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# Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – September 2023





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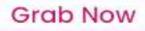
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#### **IMPORTANT DAYS**

#### National Nutrition Week 2023: September 1-7

- National Nutrition Week is observed from September 1 to September 7 every year.
- The theme of National Nutrition Week 2023 is "Healthy Diet Gawing Affordable for All".
- National Nutrition Week 2023 is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of consuming nutrition-rich food.
- National Nutrition Week was established in 1975 by the members of the American Dietetic Association(ADA), now known as the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

#### World Coconut Day: September 2

- World Coconut Day is celebrated on September 2 every year.
- In **1998, the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community declared World Coconut Day** to bring awareness to the powerful nutrients and versatility of this superfood.

#### International Day of Charity 2023: September 5

- International Day of Charity was observed on the 5th of September.
- This day was constructed by a Hungarian civil society with the support of the Hungarian government.
- On 17 December 2012, the UN General Assembly declared the 5th of September as the International Day of Charity.

#### About UNGA :

- Established: 1945
- Headquarters: New York, United States
- President: Csaba Kőrösi
- The UNGA is **one of the six principal organs** of the **United Nations (UN)**, serving as the main deliberative, policymaking, and representative organ of the UN.

#### National Teachers Day 2023: September 5

- In India, every year 5th of September is celebrated as National Teachers Day to contribute to our teachers.
- In India, the President, Dr. Sarevepalli Radhakrishnan's birthday is celebrated as Teacher's Day.
- Since 1962 every year the 5th of September has been celebrated as National Teachers Day in India.

#### World Physical Therapy Day: September 8

• Every year 8th of September is observed as World Physical Therapy Day.

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- In ancient times, the first report of physical therapy came from Hippocrates.
- In India, physiotherapy was first started in the year of 1952.
- The first physiotherapy centre was started in Mumbai with the support of the Government and the support of the World Health Organisation(WHO).

#### World Literacy Day 2023: September 8

- World Literacy Day or International Literacy Day is observed each year on the 8th of September.
- The theme of World Literacy Day 2023 is **"Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the** foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies".
- In **1966**, **UNESCO declared** the 8th of September as World Literacy Day to remind the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights for people.

#### Hindi Diwas 2023: September 14

- Every year 14th September is celebrated as a Hindi Diwas or hindi day.
- In the year 1953, the first Hindi Diwas was celebrated.
- This decision is also stated in Article 343 of Chapter 17 of the Constitution of India.
- The reason for celebrating Hindi Day on September 14 is that A Noble and Famous Hindi Literature Vyahar Rajendra Singha was born on 14th September.

#### International Day of Democracy 2023: September 15

- The International Day of Democracy is observed every year on the 15th of September.
- In November 2007, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the decision with the title, "Support by the United Nations system of efforts of governments to promote and consolidate a new or restored democracy" and encouraged the government to strengthen the democracy.
- The first International Day of Democracy was observed in the year of 2008.

#### Engineers Day in India 2023: September 15

- Every year 15th September is celebrated as National Engineers Day in India.
- National Engineers Day is celebrated on 15th September in India, in order to pay tribute to our Indian engineer and Bharat Ratna Sir Mokshagundam Viswesvaraya on his birthday.
- In the year of 1968, the Government of India announced that Sir M. Visvesvaraya's birth anniversary was celebrated as Engineers Day in India.

#### World Ozone Day 2023: September 16

- Every year World Ozone Day is observed on 16 September.
- In 1913, the French Physicists Charles Fabry and Henri Buisson discovered the Ozone Layer.
- The World Ozