzecchi wins Indian GP, Spain's Jorge Martin finishes second

- Italian Grand Prix motorcycle racer Marco Bezzecchi on 23 September took victory from pole position at the Buddh International Circuit in Noida and emerged as the winner for maiden Indian GP.
- Spain's Jorge Martin finished second and France's Fabio Quartararo became the third to cross the finish line.

### 22. Asian Games: Indian 10m air rifle team wins gold with world record score

- The trio of **Rudranksh, Olympian Divyansh Singh Panwar and Aishwary** aggregated 1893.7 in the qualification round to beat back the challenge of China and South Korea on way to team gold.
- Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar then earned the an individual bronze -- India's fourth in shooting so far -- in the event after a keen duel with compatriot Rudranksh, who finished 4th

### 23. India Becomes 1st Team To Hit 3,000 Sixes

- Centuries by Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer and Suryakumar Yadav in slog overs helped India reached 399 for 5 in 50 overs against Australia in the second ODI of three-match series in Indore. This is

India's highest total against Australia in the ODI format.

- India become the first team in cricket history to cross the 3000-six mark in ODIs.

#### 24. India win historic gold in equestrian team dressage at Asian Games after 41 years

- India claimed the team dressage gold in equestrian sport at the Asian Games, breaking a 41-year-old jinx at the continental event.
- The team comprising **Divyakriti Singh astride Adrenalin Furfod, Hriday Vipul Chhed (Chemxpro Emerald) and Anush Agarwalla (Etro)** aggregated 209.205 percentage points on way to the top podium finish. India last won a gold in equestrian in the 1982 Asian Games In New Delhi.
- It is the first time in the history of the sport, India secured a team gold in dressage event. The last medal in dressage, a bronze, came during the 1986 edition.

#### 25. India's Sift Kaur Samra wins gold in women's 50m Rifle 3-P individual event at Asian Games 2023 to give India its fifth gold

- India's Sift Kaur Samra won gold in the women's 50m Rifle 3-P individual event at the Asian Games 2023 to give India its fifth gold at Hangzhou. In women's 25m pistol shooting event, Indian team comprising of Manu Bhaker, Rhythm Sangwan, and Esha Singh also claimed gold medal. This brings the overall medal tally for the country to 21 - 5 gold, 6 silver, and 10 bronze.
- **Vishnu Saravanan, has added another medal by securing a bronze in the ILCA-7 event at the Asian Games 2023. He finished with net score of 34.**

- Earlier today, in a 50m rifle team event Indian trio of Sift Samra Kaur, Ashi Chouksey and Manini Kaushik clinched silver while Ashi Chouksey in an individual event of 50m rifles bagged bronze medal.

#### 26. India's Naorem Roshibina Devi wins silver medal

- **India's Naorem Roshibina Devi won the silver medal in the women's 60kg sanda wushu event at the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, the People's Republic of China.**
- In the final, Naorem Roshibina Devi lost to China's Wu Xiaowei 2-0 to settle for the second spot on the podium.

#### 27. Nepal create history: Highest total, fastest 50 and fastest century in T20I cricket

- During the match against Mongolia in the ongoing Asian Games in China, Nepal men's team exhibited remarkable prowess, amassing a formidable total of 314/3 within the allotted 20 overs. This remarkable achievement surpasses the previous highest T20I total, which stood at 278/3, set by Afghanistan against Ireland in 2019.
- Dipendra Singh Airee, the Nepalese all-rounder, achieved his fifty in a mere nine deliveries, surpassing the 12-ball fifty set by Indian cricket icon Yuvraj Singh during the 2007 ICC T20 World Cup.
- Meanwhile, Kushal Malla outpaced T20I stalwarts like India's Rohit Sharma and South Africa's David Miller to claim the record for the fastest T20I century, achieving this feat in a mere 34 deliveries.
- Notably, although Rohit and Miller have previously recorded 35-ball centuries.



## 28. Indian trio of Sarabjot Singh, Arjun Singh Cheema & Shiva Narwal win gold in Men's 10m air pistol team in Asian Games

- The latest gold for India in Asian Games was won by the trio of **Sarabjot Singh, Arjun Singh Cheema, and Shiva Narwal** in the men's 10m air pistol team event.
- India's Anush Agarwalla bagged his second equestrian medal, a bronze, after ranking third in the dressage intermediate I freestyle event.

## 29. Hangzhou Asian Games | Bopanna-Bhosale win tennis mixed doubles gold

- Rutuja Bhosale raised her game in nick of time while seasoned Rohan Bopanna stayed solid with his big serves as India came back from a set down to win the tennis mixed doubles gold at the Asian Games.
- The victory ensured that India will return with at least one tennis gold from the Asian Games in an otherwise disappointing campaign.



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Mr. K.T. Rai  
Rtd. GM, Syndicate  
Bank



Aditya Sir  
Interview Expert



## Agreements & MoUs

### 1. Numaligarh Refinery Ltd signs MoA with IIT Guwahati to develop sustainable material

- **The Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL) and IIT-Guwahati have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to develop technology for production of marketable green carbon from bamboo dust.**
- As part of the project, a plant of capacity 5 MT/batch will be set up to produce green activated carbon by pyrolysing bamboo dust.
- The R&D project is also aimed towards development of technology for production of very high grade chemically activated carbon having application in pharmaceutical, electronics and mining industries.
- It will be carried out as an industry-academia collaboration, and enhance the capacity of both NRL and IIT-G through provision of relevant data and information sharing.

### 2. NTPC and OIL come together to collaborate in Renewable Energy and Decarbonization

- **NTPC Limited and Oil India Limited have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, to explore collaboration in the areas of renewable energy, green hydrogen and its derivatives, and decarbonization initiatives including through use of geothermal energy.**
- The MoU shall also facilitate sharing of knowledge and experience on upcoming decarbonisation technologies.
- Through the MoU, the two Maharatna giants intend to enhance their footprint in the domain of renewable energy and foray into sustainable solutions towards

achieving the nation's target of achieving Net Zero by the year 2070.

- NTPC is present across the power sector value chain, with a total installed capacity of 73,024 MW. Oil India Limited is a state-owned oil company engaged in the business of exploration, development and production of crude oil and natural gas

### 3. HDFC Bank partners with Marriott Bonvoy: Launches India's first co-branded hotel credit card

- HDFC Bank partners with the 'Marriott Bonvoy' to launch India's first co-branded hotel credit card, "Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card". The network partner for the card will be Diners Club, which is part of the Discover Global Network.
- Cardholders can earn up to three more free nights at the hotels by achieving certain spending limits.
- The co-branded card comes with a slew of perks, including a free night award of up to 15,000 points, redeemable at selected Marriott Bonvoy hotels for a year, globally. In addition, the card confers Silver Elite Status, which entitles you to 10 elite night credits each year.

### 4. MCL signs MoU with CIPET, Bhubaneswar to skill 1040 youths of Odisha

- Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) signed two memorandums of understanding (MoU) with CIPET, Bhubaneswar for skill training development projects this morning.
- Under these projects 1000 youths from Odisha will be provided skill training in

machine operator courses and 40 youths will be trained under ITI courses.

#### **5. BEL inks MoU with Israel Aerospace Industries**

- Bharat Electronics Limited & IAI sign MoU to tap opportunities in Short Range Air Defence Systems' domain Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Israel's leading aerospace and defence company, have inked an MoU for co-operation in addressing India's requirements in the domain of Short Range Air Defence Systems.

#### **6. IREDA signs MoU with IIFCL to co-finance Renewable Energy projects**

- The renewable energy PSU, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited declared its partnership with Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) for co-financing of renewable energy projects.
- According to IREDA, the MoU will empower IREDA and IIFCL for co-lending/co-origination and loan syndication for all renewable energy projects, including Small Hydro projects. Shri Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman & Managing Director, IREDA.
- Both organisations will also strive to fix interest rates for IREDA borrowings for a period of three to four years. Further, IIFCL may invest in the Bonds issued by IREDA as per the terms and conditions of the issue.

#### **7. Tata Steel & ABB ink pact to reduce carbon footprint of steel production**

- Tata Steel has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ABB to work together and co-create innovative

models and technologies to help reduce the carbon footprint of steel production.

- ABB will bring global experience in automation, electrification, and digitalisation to the mining and metals industries.
- The two companies will focus on system-level assessments of Tata Steel's manufacturing plants and production facilities for evaluation and co-development of short and long-term options for energy efficiency, decarbonisation and circularity.
- Tata Steel is among the top global steel companies with an annual crude steel capacity of 35 million tons per annum and is committed to major sustainability targets including the achievement of carbon neutrality by 2045.
- In line with its aspirations, the steelmaker has a medium-term target to reduce carbon emissions to less than two tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) per ton of crude steel in its Indian operations by 2025.

#### **8. Amazon India inks pact with 5 states to empower Persons with Disabilities**

- **Amazon India has signed a pact with five state governments to engage with employable Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and enable their participation in the mainstream workforce.**
- These states are Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- The MoU which extends until 2026 aims to provide skilling and employment opportunities to PwD candidates in five states.

### 9. Mastercard and KredX partner to simplify B2B digital payments

- **Indian supply chain finance platform KredX has joined forces with Mastercard to streamline B2B digital payments.**
- The collaboration is set to integrate Mastercard's commercial card service with KredX's innovative platform, eliminating the usual complexities associated with B2B payments made using cards.
- The collaboration between Mastercard and Kredx also aims to address other challenges associated with B2B payments, including long accounting and reconciliation processes, low vendor acceptance and frequent chargebacks.

### 10. Airbus signs MoU with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya to develop aerospace human capital in India

- Airbus, a pioneer of the global aerospace industry, and the Vadodara-based Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a holistic partnership that includes development of academic curricula, faculty, industrial experience, training and scholarships, and collaboration with international institutes.
- Minister for Railways, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw.
- Vice Chancellor of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, Prof. (Dr.) Manoj Choudhary.

### 11. Govt of India and Meta launch 'Education to Entrepreneurship' initiative

- **Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched a 3-year partnership 'Education to Entrepreneurship: Empowering a generation of students, educators and entrepreneurs' between Ministry of Education, Ministry Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Meta.**
- 'Education to Entrepreneurship' partnership is a game-changer, which will take Digital Skilling to the grassroots.
- This will build capacities of our talent pool, seamlessly connect students, youth, workforce & micro-entrepreneurs, with futuristic technologies and transform our Amrit Peedhi into new-age problem solvers and entrepreneurs.

### 12. AU Small Finance Bank and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance enter into strategic partnership

- **AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB), a small finance bank, and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, a private life insurer, has entered into a strategic partnership.** This collaboration will empower AU SFB's customers to gain access to Bajaj Allianz Life's comprehensive suite of life insurance products, thereby addressing their imperative need for financial security.
- Through this partnership, the bank aims to leverage technology-based solutions for its customers through wide variety of life insurance products offered by Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance.
- AU SFB has a distribution network comprising 1,038 touchpoints spanning 21 States and 3 Union Territories.

### **13. Google Cloud partners with CERT-In to train govt officials in cybersecurity**

- **Google Cloud is partnering with CERT-In within the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in the area of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Cybersecurity.**
- This collaboration marks a significant step towards advancing the cybersecurity skills of learners and government officials.
- The partnership between CERT-In (Indian Computer Emergency Response Team) and Google Cloud will significantly ramp up cybersecurity training and skilling through various initiatives. This includes training a 'cyber force' of 1,000 government officials in cyber defence best practices.
- The initiatives also involve using generative AI and conducting cybersecurity AI hackathons led by front-line experts from Google Cloud and Mandiant.
- Google Cloud is also collaborating with ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) to drive innovation across the e-commerce industry in India at scale.

### **14. NGEL partners Nayara Energy for green hydrogen production**

- State-run NTPC Green Energy (NGEL) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Nayara Energy to explore opportunities in the green hydrogen and green energy space.
- The MoU envisages to collaborating and producing green hydrogen for Nayara Energy's captive usage, accelerating decarbonisation and catalysing reduction in carbon footprint. NGEL is a subsidiary of India's largest power producer NTPC.

- This collaboration is in line with NTPC's initiatives to develop hydrogen projects in India and aligns with the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, NGEL said.

### **15. Uber Partners with Indian Navy to Offer Mobility Solutions**

- Uber, India's leading ridesharing app has partnered with the Indian Navy to become its exclusive mobility partner to offer transportation solutions for official travel and commute of naval officers, staff, and families across the country.
- This partnership will deliver reliable, convenient, and safe mobility solutions to the Indian Navy officers, staff and their families.
- Through this partnership, the Indian Navy will seamlessly integrate Uber's advanced ride-sharing technology via a seamless platform – Uber for Business into the Naval ecosystem. The partnership will help streamline the travel experiences of the Naval workforce, making their travel smoother and the process more efficient. As part of this collaboration, Uber aims to drive effective change management for both official travel and commute and also bring curated enterprise benefits for the Indian Navy.

### **16. Bharat 6G Alliance inks pact with Next G Alliance to explore 6G wireless technology for telecom sector, supply chains**

- **Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions 's Next G Alliance and the Bharat 6G Alliance announced they have signed a memorandum of understanding to explore collaboration opportunities on 6G wireless technologies.**



- The work will encompass aligning research and development priorities that support a common 6G vision and creating secure and trusted telecommunications.

#### **17. Ministry of Labour and Employment signs Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with various Private Job Portals/Employers**

- The Ministry of Labour and Employment signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with leading private job portals, companies/employers and skill providers to integrate with National Career Service (NCS) portal of the Ministry.
- The objective of MoUs is to enhance employment opportunities and services for jobseekers on NCS portal.
- The private job portals partnering with the Ministry of Labour and Employment will share their vacancies on NCS so that the NCS registered jobseekers can seamlessly apply for such vacancies.

#### **18. Tata Power Solar and SIDBI Ink MoU to Facilitate Affordable Solar Adoption Financing for MSMEs**

- **Tata Power Solar Systems Limited (TPSSL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to provide streamlined financing options for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) interested in adopting rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) plants and related services.**
- At the Global SME Finance Forum 2023 in Mumbai, the MoU exchange ceremony was graced by Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Finance, Dr. Bhagwat Karad. Dr. **Praveer Sinha, CEO & MD of Tata Power**, and **Shri Sivasubramanian Ramann, Chairman &**

**Managing Director of SIDBI**, were the signatories of the MoU.

- Under this strategic partnership, TPSSL and SIDBI will work together to promote solar energy adoption among MSMEs by offering tailor-made and innovative financing solutions through SIDBI's 4E (End to End Energy Efficiency) Scheme. This scheme will provide TPSSL's customers with competitive interest rates and loan limits customized to meet the specific requirements of the MSME sector.
- In addition to the financing options, TPSSL and SIDBI have jointly launched "The Big Solar Fest" at the Global SME Finance Forum 2023.

#### **19. DMRC and BEL sign MoU to develop indigenous Communication Based Train Control system**

- Delhi Metro Rail Corporation and Bharat Electronics Limited (13 September 2023) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop an indigenous Communication Based Train Control system.
- This partnership will transform rail transportation in India, driving innovation, reducing costs, and fostering self-reliance in the field of train control signalling systems.
- It is in line with the Make in India initiative. The Communication-Based Train Control System will optimise train operations, increase frequency, and enhance passenger services while efficiently utilising rail infrastructure. The prototype i-CBTC Product will be deployed soon on a test track

## 20. GSITI signs MoU with ISRO for five years

- Geological Survey of India Training Institute (GSITI), Hyderabad has signed an MoU for five years with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Bengaluru under the National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS) programme.
- The scope of this project is to conduct a series of trainings for the capacity building in the areas of mineral resources and disaster management.

## 21. HDFC Bank, Credit Wise Capital ink co-lending pact for two-wheeler loans

- **HDFC Bank has entered into a co-lending agreement with technology-driven NBFC Credit Wise Capital for two-wheeler financing in tier-2, 3, and 4 towns.**
- The collaboration seeks to provide seamless finance solutions in a convenient and cost-effective digital format via Twin2, a Credit Wise Capital proprietary platform.
- The cooperation combines HDFC Bank's expertise in providing credit to the unserved or underserved areas of the economy with Credit Wise Capital's powerful and simple loan processing tech platform for screening potential borrowers as well as their credit profile.

## 22. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh approves 23 new Sainik Schools in partnership mode

- The Government of India has approved the initiative of setting up of 100 new Sainik Schools in partnership with NGOs/Private Schools/State Governments in a graded manner class-wise, starting from Class 6th onwards.
- Under this initiative, Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) has been signed by

Sainik Schools Society with 19 New Sainik Schools located all over the country.

## 23. AWS signs MoU with ISRO and IN-SPACe to support space-tech innovations through cloud computing in India

- Amazon Web Services (AWS) signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding, MoU, with the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe).
- Through the MoU, AWS will support space-tech innovations through cloud computing.
- Adam Selipsky is the CEO of Amazon Web Services (AWS).
- The collaboration will give space startups, research institutes, and students access to cutting-edge cloud technologies that accelerate the development of new solutions in the space sector.
- ISRO, IN-SPACe and AWS will work collaboratively and AWS will provide eligible space startups tools, resources, and expert technical support through the AWS Activate program. This will enable startups to build innovative solutions and commercialise them faster. Startups can also be able to access AWS and its global experience of building aerospace and satellite solutions through the AWS Space Accelerator program.

## 24. IREDA signs MoUs with Bank of Maharashtra for Green Financing

- **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA signed a significant Memorandum of**

### **Understanding (MoU) with Bank of Maharashtra (BoM).**

- According to IREDA, this collaboration aims to promote and facilitate co-lending and loan syndication for a diverse spectrum of Renewable Energy projects across the nation.
- The MoU comprises several services including co-lending and co-origination support for all Renewable Energy projects, facilitating loan syndication and underwriting, management of TRA for IREDA borrowers, and a commitment to establishing stable fixed interest rates spanning a period of 3-4 years for IREDA borrowings.
- Under this agreement, Bank of Maharashtra can invest in the Bonds issued by IREDA in accordance with the specified terms and conditions of the offering.

### **25. NHAI inks deal to develop multi-modal logistics park in Bengaluru for '1,770 cr**

- **The National Highways Logistics Management Ltd (NHLML), under the aegis of National Highways Authority of India has signed an agreement to develop a multi-modal logistics park (MMLP) in Bengaluru under public-private partnership at an estimated cost of '1,770 crore.**
- The MMLP will be spread across 400 acre at Muddelinganahalli in Bengaluru rural.
- The project is poised to become the first and largest MMLP ever implemented in the country under the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan.
- To facilitate seamless logistics movement, the site is strategically located adjacent to the upcoming Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) industrial area on its east,

abutting NH (national highway) 648, Dabbaspet to Hosur, the Satellite Town Ring Road on the north, and Bengaluru-Hubli-Mumbai rail line on its south.

- Bengaluru MMLP is located at a distance of 58 km from Bengaluru Airport and 48 km from Bengaluru city railway station.

### **26. India Global Forum and World Governments Summit signed MoU to develop Emerging Economies Programme**

- **India Global Forum and World Governments Summit have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop an Emerging Economies Programme.**
- The programme will convene key stakeholders, including government officials, business leaders, economists, and experts to foster high-level discussions on sustainable economic growth, geo-economic perspectives, and innovative solutions.
- The World Governments Summit Organization is a global, neutral, non-profit organization dedicated to shaping the future of governments.
- The Summit, in its various activities, explores the agenda of the next generation of governments, focusing on harnessing innovation and technology to solve universal challenges facing humanity.

### **27. NHAI Collaborates with DMRC to Strengthen Design & Construction of Bridges and Other Structures**

- **NHAI has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) for review of designs of various bridges/ structures, safety aspects of NHAI projects and capacity building of NHAI officials.**



- This initiative will strengthen NHAI's 'Design Division' that reviews planning, designing, construction and maintenance of bridges, structures, tunnels etc.
- Under this agreement, DMRC will provide services to NHAI for review of designs of all bridges/ structures in ongoing projects.
- The agreement also includes review of designs of randomly selected bridges, structures, tunnels, RE walls and other specialized structures. DMRC will also support NHAI to review stand-alone bridges and special structures at the Detailed Project Report (DPR) stage.
- DMRC will also help NHAI in reviewing construction methodologies, temporary structures, lifting and launching methods, pre-stressing methods of select bridges and structures and special structures on random basis.
- In addition to this, DMRC will organize customized training programs for capacity building of NHAI officials. This will include design, construction, supervision, maintenance and safety aspects in elevated structures and bridges

#### **28. IndiGo, British Airways Ink Codeshare Agreement**

- **IndiGo and British Airways have launched a new codeshare partnership to improve connectivity between India and the United Kingdom.**
- British Airways will add new flights to the existing IndiGo network through this codeshare, improving travel connectivity between India and the United Kingdom.
- Code sharing is an arrangement between two airlines that allows one airline to place its two-letter identifying code on another carrier's flight schedules. This means that a flight can be promoted by

one airline while being operated by another.

#### **29. TCS Inks Pact With Norway's BankID BankAxept To Boost Financial Infrastructure**

- IT major Tata Consultancy Services has entered into a strategic partnership with Norway's national payment and electronic identity system BankID BankAxept to enhance the European country's financial infrastructure.
- **BankAxept is the national payment system in Norway, with 80% of card payments made using a BankAxept card.**
- The partnership is aimed at enhancing resilience, security, and availability of Norway's critical financial infrastructure.
- BankAxept is the national payment system in Norway, with 80% of card payments made using a BankAxept card. BankID is the Norwegian eID verification solution, with more than 90% of the country's population, banks, public institutions, and commercial enterprises dependent on it.
- Under the partnership, TCS will create a new operations command centre in Oslo for immediate responses to any service disruption, security issues, or client requests related to the country's national payments and electronic identity verification systems.

#### **30. Indian Navy signs MoU with Indian Institute of Science for technical collaboration, joint research**

- **Indian Navy and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for technical collaboration and joint research & development.**



- The MoU, signed in New Delhi, aims to promote academic cooperation in the field of engineering and enhance scientific understanding of technologies related to the defence sector.

### **31. Central Bank of India enters into Co-Lending partnership with ECL Finance Ltd**

- Central Bank of India has entered into a strategic Co-Lending Partnership with M/s. ECL Finance Limited to offer MSME Loans at competitive rates, subject to compliance with the applicable law(s) including the applicable guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

### **32. SIDBI signs pact with DLAI to boost fintech sector**

- The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) inked an agreement with the Digital Lenders Association of India (DLAI) to boost the country's fintech sector.
- The MoU aims for collaborations with SIDBI to develop standard protocols to expedite the adoption of digital lending partnerships including alliances between banks and Lending Service Providers (LSPs).
- **Sivasubramanian Ramann-Chairman and Managing Director of SIDBI.**

### **33. Air India signs codeshare agreement with AIX Connect**

- **Air India has entered into a codeshare agreement with AIX Connect (formerly known as Air Asia India).**
- Air India will add its 'AI' designator code to over 100 flights a day operated by AIX Connect on 21 routes. More routes under the codeshare agreement will be added progressively.

- AIX Connect is a 100% subsidiary of Air India.
- Bookings for the codeshare flights are being opened across points of sale for travel starting on September 27, 2023. AIX Connect is a 100% subsidiary of Air India, which is in the process of being integrated with Air India Express (another 100% subsidiary of Air India) to ultimately form a single low-cost carrier within the Tata group's airline business.

### **34. Infosys collaborates with Microsoft to accelerate and democratize industry-wide adoption of generative AI**

- **Infosys Ltd. is expanding its collaboration with Microsoft Corp. for large-scale adoption of generative artificial intelligence by enterprises at a time when disruptive technology is threatening to upend industries.**
- The tie-up brings together the artificial-intelligence capabilities of software makers to enhance enterprise functions with AI-enabled solutions.
- Essentially, Infosys Topaz, an AI suite of solutions for clients, is using Microsoft's Azure OpenAI Service and Azure Cognitive Services to augment its capabilities and help enterprises transition from digital to AI solutions.

### **35. REC and PNB sign MoU to co-finance Infrastructure Project Debts amounting to Rs. 55,000 crores over next three years**

- REC Limited has signed an MoU with Punjab National Bank (PNB) to jointly explore the possibility of funding projects in the Power Sector and Infrastructure & Logistics Sector under a consortium arrangement.
- REC and PNB will associate with each other to co-finance loans amounting to

Rs. 55,000 crores over the next three years.

- *Anthropic* is an AI safety and research company based in San Francisco.

### 36. Amazon to invest up to \$4 billion for minority stake in AI startup Anthropic

- Amazon is investing up to \$4 billion in Anthropic and taking a minority stake in the artificial intelligence startup, the two companies said. The investment underscores how Big Tech companies are pouring money into AI as they race to capitalize on the opportunities that the latest generation of the technology is set to fuel.

### 37. HP partners with Google to manufacture Chromebooks for Indian market

- Global PC maker HP announced a partnership with technology giant Google to manufacture Chromebooks in India, in line with the government's Make in India initiative.
- The devices will be manufactured at HP's Flex Facility near Chennai. The devices manufactured in India will be sold solely in the Indian market and will not be exported to other countries.




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## Schemes

### 1. Govt launches 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' scheme to encourage customers to ask for bills

- The invoice incentive scheme - Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar begins.
- The objective of the scheme is to bring a cultural and behavioural change in the general public to Ask for a Bill as their right and entitlement.
- This scheme has been initially launched as a pilot in the States of Assam, Gujarat and Haryana and Union Territories of Puducherry, Dadra Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu. The scheme will give an attractive reward of one crore rupees to the consumers.

### 2. Government launches incentive scheme to improve tax compliance at retail level

- The government launched a new scheme called 'mera bill mera adhikaar' to encourage consumers to insist on invoices at the time of purchase.
- The scheme introduced in Haryana, Assam, Gujarat and the union territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Puducherry offers consumers a chance to win '1 crore, '10 lakh and '10,000 as incentive.
- The minimum value for invoices to be considered for the draw has been kept at '200. All invoices issued by GST registered sellers will be eligible for the scheme and maximum 25 invoices will be considered from an individual in a month.

### 3. Asset under management of NPS and APY crosses milestone of ₹ 10 lakh crore

- Buoyed by strong equity and debt market performance, National Pension System (NPS) assets under management (AUM) 'including the corpus on Atal Pension Yojana (APY) 'hit a milestone of ' 10 lakh crore on August 25.
- This represents a 25 per cent year-on-year growth over the AUM level of ' 8 lakh crore as of the end of August last fiscal.
- In the end of March this year, NPS AUM stood at ' 8.98 lakh crore
- **About NPS:**
- National Pension System (NPS) is a pension cum investment scheme launched by Government of India to provide old age security to Citizens of India. It brings an attractive long term saving avenue to effectively plan your retirement through safe and regulated market-based return. The Scheme is regulated by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). National Pension System Trust (NPST) established by PFRDA is the registered owner of all assets under NPS.

### 4. Anna Bhagya scheme: Karnataka plans to replace cash aid for drought-hit taluks with 5 kg rice

- The Karnataka government is planning to replace the monetary assistance for beneficiaries under Anna Bhagya scheme with the distribution of 5kg rice in taluks that have been designated as drought-hit, Food and Civil Supplies minister KH Muniyappa has said.
- Muniyappa said that the distribution of rice would commence once the government finalises the list of drought-affected taluks. Currently, due to insufficient rice stocks, the government



provides monetary aid to beneficiaries instead of the additional 5 kg of rice, as promised in the Congress manifesto.

- “In the coming ten days, the state government will make a decision regarding the distribution of 10 kg of rice to each beneficiary. We are engaged in discussions with Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Chhattisgarh to get rice at a reasonable cost,” he said.

#### 5. Union Cabinet approves '3,760 crore viability gap funding to boost battery energy storage

- **The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister approves the Scheme for Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for development of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).**
- The approved scheme envisages development of 4,000 MWh of BESS projects by 2030-31, with a financial support of up to 40% of the capital cost as budgetary support in the form of Viability Gap Funding (VGF).
- Designed to harness the potential of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power, the scheme aims to provide clean, reliable, and affordable electricity to the citizens.
- The VGF for development of BESS Scheme, with an initial outlay of Rs.9,400 crore, including a budgetary support of Rs.3,760 crore, signifies the government's commitment to sustainable energy solutions.
- By offering VGF support, the scheme targets achieving a Levelized Cost of Storage (LCoS) ranging from Rs. 5.50-6.60 per kilowatt-hour (kWh), making stored renewable energy a viable option for managing peak power demand across the country.

- The VGF shall be disbursed in five tranches linked with the various stages of implementation of BESS projects.

#### 6. Cabinet approves the Scheme titled Viability Gap Funding for development of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)

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- The VGF shall be disbursed in five tranches linked with the various stages of implementation of BESS projects.



### **7. Cabinet approves additional fund requirement under Industrial Development Scheme, 2017 for Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand**

- **The Cabinet has approved an amount of Rs. 1164.53 cr. for Industrial Development Scheme (IDS), 2017 for Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.**
- The government of India announced Industrial Development Scheme, 2017 for the state of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- Under this scheme, the total financial outlay was Rs.131.90 crore
- This allocated fund has been exhausted during the financial year 2021-22. Further, the requirement of an additional fund to meet the committed liabilities up to 2028-2029 is Rs.1164.53 Crore. For allocation of this additional financial outlay, approval of the Cabinet was solicited under Industrial Development Scheme, 2017.

### **8. Dharmendra Pradhan launches 'Skill India Digital' platform for education and employment revolution**

- Dharmendra Pradhan, union minister, education, skill development, and entrepreneurship, inaugurated Skill India Digital (SID), an all-encompassing digital platform with the mission of harmonising and revolutionising India's skills, education, job market and entrepreneurial environment.
- This platform symbolises the hopes and aspirations of countless Indians striving for improved prospects and a more promising tomorrow by providing industry-relevant skill training, employment prospects and entrepreneurial assistance.

- SID serves as India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for the skill development, education, employment and entrepreneurship ecosystem. It is guided by the vision of enhancing skill development through innovation, accessibility and personalisation, with a strong focus on digital technology and Industry 4.0 skills.

### **9. Department of Fisheries organizes event on 3rd Anniversary of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana in Indore**

- Union Minister Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala launched a unique program, Matsya Sampada Jagrukta Abhiyan on the occasion of completion of three successful years of implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojna (PMMSY). The program organised by Department of Fisheries, Government of India at Brilliant Convention Center, Indore.
- The Jagrukta Abhiyan for enhancing outreach across India and ensuring 'last mile connectivity' will run for 6 months from Sep 2023 to Feb 2024 during which 108 events will be organised.
- The main objectives of the Matsya Sampada Jagrukta Abhiyan are dissemination of information and knowledge about 9 Years of achievements of the GoI, highlighting success stories of the beneficiaries and reaching out to 2.8 crore fish farmer and 3477 coastal villages.
- Various key projects that are newly taking ground across India were launched by the Union Minister. This bouquet of 239 projects approved under PMMSY were from 15 states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Haryana, Jharkhand,

Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand with a total investment of Rs 103.11 crore.

keep the age-old tradition, culture and diverse heritage alive and flourishing through local products, art, and crafts.

#### 10. PM Modi to launch PM Vishwakarma Scheme on Vishwakarma Jayanti in New Delhi

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the PM Vishwakarma Scheme on the occasion of Vishwakarma Jayanti 17 Sep, at the India International Convention and Expo Centre in New Delhi.**
- The aim of the scheme is to not only support the artisans and craftspeople of rural and urban areas across the country financially, but also to keep the age-old tradition, culture and diverse heritage alive and flourishing, through local products, art and crafts.

#### 11. Government to offer upto 8 percent subsidy for loans given to artisans under Vishwakarma Yojana

- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government will offer up to 8 per cent subsidy for loans given to artisans under the PM Vishwakarma scheme launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi .**
- Ms Sitharaman, during the launch event of the scheme, said the government has already made a provision of 13,000 crore rupees in the Budget 2023-24.
- The prime focus of the Vishwakarma scheme is to improve the quality as well as the reach of products and services and to ensure that they are integrated with the domestic and global value chains. The aim of the scheme is to not only support the artisans and craftspeople of rural and urban areas across the country financially but also to

#### 12. Govt relaxes domestic content requirement for solar cells under PM-KUSUM till March 2024

- The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) has relaxed the domestic content requirement (DCR) norms for solar cells under Component C of the PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan) scheme till March 2024.
- In August last year, the Ministry waived off domestic requirement norms for projects awarded on or before June 20, 2023.
- Under the component C of the scheme, the government provides financial incentives for the solarization of grid-connected agriculture pumps. **30%** of the installation cost is covered by the central government, **30%** by the state government and the remaining is borne by the farmer.
- For agriculture feeder solarization, a Central Financial Assistance (CFA) of '**1.05 crore per MW**' is in place.
- But to avail this incentive, only domestically manufactured cells and modules can be used for installations under the scheme. The step was taken to boost domestic manufacturing in the sector. However, it has led to delays in the execution process.
- As of July 2023, in Component C, the government approved **1, 21,930 pumps** for individual pump solarization (IPS). But only **1,519 pumps** are already in operation. Meanwhile, for feeder-level solarization (FLS), **22,**

05,279 pumps have received approval, but none have been installed yet.

### 13. FinMin approves welfare measures for LIC agents, employees : To benefit over 13 lakh LIC agents, 1 lakh employees

- The Centre approved a series of welfare measures for agents and employees of Life Insurance Corp. of India (LIC), such as increase in gratuity limit, eligibility for renewal commission, term insurance cover and a uniform rate of family pension.
- **For LIC agents, the gratuity limit has been raised from '3 lakh to '5 lakh.**
- The measures follow amendments to LIC (Agents) Regulations, 2017, that proposed enhancement of gratuity limit, and uniform rate of family pension among others.
- The move will benefit more than 1.3 million agents, and over 100,000 regular employees, who play a pivotal role in the growth of LIC and deepening of insurance penetration in India.
- Also, reappointed agents will now be eligible for renewal commission, thereby providing them with increased financial stability. Currently, LIC agents are not eligible for renewal commission on any business completed under the old agency.

### 14. Govt launches unified portal for agri-statistics to provide credible data on agri sector

- The government launched an unified portal for agri-statistics (UPAg) that will empower stakeholders to access credible and objective data for taking informed decisions.
- The UPAg, developed by the Ministry of Agriculture, is a crucial component of

digital public infrastructure for agriculture.

- The portal aims to address the data related governance challenges such as lack of standardised and verified data, which make it difficult for policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders to make informed decisions.

### 15. Centre launches three game-changing initiatives for farmers focusing on agri-credit and crop insurance

- The government has launched a series of transformative initiatives, aimed at revolutionizing agriculture in the country in New Delhi.
- The transformative initiatives, include Kisan Rin Portal (KRP), Door to Door KCC Campaign, and Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS) Manual.
- **The Kisan Rin Portal (KRP), developed in collaboration with multiple government departments, is poised to revolutionize access to credit services under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC).**
- This digital platform offers a comprehensive view of farmer data, loan disbursement specifics, interest subvention claims, and efficient agriculture credit.
- The **Ghar Ghar Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Abhiyaan** is an ambitious campaign to extend the benefits of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme to every farmer across India. This campaign aims to achieve universal financial inclusion, ensuring that every farmer has unhindered access to credit facilities. The Ministry said total number of operative KCC accounts as of March 2023 is 7.35 Crores with total sanctioned limit of 8.85 lakh crores rupees.
- The Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS) initiative is an

instrumental innovation, that leverages advanced weather data analytics to provide stakeholders with actionable insights on weather.

#### 16. India rolls out policy to ensure dignity in death for Border Roads workers

- India rolled out a new policy for tens of thousands of casual workers employed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to build infrastructure in the country's farthest frontiers to give them dignity in death.
- Funeral expenses were raised from '1,000 to '10,000 for those whose last rites are performed at the worksite, the defence ministry said in a statement.

#### 17. Government extends support under Scheme for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) till 30th June 2024

- The Scheme for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) support which was notified till 30th September 2023 is now being extended till 30th June 2024 at the same rates to the existing export items. The Scheme is WTO compatible and is being implemented in an end-to-end IT environment.
- **The RoDTEP Scheme was introduced by the Government as a duty remission scheme on exports and is being implemented from 1st January 2021.**
- The Scheme provides a mechanism for reimbursement of taxes, duties and levies, which are currently not being refunded under any other mechanism, at the central, state and local level, but which are incurred by the export entities in the process of manufacture and distribution of exported products.

- Under the Scheme, a support of Rs. 27,018 crores has been extended for the 27 month period till 31.03.2023.
- **The RoDTEP scheme operates under a budgetary framework and for FY 23-24, a budget of Rs 15,070 crores is available to support 10610 HS lines at the 8 digit level.**

#### 18. Govt rolls out Rs 5,000 cr scheme for innovation in pharma, medtech

- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya launched the Rs 5,000 crore Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma and MedTech sector scheme, which aims to transform India's pharma medtech industry from a cost-based one to innovation-based. India accounts for only 1.5% of the global medical devices market, while having 8% share of MedTech workforce.
- **The scheme aims to strengthen research infrastructure in India, the third largest pharmaceutical industry in the world by volume, with a current market size of around \$50 billion.**
- A recent report of the Pharmaceutical Exports Promotion Council of India suggested that Indian pharma exports could surge to \$24 billion in FY24, an increase from \$23 billion in FY23.
- **The PRIP scheme has two main components** — the first one would focus on infrastructure building.
- It includes establishing 'centres of excellence' in seven campuses of National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) at a tentative cost of Rs 700 crore over five years.
- The second component would include financial assistance to large industries, micro, small and medium industries



(MSME's) and startups. They will carry out research in collaboration with academic institutions as well as for in-house R&D. Around Rs 4,250 crore has been kept aside as financial outlay for this component.

### 19. Dharmendra Pradhan launches CRIIO 4 GOOD modules to advance gender equality

- Union Minister for Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan launched 'CRIIO 4 GOOD', a new online, life skills learning modules, to promote gender equality among girls and boys.
- The programme was launched in association with the International Cricket Council, UNICEF and the Board of Control for Cricket in India at the Narendra Modi Stadium.




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## Appointments & Resignations

### 1. CBC chief Manish Desai appointed principal director general of PIB

- Central Bureau of Communications (CBC) chief Manish Desai will take over the government's media outreach unit Press Information Bureau (PIB), the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said.
- He will assume charge of PIB on the superannuation of Rajesh Malhotra, who has been at the helm of the media outreach unit since 2022.

### 2. R. Madhavan named new president of Film and Television Institute of India

- Ranganathan Madhavan has been nominated as the new president of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) and chairman of its governing council. He will replace noted filmmaker Shekhar Kapur.
- The FTII Society, headed by the FTII chairman, has 12 nominees of whom eight are nominated under the 'Persons of Eminence' category, while four are FTII alumnus.

### 3. Bad Bank's chairman Karnam Sekar resigns after proposal to merge with IDRCL

- National Asset Reconstruction Company of India (NARCL) Chairman Karnam Sekar resigned after a proposal for merging public sector NARCL with India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL) was suggested.
- Under the current structure, NARCL functions as a 'principal entity' while the IDRCL operates as a resolution agent.
- **NARCL managing director N Sunder.**
- **IDRCL, headed by Diwakar Gupta.**

- NARCL is tasked with with acquiring and aggregating bad loan accounts from banks, while IDRCL is equipped with handling the resolution process.

### 4. Lokesh Suji elected to IESF membership committee for three-year term

- The General Body of the International Esports Federation (IESF) has elected Lokesh Suji, director, the Esports Federation of India (ESFI) and vice-president, the Asian Esports Federation, to its membership committee on a three-year term.
- The election marks the first time that an Indian has become a part of the membership committee of the International Esports Federation.

### 5. SBICAP securities appoints Suresh Shukla as Chief Business Officer

- The broking arm of State Bank of India, SBICAP Securities Ltd. appointed Suresh Shukla as its chief business officer.
- This comes at a time when stock broking, deal-making activities and secondary market transactions are making a comeback.
- Shukla, who was the joint president of Kotak Securities, is a veteran in the securities market with at least 25 years of experience.

### 6. Indian American Arjun Gupta Named Chairman of Newly Formed Investment Capital Advisory Committee

- Indian American Arjun Gupta, founder and Chief Believer at TeleSoft Partners, a special situations venture capital firm, has been named chairman of the newly established federal Investment Capital

Advisory Committee (ICAC), Small Business Administration head Casillas Guzman announced.

- He is among 14 members who will advise the Small Business Administration.

#### **7. Nasscom appoints Cognizant's Rajesh Nambiar as Chairperson**

- The National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom) has announced the appointment of Rajesh Nambiar, Chairman and Managing Director, Cognizant India as its Chairperson.
- Nambiar takes on the new role from his previous role as Vice Chairperson succeeding Anant Maheshwari, Former President, of Microsoft India. Debjani Ghosh, President, Nasscom.

#### **8. ICRA appoints Jayanta Chatterjee as the MD and CEO of ICRA Analytics**

- ICRA has announced the appointment of Jayanta Chatterjee as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of ICRA Analytics Limited (IAL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of ICRA. Chatterjee has succeeded Sushmita Ghatak.
- Ramnath Krishnan, MD & Group CEO at ICRA.

#### **9. RBI approves Dipak Gupta's appointment as interim Kotak Mahindra Bank MD & CEO**

- RBI has approved the appointment of Dipak Gupta as interim managing director and chief executive officer of Kotak Mahindra Bank for two months, starting from September 2.
- Kotak is the founder and promoter of the bank and has been the Managing Director & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (earlier known as Kotak

Mahindra Finance Limited) since August 1, 2002.

#### **10. Tata Steel shareholders approve TV Narendran's reappointment as MD & CEO**

- Tata Steel Limited shareholders approved re-appointment of TV Narendran as the global Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the next five years
- Narendran got 99.47% of the total shareholders' votes in his favor during the meeting to approve the decision to re-appoint him for the next five years.

#### **11. RBI approves reappointment of ICICI Bank MD Sandeep Bakhshi for 3 years**

- The Reserve Bank of India has approved the reappointment of ICICI Bank MD and CEO Sandeep Bakhshi for three years, with effect from October 4.
- The reappointment tenure will be effective till October 3, 2026, the private sector lender notified the exchanges.
- Prior to that, Bakhshi was a whole-time director and the chief operating officer of ICICI Bank. He had joined the ICICI Group in December 1986 and over his 37-year long tenure has been a part of several group companies.

#### **12. Sindhu Gangadharan, MD, SAP Labs India appointed as NASSCOM Vice Chairperson**

- Sindhu Gangadharan, SVP and MD, SAP Labs India and Head, SAP User Enablement, has been appointed as Vice Chairperson of The National Association of Software and Service Companies (nasscom).
- Earlier this year, She was appointed as Chairperson of the Nasscom GCC Council 2023-25.



- Rajesh Nambiar, Chairman & Managing Director, Cognizant India, is current Chairperson of Nasscom.

been active in driving initiatives at the Automotive Components Manufacturers Association.

### **13. Former SBI Chief Rajnish Kumar appointed Chairman of Mastercard India**

- Mastercard has announced the appointment of Rajnish Kumar, former Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI), as the Chairman of Mastercard India.
- In this non-executive advisory role, Kumar will guide Mastercard's South Asia executive leadership team, led by Gautam Aggarwal, Division President for South Asia and Country Corporate Officer, India.

### **16. DIPA appoints Dhananjay Joshi as Chairman, Sandeep Girotra as Vice-Chairman**

- The Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA) has appointed Dhananjay Joshi, MD & CEO, Summit Digitel as the Chairman and Sandeep Girotra, CEO, American Tower India as the Vice-Chairman.
- The changes in the leadership management will come into effect from October 1, 2023.
- Joshi takes over from Akhil Gupta, Chairman, Bharti Enterprises.

### **14. ED Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra's tenure ends, Rahul Navin appointed in-charge chief**

- The government appointed special director Rahul Navin as the acting director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) till the appointment of a regular Director or until further orders.
- Rahul Navin replaced Sanjay Kumar Mishra who stepped down which was the Supreme Court-mandated deadline for his tenure.

### **17. Government appoints Abhay Karandikar as as Department of Science & Technology Secretary**

- Abhay Karandikar, the director of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, was appointed the secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- He will take over from Rajesh S Gokhale, who assumed additional charge in July this year, over his role as Secretary of the Department of Biotechnology after S Chandrasekhar quit as DST secretary.

### **15. ASDC appoints F R Singhvi President, Vinkesh Gulati as VP**

- The Automotive Skills Development Council (ASDC) has nominated auto component industry veteran F R Singhvi, as its next President.
- Concurrently, Vinkesh Gulati has been appointed as the Vice-President. The appointments were announced at ASDC's biennial leadership transition at its Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- Singhvi is the co-promoter and the Joint MD of Sansera Engineering and has also

### **18. Competition Commission of India gets three new members to complete full quorum**

- Anil Agarwal, Sweta Kakkad and Deepak Anurag have been appointed to the Competition Commission of India
- With these appointments, the antitrust body will now have four members, including Chairperson Ravneet Kaur.
- **Competition Commission of India has been established by the Central**



**Government with effect from 14th October 2003.**

- CCI consists of a Chairperson and 6 Members appointed by the Central Government.
- In accordance with the regulations, the presence of a quorum is a necessary requirement when considering investigation reports and approving adjudication orders at the CCI.

**19. RBI Allows Sashidhar Jagdishan To Be Reappointed As MD & CEO Of HDFC Bank**

- The Reserve Bank of India has greenlit the reappointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as managing director and chief executive officer of HDFC Bank, the lender said in an exchange notice. The approval is for three years and will be effective from October 27, 2023 to October 26, 2026.
- He took over from Aditya Puri in October 2020. This would be Jagdishan's second term as the head of India's largest private bank.

**20. Biocon Appoints Peter Bains As Group CEO**

- The board of Biocon Ltd. has approved the appointment of Peter Bains as group chief executive officer.
- He will be reporting directly to Biocon Group Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw.
- Bains has stepped down from his role on the Biocon board as an independent director with immediate effect to assume this strategic executive responsibility.

**21. Liberty General Insurance appoints Parag Ved as CEO**

- Liberty General Insurance has announced the appointment of Parag

Ved as its chief executive and a director on the board. Prior to joining Liberty, he was the president of consumer lines at Tata AIG General Insurance.

- Liberty General Insurance Limited is a private general insurance company headquartered in Mumbai, India.

**22. ICICI Lombard CEO Bhargav Dasgupta resigns, ADB appoints him as Vice-President for market solutions**

- ICICI Lombard General Insurance said its Managing Director and CEO Bhargav Dasgupta has resigned after serving the company for 14 years.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) appointed Bhargav Dasgupta as Vice-President (market solutions) for a period of three years.
- Dasgupta replaces Ashok Lavasa, former Finance Secretary and Election Commissioner of India.

**23. ICICI Lombard appoints Sanjeev Mantri as new MD & CEO**

- ICICI Lombard approved the appointment of Sanjeev Mantri, presently Executive Director of the Company, as Managing Director & CEO of the Company with effect from December 1, 2023 or the date of approval from Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India, whichever is later for the period of five (5) consecutive years or his date of retirement whichever is earlier.

**24. Piyush Pandey steps down from Ogilvy India's leadership role, VR Rajesh to be new CEO**

- In a new transition of roles, Ogilvy India on 26 September announced that Piyush Pandey has stepped down from the post

of chairman global creative and executive chairman and has been replaced by VR Rajesh.

- Hephzibah Pathak will take on the role of Executive Chairperson of Ogilvy India.
- She will be Ogilvy India's first ever woman in this role. Ogilvy global CEO : Devika Seth Bulchandani.

#### 25. Centre extends Piyush Goyal's tenure as National Intelligence Grid chief

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved an extension in Goyal's tenure as the CEO, National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) beyond March 25, 2024, for a period up to November 19, 2025.
- The NATGRID is a federal intelligence gathering organization created to enhance the country's counter-terrorism capabilities.

#### 26. Tamilnad Mercantile Bank MD and CEO S Krishnan resigns

- Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd(TMB) announced the resignation of its managing director and CEO, S. Krishnan.

- Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited is a bank headquartered at Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, India.
- TMB was founded in 1921 as the Nadar Bank, but changed its name to Tamilnad Mercantile Bank in November 1962.

#### 27. Viacom18 appoints taps ex-Google executive as CEO for digital biz

- Reliance-backed Viacom18 has appointed Kiran Mani as the chief executive officer (CEO) of its digital business, informed sources have told FE.
- Mani was previously with Google, where he was the general manager and MD for Android and Google Play for the Asia Pacific region. Sources in the know said Mani will be responsible for driving JioCinema, Viacom18's digital platform.
- Viacom18 has also been picking up the digital rights of top sporting properties such as the Indian Premier League (IPL), the Women's Premier League (WPL), and most recently, the television and digital rights for the Indian cricket team's international and domestic matches at home in a bid to strengthen its content.



The advertisement features the Oliveboard and Skill Vertex logos at the top left. The main text reads 'Stay up to date on In-Demand Skills'. Below this is a green button labeled 'Explore Now'. To the right, there are four stacked buttons: 'Career-Booster Skills', 'Skills for Exam / Interview Prep', 'MUST-Have Computer Skills', and 'Exclusive Tips from Experts & More!'. At the bottom right, a blue banner contains the text 'Kal ki Taiyyari, Aaj se!'.

## Awards

### 1. Shanta Thoutam honoured with World Innovation Award at BRICS

- Telangana's Chief Innovation Officer (CIO) Shanta Thoutam has been presented with the World Innovation Award at the first BRICS Innovation Forum hosted at Moscow from August 27 to 29.
- The award is given for outstanding contribution to the Sustainable Development Goal-4 that ensures inclusive and equitable quality education and promotes lifelong opportunities for all.
- The World Innovation Award, organized by World Organisation for Development, an international NGO with Special Consultative Status with United Nations Economic & Social Council, honours leaders from the developing world that have made an outstanding personal contribution to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals through a systematic effort to implement innovative solutions.

### 2. Oncologist R Ravi Kannan wins Ramon Magsaysay Award 2023

- **Surgical oncologist R. Ravi Kannan, Director of the Cachar Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (CCHRC) in Assam, is one of the Ramon Magsaysay Awardees for 2023.**
- He is credited with revolutionising cancer treatment in Assam through people-centric and pro-poor healthcare. Dr. Kannan hails from Chennai, where he earlier worked at the Cancer Institute, Adyar.
- The Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia's premier prize and highest honor,

celebrates greatness of spirit and transformative leadership in Asia. Since 1958, the Ramon Magsaysay Award has been bestowed upon over three hundred outstanding individuals and organizations whose selfless service has offered their societies.

#### • **2023 Award Winners:**

- Ravi Kannan R from India
- Miriam Coronel-Ferrer from Philippines
- Eugenio Lemos from Timor-Leste
- Korvi Rakshand from Bangladesh.

### 3. Nitrogen N7's CEO Manoj Bubna Recognized as 'Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year 2023' by 'Entrepreneur India'

- In a remarkable recognition of visionary leadership and outstanding contributions to the e-commerce technology landscape, N7 'The Nitrogen Platform's CEO Manoj Bubna has been conferred the prestigious 'Entrepreneur of the Year 2023' award by the renowned 'Entrepreneur India' business magazine.
- He is the brain behind N7 - The Nitrogen Platform, a cutting-edge AI/ML technology, delivering phenomenal acceleration in website performance, boost in SEO rankings & reduction in operational costs, without any code changes or tech integrations. Arguably, the first Indian CDN brand to do so.

### 4. President Murmu confers National Teachers' Award for 2023 on 75 teachers

- The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu conferred National Awards on teachers from across the country at a function held at Vigyan Bhavan, New



Delhi on occasion of Teacher's Day (September 5, 2023).

- The President emphasised that in view of the women participation in teaching profession, the number of female teachers receiving Teachers' awards should be higher.
- Encouraging female students and teachers is very important for women empowerment, she emphasized.

### 5. BIS And Reserve Bank Of India Announce Winners Of G20 TechSprint 2023

- The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the winners of the G20 TechSprint 2023 challenge during an award ceremony in Mumbai.
- This year's TechSprint was launched last May by the RBI and BIS to promote innovative solutions aimed at improving cross-border payments, under India's G20 presidency.
- Team **Secretarium Ltd.** from the UK won the category for problem statement #1, on **fighting money laundering, combating financing of terrorism, tax and sanctions evasion**, with their solution on transaction monitoring and protecting anonymity and privacy using secure privacy technology.
- Team **Millicent Labs** from the UK won the category for problem statement #2, on **improving liquidity in cross-border payments between emerging and developing countries' currencies**, with their hybrid decentralised exchange for CBDCs, which features automated market makers and traditional order books, to optimise liquidity and reduce volatility risk.
- Team **Knox Networks** from the US won the category for problem statement #3 on **developing multilateral cross-border**

**CBDC platforms**, with their multilateral CBDC solution based on File-Based Digital Assets (FBDAs).

### 6. Vijayawada gets IGBC's 'Green Railway Station' certification with platinum rating

- Vijayawada Railway Station was awarded the 'Green Railway Station' certification with the highest rating of Platinum by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for its efforts in improving the environmental standards and providing eco-friendly services to passengers.
- This is an upgradation of the station's ratings, from gold in 2019 to platinum in 2023.

### 7. 12 scientists selected for Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards for year 2022

- Country's top annual science prize, Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards were announced after a gap of two years. 12 scientists will get the awards in seven categories.
- Named after Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, the first director of CSIR, these awards are given every in seven scientific disciplines - physics, biology, engineering, mathematics, medicine, chemistry, and earth sciences.
- The award is given to scientists 45 years and carries a purse of Rs. five lakh and a citation.

### 8. Vijayawada gets IGBC's 'Green Railway Station' certification with platinum rating

- Vijayawada Railway Station was awarded the 'Green Railway Station' certification with the highest rating of Platinum by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for its efforts in improving the environmental standards and providing eco-friendly services to passengers.



- This is an upgradation of the station's ratings, from gold in 2019 to platinum in 2023.

#### 9. RITES wins 'Safety Innovation Award 2023'

- **RITES Limited has been honoured with the 'Safety Innovation Award 2023', under the 'Construction' category, for implementing 'Innovative Safety Management Systems' in its operations.**
- The award has been presented to RITES' officials during the inaugural function of the 20th Safety Convention organised by The Institution of Engineers (India).
- RITES Limited, having multi-sectoral presence, has consistently embraced best safety practices in its operations, exemplifying its commitment to prioritizing safety measures at worksites.
- RITES remains resolute in its mission to create a safer and more secure infrastructure environment, delivering services that uphold stringent safety protocols, irrespective of geographical or logistical challenges.

#### 10. SJVN gets anti - Bribery Management System Certificate

- SJVN Limited has been awarded the Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS) Certification by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
- With this, SJVN has become the first Power Sector PSU to have successfully implemented the ABMS.
- Anti-Bribery Management System is a Management System that is designed to assist organisations in preventing, detecting, and responding to acts of bribery

#### 11. L&T Finance Recognised Amongst the 'Prestigious Brand of India' at the Goal Fest Conclave 2023

- L&T Finance, a leading Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), is proud to announce that it has been recognised amongst the 'Prestigious Brand of India' in the Goal Fest Conclave 2023.
- The award recognises the Company's focused and targeted brand campaigns, redefining the benchmarks in the NBFC space.
- The award evaluated brands based on parameters like Trust, Image, Sustainability, Goodwill, Positioning, Recall, Growth, Reach and Innovation

#### 12. Vice-President of India confers Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards on 84 Artists in the field of performing arts

- The Vice-President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar presented the one-time **Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards** on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to 84 artists from the field of performing arts of India who are above the age of 75 years and haven't been accorded any national honour in their career so far.
- The Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards were conferred by the Vice-President of India in a special ceremony at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards is a national honour bestowed on performing artists as well as teachers and scholars in the field of performing arts.
- The recipients are selected by the Akademi's General Council, consisting of distinguished musicians, dancers, theatre artists and scholars in these disciplines and nominees of the Government of India, States Governments, and Union Territories.

- The honour carries a purse money of Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees one lakh) besides a Tamrapatra and Angavastram.
- The award ceremony is followed by the festival of performing arts featuring the recipients of Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards from 16th to 20th September 2023.

### **13. Fashion designer Rahul Mishra awarded Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres**

- Celebrated fashion designer Rahul Mishra was conferred with the insignia of Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres at a function at the Residence of France.
- Ambassador of France to India Emmanuel Lenain presented the medal to Mishra for his career and connection to France.
- The French government's distinction l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) is bestowed upon persons who have distinguished themselves by their creativity in the field of art, culture, and literature or for their contribution to the influence of arts in France and throughout the world

### **14. National Medical Commission Achieves Prestigious WFME Recognition Status for 10 Years**

- The National Medical Commission (NMC), India has achieved the remarkable feat of being granted the coveted World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) Recognition Status for a remarkable tenure of 10 years.
- This recognition is a testament to NMC's unwavering commitment to the highest standards in medical education and accreditation.

- The World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) is a global organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of medical education worldwide. WFME's accreditation program plays a pivotal role in ensuring that medical institutes meet and uphold the highest international standards of education and training. The National Medical Commission (NMC) is India's premier regulatory body overseeing medical education and practice. Committed to upholding the highest standards in healthcare education, NMC ensures the delivery of quality medical education and training across the nation.

### **15. Odisha Scientist Dr Swati Nayak Wins The Prestigious Norman Borlaug Field Award 2023**

- Dr Swati Nayak, an Indian scientist at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), has been named the 2023 recipient of Norman E Borlaug Award for Field Research and Application.
- The award is given to exceptional scientists under 40 and someone who works in the field of food and nutrition security, hunger eradication in memory of the Nobel awardee Dr Norman Borlaug. It is endowed by the Rockefeller Foundation.
- Endowed by the Rockefeller Foundation, the award recognizes Ms Nayak for her innovative approach to engaging smallholder farmers in demand-driven rice seed systems, from testing and deployment to equitable access and adoption of climate-resilient and nutritious rice varieties, a release from the World Food Prize Foundation said in a tweet on platform X.
- The award is given to exceptional scientists under 40 and someone who works in the field of food and nutrition

security, hunger eradication in memory of the Nobel awardee and Green Revolution's chief architect Dr Norman Borlaug.

#### 16. Indian-origin author Chetna Maroo's debut novel shortlisted for Booker Prize 2023

- London-based Indian-origin author Chetna Maroo's debut novel 'Western Lane' was shortlisted for the 2023 Booker Prize in London.
- Kenya-born Maroo's novel set within the context of the British Gujarati milieu has been praised by the Booker judges for its use of the sport of squash as a metaphor for complex human emotions.
- Sarah Bernstein's 'Study for Obedience', 'If I Survive You' by Jonathan Escoffery, Paul Harding's 'The Other Eden', Paul Lynch's 'Prophet Song' and Paul Murray's 'The Bee Sting' complete the shortlist of six that will compete for the GBP 50,000 prize to be unveiled on November 26 at an award ceremony in London.

#### 17. Waheeda Rehman to be conferred with Dadasaheb Phalke Award for her stellar contribution to Indian Cinema

- **Veteran actor Waheeda Rehman will be honoured with this year's Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest recognition in the field of Indian cinema, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur announced on 26 September.**
- Waheeda Rehman is regarded as one of India's finest actors & is best known for her roles in films like "Pyasa", "CID" etc
- Waheeda Rehman made her acting debut with the 1955 Telugu films "Rojulu Maraayi" and "Jayasimha".

- She made her Hindi cinema debut with "CID", the 1956 film headlined by Dev Anand.
- In a career spanning over five decades, the legendary actor has worked in more than 90 films across languages.
- Earlier, she has also received National Film Award for her role as a clanswoman in "Reshma and Shera" (1971).
- She has been conferred with Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan award.

#### 18. Arogya Manthan 2023 award: Kerala tops in providing free medical treatment

- For the third time in a row, Kerala has won the Centre's Arogya Manthan 2023 award for providing free medical treatment to the maximum number of people in the country. The state bagged the award for the maximum utilisation of the Karunya Arogya Suraksha Scheme (KASP).
- The Union government's National Health Authority Arogya Manthan 2023 awards were announced in connection with the annual celebrations of the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).
- **Kerala also won the award for providing the best service for the visually challenged under the AB-PMJAY.**
- In terms of the highest number of treatments, the awards were won by Kerala, Meghalaya, and Puducherry in the categories of large state, small state, and Union Territories respectively.
- In gender equity in service delivery, the awards were won by Karnataka, Meghalaya and Jammu and Kashmir in the category of large state, small state, and Union Territories respectively.

## Ranks & Reports

### 1. UPI crosses 10 billion monthly transactions, confirms NPCI

- The centre's contactless digital payments framework, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), crossed 10 billion monthly transactions in August, confirmed the Reserve Bank's non-profit agency, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- Monthly transaction count on UPI crossed 10.24 billion on 30 August, with net transaction value of '15.18 trillion. UPI crossed 1 billion monthly transactions for the first time in October 2019.
- Transactions on UPI have grown by over 50% year-on-year, with August last year registering 6.58 billion monthly transactions.
- The payments network neared the 10 billion mark in July itself, registering 9.96 billion transactions last month—after the month of June saw a marginal sequential drop from May.
- The UPI transactions rose manifolds between 2018 and 2022 in terms of value as well as volume, by 1,320 per cent and 1,876 per cent, respectively.
- In 2018, UPI transactions in terms of volume stood at 374.63 crore, which went up by 1,876 per cent to 7,403.97 crore in 2022.
- In terms of value, the UPI transactions were Rs 5.86 lakh crore in 2018, which went up by 1,320 per cent to Rs 83.2 lakh crore in 2022.
- RBI had in February this year allowed access to foreign nationals and NRIs visiting India by enabling them to make payments using UPI while they are in India.

- This facility has been extended to travellers from G20 countries at select international airports (Bengaluru, Mumbai and New Delhi) for their merchant payments.
- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has said that the facility is allowed for 10 countries namely Singapore, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar, the US, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and the UK.
- The UPI acceptance in foreign countries started in 2022.

### 2. Bank credit outstanding to real estate hits record Rs 28 trn in July: RBI

- Bank credit to housing as well as commercial real estate witnessed nearly 38 per cent annual growth in July, taking the loan outstanding to the realty sector to a record Rs 28 lakh crore, as per the latest RBI data. The credit outstanding to the commercial real estate increased by 38.1 per cent to Rs 4.07 lakh crore.
- The credit outstanding in housing (including priority sector housing) rose 37.4 per cent annually in July crossing Rs 24.28 lakh crore, showed the RBI's data on 'Sectoral Deployment of Bank Credit July 2023'
- Another set of RBI data showed that All India HPI growth (y-o-y) inched up to 5.1 per cent in the first quarter of 2023-24 from 4.6 per cent in the previous quarter and 3.4 per cent a year ago.

### 3. Global trade finance gap at record \$2.5 trillion, says ADB

- The global trade finance gap surged to a record \$2.5 trillion in 2022 from \$1.7



trillion two years earlier on the back of rising interest rates, flagging economic prospects, inflation, and geopolitical volatility reducing the capacity of banks to deliver trade financing, said the latest survey by Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- The trade finance gap refers to the difference between the money businesses need for international trade and the money they can actually get from banks and other financial sources.
- This gap could be a barrier for businesses, especially small ones, trying to expand into global markets.
- The 2023 Trade Finance Gaps, Growth and Jobs Survey noted that the demand for trade finance surged on the back of a sharp recovery in global goods exports which grew in 2021 and 2022 at 26.6% and 11.5%, respectively, after the pandemic.
- However, the heightened economic risks made finance more difficult to secure than before.
- After a zero-growth rate during the last quarter of 2022, as of April 2023, global trade exports in value slowed year-to-date, showing a decline of around 3 per cent, the survey said.

#### 4. Travel, hospitality and restaurant industry witnesses a 9 per cent increase in credit deployment in July 2023: RBI data

- India's travel, hospitality, and restaurant sectors are witnessing a significant resurgence, with credit deployment surging to '70,952 crore, a remarkable increase from the previous figure of '65,089 crore, as of July 2023, as reported by the RBI.
- This 9 per cent year-on-year rise indicates a promising revival for these

industries which were hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic

#### 5. Clean Air Survey 2023: Indore ranks first followed by Agra and Thane

- **Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav awarded first rank to the Information Technology hub of Madhya Pradesh, Indore, in the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan-2023 (or Clean Air Survey), conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board.**
- **Under the first category (million-plus population), Indore ranked first, followed by Agra and Thane.**
- Amravati secured first rank in the second category (3-10 lakh population), followed by Moradabad and Guntur. Similarly, for the third category (less than 3 lakh population), Parwanoo secured the first rank, followed by Kala Amb and Angul.
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has been implementing the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a national-level strategy, outlining the actions for reducing the levels of air pollution at city and regional scales in India since 2019.
- **A total of 131 cities have been identified for the implementation of the city-specific action plans under this programme, for reducing air pollution by up to 40 per cent by FY26.**
- NCAP focuses on the preparation and implementation of national-level action plans, state-level action plans, and city-level action plans for the targeted 131 cities.

## 6. Index of Industrial production jumps to five month high by 5.7% in July 2023

- The index of industrial production jumped to five month high.
- **As per the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation data, IIP grew by 5.7 percent in July this year as compared to 3.7 percent in June 2023. It was 2.2 percent in July 2022.**
- Manufacturing sector having 77 percent weightage in IIP grew by 4.6 percent.
- Basic Metal sector climbed 12.8 percent, Mining output rose by 10.7 percent and Electricity grew by 8 percent for July 2023.

## 7. Fitch retains India's FY24 growth forecast at 6.3% flags inflation risks

- Fitch Ratings retained India's growth forecast for the current fiscal at 6.3 per cent citing economic resilience despite tighter monetary policy and exports weakness, but upped year-end inflation projection on El Nino threat.
- The Indian economy grew 7.8 per cent in the April-June quarter of current fiscal on strong services sector activity and robust demand.

## 8. Infosys only Indian company in top 100 TIME World's Best Companies list

- IT major Infosys is the only Indian company to feature in the top 100 list of the World's Best Companies of 2023 released by TIME Magazine and online data platform Statista. Microsoft, Apple, and Alphabet (Google owner) are top 3 in the list while India's Infosys was ranked 64th with an overall score of 88.38 out of 100.
- Sustainability-wise, Infosys was ranked 135th while in terms of employee satisfaction the company's rank was

103rd. As per TIME Magazine, the growth rate of the company has been high. Infosys was among the top 3 professional services companies in the world.

- **"Microsoft, Apple, Alphabet (the company that owns Google) and Meta Platforms (formerly Facebook) were the top four companies in a new statistical ranking of 750 of the world's best companies by Statista and TIME, which are based on a formula of revenue growth, employee satisfaction surveys, and rigorous environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG, or sustainability) data,"** Time Magazine said in a release.
- In the list of 750 companies, 7 companies were also listed apart from Infosys. Big Tech major Wipro was on 174th rank in the list while Anand Mahindra-led Mahindra Group was on 210th rank. Reliance Industries was at 248th rank, HCL Technologies at 262nd rank, HDFC Bank at 418th rank, WNS Global Services at 596th rank, and finally ITC at 672nd rank.

## 9. Bank Lending To NBFCs Jumps 23.6% In July To '13.8 Lakh Crore: Care Edge Report

- Banks' credit exposure to non-banking financial companies rose 23.6% on-year to '13.8 lakh crore in July, pushing up their overall share to 9.3% during the month, an analysis of the RBI's monthly data by Care Edge showed.
- However, NBFCs' overall borrowings on a month-on-month basis declined 3.3%, primarily due to the merger of HDFC with its subsidiary HDFC Bank from July 1.

## 10. 6th Edition of the 'NeSDA ' Way Forward Monthly Report for States/UTs' released

- Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) has released the sixth edition of National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) ' Way forward Monthly Report for States/UTs, which provides a detailed overview of status of e-service delivery across States/UTs.
- Jammu & Kashmir (1028) provides the maximum number of e-services.

### Key highlights of the Report for the month of August, 2023 are as follows:e-Services

- **14,736** e-services are provided across States/UTs, which is an **increase of 6.2%** (869) services from July Report
- **1,505** out of 2,016 mandatory e-services (56\*36 States/UTs) are available, making saturation at **74.6%**
- Maximum number of e-services (**5,502**) lie in sector – local governance & utility services
- **61%** i.e., 22 out 36 States/UTs have achieved saturation of **mandatory e-services in tourism** sector. This is followed by environment sector 53% i.e., 19 out of 36 States/UTs
- **Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala and Odisha** provide **100%** of their services through their identified Single Unified Service Delivery Portal i.e., **e-UNNAT (1028), e-Sevanam (911) and Odisha One (404)**, respectively

### e-Services in Labour and Employment Sector

- **1,368 e-services** are mapped under labour and employment sector
- Identified sub-themes of e-services under labour and employment sector are
  - 413 e-services under **Industry/Factory**

- 362 e-services under **Workers and Labour Acts**
- 297 e-services under **Employment related**
- 276 e-services under **Labour Scheme Beneficiaries**
- 20 e-services under **Other**
- **Haryana** provides the **maximum e-services** in the sector (**149**), which is followed by **Tamil Nadu (96) and Jharkhand (89)**
- **Out of 26 types of distinct e-services identified** under the sector, **Haryana (21)** provides the maximum types of e-services and is followed by **Meghalaya (19)**

### Best Practices

- The **Government of Bihar** has launched a web-based **Child Labour Tracking System (CLTS)** which facilitates case management of rescued child labourers
- The **Government of Gujarat** has built **Anubandham**, that allows job seekers and job providers to connect through auto-matching, in a transparent and user-friendly manner
- The **Government of Rajasthan** provides the single view of offerings of Rajasthan Single Sign On, Factories and Boilers Inspection Department, and the Government of India's Ministry of Labour & Employment, on a unified platform
- The **Government of Uttarakhand** provides employment opportunity to the unemployed youth in Uttarakhand through **Rojgar Prayag** portal

## 11. Over 1 million new EPF subscribers registered in July: NSO data

- Over 10 lakh people joined the organised work force during July, according to



latest data from the National Statistical Office(NSO),Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

- **According to this data, number of new Employee Provident Fund(EPF)subscribers during July 2023 stood at 1,027,145,which included 752,164 male members & 274,967 female members & 12 from others.**
- The report, 'State of Working India 2023: Social Identities and Labour Market Outcomes' by Bengaluru-based Azim Premji University, said that a large variation in the rate of unemployment exists even among people with higher education, though post-covid figures remain below the pre-covid levels.
- It cited data from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (2021-22), which is carried out by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

## 12. UPI transactions surged to 9.3 billion in June 2023, driven by P2M, says Worldline report

- The United Payments Interface (UPI) transactions in India surged by 62% in the first half of 2023 compared to the same period last year. The UPI transactions reached 9.3 billion in June 2023, up from 151 million in January 2018, primarily driven by the growth in Person-to-Merchant (P2M) transactions, a report by the global payments service provider Worldline revealed.
- Out of the total 51.91 billion UPI transactions conducted between January and June this year, 29.15 billion were P2M payments, accounting for approximately 56.1% of the total. In January 2022, P2M transactions accounted for 40.3% of all UPI transactions compared to 57.5% in June

2023, the Worldline's report India Digital Payments Report for H1 2023' said.

- The remaining transactions, grew from 18.62 billion transactions in H1'22 to 22.75 billion in H1'23; a 22% increase. During the same period, the value of P2P transactions grew from '45.52 trillion to '63.99, a 41% increase.
- The report noted that three UPI apps -- PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm-- accounted for 95.68% of all transactions in terms of transaction volume, in June 2023, compared to 94.55% a year before. In terms of transaction value, the 3 accounted for 93.65% in June 2023 compared to 93.38% in June 2022.

## 13. India Ageing Report 2023 Unveils Critical Insights into Elderly Care in India

- UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) India, in collaboration with the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), unveiled the highly anticipated "India Ageing Report 2023." This report sheds light on the challenges, opportunities and institutional responses surrounding elderly care in India, as India navigates a demographic shift towards an ageing population.
- The India Ageing Report 2023 represents a thorough review of the living conditions and welfare of older individuals in India. It leverages the latest data available from the Longitudinal Ageing Survey in India (LASI), 2017–18, Census of India, Population Projections by the Government of India (2011–2036) and World Population Prospects 2022 by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs to provide an up-to-date perspective.
- India will age rapidly in the coming decades. **By 2050, the share of the**



#### **elderly in India's total population can reach more than 20 per cent, according to the *India Ageing Report 2023***

- As of July 1, 2022, the number of people above 60 years of age, that is, the elderly, in India was 149 million, which was 10.5 per cent of India's population. By 2050, 20.8 per cent or 347 million Indians will be senior citizens. This number will reach over 36 per cent by century-end.
- The number of elderly will also be higher in proportion to the number of children aged 0-14 years. The number of working age people in the age group of 15-59 years will decrease. Also, women will live longer than men, due to which the number of older women will be more than older men. A large number of them will be rural women.
- **Population statistics usually refer to the population aged 60 or 65 years and above as 'old'.**
- The percentage of the elderly in India has been increasing rapidly in recent years and this trend is likely to continue in the coming decades as well, according to the *India Ageing Report 2023*.
- It noted that the decadal increase in India's elderly population since 1961 was medium to high. This pace was slow until 2001 but is expected to spike in the coming decades
- According to the report, in India, a man aged 60 years can live another 18.3 years, while women can live 19 years. Apart from this, it also depends on the different life expectancy of the states. In Kerala and Himachal Pradesh, women can be up to 4 years more than men.

#### **14. IISc Bangalore tops 91 Indian universities in Times Higher Education's World University Rankings 2024**

- A record number of Indian universities featured in the latest Times Higher Education's World University Rankings 2024 and India's top ranked Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore has returned to the global top 250, coming in the 201-250 band, for the first time since 2017.
- The list released has an unprecedented 91 Indian institutions, up from 19 in 2016.
- **University of Oxford, Stanford University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology are the top three universities in the global rankings.**
- Apart from IISc, India has four universities in the top 600 which include Anna University, Jamia Millia Islamia, Mahatma Gandhi University (501–600), Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences (501–600).
- **The indicators were grouped into five pillars--teaching, research quality, research environment, international outlook and industry.**

#### **15. India slips one notch to 87th out of 165 countries on economic freedom index**

- **The 'Economic Freedom of the World: 2021 Annual Report' by Canada's Fraser Institute has been released in India in conjunction with New Delhi-based think tank Centre For Civil Society.**
- According to the report, Singapore topped the index. It was followed by Hong Kong, Switzerland, New Zealand, the US, Ireland, Denmark, Australia, the UK, and Canada.
- **India has fallen one notch to the 87th position out of 165 countries on the economic freedom index.** The country was at the 86th spot in previous year's rankings.

- India has been ranked higher than China, which stands at the 111th position.
- **Venezuela is ranked last.**
- India reported marginal increase in the size of government (7.64 from 7.57) and and regulation of credit, labour and

business (5.98 from 5.96), while it was down slightly in legal system and property rights (5.29 from 5.3) and freedom to trade internationally (6.19 from 6.27).



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## Important Days

### 1. Ministry of Education observes Literacy Week from 1st to 8th September 2023 under ULLAS

- The Government of India has decided to organise a literacy week from 1st September to 8th September 2023 to celebrate International Literacy Day for generating awareness among all the stakeholders/ beneficiaries/ citizens about the ULLAS- Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram.
- This vision would popularise the scheme and help attain the goal of making India fully literate.
- The week-long literacy campaign shall enable mass participation to inculcate a sense of *Kartavyabodh* and *Janbhagidari* in each and every citizen of the nation.
- A Centrally Sponsored Scheme **ULLAS- Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram** on Education for All (erstwhile termed as Adult Education), was approved by Government of India for implementation during **FYs 2022-27** in alignment with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The Scheme has five components, namely (i) Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, (ii) Critical Life Skills, (iii) Basic Education, (iv) Vocational Skills, (v) Continuing Education.

### 2. Teachers' Day | 5 September

- Teacher's Day is celebrated every year on September 5 to honour and celebrate our teachers.
- This day is also celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of former President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan who was a scholar and a teacher.

- The first Teachers' Day was celebrated in 1962 when Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was appointed as the second President of India.

### 3. International Literacy Day | 8 September

- To signify the role of literacy and education in one's life, the world observes International Literacy Day every year on September 8.
- The day reminds us of the importance of personal development, literacy, and progress of society.
- The day was first time observed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).
- The idea of International Literacy day was first mentioned at the World Conference of Ministers of Education on the Eradication of Illiteracy.
- The conference was held in Tehran, Iran in 1965. The conference served as a fertile ground for the germination of an idea of a special day dedicated to promoting literacy on a global scale.
- Later, UNESCO officially declared September 8 as International Literacy Day.
- The day was announced during 14th UNESCO General Conference in 1966.
- A year later, the world celebrated its first International Literacy Day on September 8, 1966.

### 4. International Day to Protect Education from Attack | 9 September

- The day was established by a unanimous decision of the UN General Assembly, calling on UNESCO and UNICEF to raise awareness of the plight of millions of

children living in countries affected by conflict.

- The resolution proclaiming the Day was presented by the State of Qatar and co-sponsored by 62 countries. 9 September 2020 marked the first observation of the day.

### 5. World Suicide Prevention Day | 10 September

- World Suicide Prevention Day was established in 2003 by the International Association for Suicide Prevention in conjunction with the World Health Organization (WHO).
- The 10 September each year aims to focus attention on the issue, reduces stigma and raises awareness among organizations, governments, and the public, giving a singular message that suicides are preventable.
- **“Creating Hope Through Action”** is the triennial theme for the World Suicide Prevention Day from 2021-2023.

### 6. Hindi Diwas | 14 September

- Indians on 14 September celebrate National 'Hindi Diwas'.
- On this day in 1949, the Hindi language was adopted as one of the official languages of the Republic of India.
- Written in the Devanagari script, the Constitution of India accepted Hindi language as the official language of India on 14 September 1949.

### 7. Engineers' Day | 15 September

- National Engineers' Day is observed annually on September 15 in India, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania.
- The day is observed on the birth anniversary of eminent engineer M Visvesvaraya.

- Visvesvaraya is regarded as one of the foremost civil engineers.
- He is also often regarded as the maker of modern Mysore.
- In 1968, the Government of India decided to commemorate the birth anniversary of Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, one of India's greatest minds.

### 8. International Day for Interventional Cardiology | 16 September

- **In September 2022, the General Assembly decided to proclaim 16 September as International Day for Interventional Cardiology. The first coronary angioplasty was performed by Dr. Andreas Grntzig on 16 September 1970**
- The General Assembly decided to proclaim 16 September as International Day for Interventional Cardiology and invited stakeholders to observe annually the International Day for Interventional Cardiology in an appropriate manner and in accordance with national priorities, in order to raise public awareness of cardiovascular diseases and procedures, related complications, as well as prevention and care, including through education and the mass media.

### 9. International Day for Preservation of Ozone Layer | 16 September

- In 1994, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 16 September the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, commemorating the date of the signing, in 1987, of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.
- On 16th September 2009, the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol



became the first treaties in the history of the United Nations to achieve universal ratification.

- **Kigali Amendment**
- The Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer reached agreement at their 28th Meeting of the Parties on 15 October 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda to phase-down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

#### 10. Liberation Day | 17 September

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrived in Hyderabad to attend the celebrations of 'Hyderabad Liberation Day' on 17 September. The Central Government is holding the event at the Parade Grounds in Secunderabad to celebrate 'liberation day'.
- This was the day in 1948 when the erstwhile princely State of Hyderabad acceded to the Indian Union after Operation Polo.

#### 11. World Patient Safety Day | 17 September

- World Patient Safety Day calls for global solidarity and concerted action by all countries and international partners to improve patient safety.
- The Day brings together patients, families, caregivers, communities, health workers, health care leaders and policy-makers to show their commitment to patient safety.
- The resolution WHA 72.6 'Global action on patient safety' recognizes patient safety as a global health priority and endorses the establishment of World Patient Safety Day to be observed annually on 17 September.

#### 12. International Day of Peace | 21 September

- **The International Day of Peace is observed globally on September 21.**
- It aims to promote peace while ceasing violence and conflicts worldwide where each year, the United Nations selects a theme for this day that focuses on specific aspects of peace-building and conflict resolution.
- The International Day of Peace is often associated with a dove and the olive branch symbols where the dove represents peace and freedom, while the olive branch has been a traditional symbol of peace dating back to ancient times.
- The first International Day of Peace was celebrated on September 21, 1982 and marked a significant step towards promoting peace and raising awareness about the importance of peacekeeping efforts around the world but it was later in 2001 that the official date was declared as September 21.

#### 13. International Day of Sign Languages | September 23

- The International Day of Sign Languages is observed on 23 September, every year because the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) was established on this date in 1951.
- This day was first celebrated in 2018 during International Week of the Deaf.
- **Theme for 2023: A World Where Deaf People Everywhere Can Sign Anywhere!**

#### 14. World Day of the Deaf | September 24

- The World Day of the Deaf is observed on every last Sunday of September. This year, the World Day of the Deaf will be observed on September 24, 2023. The day is dedicated to the deaf community worldwide.

- The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) initiated the World Day of the Deaf in 1958.
- **The theme for the World Deaf Day 2023 is "Ear and Hearing Care for All".**
- WFD is an international non-governmental organisation that represents approximately 70 million deaf people worldwide.
- The WFD has a consultative status in the United Nations and is a founding member of the International Disability Alliance (IDA). They promote the human rights of deaf people in accordance with the principles and objectives of the United Nations Charter, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and other Human Rights Treaties.

### 15. World Rivers Day 2023 | 24th September

- World Rivers Day takes place on the fourth Sunday in September each year and this year it will be marked on September 24.
- The first World Rivers Day was observed in 2005, following the launch that year of the Water for Life Decade by the United Nations. The proposal for such a celebration was initiated by renowned Canadian river advocate Mark Angelo.
- **The 2023 theme for World Rivers Day is once again "waterways in our communities."**

### 16. World Pharmacists Day 2023 | 25 September

- World Pharmacist Day is celebrated each year, on September 25, 2023, as a dedicated occasion to recognize and

honour pharmacists for their significant contributions to improving global health.

- **The theme of World Pharmacist Day for this year is "Pharmacy Strengthening Health Systems."**
- The history of World Pharmacist Day dates back to its inception at the 2009 International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Congress held in Istanbul, Turkey.
- This special day was established to underscore the vital significance of pharmacists and pharmacy professionals in the realm of healthcare.

### 17. Antyodaya Diwas 2023

- India celebrates Antyodaya Diwas annually on September 25 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.
- He was a co-founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS) and a thinker of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). Upadhyaya is also known for his efforts to uplift the poor and less fortunate, and so his birth anniversary is celebrated on Antyodaya. Prime Minister Modi declared this day a national holiday in 2014
- Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya was born in Mathura on 25 September 1916. In honour of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's birth anniversary, Indian Prime Minister Modi declared this day a national holiday in 2014. He died in 1968 near the Mughalsarai Junction railway station. The UP government later changed the name of the station to 'Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction' in 2018. On this day in 2014, the Ministry of Rural Development re-introduced Aajeevika Skills, a skill development programme under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM). It was later

renamed Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-NRLM in November 2015.

### 18. World Tourism Day | 27 September

- World Tourism Day is celebrated on September 27. This day highlights the significance of tourism in fostering cultural exchange, economic growth and sustainable development.
- **The theme for World Tourism Day 2023 is 'Tourism and Green Investments'.**
- World Tourism Day was established by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in 1980.

### 19. World Maritime Day | 28 September

- World Maritime Day is observed every year on the last Thursday of September. This year it will be observed globally on September 28. The day, which is observed to recognise the contribution of people engaged in the maritime industry, also aims to draw public attention towards various issues related to the industry such as shipping, marine trade and environmental causes. World Maritime Day was established by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
- **According to the International Maritime Organization, the World Maritime Day theme for 2023 is 'MARPOL at 50 – Our commitment goes on'.**
- In 1948, an international conference in Geneva passed a resolution that led to the foundation of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to look after the business and operations in the maritime industry. The organisation's role was aimed at looking after technological collaboration, environmental regulation, and legal issues, and to ensure safety for every

member of the workforce. World Maritime Day was observed for the first time on March 17, 1978, to celebrate the establishment of the IMO Convention.

### 20. International Day for Universal Access to Information | 28 September

- On 17 November 2015, UNESCO declared 28 September as International Day for Universal Access to Information.
- Considering that several civil society organizations and government bodies in the world have adopted and currently celebrate this observance, the UN General Assembly also adopted 28 September 2019 as the International Day for Universal Access to Information.
- **The theme for International Day for Universal Access to Information 2023 is "The importance of online space for access to information"**

### 21. International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste | 29 September

- On 29 September, the international community celebrates the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, recognizing the fundamental role that sustainable food production plays in promoting food security and nutrition.
- **The theme for 2023 is 'Reducing food loss and waste: Taking Action to Transform Food Systems'.**
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – specifically **SDG 12, target 12.3** – calls for halving per-capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reducing food losses along production and supply chains.

## 22. World Heart Day | 29 September

- World Heart Day is observed on September 29 every year to raise awareness about heart disease and preventive measures that can help prevent and manage cardiovascular diseases.
- It was established by the World Heart Federation in 1999.
- **The theme for the World Heart Day 2023 is "Use Heart, Know Heart."**

## 23. International Translation Day | 30th September

- Every year on September 30, the world observes International Translation Day in honor of Saint Jerome, the Bible translator.
- In a world as diverse as ours, where language can be a barrier, translation emerges as a vital bridge facilitating understanding and communication among people of different tongues.



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## Summit & Conferences

### 1. Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurates International Aerospace Conference jointly organized by MoCA and CII

- Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurated the 'International Aerospace Conference: Moving Towards Inclusive Global Value Chains'.
- It was jointly organised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on 1st and 2nd September 2023 in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- The International Aerospace Conference is a G20 initiative in the aerospace sector under G20 and B20 priority, focusing on developing inclusive global value chains for Global trade and Investment and aims to promote and strengthen trade and investment among the G20 countries.

### 2. NTPC to host conference on 'Green Hydrogen Pilots in India' on side-lines of G20 Summit

- On the side-lines of G20 Summit, NTPC shall host a day-long conference on Green Hydrogen Pilots in India at India Habitat Centre in Delhi
- This event shall showcase various Green Hydrogen Pilots being implemented by both public and private sector companies
- It will also serve as a platform to showcase the pioneering innovative pilots and progress in green hydrogen technology

### 3. G20 leaders endorse FSB recommendations on regulation of crypto assets

- The G20 member nations have endorsed the Financial Stability Board's (FSB) recommendations on regulating crypto assets to mitigate associated risks.
- The leaders have called for effective and consistent implementation of these recommendations globally. They have also welcomed the IMF-FSB Synthesis Paper and the shared work plan for crypto assets.
- The Synthesis Paper: Policies for Crypto-Assets was prepared by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Finance Stability Board (FSB) at the request of the Indian G20 presidency.  
The Financial Stability Board (FSB) is an international body that monitors and makes recommendations about the global financial system.

### 4. G20 Declaration: Members agree not to impose export curbs in agri, food, fertilisers

- The G20 leaders have committed to facilitate "open, fair, predictable, and rules-based" trade in agriculture, food, and fertilizers and not impose export curbs in line with relevant WTO rules.
- Adopting the New Delhi Declaration of G20, the member countries also committed to supporting developing countries' efforts and capacities to address their food security challenges.
- Besides free trade, the G20 leaders committed to track two more commodities, fertiliser and vegetable oils, under the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) and the Group on Earth Observations Global Agricultural Monitoring (GEOGLAM) for greater transparency to avoid food price volatility.

- AMIS, which currently tracks four crops - rice, wheat, corn and soya. It is for the first time, that AMIS will track crop input fertiliser in view of recent volatility in global prices.

#### **5. President Droupadi Murmu to inaugurate first Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights in New Delhi**

- President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate the first Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights' in New Delhi.
- Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ministry said eminent scientists, farmers, and resource persons from 59 countries across the globe will participate in the programme. Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar
- They will deliberate upon the pivotal issues related to Farmers' Rights as enshrined in Article 9 of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
- India has been the first country in the world to include Farmers' Rights in the context of Plant Variety Registration through its Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001.

#### **6. India-UK hold 12th Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) in New Delhi**

- The 12th Round of Ministerial India-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue was held in New Delhi.
- The focus of the dialogue was also towards enhancement of the knowledge exchange, cooperation and support between India and UK to further the infrastructure development priorities, robust FinTech partnership and Sustainable Finance towards long-term growth objectives.

- Both sides also deliberated on enhancing mutual cooperation on macroeconomic and multilateral issues. The two countries announced the India-UK Infrastructure Finance Bridge, a collaborative initiative to leverage expertise and investment in support of India's National Infrastructure Pipeline.

#### **7. Fourth G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group Meeting begins in Varanasi**

- The 4th G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group Meeting begun today in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh to finalize the 2023 G20 Sustainable Finance Report.
- Three priority areas have been outlined for the SFWG meeting.
- The two-day meeting under India's G20 Presidency brings together over 80 delegates from G20 member countries, special invitee countries and International Organisations.
- The first one is Mechanisms for mobilization of timely and adequate resources for climate finance.
- The second issue which is being discussed is enabling finance for the Sustainable Development Goals. The last topic is Capacity building of the ecosystem for financing toward sustainable development.

#### **8. IICA and UNICEF jointly organize workshop on Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR)**

- Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), organised a workshop on Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) in collaboration with UNICEF and National Stock Exchange at the NSE premises in Mumbai.

- The workshop aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the BRSR framework.
- The BRSR framework is a mandatory disclosure mechanism for top 1000 listed companies or businesses to report their performance on environmental, social and governance (ESG) aspects and demonstrate their commitment to responsible business practices.
- The workshop also covered various topics such as CSR & ESG as tools for establishing responsible brands, effective BRSR disclosures, digital tools, IT portal/software for BRSR and the application of family-friendly policies in business.
- The workshop enabled the participants to enhance their knowledge and skills in BRSR and its implementation.

#### **9. Fourth G20 Global Partnership For Financial Inclusion Meeting is scheduled to be held during 14 ' 16 September 2023 in Mumbai**

- The Fourth G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI) Meeting is being held in Mumbai from September 14-16, 2023.
- The meeting will bring together over 50 delegates from G20 member countries, special invitee countries and International Organisations.
- The meeting will involve discussions on ongoing work of the financial inclusion agenda under G20 India Presidency in areas of Digital Financial Inclusion and SME Finance.

#### **10. Fourth G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion Meeting concludes in Mumbai**

- The Fourth G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI) Meeting, which

was held in Mumbai from September 14-16, 2023, concluded.

- The three day meeting saw G20 GPFI delegates engaging over thought provoking discussions on energizing growth for MSMEs, empowering consumers through digital financial literacy and consumer protection as well as key priority areas of GPFI, namely, digital financial inclusion and SME Finance.

#### **11. President Droupadi Murmu to inaugurate conference of National Human Rights Institutions of Asia Pacific region in New Delhi**

- President Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated the conference of National Human Rights Institutions of the Asia Pacific region at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- The two-day conference will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and 30 years of National Human Rights Institutions and the Paris Principles.

#### **12. India wins bid to host 17th International Congress on the Chemistry of Cement**

- India has won the bid to host the prestigious International Congress on the Chemistry of Cement (ICCC) at New Delhi in 2027.
- The International Congress on the Chemistry of Cement is the largest and most prestigious event of its kind which reviews the progress of research in the area of Cement and Concrete.
- The congresses have been held generally at intervals of four to six years since 1918, providing a strong and fruitful link between the academic world and the cement industry.

- The 9th Congress was organized at New Delhi in 1992 by NCCBM and the present 16th ICCB is being held at Bangkok, Thailand from 18-22 September 2023.

### 13. 4th Nadi Utsav commences at IGNCA in New Delhi

- The 4th Nadi Utsav commenced at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) in New Delhi.
- The river-themed event will focus on Yamuna this year.
- The three-day event from September 22 to 24th, will feature a wide range of programs including Cultural Performances, book fair, documentary film festival and a puppet show.
- The fourth 'Nadi Utsav' is being organized by the National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM) of IGNCA and the Janapada Sampada Division, scheduled from September 22nd to September 24th, 2023. This year's 'Nadi Utsav' will be hosted in Delhi situated on the banks of River Yamuna.

### 14. PM inaugurates 'International Lawyers' Conference 2023' in New Delhi

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'International Lawyers' Conference 2023' at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- International Lawyer's Conference 2023 is being organized by the Bar Council of India on the theme 'Emerging Challenges in Justice Delivery System' on 23rd - 24th September, 2023.
- The conference is being organized for the first time in India.

### 15. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates Bharat Drone Shakti show at Hindan airbase

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday inaugurated the Bharat Drone Shakti-2023 exhibition at the Hindan Air Base in Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad.
- The mega drone show is being hosted by the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Drone Federation of India (DFI).

### 16. Dy Chairman of Rajya Sabha Harivansh to lead delegation of 9th BRICS Parliamentary Forum to be held in South Africa

- Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman, Harivansh Narayan Singh will lead a delegation of the Parliament at the 9th BRICS Parliamentary Forum in Johannesburg from September 27-29.
- The main theme of the BRICS Parliamentary Forum is harnessing Multilateralism and Parliamentary Diplomacy to deepen BRICS and Africa Partnership.
- BRICS Parliamentary Forum is an important element of BRICS. ***The 1st BRICS Parliamentary Forum was held during Russia's Chairmanship on June 8, 2015 in Moscow.***
- The BRICS Parliamentary Forum, an embodiment of collaboration between the National Congress of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the Parliament of the Republic of Bharat, the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, and the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, stands as a testament to shared commitment to strengthening diplomatic ties and fostering cooperation on multiple fronts.
- South Africa assumed the BRICS Chairmanship in January 2023 based on the governance principle of chairmanship rotation. About 250 parliamentary delegates from BRICS



Member States - Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa - are expected to

attend the event which will be held at Emperors Palace in Kempton Park.



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## Science & Technology

### 1. Global Fund secures deal to slash HIV treatment price

- The Global Fund has announced a deal with generic pharmaceutical manufacturers to significantly slash the price of a cutting-edge HIV drug to battle AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.
- The agreement would make it possible to provide the advanced pill known as TLD (combination pill of three medicines for HIV, tenofovir-lamivudine-dolutegravir) for under \$45 per person per year.
- The World Health Organization has recommended it as the preferred first-line HIV treatment for adults and adolescents since it rapidly suppresses the virus that causes AIDS.

### 2. The launch of Aditya-L1 by PSLV-C57 accomplished successfully

- Aditya L1 shall be the first space based Indian mission to study the Sun. The spacecraft shall be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system, which is about 1.5 million km from the Earth.
- The PSLV-C57.1 rocket carrying the Aditya-L1 orbiter lifted off successfully from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- The largest and technically most challenging payload on Aditya-L1 is the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph or VELC. VELC was integrated, tested, and calibrated at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics' CREST (Centre for Research and Education in Science Technology) campus in Hosakote in collaboration with ISRO.

- *The first Earth-bound manoeuvre (EBN#1) was performed successfully from The ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network Work (ISTRAC) in Bengaluru (on Sep 3rd at 11:45am). The new orbit attained is 245km x 22459 km.*
- The major science objectives of Aditya-L1 mission are:
- Study of Solar upper atmospheric (chromosphere and corona) dynamics.
- Study of chromospheric and coronal heating, physics of the partially ionized plasma, initiation of the coronal mass ejections, and flares
- Observe the in-situ particle and plasma environment providing data for the study of particle dynamics from the Sun.
- Physics of solar corona and its heating mechanism.
- Diagnostics of the coronal and coronal loops plasma: Temperature, velocity and density.
- Development, dynamics and origin of CMEs.
- Identify the sequence of processes that occur at multiple layers (chromosphere, base and extended corona) which eventually leads to solar eruptive events.
- Magnetic field topology and magnetic field measurements in the solar corona .
- Drivers for space weather (origin, composition and dynamics of solar wind

### 3. GalaxEye unveils drone-based high resolution all-weather imaging system

- **Space start-up GalaxEye has unveiled a high resolution aerial drone-based Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) system.**
- The cutting edge system can perform exceptionally detailed and high

resolution all-weather imaging, even amidst rainy or cloudy conditions.

- The in-house developed data fusion technology will deliver unprecedented insights and data from space, empowering satellite constellations to conduct all-weather imaging without succumbing to the atmospheric hindrances that plague current single-sensor satellites, it said.

#### **4. IIT Jodhpur team develops novel device for improving indoor air quality**

- A team of researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jodhpur has developed a novel device for good indoor air quality.
- The new device based on Cold-plasma Detergent in Environment (CODE) technology is capable of deactivating more than 99.99 per cent of harmful pathogens and provides quality indoor air.
- The technology aims to deal with both aerosol transport and aerosol infectivity simultaneously in the indoor environment and proactively treat the air in the occupied space at the source of contamination. The concept is based on non-equilibrium cold plasma in combination with nano-technology.
- The device produces optimum concentrations of negative ions having cold-plasma detergent ions as well as positive ions in the environment similar to mother nature.
- It consumes less power, deactivates bacteria, moulds and viruses, captures dust and pollen, reduces volatile organic compounds and also removes odours.
- The technology was developed by Divya Plasma Solutions -- a startup incubated at IIT Jodhpur's Technology Innovation and Start-up Centre (TISC).

#### **5. Country's first underground power transformer in Bengaluru installed**

- Energy Minister KJ George inaugurated the country's first underground transformer center in the state capital Bengaluru.
- It has been set up at 15th Avenue, Malleswaram in collaboration with BESCOM and BBMP at a cost of Rs 1.98 crore.
- This is a transformer of 500 KVA capacity. Only Western countries have power transformer underground stations.
- For the safety and convenience of the people, a room is constructed below the earth, in which a 30 mm cement block is constructed and electrical transformers are installed on it.
- Presently, the converter is installed at a depth of 10 feet from the top of the road in this center which is established in Malleswaram. Electricity related works are done by BESCOM and civil works by BBMP.
- This station has 500 KVA capacity oil free transformer, 8 way solid site ring main unit, 5-way LT distribution box, UPS, water pump and air control system. BBMP has given Rs 64 lakh for civil works. A BESCOM official said that the project was completed in 365 days.

#### **6. Aditya L1 spacecraft successfully completes fourth earth-bound orbit manoeuvre**

- **India's first space-based mission to study the Sun, Aditya L1 spacecraft successfully underwent the fourth earth-bound manoeuvre.**
- With the completion of four earth-bound orbital manoeuvres, Aditya-L1 will next undergo a Trans-Lagrangian1 ion manoeuvre, marking the beginning of its



nearly 110-day trajectory to the destination around the L1 Lagrange point.

- Aditya-L1 is the first Indian space-based observatory to study the Sun from a halo orbit around the first Sun-Earth Lagrangian point (L1), which is located roughly 1.5 million km from the Earth. A spacecraft placed in the halo orbit around the L1 point has the major advantage of continuously viewing the Sun without any occultation or eclipses. This will provide a greater advantage in observing solar activities and their effect on space weather in real-time.

#### 7. ISRO successfully performed a key manoeuvre of its solar mission Aditya-L1

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) today successfully performed a key manoeuvre of its solar mission Aditya-L1.**
- The Trans-Lagrangian Point 1 Insertion manoeuvre marks the beginning of the spacecraft's about 110-day trajectory to the destination around the L1 Lagrange point, a balanced gravitational location between the Earth and the Sun.
- The spacecraft is now on a trajectory that will take it to the Sun-Earth L1 point.
- It will be injected into an orbit around L1 through a maneuver after about 110 days
- Aditya-L1 is the first Indian space-based observatory to study the Sun from a halo orbit around first Sun-Earth Lagrangian point (L1), located roughly 1.5 million km from earth. The Sun is a giant sphere of gas, and Aditya-L1 will study the outer atmosphere of the Sun.

#### 8. IISER Bhopal Scientists Carry Out 1st Ever Genome Sequencing Of Medicinal Plant Amla

- **Scientists at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhopal (IISER-Bhopal) have carried out the genome sequencing of the medicinal plant of amla for the first time.**
- The genome sequencing refers to the mapping out of the order of the genetic structure of any organism. The process is key to understanding the basic structure of any organism and its evolution.
- The amla plant is indigenous to South Asia and has been used in the Indian and Chinese traditional medicine for centuries. It is high in Vitamin-C and a rich source of various phytochemicals, minerals, and amino acids.
- While these pharmaceutical and nutritional importance of Amla have been known for a long time, its genetic composition had hitherto not been studied in detail, noted a press release by IISER-Bhopal.

#### 9. Google unveils new subsea cable system to boost internet infrastructure

- Google announced a new transatlantic subsea cable system to connect Portugal, Bermuda, and the US, as the tech giant aims to boost its internet infrastructure.
- **Called Nuvem and named after the Portuguese word for "cloud," Nuvem will improve network resiliency across the Atlantic, helping meet growing demand for digital services. Nuvem is expected to be ready for service in 2026.**
- Expected to be ready for service in 2026, Nuvem will add capacity, increase reliability, and decrease latency for Google users and Google Cloud customers around the world.



#### 10. Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy launches 5G training labs and 5G applications in all North Eastern States

- The Minister for Development of North East Region, Tourism, and Culture, G. Kishan Reddy, virtually launched India's first 5G training labs and 5G

applications in Health sector in all the North Eastern States.

- The Project is Centrally Funded through North East Council (NEC) and being implemented by Assam Electronic Development Corporation, a PSU of Assam government.

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## Defence

### 1. India's new warship Mahendragiri launched in Mumbai

- The warship 'Mahendragiri' built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited has launched in Mumbai.
- The warship has been named after a mountain peak in the Eastern Ghats located in the state of Orissa.
- Mahendragiri is a technologically advanced warship and stands as a symbol of India's determination to embrace its rich naval heritage.

### 2. Hyderabad Firm Grene Robotics Unveils India's First AI-Powered Anti-Drone System 'Indrajaal'

- Hyderabad-based private firm, Grene Robotics, has demonstrated a weapons platform named Indrajaal, which it calls the world's only autonomous wide area, counter-unmanned aircraft system (C-UAS).
- Claimed to be the world's only anti-drone system capable of protecting against micro, mini, small, large and extra-large drones, this marks a breakthrough in Indian defence sector.
- Indrajaal was unveiled in the presence of Lieutenant General Gurmit Singh, the governor of Uttarakhand

### 3. IAF, Drone Federation of India to co-host Bharat Drone Shakti 2023

- The Indian Air Force (IAF), recognizing the potential of indigenous drone design and development, is collaborating with the Drone Federation of India to jointly host 'Bharat Drone Shakti 2023.'
- This event, scheduled for September 25th and 26th, will take place at the IAF's

Hindan airbase in Ghaziabad and will feature live aerial demonstration

### 4. 21st edition India France bilateral naval exercise 'VARUNA' ' 2023

- The second phase of the Indian and French Navy's bilateral exercise, Varuna-23, took place in the Arabian Sea. The exercise involved guided missile frigates, a tanker, maritime patrol aircraft, and helicopters from both sides. The first phase of 'Varuna-2023' was conducted off India's Western Seaboard from January 16 to 20, this year.
- The bilateral exercise of the Indian and French navies was initiated in 1993.
- The exercise was later christened as 'Varuna' in 2001 and has since become a hallmark of robust India-France strategic bilateral relationship.

### 5. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to inaugurate 90 critical infrastructure projects worth over 2,900 crore rupees in Samba district

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will inaugurate 90 critical infrastructure projects developed by the Border Roads Organization at a cost of 2,941 crore rupees in Jammu and Kashmir.
- He will physically inaugurate the state of the art 422.9 meter long, Class 70 RCC Devak Bridge on Bishnah-Kaulpur-Phulpur Road in Samba district.
- Defence Minister will also attend three day long prestigious North Tech Symposium- 2023 being hosted by IIT Jammu at its Jagti campus.

## 6. 31 countries participates in Maritime Information Sharing Workshop 2023

- The Maritime Information Sharing Workshop (MISW), hosted by the Information Fusion Centre ' Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) in Gurugram from 14 - 16 Sep 2023, marked a significant milestone in fostering collaboration among maritime security stakeholders in the region.
- The event was inaugurated by **VAdm Sanjay Mahindru, the Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, Indian Navy and brought together 41 delegates from 26 countries, representing both the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the Djibouti Code of Conduct/Jeddah Amendment (DCoC/JA).**
- Day one of the workshop featured a series of enlightening sessions, each designed to provide attendees with a nuanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities in holistic maritime safety and security.
- On the second day of the workshop, participants were introduced to India's two-pronged approach towards maritime security with Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) being a key enabler for national maritime security efforts and Information Fusion Centre ' Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) engaging with regional and international partners for a safe and secure Indian Ocean Region.
- The third and final day of the Maritime Information Sharing Workshop (MISW) 23 was an **exclusive session dedicated to the Djibouti Code of Conduct-Jeddah Amendment (DCoC/JA) countries.** India is an observer nation in this construct and has committed support for capacity building and capability enhancement.

## 7. Coastal security drill 'Operation Sajag' conducted by Indian Coast Guard along the west coast

- Operation Sajag', a drill involving all stakeholders of the coastal security construct, was conducted by the Indian Coast Guard along the west coast.
- The drill facilitates revalidation of the coastal security mechanism and bring awareness among the fishermen at sea.
- During the drill, extensive checking and verification of documents and crew passes of all fishing boats, barges and craft at sea was undertaken. A total of 118 ships including those from Customs, Marine Police, Ports & Indian Navy participated in the drill.

## 8. Government Approves The Purchase Of 12 Su-30 MKI Fighter Jets And Dhruvastra Missiles Made By HAL

- 9 procurement bids totalling around Rs 45,000 crore have been approved by the defence ministry, including one to buy 12 Su-30 MKI fighter jets made by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. Purchasing Dhruvastra air-to-surface missiles and upgrading Dornier planes are also included in the proposals.
- Any defence acquisition project's initial approval is referred to as the AoN. Defence Acquisition Council accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for this acquisition.
- The DAC approved the purchase of Light Armoured Multipurpose Vehicles (LAMV) and Integrated Surveillance and Targeting System (ISAT-S) to improve the protection, mobility, attack capability, and increase survivability of mechanised troops.
- The DAC approved the purchase of High Mobility Vehicle (HMV) gun towing

vehicles as well, allowing for the quick mobilisation and deployment of radars and artillery guns.

- According to the ministry, the DAC also approved the purchase of next-generation survey vessels for the Indian Navy.

### 9. Singapore - India annual Naval Maritime Bilateral Exercise between Indian Navy & Republic of Singapore Navy starts

- The Singapore - India annual Naval Maritime Bilateral Exercise between the Indian Navy and Republic of Singapore

Navy is being held from today till 24 of this month.

- The SIMBEX enhances interoperability and mutual understanding between two navies. The Exercise is conducted in two phases.
- Ranvijay, Kavaratti, and Sindhukesari, Long-Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft P81 participate in the exercise. SIMBEX is the longest naval exercise that Indian Navy has with any other country. Units of both the navies will hone their war-fighting skills with multi-discipline operations jointly in the Maritime domain.

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## Books & Authors

### 1. Shri Apurva Chandra unveils 'People's G20', an eBook on India's G20 Presidency

- Shri Apurva Chandra, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting unveiled 'People's G20', an eBook on India's G20 Presidency in New Delhi.
- The book presents a complete journey of India's G20 Presidency.
- The book consists of three parts, the first part dealing with the monumental G20 Summit that was held between September 9-10, 2023 in New Delhi. The book encapsulates the structure and working of G20 and elaborates on the initiatives that have been taken under India's Presidency of the grouping. The second part provides a summary of the meetings of various Working Groups under the Sherpa and Finance Track along with the meetings of the Engagement Groups that have been held across the country over the last year since India took over as the Chair.
- The last part of the eBook presents a photo essay of the Jan-Bhagidari events that were held across the country in the past year transforming India's G20 Presidency into a people-powered movement.



The advertisement features a woman with long dark hair, wearing a black t-shirt, standing with her arms crossed. She is positioned in front of a large, stylized 'G' and '20' graphic. The background is a gradient of blue and green. The Oliveboard logo is in the top left corner. To the right of the woman, there are two circular callouts: '2000+ MCQs' and '20% OFF'. Below the woman, it says 'GK & GA Expert | Experience: 5+ Years'. The main title 'IBPS PO 2023 Advanced GA Capsule' is prominently displayed in the center. At the bottom, there are four icons representing different features: a laptop for '115+ Total Hrs of Learning + Practice', a calendar for 'Last 6-8 Months of Current Affairs', a bank building for 'Banking & Financial Awareness + Static GK', and a group of people for 'High-Level Qs: Practice + Discussion'.

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## Miscellaneous

### 1. Amazon plans to invest \$3 million in nature-based projects in India

- E-commerce company Amazon is planning to invest \$3 million in nature-based projects in India.
- The investment is part of the company's \$15 million fund it has allocated for nature-based projects in Asia Pacific (APAC).
- Amazon will provide \$1 million to help CWS establish the 'Wild Carbon' program, which will support 10,000 farmers in planting timber and medicinal trees.
- Amazon's \$15 million fund for nature-based projects in APAC is part of its \$100 million Right Now Climate Fund, which was created in 2019, to support nature conservation and restoration projects that enhance climate resilience and biodiversity.

### 2. Vi Foundation unveils 'Donate Book' a tech solution for book donation

- Vi Foundation, the CSR arm of telecom operator Vi, has unveiled a tech solution- Donate Book with the aim to bring together book donors, organisations/schools in need of books and NGOs working for the cause. This initiative is being launched under Vi Foundation's Connecting for Good programme.
- This solution was launched on Teacher's Day in the presence of poet Padma Shri Surender Sharma; Rishabh Jain, content creator, entrepreneur and educator; and P Balaji, director, Vodafone Foundation and chief regulatory and corporate affairs officer, Vodafone Idea.
- On this occasion, Vi Foundation also released 'Teachers Diary' – a collection of true stories of remarkable and inspiring teachers from different parts of India, recognised for their exceptional contribution to education. This book serves as a tribute to teachers all over the country who profoundly impact students' lives and contribute to nation-building.

### 3. Mastercard and Invest India launch enhanced priceless.com programme in India

- Mastercard and Invest India announced the launch of an enhanced priceless.com programme in India.
- Mastercard said the programme is aimed at 'redefining' experiential travel in India and has been launched with the support and guidance from the tourism ministry.
- The priceless.com launch in India is an extension of Mastercard's global priceless platform that offers over 2,000 curated experiences for Mastercard cardholders in over 40 countries.

### 4. Divya Kala Mela begins at Town Hall, Maidagin, Varanasi

- 'Divya Kala Mela' has been organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment at Town Hall, Maidagin, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh from 15 September to 24 September 2023 to showcase the products and craftsmanship of entrepreneurs/artisans with disabilities.
- In this fair, artisans from different parts of the country including Jammu & Kashmir, North Eastern States will showcase their wonderful and attractive products like handicrafts, handlooms, embroidery works and packaged foods etc. which will also be available for sale.

## Obituary

### 1. Heath Streak, former Zimbabwe captain passes away

- Former captain of Zimbabwe cricket team, Heath Streak died at the age of 49, his family confirmed on social media. Streak had been battling liver cancer for a long period. Streak took 216 wickets in 65 Tests.
- In 189 One-Day Internationals, he took 239 wickets and scored 2,943 runs. In both Tests and ODIs, he is by far Zimbabwe's leading wicket-taker.

### 2. Arun Kumar Sinha, SPG chief responsible for PM Modi's protection, passes away

- Director of Special Protection Group (SPG), responsible for providing proximate security to the Prime Minister of India, Arun Kumar Sinha on Wednesday passed away after brief illness. He was 61. The top security official of PM Modi passes away after brief illness.
- Established in 1985, the SPG is an elite force that is specially tasked to provide protection to country's current and former Prime Ministers and their immediate family members. It was formed in the wake of former PM Indira Gandhi's assassination in 1984.

### 3. Malini Rajurkar, Hindustani vocalist whose 'tappa' renditions were epic, passes away at 82

- Noted Hindustani classical vocalist Malini Rajurkar, who epitomised simplicity and depth, passed away in a Hyderabad hospital.
- As one of the foremost exponents of Gwalior gharana, she forged a special

connection with the audience in Pune at the annual Sawai Gandharva festival for nearly five decades.

- Malini Rajurkar's musical journey was marked by her exceptional performances in major music festivals across India, including Gunidas Sammelan in Mumbai, Tansen Samaroh in Gwalior, Sawai Gandharva Festival in Pune, and Shankar Lal Festival in Delhi.
- She was particularly noted for her mastery of the Tappa and Tarana genres. Additionally, she excelled in lighter musical forms.
- Her renditions of Marathi natyageete and songs like "pandu-nrupati janak jaya," "naravar krishnasamaan," and "ya bhavanatil geet purane" were particularly cherished by audiences and music enthusiasts, contributing to her enduring legacy in the world of Indian classical music.

### 4. PM pays homage to Acharya Vinoba Bhave on his birth anniversary

- Acharya Vinoba Bhave was born on 11 September 1895 in Maharashtra. He was an Indian advocate of nonviolence and human rights.
- Often called Acharya (Teacher in Sanskrit), he is best known for the Bhoodan Movement. He is also considered as National Teacher of India and the spiritual successor of Mahatma Gandhi.
- The Gita has been translated into the Marathi language by him.

### 5. Gita Mehta, writer and 1971 war correspondent, passes away

- Gita Mehta, eminent writer, journalist and elder sister of Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, passed away in New Delhi.
- She has written five books ' Karma Cola, Snakes and Ladders: Glimpses of Modern India, A River Sutra, Raj, and Eternal Ganesha: From Birth to Rebirth.

### 6. Giorgio Napolitano, former Italian president, has died at 98

- Giorgio Napolitano, the first former Communist to rise to Italy's presidency and the only person to be elected twice to the mostly ceremonial post, died, the presidential palace said. He was 98.
- Born in Naples on June 29, 1925, Napolitano served as the 11th president

of the Italian Republic from 2006 to 2015.

### 7. MS Swaminathan, father of India's Green Revolution, passes away at 98

- The architect of India's Green Revolution, Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan died in Chennai'a rare scientific luminary who chose to live and work in India. He was 98.
- The World Food Foundation honoured him as its first World Food Prize laureate in 1987. In 1971, he won the Ramon Magsaysay Award for being both a 'first-rate scientist' and a 'humanist.'
- For introducing the new varieties to Indian farmers, Swaminathan worked closely with agronomist and plant breeder Norman Borlaug in the 1950s. Borlaug went on to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his work on new wheat varieties in Mexico, India and Pakistan.

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## Person in news

### 1. Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin names former Amazon executive Dave Limp as CEO

- The chief executive officer of Jeff Bezos's space company Blue Origin, Bob Smith, will step down at the end of the year to be replaced by former Amazon executive Dave Limp, who ran products such as Kindle.
- Limp, a former senior vice president at Amazon who led the company's consumer devices unit, will become Blue Origin's CEO on December 4.

### 2. Katrina Kaif appointed as Uniqlo India's brand ambassador

- Japanese apparel retailer Uniqlo has appointed Bollywood actress Katrina Kaif as its first brand ambassador in India as and attempts to woo affluent shoppers and plans to add to more stores.
- **Kaif joins the ranks of tennis star Roger Federer, who was appointed as Uniqlo's global brand ambassador in 2018. Uniqlo made its India debut in 2019.**
- Uniqlo, which made its India debut in 2019, has 10 stores in the country at present and two more in the pipeline.
- Most of them are located in Delhi-NCR, with one each in Lucknow, Chandigarh, and Punjab's Zirakpur. It is set to open stores in Mumbai. The brand draws consumers across age groups with its casual clothing lines.

### 3. Leander Paes first Asian man to be nominated for International Tennis Hall of Fame

- India's Paes was one of six player candidates announced for the Class of 2024, along with returning nominees Cara Black, Ana Ivanovic, Carlos Moya, Daniel Nestor and Flavia Pennetta.
- Li Na, a Chinese woman who won two Grand Slam singles titles, became the first Asian player in the shrine based in Newport, Rhode Island, when she was inducted in 2019.



The advertisement features the Oliveboard and Skill Vertex logos at the top left. The main text reads 'Stay up to date on In-Demand Skills'. To the right, there are four rounded rectangular buttons: 'Career-Booster Skills', 'Skills for Exam / Interview Prep', 'MUST-Have Computer Skills', and 'Exclusive Tips from Experts & More!'. At the bottom left is a green 'Explore Now' button, and at the bottom right is a blue banner with the text 'Kal ki Taiyyari, Aaj se!'.

## Insurance

### 1. ICICI Bank Gets IRDAI Nod To Raise Stake In ICICI Lombard General Insurance

- **ICICI Bank Ltd. announced that it has received a nod from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India for increasing its stake in ICICI Lombard General Insurance Co. by 4%, which would make it a subsidiary.** The bank currently owns 48.02% stake in ICICI Lombard, as on March 31, 2023.
- The additional stake acquisition of 4% is through purchase of shares from the market.

### 2. Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance collaborates with RenewBuy company Artivatic.ai

- According to an official release, Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance ('ABSLI'), the life insurance subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited ('ABCL'), launched an innovative AI/ML-driven underwriting platform in collaboration with Artivatic.ai, a RenewBuy company. This partnership aligns with the aim to explore technological advancements.

### 3. Bharti AXA Life Insurance unveils Income Laabh to provide both income and insurance benefits

- **Bharti AXA Life Insurance has unveiled a new product, Bharti AXA Life Income Laabh to simplify insurance and provide optimal protection to its customers.**
- This plan addresses the twin goals of providing financial protection and ensuring a steady income stream
- The plan gives customers a regular stream of assured income for 10-12 years, depending on the policy term they choose.

- Initial income pay-out is 100 per cent of the annual premium one pays, which then increases to 150 per cent after five years for a 10-year policy term.
- In the case of a 12-year policy term, the income increases by 200 per cent after six years.
- Also, the policyholder or the nominee will receive a guaranteed lump sum amount in the last year of the income period which can help them step up and accomplish important life goals. The product aims to strengthen the financial well-being of the customers along with their families

### 4. ACKO launches campaign 'Health Insurance ki Subah ho Gayi Mamu' for its newly introduced ACKO Platinum Health Plan

- ACKO has launched its health insurance product 'ACKO Platinum Health Plan. As per the company, the plan has features including 100% bill payment, no room rent capping, zero waiting period, among others. To launch its Health Insurance product, ACKO has brought back two characters of Munna Bhai and Circuit in its campaign titled 'Health Insurance ki Subah ho Gayi Mamu'.
- The campaign directed by filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani, features Sanjay Dutt and Arshad Warsi in their original roles and questions the current health insurance system. The company claims that the series of ad films focuses on educating the audience on zero waiting period, 100% bill payment, benefits of providing full disclosures of ailments for a stress-free claim process, and ease of filing claims.

## India & World

### 1. Air India and AccessRail sign agreement; airline to provide access to bus & train connections in European cities

- Air India has signed an agreement with IATA travel partner AccesRail to enhance travel options for its passengers in Europe.
- With the latest partnership with AccesRail, one can now have a seamless Europe Vacation with a single intermodal ticket.
- Currently, intermodal tickets with Air India are available for booking through travel agents globally.
- International Air Transport Association (IATA), Headquarters: Montreal, Canada.
- "This ticket includes on-ground train & bus connections and connects travellers to more than 100 cities & towns in Europe & United Kingdom. Moreover, it allows the passengers to enjoy the same luggage benefits on trains/buses as they do on Air India flights!" Air India said.
- AccesRail's extensive network of rail and bus operators for Air India includes Avanti West Coast (UK), Great Western Railways (UK), London North Eastern Railways (UK), National Express (UK), Trenitalia (Italy), ÖBB Austrian Railways (Austria), SNCB Belgian Railways, and Thalys (Netherlands/Belgium).

### 2. US: Georgia declares October as 'Hindu Heritage Month'

- The state of Georgia in the United States has officially designated October as 'Hindu Heritage Month' to recognise and celebrate the contributions of the 'vibrant' Hindu-American community within the state.

- The proclamation said that the celebration will focus on Hindu heritage's culture and spiritual traditions rooted in India.

### 3. Infosys completes acquisition of Danske Bank's IT Centre in India

- IT major Infosys announced that it has completed the acquisition of Danske Bank's IT center in India.
- Danske Bank selected Infosys as a strategic partner to accelerate digital transformation initiatives with speed and scale, and this follows the announcement of the strategic collaboration with Danske Bank (Headquartered in Denmark).
- Salil Parekh is the current chief executive officer and managing director of Infosys.

### 4. Indo-US task force set up to elevate electronics trade to \$100 bln in next decade

- The India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) has announced the establishment of an Indo-US task force for electronics with the aim of increasing trade between the two countries to \$100 billion over the next decade. The task force will focus on boosting trade, promoting innovation, creating jobs, and strengthening the partnership between India and the US.
- The areas include semiconductor advancements and electronics supply chains.

### 5. PM Modi to visit Indonesia to attend ASEAN-India, East Asia Summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been invited by President Joko Widodo of

Indonesia to visit Jakarta on September 6th and 7th.

- During this visit, he will participate in the 20th ASEAN-India Summit and the 18th East Asia Summit, which Indonesia is hosting as the current Chair of ASEAN.
- Notably, this upcoming ASEAN-India Summit marks the first such gathering since the elevation of India-ASEAN relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2022. The Summit's agenda includes a comprehensive review of the progress in India-ASEAN relations and the formulation of future cooperation strategies.

#### 6. India extends support to SCO member countries to enhance legal and judicial capabilities

- India has extended support to Shanghai Cooperation Organisation member countries to enhance legal and judicial capabilities.
- The 10th meeting of the Ministers of Law and Justice of SCO countries was held through video conferencing yesterday. Speaking on the occasion, Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal emphasised India's commitment to the SCO charter.
- Mr Meghwal highlighted how India has embarked on a path of Legal reforms. He added that one thousand 486 such laws have already been repealed and more such archaic laws are being identified.

#### 7. India, ASEAN agree to deepen comprehensive strategic partnership with concrete actions

- India and 10-nation ASEAN agreed to deepen their comprehensive strategic partnership with concrete actions through practical implementation of the

'Plan of Action' to implement the ASEAN-India partnership for peace, progress and shared prosperity.

#### 8. NVIDIA partners with Reliance and Tata Group to build AI Infra in India

- **US-based chipmaker NVIDIA has inked partnerships with India's biggest conglomerates, Reliance Industries and Tata Group, to build artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure in India and upskill and reskill the country's talent base**, said Jensen Huang, CEO of Nvidia.
- Nvidia Corporation was incorporated in Delaware and based in Santa Clara, California.
- Reliance will create AI applications and services for their 450 million Jio customers and provide energy-efficient AI infrastructure to scientists, developers, and start-ups across India, said Huang. The AI infrastructure will be hosted in AI-ready computing data centers that will eventually expand to 2,000 MW. Execution and implementation will be managed by Jio.
- With the Tata Group, it will create AI infrastructure to support the local economy and the AI companies in India. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) workforce of over 6 lakh people will also be reskilled in AI.

#### 9. African Union Becomes Permanent Member Of G20 Under India's Presidency

- In a significant development under India's G20 Presidency, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 9 September announced the addition of African Union as the latest permanent member of the group.**



- Following PM Modi's invitation, African Union President **Azali Assoumani** of Comoros took his seat at the G20 leaders meeting.
- The African Union comprises **55 nations**, and its inclusion in the G20 is a significant milestone, making it the second-largest group of nations within the G20, following the European Union.

#### **10. India, Bangladesh Sign 3 MoUs After Bilateral Meet Ahead Of G20 Summit**

- The MoU on cooperation in Digital Payment mechanism was signed between National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) & Bangladesh Bank.
- Another MoU focused on the renewal of the Cultural Exchange Program (CEP) between India & Bangladesh for 2023-2025. The third MoU was signed between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research & the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council.

#### **11. Shri Sarbananda Sonowal leaves for Russia to represent India at the Eastern Economic Forum, 2023 to be held in Vladivostok**

- **The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal left for Russia to represent India at the 8th Eastern Economic Forum which is being held at Vladivostok from 10-13 September, 2023.**
- He will also address stakeholders meet for the 'Eastern Maritime Corridor' to operationalise Chennai-Vladivostok route as an alternative trade route. Vladivostok is the largest port city of Russia.
- He will also address the India Russia Business Dialogue at the Eastern Economic Forum where he will be

highlighting the pivotal role of trade, and commerce.

- **Eastern Economic Forum:** The Eastern Economic Forum was established in 2015 by decree of the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin in 2015 to support the economic development of Russia's Far East and to expand international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

#### **12. India-Saudi Arabia sign MoU in several areas including energy, digitalization, and investment**

- On the sidelines of the G20 leaders meeting in New Delhi, India, the US, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, European Union (EU), Italy, France and Germany have launched an ambitious infrastructure plan 'the 'India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor'.
- It seeks to reshape the trade route between the Gulf, Europe, and South Asia, connecting them by rail and sea links.
- The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor will consist of two separate corridors — the Eastern Corridor, connecting India to West Asia/Middle East, and the Northern Corridor, connecting West Asia/Middle East to Europe.

#### **13. India, Saudi Arabia sign MoU on bilateral cooperation in areas of renewable energy**

- India and Saudi inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to step up bilateral cooperation in the areas of renewable energy, hydrogen and electricity as well as for power grid interconnection between the two countries.

- The MoU was signed as Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a meeting with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud.

#### 14. Union Cabinet approves MoU between India, Sierra Leone on cooperation in field of sharing successful Digital Solutions

- Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the MoU between India's Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology and the Ministry of Information and Communications of the Republic of Sierra Leone on Cooperation in the field of sharing successful Digital Solutions implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation.
- **Sierra Leone, Capital: Freetown**
- **Currency: Sierra Leonean Leone**

#### 15. India and Antigua & Barbuda collaborate on Digital Transformation

- MoU signifies a cooperative effort between the Govt of the Republic of India & the Ministry of Information, Communications Technologies, Utilities, and Energy of Antigua & Barbuda. The primary objective is to share successful digital solutions implemented at a population scale for digital transformation.
- **Antigua & Barbuda- Capital: Saint John's**
- **Currency: East Caribbean Dollar**

#### 16. India becomes the 13th nation to issue OIML certificates

- India has become the Internationally Accepted OIML (International Organization of Legal Metrology) Certificates Issuing Authority, Consumer Affairs Ministry announced.

- India is the 13th country in the world that can issue the OIML approval certificates.
- OIML's Headquarters- Paris, France.
- The Ministry will have a dedicated cell for issuance of the certificate.
- **Established in 1955**, OIML is an intergovernmental organisation and its certificate is internationally accepted for selling weights & measures anywhere in the world.
- India now joins an exclusive group of nations, including **Australia, Switzerland, China, Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, France, UK, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden and Slovakia** authorised to issue OIML approval certificates.
- The domestic manufacturers can now export their weighing and measuring instrument worldwide without incurring additional testing fees, resulting in significant cost savings.

#### 17. CMAI launches Curtain Raiser for India's largest apparel show in Middle East

- The Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI) has taken a significant leap onto the global stage by introducing the "Brands of India" initiative in Dubai.
- Scheduled for November 27th and 28th, 2023, at the Dubai World Trade Center (DWTC), this event aims to spotlight Indian products' excellence, innovation, and quality on an international platform.

#### 18. Indian Council Of Arbitration and Vienna International Arbitral Centre Forge Strategic Partnership With MOU Signing

- The Indian Council of Arbitration (ICA) in New Delhi, India, and the Vienna International Arbitral Centre (VIAC) of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber.

- The signing ceremony was graced by the presence of Dr. Nikolaus Pitkowicz, President of VIAC, Mr. N G Khaitan, President of ICA, Mr. Arun Chawla, Director General of ICA, and Niamh Leinwather, Secretary General of VIAC.

### **19. G20 Framework Working Group's final meeting to begin in Raipur**

- The fourth and final meeting of the G20 Framework Working Group, FWG under the Indian G20 Presidency will begin in Raipur .
- Raipur correspondent reports that more than 65 delegates from G20 members and invitee countries, and various international and regional organisations will participate in the G20 Framework Working Group meeting to be held in Raipur from today.
- During the two day meeting, the Group facilitates discussions on the latest global economic outlook and policy guidance on key macro-economic issues.
- The meeting will take stock of the discussions in the FWG in 2023 and explore future areas of work. On the sidelines of the meeting, the Reserve Bank of India will host a series of Jan Bhagidari events, including panel discussions on digital banking and financial inclusion, financial literacy programmes, a G20 awareness programme, a painting contest and a slogan-writing contest.

### **20. India to explore London Stock Exchange for direct listing of Indian companies**

- India will explore the possibility of direct listing of Indian companies at the London Stock Exchange (LSE).
- The Indian government has been working on framing regulations

pertaining to payments and settlements for direct listing of companies on IFSC exchanges, which is expected to be finalised in the next few months.

### **21. India And UN Launch Global Capacity Building Initiative**

- India and the United Nations have launched a joint capacity-building initiative that will operationalise development-relevant deliverables of India's G20 Presidency and aims to share the country's best practices with partner countries in the Global South.
- It also complements the India-UN partnership in the form of India-UN Development Partnership Fund.
- The “India-UN Capacity Building Initiative” was announced at the event ‘India-UN for the Global South-Delivering for Development’ in the presence of the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.
- As part of this initiative, the UN India team and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will “partner to leverage India’s Technical and Economic Cooperation platform to share India’s development experiences and best practices across the world.” At the event, a Joint Declaration of Intent was exchanged between UN Resident Coordinator in India Shombi Sharp and India representative of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Hari Menon.

### **22. 4th edition of Indo-Latin America Cultural Festival organised by ICCR begins in New Delhi**

- The fourth edition of Indo-Latin America Cultural Festival organised by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) began in New Delhi.
- Total 34 artists of three countries - Colombia, Ecuador and Chile are

participating in the two-day festival. Indo-Latin America Cultural Festival serves as a testament to the enduring cultural bonds between India and Latin America.

### 23. Ministry of Tourism to host PATA Travel Mart 2023 in New Delhi from 4th October

- Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, is delighted to announce that India will be hosting the 46th edition of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Travel Mart 2023 at the magnificent International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC), Pragati Maidan, in New Delhi.
- The Mart is scheduled to take place from October 4th to 6th 2023.
- The Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) founded in 1951, with its Head Quarters in Bangkok, is a renowned not-for-profit association recognized internationally for its role as a catalyst in the responsible development of**

**travel and tourism in the Asia Pacific region.**

- PATA Travel Mart is one of the important international trade exhibitions catering to the tourism sector and it serves as a platform for trade interactions between global buyers and sellers mostly from the Asia Pacific region. The Mart will bring together exhibitors and attendees from diverse sectors, offering a unique platform for networking, learning and collaboration.

### 24. DR L. Murugan leads Indian Delegation at TIFF 2023

- Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting Dr. L. Murugan represented India at the opening of the 15th Tashkent International Film Festival held on 29 September.
- Indian delegation comprised of senior film producer and director Shri Umesh Mehra and officials of the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC).



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## Environment

### 1. Ahmedabad becomes second city in country to implement emissions trading scheme

- The Gujarat government announced that Ahmedabad has become the second city in the country to implement an emission trading scheme (ETS) for particulate pollution that will help in regulating industrial emissions and reduce the state's pollution levels.
- An ETS, or “cap-and-trade” system, caps the amount of pollution allowed from regulated industries and allots permits to plants
- Under ETS, industries with low abatement costs can make larger reductions in emissions and thus profit by selling excess permits. The industries under the scheme emitted 20% less particulate matter than the other industries.
- Following the encouraging results from Surat, GPCB has decided to expand the scope of emissions trading to industries in Ahmedabad to tackle particulate emissions of industries in the City and Vatva regions.

### 2. Consensus reached by GCC countries to ratify the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol

- GCC ministers responsible for climate and environment affairs reached a consensus on the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, during their 25th meeting in the Sultanate of Oman.
- The consensus includes a unified position of the GCC and an annex to the mechanisms for ratifying the Kigali Amendments. The Kigali Amendment will help curb up to 0.4C of global warming in this century.



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## Apps & Portals

### 1. Professor Ramesh Chand launches Unified Portal [www.upag.gov.in](http://www.upag.gov.in) for Agricultural Statistics

- Member of NITI Aayog, Professor Ramesh Chand officially launched the Unified Portal for Agricultural Statistics (UPAg Portal- [www.upag.gov.in](http://www.upag.gov.in)). It is a groundbreaking move to address the complex governance challenges India's agriculture sector is facing.
- **Key Challenges Addressed by UPAg Portal:**
- 1. Lack of Standardized Data: Currently, agricultural data is scattered across various sources and often presented in different formats and units. UPAg Portal aims to consolidate this data into a standardized format, making it easily accessible and understandable for users.
- 2. Lack of Verified Data: Reliable data is crucial for accurate policy decisions. UPAg Portal ensures that data from sources like Agmarknet is vetted and updated in a timely manner, providing policymakers with accurate information on agricultural prices.
- 3. Dispersed Data: To form a comprehensive view of any crop, multiple variables need to be considered, including production, trade, and prices. UPAg Portal brings together data from various sources, providing a holistic assessment of agricultural commodities.
- 4. Different Frequency Variables: Data updates at different times, causing delays and inefficiencies. UPAg Portal offers real-time connectivity with data sources, reducing the time and effort required for monitoring and analysis.
- **Key Features of UPAg Portal:**

- 1. Data Standardization: The portal standardizes data on prices, production, area, yield, and trade, making it accessible in one location, eliminating the need to compile data from multiple sources.
- 2. Data Analysis: UPAg Portal will perform advanced analytics, offering insights such as production trends, trade correlations, and consumption patterns, aiding policymakers in making informed decisions.
- 3. Granular Production Estimates: The portal will generate granular production estimates with increased frequency, enhancing the government's ability to respond to agricultural crises swiftly.
- 4. Commodity Profile Reports: Commodity profile reports will be produced using algorithms, minimizing subjectivity and providing users with comprehensive insights.
- 5. Plug and Play: Users will have the flexibility to use the portal's data to prepare their own reports, promoting data-driven decision-making.

### 2. Indian Bank unveils 'IB SAATHI' to enhance banking services

- Indian Bank announced roll out of 'IB SAATHI' initiative aimed at providing an integrated ecosystem for all stakeholders in the financial sector through the business correspondent route.
- The IB Sustainable Access and Aligning Technology for Holistic Inclusion (SAATHI) offers an enhanced user experience through the simplified delivery of services.
- Indian bank's Managing Director and CEO :S L Jain.

### 3. Centre launches Skill India Digital app to find jobs, training opportunities

- The Centre formally launched the Skill India Digital app, which brings together listings for upskilling courses and job listings.
- The app will be linked with DigiLocker and Aadhaar to issue verifiable certificates of course completion and to generate digitally signed CVs for job applicants and people taking courses.
- The app was developed by the National Skill Development Corporation.
- The app had been soft launched in April, and was announced by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during the Budget session of Parliament in February.
- Skill India Digital is linked to the Udyam portal for registration of micro, small and medium enterprises, the eShram portal, created to build a National Database of Unorganized Workers, the National Career Service, a five year project launched by the Government in 2015 for job-seekers, and the ASEEM job directory.

### 4. Assam Governor launches 'Sarpanch Samvad' app

- Governor Gulab Chand Kataria has launched the 'Sarpanch Samvad' app.
- The app has been developed by the Quality Council of India (QCI).
- QCI chairperson Jaxay Shah said the objective of this initiative is to provide

comprehensive support to sarpanchs and foster their growth as leaders. Quality Council of India was established in 1997.

- The app is aimed at connecting approximately 2.5 lakh sarpanchs across India, and serves as a holistic platform for networking, knowledge dissemination, and collaboration.
- The app not only ensures a single platform for idea-sharing, but also reinforces QCI's commitment to empower grassroots leaders.
- The Quality Council of India, established in 1997 by the Government of India and the Indian industry, is the apex organisation responsible for establishing and operating the third-party national accreditation system, improving quality across sectors and advising the government and other stakeholders on matters concerning quality.

### 5. Axis Bank unveils 'NEO for Business', a mobile-first Business Banking platform for MSMEs

- Axis Bank unveils 'NEO for Business,' a unique Transaction Banking platform designed specifically for Indian Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME's). This is the first full digital solution of its kind, catering to MSMEs' real, present, and emerging Transaction Banking needs.
- MSMEs are the backbone of the Indian economy, accounting for more than 30% of Indian GDP.

## Acquisitions & Mergers

### 1. CCI approves merger of Vistara into Air India

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the merger of Tata SIA Airlines into Air India, subject to certain conditions.
- As part of the merger transaction, SIA shall also invest Rs 2,059 crore in Air India.
- Post the consolidation, SIA shall hold 25.1% shareholding in Air India.

### 2. CCI approves acquisition of 72.49% stake (approx.) in Quality Care India by BCP Asia II

- The Competition Commission of India has approved acquisition of approximately 72.49% stake in Quality Care India by BCP Asia II.
- The Proposed Combination envisages acquisition of ~72.49% of the total equity shareholding of Quality Care India Limited, on a fully diluted basis, by BCP Asia II Topco IV Pte. Ltd (BCP Asia II/Acquirer) from Touch Healthcare Private Limited.
- The Target is a multi-specialty healthcare provider established in 1997. It operates a network of multi-speciality hospitals under the brand name 'CARE Hospitals' in various cities in India. The Target, directly and through its downstream affiliates, has 17 healthcare facilities (16 hospitals and 1 clinic) serving 7 cities in 6 states in India, with ~2,400 beds.

### 3. RBI Allows HDFC AMC To Acquire Stakes In DCB Bank And Karur Vysya Bank

- RBI approves HDFC Asset Management Company (AMC) to acquire up to 9.5% stake each in DCB Bank and Karur Vysya Bank. Approval is valid for one year and comes with the condition that HDFC AMC's shareholding in both banks should not exceed 9.5%.
- Karur Vysya Bank is a Scheduled Commercial Bank, headquartered in Karur in Tamil Nadu.
- **DCB, Headquarters: Mumbai, MD & CEO, Murali M. Natrajan.**
- **B Ramesh Babu is the Managing Director and CEO of the Karur Vysya Bank.**

### 4. CCI Approves Blackstone, TPG Stake Buy In Quality Care India

- Anti-trust watchdog Competition Commission of India has approved the stake acquisition by Blackstone and TPG in Quality Care India Ltd.
- According to two separate releases, CCI said it has approved the acquisition of about 72.49% and 24.16% stake in Quality Care India Ltd. by BCP Asia II and Centella Mauritius Holdings Ltd, respectively.

### 5. Saregama acquires majority stake in digital entertainment company Pocket Aces

- **RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group-owned music label Saregama has acquired a majority stake in digital entertainment company Pocket Aces Pictures Pvt Ltd**, the company said in a statement.
- Saregama will acquire 51.8% shares for '174 crore with a clear path to further acquire another 41% stake in the next 15 months at pre-agreed multiples. The transaction is an all-cash deal.



- Pocket Aces is a youth-focused digital content creator and publisher, with an IP catalogue of over 3,000 content pieces ranging from web series and sketches to music videos and reels on its channels FilterCopy, Nutshell and Gobble.

## Agri-Business

### 1. UNDP India partners with NABARD to boost data-driven innovations in agriculture

- The United Nations Development Programme and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development have signed an MoU to co-create data-driven innovations in agriculture and food systems to support smallholder farmers.
- The partnership includes enhancing and disseminating collaborative digital public goods like DiCRA (Data in Climate Resilient Agriculture).
- Mr Shaji KV, Chairman of NABARD
- DiCRA is a collaborative digital public good which provides open access to key geospatial datasets pertinent to climate resilient agriculture.
- DiCRA, which is curated by UNDP and partner organizations to inform public investments in agriculture, already provides intelligence on climate resilience for 50 million hectares of farmland across India. By partnering for enhancing and scaling its use, NABARD will host and maintain the DiCRA platform and use its key geospatial datasets for policy making, research and development activities, with UNDP's technical support.
- This five-year technical cooperation is envisaged to foster collective climate action, create innovative platforms and new product offerings to enhance economic empowerment in rural India.

### 2. Parshottam Rupala Inaugurates ICAR-CIBA's Shrimp Farmers Conclave-2023 at Navsari, Gujarat

- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Parshottam Rupala inaugurated the 2nd Edition of ICAR-CIBA's Shrimp Farmers Conclave-2023 at the Navsari Agricultural University Campus in Gujarat.
- MoUs were signed between CIBA and the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), as well as CIBA and Fish Farmers Producer Organization (FFPO) of Gujarat.

## FinTech

### 1. Mastercard launches ALT ID solution for enhanced online payment security

- Mastercard, a global technology company in the payments industry, has launched an ALT ID solution for guest checkout transactions.
- ALT ID is a custom-made capability developed by Mastercard to create an alternate identifier for the real card numbers provided by cardholders during guest checkout transactions on e-commerce platforms.

### 2. NPCI & NPST Pilot POC for UPI UDIR Secure Platform For Allowing Merchant To Perform The Realtime Refund

- UPI Merchant UDIR (Unified Dispute and Issue Resolution) system was successfully completed by NPST & NPCI. NPST have completed POC for Realtime refund process with a Marquee PAPG for resolving customer disputes and grievances pertaining to UPI payments, using a system-driven and rule-based mechanism with a minimal manual intervention.
- **Unified Dispute and Issue Resolution or UDIR** is an automated, single-channel redressal system designed to seamlessly address customer issues and complaints regarding pending transactions and provide speedy dispute resolution in an online manner instead of manual file-based processes. The Complaint Management System allows customers to raise a complaint directly through the NPST TPAP App, which is then assigned to the relevant bank or PSP involved in the transaction through an automated manner for resolution. Implementation

UDIR will benefit translate into higher customer Net Promoter Score.

### 3. India launches 'Hello UPI' for conversational payments

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), at the Global Fintech Fest, launched conversational payments initiatives that are aimed at increasing convenience and accessibility for users.
- 'Hello UPI' allows users to make payments by engaging in conversations with their smartphones ' whether it's splitting a restaurant bill, sending money to a friend.
- NPCI Non-Executive Chairman :Biswamohan Mahapatra.
- The NPCI has partnered with the **Bhashini programme, AI4Bharat at IIT Madras**, to co-develop Hindi and English payment language models.
- The NPCI also launched '**Bharat BillPay Connect**', an initiative aimed at effortless bill payments through conversations. 'Bharat BillPay Connect' enables users to pay their bills through natural conversations with popular voice assistants like Alexa or via feature phones, smartphones, or merchant soundboxes. This initiative aims to cater to users across various tech proficiency levels, ensuring that digital bill payments are accessible to all.
- NPCI said the credit line on UPI facility will enable customers access pre-sanctioned credit from banks via UPI.
- Separately, users will be able to send and receive money offline using the other product, LITE X product.
- Further, the UPI Tap & Pay facility, in addition to the conventional scan-and-pay method, will allow customers to

simply tap Near Field Communication- (NFC-) enabled QR codes at merchant locations to complete their payments.

- **UPI LITE X and Tap & Pay** Building on the success of UPI LITE feature, the RBI Governor launched **UPI LITE X** for Offline payments.
- Through this feature, users can now both send and receive money whilst being completely offline, therefore, allowing users to initiate and execute transactions even in areas with poor connectivity, such as underground stations, remote areas, etc. *UPI LITE X will be accessible to anyone with a compatible device that supports Near Field Communication*

*(NFC). UPI LITE payments are faster than other payment methods, as they require less time to process the transaction.*

- QR codes have seamlessly integrated into the UPI payments ecosystem, playing a crucial role in facilitating digital transactions. In a significant move towards enhancing QR code and Near Field
- Communication (NFC) technology adoption, the RBI Governor also introduced UPI Tap & Pay. In addition to the conventional Scan and Pay method, users now have the option to simply tap NFC-enabled QR codes at merchant locations to complete their payments.

## Legal

### 1. Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud announces integration of Supreme Court's data with National Judicial Data Grid portal

- D.Y. Chandrachud announced the integration of the Supreme Court's data with the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) portal, the flagship project of the e-Courts initiative, completing the full circle of merging all three tiers of the Indian judiciary on the portal.
- NJDG-SCI portal would be updated in real-time and it would feature all details about the Supreme Court.

## PSUs

### 1. Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Gets Navratna Status

- Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF) has been granted the Navratna status by the government of India. This is the highest status that can be given to a public sector enterprise (PSE).
- RCF, established on 6th March, 1978 is a leading manufacturer of fertilizers, chemicals, and specialty products.
- RCF was established on the reorganization of erstwhile Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. into **five new companies viz. Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI), Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC), Projects & Development India Limited (PDIL), National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) and Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited (RCF).**

### 2. IOCL celebrates 64th IndianOil Day | 1 September

- Mr S M Vaidya, Chairman, IndianOil on IndianOilDay expressed Gratitude to employees, veterans, channel partners, customer attendants & LPG delivery teams, tank truck crew, vendors, contractors, and the customers who define the brand IndianOil.

### 3. SJVN becomes 1st power sector PSU to get anti-bribery management system certification

- **SJVN Limited has obtained anti-bribery management system certification (ABMS) ISO 37001:2016, informed SJVN CMD NL Sharma.** He further said that SJVN is the first Power Sector PSU to get this certification. ABMS is a management system which helps in preventing, detecting and responding to the act of bribery.
- Anti-Bribery Management System (ISO 37001:2016) certification is an International Standard, which provides solutions for eradication of bribery related incidents and concerns.
- The system includes Anti Bribery Policy, Appointment of Persons to oversee anti-bribery compliance, training, risk assessment and instituting reporting and investigation procedures.



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## State/UTs

### Assam

#### 1. Biswanath Ghat in Assam selected as Best Tourism Village of India 2023

- Biswanath Ghat has been selected as the Best Tourism Village of India 2023 by the Ministry of Tourism, from amongst 791 applications from 31 States and UTs.
- Biswanath Ghat, often referred to as "Gupta Kashi," is named after Biswanath mandir in the village.

### Goa

#### 1. India's first lighthouse festival took place in Goa

- India's first lighthouse festival commenced in Goa on September 23, which will see the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways develop 75 lighthouses across the country into tourist hubs.
- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the Indian lighthouse festival at the iconic Fort Aguada Lighthouse in Panjim, Goa.
- The initiative is part of the lighthouse heritage tourism plan, and the first Indian lighthouse festival is being held in Goa from September 23 to 25.

### Gujarat

#### 1. 'Gujarat Declaration' underlining outcome of the first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit 2023 released

- World Health Organization (WHO) has released the outcome document of first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit 2023 in form of 'Gujarat Declaration'.

- The declaration reaffirmed global commitments towards indigenous knowledges, biodiversity and traditional, complementary and integrative medicine.
- WHO underlined that the application of rigorous scientific methods is needed to better understand, assess and, where appropriate, apply more holistic, context-specific, complex and personalized approaches for health and well-being for all.
- It reiterates that India as host of the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre at Jamnagar, Gujarat has an important role in scaling up WHO's capacities to support member states and stakeholders in taking forward the summit action agenda and other relevant priorities.
- The action points of two day WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit 2023 held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat are based on the evidence, discussions and outcomes presented at the Summit. Deliberation were done on varied topics like Health and well-being of people and the planet, research and evidence, universal health coverage, primary health care and health systems, Data & routine information systems, digital health frontiers, biodiversity and sustainability, human rights, equity and ethics.

### Madhya Pradesh

#### 1. India gets its 54th Tiger Reserve : Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh

- Until now, MP was home to six tiger reserves ' Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Satpura, Pench, Panna and Sanjay-Dubri.

- MP retained the "tiger state" status in the 2022 census with the number of big cats in the state rising to 785 from 526 in 2018.
- The new tiger reserve, spread across Sagar, Damoh and Narsinghpur districts.
- As per the report 'Status of Tigers: Co-predators & Prey in India-2022', released by the National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Institute of India in July this year, MP (785) has the highest number of tigers in the country, followed by Karnataka (563) and Uttarakhand (560).

## 2. Madhya Pradesh CM unveils 108-ft statue of Adi Shankaracharya in Omkareshwar

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan unveiled the 108-foot-tall 'Statue of Oneness' of Adi Shankaracharya at Omkareshwar.
- The 'Statue of Oneness', conceptualised around six years ago, depicts Shankaracharya as a 12-year-old child when he is said to have visited Omkareshwar, which has one of the twelve Jyotirlinga shrines.
- Idol is made up of bronze that contains 88% copper, 4% zinc and 8% tin.
- Weighing 100 tonnes, the statue was conceptualised by an Indian team of artists, a sculptor and engineers.
- The metal casting was done in China's Nanchang city and shipped to Mumbai in several batches.
- The idol, installed on a 75-foot platform, is made up of bronze that contains 88% copper, 4% zinc and 8% tin. Its internal structure is made-up of high-quality steel, officials said.
- Chouhan also laid the foundation stone for a Rs 2,200-crore 'Advait Lok', which will contain a museum.

## Nagaland

### 1. Nagaland becomes first State in North Eastern Region to initiate Aadhaar Linked Birth Registration

- Nagaland has become the first State in the North Eastern Region to initiate Aadhaar Linked Birth Registration.
- This pioneering initiative aims to streamline birth registration by integrating Aadhaar enrolment for children in the age group of 0 to 5 years.
- The initiative is anticipated to enable children's access to various social welfare schemes designed for their welfare

### 2. Kohima, Namchi bag Zonal Smart City Award for Northeast Zone under India Smart Cities Awards Contest for year 2022

- Nagaland's state capital Kohima along with Sikkim's Namchi have bagged the Zonal Smart City Award for Northeast Zone under India Smart Cities Awards Contest for 2022. Kohima and Namchi cities were among the winning list of 66 smart cities of India. The India Smart Cities Award Contest is organized under the Smart Cities Mission, Union Ministry of Housing & urban affairs.
- The ISAC recognizes and reward the cities, projects and innovative ideas that are promoting sustainable development across the 100 smart cities, as well as stimulating inclusive, equitable, safe, healthy and collaborative cities, thus enhancing quality of life for all.

## Odisha

### 1. Koraput Kalajeera Rice Gets GI Tag

- 'Koraput Kalajeera Rice, an aromatic rice variety with nutritional value, has

**got Geographical Indications (GI) status, bringing cheers to tribal farmers who have been growing it for ages.**

- Koraput Kalajeera Rice known as the 'Prince of Rice' is an aromatic variety originating from Koraput district of Odisha.
- It is popular among rice consumers for its black colour, good aroma, taste and texture.
- The farmers of Koraput district in Odisha, the centre of origin of cultivated rice, have domesticated Kalajeera rice over generations. With the support of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and the Odisha government's department of agriculture and farmers empowerment, the farmers' organisation received the GI tag for 'Koraput Kalajeera Rice'.
- 'The ancient text explains that Kalajeera rice improves memory and controls diabetes. It is believed to increase hemoglobin levels and the body metabolism. This fragrant grain has antispasmodic, stomachic, carminative, antibacterial, astringent and sedative properties.

## 2. Odisha CM Launches 'Mukhyamantri Sampoorna Pushti Yojana'

- The 'Mukhyamantri Sampoorna Pushti Yojana' was unveiled by Odisha's chief minister, Naveen Patnaik, in an effort to address the nutritional requirements of the state's mothers, adolescent girls, and children.
- The Chief Minister also unveiled the 'Pada Pushti Yojana'.
- This program provides dry food supplements for pregnant women and new mothers, as well as nutritional supplements for all female teenagers between the ages of 15 and 19.

- Additionally, preparations have been made to provide entire meals to extremely malnourished children, eggs and vitamin-added "chhatua" (roasted gram flour) to children who are moderately underweight, and whole meals to children who are very underweight.
- The 'Pada Pushti Yojana' will deliver top-notch cooked food to youngsters in rural and tribal areas in their enclaves and villages

## 3. World Bank Supports Odisha with Funds for Enhanced Disaster Response and Social Protection Systems

- The World Bank has pledged to provide financial assistance to the government of Odisha, India, in an effort to bolster its early warning systems for natural disasters and expand social protection coverage for impoverished and vulnerable households via digital platforms.
- This collaborative initiative aims at safeguarding poor and vulnerable households from economic downturns
- In July, an agreement was signed between India's central government and the World Bank regarding this programme.
- The total cost of implementing OSCRG is estimated around Rs 1,183 crore (\$159 million), with state funding contributing Rs 367 crore (\$49 million), according to a government official.
- Approval for this project had been granted by the state cabinet in December of last year.

## Uttar Pradesh

### 1. Ashok Leyland signs MoU to invest '1,000 crore to set integrated bus plant in UP

- Ashok Leyland announced that it will invest '1,000 crore in Uttar Pradesh to set up a bus manufacturing facility focused on clean mobility. The Hinduja flagship company has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the UP government for the facility, which will be its first plant in the state.
- Ashok Leyland MD & CEO: Shenu Agarwal.

### 2. PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate 16 Atal Awasiya Vidyalayas built across UP

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Varanasi on to inaugurate 16 Atal Awasiya Vidyalayas built across Uttar Pradesh.
- These are built at a cost of over 11 hundred crore rupees to further enhance access to quality education for children of labourers, construction workers and orphans due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- These residential schools intend to eventually accommodate 1000 students each.

Prime Minister Modi will also lay the foundation stone of the International Cricket Stadium in Varanasi. The cricket stadium, to be built in Ganjari, Rajatalab, Varanasi will be developed in more than 30 acre area, at a cost of about 450 crore rupees. The stadium will have a capacity of 30,000 spectators

### 3. Uttar Pradesh Achieves 100% ODF Plus Coverage under Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen

- Uttar Pradesh has achieved yet another major milestone under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase II with all 95, 767 villages in the State i.e., 100% villages achieving ODF Plus status under Phase II of the Mission. Uttar Pradesh picked up momentum in current financial year, as on 1st January 2023, the State had only 15,088 villages that had been declared ODF Plus.
- An ODF Plus village is one which has sustained its Open Defecation Free (ODF) status along with implementing either solid or liquid waste management systems. As on date, 4.4 lakh (75%) villages across the nation have declared themselves ODF Plus, which is a significant step towards achieving the SBM-G phase II goals by 2024-25.
- This achievement of 100 % is marked during ongoing Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) – 2023 campaign.
- **SHS is celebrated annually from 15th September to 2nd October under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), Drinking Water & Sanitation Department, Ministry of Jal Shakti.**
- The top performing States/UTs which have achieved 100% ODF Plus villages are – **Andaman & Nicobar Islands, D&N Haveli, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Ladakh, Puducherry, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Tripura.** Among States/ UTs – Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman Diu, Jammu & Kashmir and Sikkim have 100% ODF Plus Model villages.



## West Bengal

### 1. West Bengal government signs MOU with La Liga to develop football in Indian state

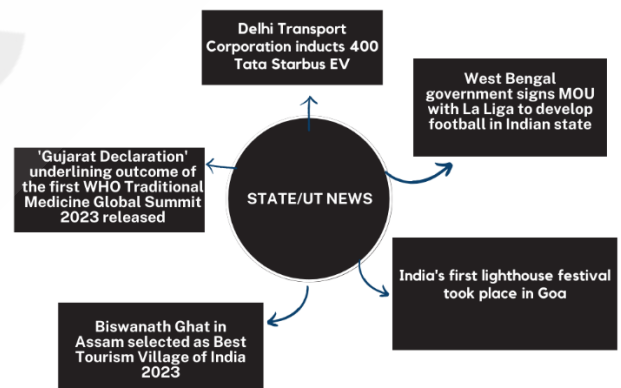
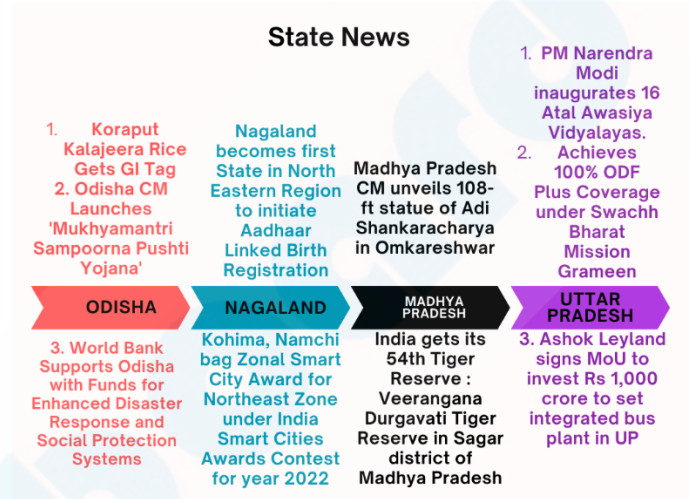
- The Government of West Bengal has entered a Memorandum of Understanding with La Liga to start a football academy and develop the sport in the Indian state.
- West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee signed the MoU with La Liga President Javier Tebas in Madrid during her Spain tour in the presence of former India captain and BCCI president Sourav Ganguly.

## Delhi

### 1. Delhi Transport Corporation inducts 400 Tata Starbus EV

- Tata Motors, one of India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturers has supplied 400 Starbus electric buses to the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC), via its subsidiary TML CV Mobility Solutions. This is part of its larger order from DTC to supply, maintain and operate 1,500 low-floor, air-conditioned electric buses for a period 12-years.

- The 400 e-buses are part of the larger order by DTC to Tata Motors for 1,500 low-floor, air-conditioned electric buses.
- With this deployment, Tata Motors says it has achieved a landmark of supplying over 1,000 e-buses across the country.



## Important CA

### 1. Uday Kotak resigns as Kotak Mahindra Bank MD & CEO, Dipak Gupta takes interim charge

- Uday Kotak has stepped down as the Kotak Mahindra Bank managing director and chief executive officer with effect from September 1.
- Kotak will, however, continue as a non-executive director of the bank.
- Dipak Gupta, the joint managing director, will carry out the duties of the MD and CEO until December 31, 2023.
- Sh. Kotak has been leading the bank since its inception as a non-banking financial institution in 1985. It became a commercial lender in 2003.

**Possible Question:** Kotak Mahindra Bank gets RBI's (Reserve Bank of India) approval for appointment of \_\_\_\_\_ as interim Managing Director & CEO of the bank.

### 2. Centre forms panel under former President Ram Nath Kovind for simultaneous polls to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies

- The Union government said that a committee has been formed under the headship of former President of India Ram Nath Kovind, to look into the feasibility of simultaneous polls to State Assemblies and the Lok Sabha.
- Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi declared that the committee has been constituted, and that one needed to await its report for any news.

#### Names of Committee Members:

- Amit Shah- Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, Government of India

- Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury- Leader of Single Largest Party in Opposition, Lok Sabha
- Ghulam Nabi Azad- Former Leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha
- NK Singh- Former Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission
- Subhash C. Kashyap- Former Secretary General, Lok Sabha
- Harish Salve- Senior Advocate
- Sanjay Kothari- Former Chief Vigilance Commissioner

Apart from the members, Niten Chandra, Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Legal Affairs has been appointed as the secretary to the committee.

**Possible Question:** In August 2023, The Union government said that a committee has been formed under the headship of former President of India Ram Nath Kovind, to look into the feasibility of simultaneous polls to State Assemblies and the Lok Sabha. who among the following is NOT a member of the committee?

### 3. India's GDP growth accelerates to 7.8% in Q1FY24

- India's economy grew at its fastest pace in a year in the April-June quarter, showed the National Statistical Data (NSO). India's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 7.8% in the past quarter, up from 6.1% growth in the previous quarter and 13.1% in April-June 2022. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had predicted a growth rate of 8%.
- India remains the fastest-growing major economy as China's GDP growth in the April-June quarter was 6.3%.
- As per the NSO data, the agriculture sector recorded a 3.5% growth, up from

2.4% in the April-June quarter of 2022-23.

- However, the growth in the manufacturing sector decelerated to 4.7% in the first quarter of the current fiscal compared to 6.1% in the year-ago period.
- The growth in GDP during the January-March quarter of 2022-23 was 6.1% and 4.5% in October-December.
- Private consumption, which accounts for nearly 60% of the economy, grew about 6% year on year, up from 2.8% in the previous quarter.
- However, growth in capital formation, an indicator of investment, eased to about 8% year on year from 8.9% in the previous three months.
- Services sector growth was helped by brisk activity in financial services, trade, hotels and transport sectors.

**Possible Question:** According to National Statistical Data released in August 2023, India's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 7.8% in the April-June quarter of 2023-2024, the agriculture sector recorded a \_\_\_\_\_ growth during the period.

#### 4. MoU signed between Supreme Court of India and Supreme Court of Singapore to enhance judicial cooperation

- Chief Justice of India, Dr. DY Chandrachud, held a meeting with Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon of Singapore during his official visit to Singapore.
- An important Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been formally signed between the Supreme Court of India and the Supreme Court of Singapore, aimed at fostering cooperation in the realm of judiciary.

Justice Menon has held the position of the fourth Chief Justice of Singapore since 2012.

- Earlier this year, Justice Sundaresh Menon had the opportunity to observe the proceedings of Court I of the Indian Supreme Court, presided over by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud. This special occasion took place on February 4, 2023, when the Supreme Court of India was celebrating its Foundation Day for the first time.

**Possible Question:** In September 2023, an important Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been formally signed between the Supreme Court of India and the Supreme Court of which country, aimed at fostering cooperation in the realm of judiciary?

#### 5. PM Modi launches Global Biofuels Alliance

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of the Global Biofuels Alliance. A total of 19 countries and 12 international organizations have so far agreed to join the alliance, including both G20 members and non-member countries. India, Brazil and the US are the founding members of the alliance.
- The prime minister launched the alliance in the presence of the US President Joe Biden, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio da Silva, Argentinian President Alberto Angel Fernández, Italian prime minister Giorgia Meloni, Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina among others.
- Apart from India, Brazil and the US, the other G20 member countries supporting the initiative are Argentina, Canada, Italy, and South Africa. Bangladesh,

Singapore, Mauritius, and the UAE are the G20 invitee countries.

- The three founding members of alliance, the US, India and Brazil contribute about 85% of the global production and the 81% of consumption of ethanol.
- In its ambitious energy transition journey, India has committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2070. India also has an ambitious biofuel roadmap. The government has advanced its target to achieve 20% ethanol blending in petrol by 2025-26 from an earlier target of 2030.
- The target of petrol supplies with 10% ethanol blending was achieved in June last year, ahead of the original schedule of November 2022.

**Possible Question:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of the Global Biofuels Alliance. Which of the following is/are NOT the founding members of the alliance? I. Brazil II. Canada III. USA IV. Italy

#### 6. ADB commits concessional loan to India under Green Financing facility

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) assured India to provide concessional loans under the Green Financing facility to help in achieving its vision.
- ADB President assured support to India's vision and transformative initiatives such as PMGatiShakti, GIFT City, Green Hydrogen Hub, Future Cities of India etc. through ADB's Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) 2023-27 for India.
- Masasugu Asakawa is the President of ADB.
- This Country Partnership Strategy (CPS), 2023-2027 for India is well aligned with India's national development priorities to be achieved by 2047. India is a key

ADB partner and fourth largest shareholder. As of the end of December 2022, ADB had committed USD 52.6 billion in 605 public sector loans, grants, and technical assistance in India, as well as USD 8 billion in private sector investments.

**Possible Question:** The Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) framework is associated with the programs of \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 7. Air India launches 'Project Abhinandan' for enhanced guest experience at 16 airports

- Air India, which is owned by Tata Sons, stated that it had launched 'Project Abhinandan,' which aims to improve the experience for travelers on the airline at airports.
- According to the airline, this project will give its customers a specific and hassle-free on-ground experience as part of its attempts to improve the guest experience.

**Possible Question:** 'Project Abhinandan', which aims to improve the experience for travelers on the airline at airports, is launched by \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 8. Asian Games 2023 Highlights: Indian women's team beats Sri Lanka by 19 runs, wins country's maiden cricket gold

- Indian women's cricket team won their maiden gold medal in Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China by defeating Sri Lanka by 19 runs in final.
- Bangladesh took the bronze after restricting Pakistan to 64-9 and crawling to their target of 65 in 18.2 overs in their medal playoff.
- This was India's second gold medal after 10m air rifle team clinched gold.



**Possible Question:** Indian women's cricket team won their maiden gold medal in Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China by defeating \_\_\_\_\_ by 19 runs in final.

#### 9. RBI deputy governor M. Rajeshwar Rao gets one-year term extension

- The Central Government has re-appointed M. Rajeshwar Rao as Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a period of one year with effect from October 9, 2023.
- Mr. Rao handles five departments which includes Department of Regulations, Department of Communication, Enforcement Department, Legal Department and Risk Monitoring Department at the RBI.
- He was appointed as Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank in October 2020 for a period of 3 years.

**Possible Question:** In September 2023, The Central Government has re-appointed who among the following as Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a period of one year with effect from October 9, 2023?

#### 10. India retains 40th rank in the Global Innovation Index 2023

- India retains 40th rank out of 132 economies in the Global Innovation

#### Index 2023 rankings published by the World Intellectual Property Organization.

- India has been on a rising trajectory, over the past several years in the Global Innovation Index (GII), from a rank of 81 in 2015 to 40 in 2023.
- The country ranked first among the 37 lower-middle group income and first among the 10 economies in Central and South America.
- This year, the NITI Aayog, in partnership with the CII and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), is hosting, virtually, the India Launch of the GI 2023 on 29th September 2023.
- Switzerland, Sweden, the United States, the United Kingdom and Singapore are the world's most innovative economies in 2023, according to WIPO's Global Innovation Index (GII).
- The GI 2023 uses 80 indicators to track global innovation trends.

**Possible Question:** India retains 40th rank out of 132 economies in the Global Innovation Index 2023 rankings published by the World Intellectual Property Organization. Which country ranked first among the 37 lower-middle group income and first among the 10 economies in Central and South America?

## QUICK LEARNERS

### BANKING

<b>Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)</b>	4.50%
<b>Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)</b>	18.00%

<b>POLICY/EXCHANGE RATE &amp; RESERVE RATIO</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
<b>Repo Rate</b>	6.50%
<b>Reverse Repo Rate</b>	3.35%
<b>Marginal Standing Facility Rate (MSF)</b>	6.75%
<b>Bank Rate</b>	6.75%

### APPOINTMENTS

<b>APPOINTMENT</b>	<b>POST</b>
<b>Manish Desai</b>	Principal D-G of the Press Information Bureau (PIB)
<b>Ranganathan Madhavan</b>	President of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)
<b>Lokesh Suji</b>	Director, the Esports Federation of India (ESFI) and Vice-President, the Asian Esports Federation
<b>Suresh Shukla</b>	Chief Business Officer of SBICAP Securities Ltd
<b>Arjun Gupta</b>	Chairman of Investment Capital Advisory Committee (ICAC)
<b>Rajesh Nambiar</b>	Chairman and Managing Director of National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom)
<b>Jayanta Chatterjee</b>	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of ICRA Analytics Limited (IAL)
<b>Dipak Gupta</b>	Managing Director and chief executive officer of Kotak Mahindra Bank
<b>TV Narendran</b>	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Tata Steel
<b>Sandeep Bakhshi</b>	Managing Director and chief executive officer of ICICI Bank
<b>Sindhu Gangadharan</b>	Vice Chairperson of The National Association of Software and Service Companies (nasscom)
<b>Rajnish Kumar</b>	Chairman of Mastercard India
<b>Rahul Navin</b>	Acting director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED)
<b>F R Singhvi</b>	President of Automotive Skills Development Council (ASDC)
<b>Dhananjay Joshi</b>	Chairman of Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA)
<b>Abhay Karandikar</b>	Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DST)
<b>Sashidhar Jagdishan</b>	Managing Director and chief executive officer of HDFC Bank
<b>Peter Bains</b>	Chief Executive Officer of Biocon Ltd.
<b>Parag Ved</b>	Chief Executive Officer of Liberty General Insurance
<b>Bhargav Dasgupta</b>	Vice-President (market solutions) of Asian Development Bank (ADB)
<b>Sanjeev Mantri</b>	Managing Director and chief executive officer of ICICI Lombard
<b>VR Rajesh</b>	Chairman global creative and executive chairman of Ogilvy India

<b>Piyush Goyal</b>	Chief Executive Officer of National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)
<b>Kiran Mani</b>	Chief Executive Officer of Digital Business of Viacom 18
<b>Dave Limp</b>	Chief Executive Officer of Blue Origin

## IMPORTANT DAYS

DATE	DAY	THEME
<b>1<sup>st</sup> September to 8<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Literacy week	
<b>5<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Teacher's Day	
<b>8<sup>th</sup> September</b>	International Literacy Day	
<b>9<sup>th</sup> September</b>	International Day to Protect Education from Attack	
<b>10<sup>th</sup> September</b>	World Suicide Prevention Day	Creating Hope Through Action
<b>14<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Hindi Diwas	
<b>15<sup>th</sup> September</b>	National Engineers' Day	
<b>16<sup>th</sup> September</b>	International Day for Interventional Cardiology	
<b>16<sup>th</sup> September</b>	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer	
<b>17<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Hyderabad Liberation Day	
<b>17<sup>th</sup> September</b>	World Patient Safety Day	
<b>21<sup>st</sup> September</b>	International Day of Peace	
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> September</b>	International Day of Sign Languages	A World Where Deaf People Everywhere Can Sign Anywhere!
<b>24<sup>th</sup> September</b>	World Deaf Day	Ear and Hearing Care for All
<b>24<sup>th</sup> September</b>	World Rivers Day	Waterways in our communities
<b>25<sup>th</sup> September</b>	World Pharmacist Day	Pharmacy Strengthening Health Systems
<b>27<sup>th</sup> September</b>	World Tourism Day	
<b>28<sup>th</sup> September</b>	World Maritime Day	MARPOL at 50 – Our commitment goes on
<b>28<sup>th</sup> September</b>	International Day for Universal Access to Information	The importance of online space for access to information
<b>29<sup>th</sup> September</b>	International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste	Reducing food loss and waste: Taking Action to Transform Food Systems
<b>29<sup>th</sup> September</b>	World Heart Day	Use Heart, Know Heart
<b>30<sup>th</sup> September</b>	International Translation Day	

## SPORTS

NAME OF THE SPORTS PERSON	RELATED FIELD
Danielle McGahey	Cricket
Coco Gauff	Tennis
Aryna Sabalenka	Tennis
Novak Djokovic	Tennis
Daniil Medvedev	Tennis
Virat Kohli	Cricket
Bharat Lairenjam	Football
Levis Zangminlun	Football
Neeraj Chopra	Javelin
Elavenil Valarivan	Shooting
Mohammed Siraj	Cricket
Kuldeep Yadav	Cricket
Babar Azam	Cricket
Arlene Kelly	Cricket
Antim Panghal	Wrestling
Divyansh Singh Panwar	Shooting
Aishwary	Shooting
Marco Bezzechi	Motorcycle racing
Shubman Gill	Cricket
Shreyas Iyer	Cricket
Suryakumar Yadav	Cricket
Divyakriti Singh	Equestrian dressage
Hriday Vipul Chhed	Equestrian dressage
Anush Agarwalla	Equestrian dressage
Sift Kaur Samra	Shooting
Manu Bhaker	Shooting
Rhythm Sangwan	Shooting
Esha Singh	Shooting
Vishnu Saravanan	Sailing
Naorem Roshibina Devi	Sanda Wushu
Sarabjot Singh	Shooting
Arjun Singh Cheema	Shooting
Shiva Narwal	Shooting
Rutuja Bhosale	Tennis
Rohan Bopanna	Tennis
Leander Peas	Tennis



## SCHEMES

NAME OF THE SCHEME	THEME
<b>Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar</b>	To bring a cultural and behavioural change in the general public to Ask for a Bill as their right and entitlement.
<b>Anna Bhagya scheme</b>	Food Security in Karnataka
<b>Industrial Development Scheme (IDS)</b>	Industries development
<b>Pradhan Mantri Matasya Sampada Yojna</b>	Development of Fisheries in India
<b>PM Vishwakarma Scheme</b>	Support the artisans and craftspeople of rural and urban areas
<b>Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan</b>	De-dieselisation of the farm sector, providing water and energy security to farmers, increasing the income of farmers and curbing environmental pollution
<b>Scheme for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products</b>	Mechanism for reimbursement of taxes, duties and levies
<b>Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma and MedTech sector scheme</b>	Aims to transform India's pharma medtech industry from a cost-based one to innovation-based

## AGREEMENTS & MOU'S

ENTITIES INVOLVED	MOU THEME
<b>Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL) and IIT-Guwahati</b>	To develop technology for production of marketable green carbon from bamboo dust
<b>NTPC Limited and Oil India Limited</b>	To explore collaboration in the areas of renewable energy
<b>HDFC Bank and Marriott Bonvoy</b>	India's first co-branded hotel credit card
<b>Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) and CIPET, Bhubaneswar</b>	For skill training development projects
<b>Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)</b>	To tap opportunities in Short Range Air Defence Systems
<b>Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited and Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL)</b>	Co-financing of renewable energy projects
<b>Tata Steel and ABB</b>	Work together and co-create innovative models and technologies to help reduce the carbon footprint of steel production
<b>KredX and Mastercar</b>	To streamline B2B digital payments
<b>Airbus and Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV)</b>	For a holistic partnership that includes development of academic curricula
<b>Google Cloud and CERT-In</b>	Co-operation area of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Cybersecurity

<b>NTPC Green Energy (NGEL) and Nayara Energy</b>	To explore opportunities in the green hydrogen and green energy space
<b>Uber and Indian Navy</b>	To become exclusive mobility partner
<b>Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions 's Next G Alliance and the Bharat 6G Alliance</b>	Explore collaboration opportunities on 6G wireless technologies
<b>HP and Google</b>	Manufacturing Chromo books in India
<b>REC Limited and Punjab National Bank (PNB)</b>	Explore the possibility of funding projects in the Power Sector and Infrastructure & Logistics Sector
<b>Infosys Ltd. And Microsoft Corp.</b>	Large-scale adoption of generative artificial intelligence by enterprises
<b>Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Digital Lenders Association of India (DLAI)</b>	To boost the country's fintech sector
<b>Indian Navy and Indian institute of Science (IISc)</b>	For technical collaboration and joint research & development
<b>Tata Consultancy Services and BankID BankAxept</b>	To enhance the European country's financial infrastructure
<b>IndiGo and British Airways</b>	Code sharing Partnership
<b>India Global Forum and World Governments Summit</b>	To develop an Emerging Economies Programme
<b>Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited and Bank of Maharashtra (BoM).</b>	To promote and facilitate co-lending and loan syndication for a diverse spectrum of Renewable Energy projects across the nation
<b>Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)</b>	To support space-tech innovations through cloud computing
<b>HDFC Bank and NBFC Credit Wise Capital</b>	Two-wheeler financing in tier-2, 3, and 4 towns
<b>Geological Survey of India Training Institute (GSITI) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)</b>	To conduct a series of trainings for the capacity building in the areas of mineral resources and disaster management.
<b>Tata Power Solar Systems Limited (TPSSL) and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)</b>	To provide streamlined financing options for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) interested in adopting rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) plants and related services

## OBITUARY

OBITUARY	RELATED FIELD
Heath Streak	Cricketer
Arun Kumar Sinha	Director of Special Protection Group
Malini Rajurkar	Hindustani classical vocalist
Gita Mehta	Writer, journalist
Giorgio Napolitano	Former Italian President
Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan	Father of India's Green Revolution

## DEFENCE

DEFENCE EXERCISE NAME	COUNTRIES INVOLVED
Varuna - 23	India and France
Operation Sajag	Indian Coast Guard
SIMBEX	India and Singapore

## INDIA AND WORLD

COUNTRIES INVOLVED	FIELD OF CO-OPERATION
India and UN	Global Capacity Building Initiative
India and London	Listing companies in London Stock Exchange
India and US	State of Georgia declares Hindu Heritage Month
	Indo-US task force for electronics
India and ASEAN	Comprehensive Strategic Partnership
India and UK	Economic and Financial Dialogue

## ACQUISITION AND MERGERS

ENTITY	ACQUIRED BY
Pocket Aces	Saregama
Quality Care India	Blackstone, TPG
DCB Bank and Karur Vysya Bank	HDFC AMC
Quality Care India	BCP Asia II
Vistara	Air India

## AWARDS

AWARDEE	AWARD NAME	RELATED FIELD
Biswanath Ghat	Best Tourism Village in India 2023	Tourism
Shanta Thoutam	World Innovation Award at BRICS	Sustainable Development Goal - 4
R Ravi Kannan	Ramon Magsaysay Award 2023	
Manoj Bubna	Entrepreneur of the Year 2023	Leadership
75 teachers	National Teachers' Award	
Vijayawada Railway Station	Green Railway Station by IGBC	
12 scientists	Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar Award 2022	
ITES Limited	Safety Innovation Award 2023	
SJVN Limited	Anti-Bribery Management System Certificate	
L&T Finance	Prestigious Brand of India	
84 artists	Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards	
Rahul Mishra	Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres	French national award
Dr Swati Nayak	Norman E Borlaug Award	Science
Waheeda Rehman	Dadasaheb Phalke Award	Cinema
Kerala	Arogya Manthan 2023 award	

## SUMMITS AND CONFERENCE

SUMMIT/ CONFERENCE NAME	THEME	LOCATION
India's first lighthouse festival		Goa
2nd Edition of ICAR-CIBA's Shrimp Farmers Conclave-2023		Navrasi, Gujarat
15th Tashkent International Film Festival		Tashkent, Uzbekistan
46th edition of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Travel Mart 2023		New Delhi
Indo-Latin America Cultural Festival		New Delhi
G20 Framework Working Group's Meet		Raipur
Eastern Economic Forum 2023		Vladivostok, Russia
International Aerospace Conference: Moving Towards Inclusive Global Value Chains		Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
Conference on Green Hydrogen Pilots		India Habitat Centre, Delhi
1st Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights'		New Delhi
4th G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group Meet		Varanasi
Fourth G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion		Mumbai



Conference of National Human Rights Institutions of the Asia Pacific region		New Delhi
International Congress on the Chemistry of Cement (ICCC) in 2027		New Delhi
Nadi Utsav		New Delhi
International Lawyers' Conference 2023		New Delhi
Bharat Drone Shakti - 2023		Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh
9th BRICS Parliamentary Forum		Johannesburg, South Africa

## COMMITTEE

THEME OF THE COMMITTEE	FORMED BY	CHAIRPERSON
Look into the feasibility of simultaneous polls to State Assemblies and the Lok Sabha.	Centre	Ram Nath Kovind

## RANKS AND REPORTS

NAME OF THE REPORT/INDEX	RELEASED BY	RANKING OF INDIA/STATE/COMPANY ETC	COUNTRY WHICH TOPPED THE LIST
Global Innovation Index 2023	World Intellectual Property Organization	40th	
Clean Air Survey 2023	Central Pollution Control Board	First rank to the Information Technology hub of Madhya Pradesh, Indore	
World's Best Companies of 2023	TIME Magazine and Statista	Infosys - 64th	Microsoft, Apple and Alphabet - top 3
6th National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA)	Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG)		
India Ageing Report 2023	United Nations Population Fund and International Institute for Population Sciences		
Times Higher Education's World		IISc Bangalore - 91	

University Rankings 2024			
Economic Freedom of the World: 2021 Annual Report	Canada's Fraser Institute and India's Centre For Civil Society	India - 87th	Singapore, Hong Kong and Switzerland - top 3

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## IMPORTANT STATIC & CURRENT INFO

### INDIAN STATES, CAPITALS, CHIEF MINISTERS & GOVERNORS

STATE	CAPITAL	CHIEF MINISTER	GOVERNOR
Andhra Pradesh	Amaravati	Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy	Justice (Retd.) S. Abdul Nazeer
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Pema Khandu	Lt. General Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik
Assam	Dispur	Himanta Biswa Sarma	Gulab Chand Kataria
Bihar	Patna	Nitish Kumar	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Bhupesh Baghel	Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
Goa	Panaji	Pramod Sawant	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
Gujarat	Gandhi Nagar	Bhupendra Patel	Acharya Dev Vrat
Haryana	Chandigarh	Manohar Lal Khattar	Bandaru Dattatraya
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu	Shiv Pratap Shukla
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Hemant Soren	CP Radhakrishnan
Karnataka	Bengaluru	Siddaramaiah	Thaawarchand Gehlot
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Shivraj Singh Chauhan	Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
Maharashtra	Mumbai	Eknath Shinde	Ramesh Bais
Manipur	Imphal	N Biren Singh	Sushri Anusuiya Uikye
Meghalaya	Shillong	Conrad Kongkal Sangma	Phagu Chauhan
Mizoram	Aizawl	Pu Zoramthanga	Dr Kambhampati Haribabu
Nagaland	Kohima	Neiphiu Rio	La. Ganesan
Odisha	Bhubaneswar	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal
Punjab	Chandigarh	Bhagwant Mann	Banwarilal Purohit
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Ashok Gehlot	Kalraj Mishra
Sikkim	Gangtok	PS Golay	Lakshman Prasad Acharya
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	M. K. Stalin	R. N. Ravi
Telangana	Hyderabad	K. Chandrasekhar Rao	Tamilisai Soundararajan
Tripura	Agartala	Dr. Manik Saha	Satyadeo Narain Arya
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Yogi Aditya Nath	Anandiben Patel
Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Pushkar Singh Dhami	Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh
West Bengal	Kolkata	Mamata Banerjee	C V Ananda Bose

## UNION TERRITORIES, LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS & ADMINISTRATORS

UNION TERRITORY	LT. GOVERNOR & ADMINISTRATOR
Andaman and Nicobar Island (UT)	Admiral D K Joshi (Lieutenant Governor)
Chandigarh (UT)	Banwarilal Purohit (Administrator)
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (UT)	Praful Patel (Administrator)
Delhi (NCT)	Vinai Kumar Saxena (Lieutenant Governor)
Jammu and Kashmir (UT)	Manoj Sinha (Lieutenant Governor)
Lakshadweep (UT)	Praful Patel (Administrator)
Puducherry (UT)	Dr. TAMILISAI Soundararajan (Addl. Charge) (Lieutenant Governor)
Ladakh (UT)	Brig. (Dr.) BD Mishra (Retd.) (Lieutenant Governor)

## UNION MINISTERS & PORTFOLIO

UNION MINISTER	PORTFOLIO
<b>Narendra Modi</b>	Ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions Department of Atomic Energy Department of Space
<b>Rajnath Singh</b>	Ministry of Defence
<b>Amit Shah</b>	Ministry of Home Affairs Ministry of Cooperation
<b>Nitin Gadkari</b>	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
<b>Nirmala Sitharaman</b>	Ministry of Finance Ministry of Corporate Affairs
<b>Piyush Goyal</b>	Ministry of Commerce and Industry Ministry of Textiles Ministry of Consumer affairs, food and public distribution
<b>Narendra Singh Tomar</b>	Ministry of agriculture and Farmers welfare
<b>Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar</b>	Ministry of External Affairs
<b>Arjun Munda</b>	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
<b>Smriti Zubin Irani</b>	Ministry of Women and child Development Ministry of Minority Affairs
<b>Dharmendra Pradhan</b>	Ministry of Education Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
<b>Pralhad Joshi</b>	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs Ministry of coal Ministry of Mines
<b>Narayan Tatu Rane</b>	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>Sarbananda Sonowal</b>	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)
<b>Dr. Virendra Kumar</b>	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
<b>Giriraj Singh</b>	Ministry of Rural Development Ministry of Panchayati Raj



<b>Jyotiraditya M. Scindia</b>	Ministry of Civil Aviation Ministry of Steel
<b>Ashwini Vaishnaw</b>	Ministry of Railways Ministry of Communications Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
<b>Pashu Pati Kumar Paras</b>	Ministry of Food Processing Industries
<b>Gajendra Singh Shekhawat</b>	Ministry of Jal Shakti
<b>Kiren Rijiju</b>	Ministry of Earth Sciences
<b>Raj Kumar Singh</b>	Ministry of Power Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
<b>Hardeep Singh Puri</b>	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
<b>Mansukh L. Mandaviya</b>	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
<b>Bhupender Yadav</b>	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry of Labour and Employment
<b>Mahendra Nath Pandey</b>	Ministry of Heavy Industries
<b>Parshottam Rupala</b>	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
<b>G. Kishan Reddy</b>	Ministry of Culture Ministry of Tourism Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
<b>Anurag Singh Thakur</b>	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
<b>Arjun Meghwal</b>	Ministry of Law and Justice

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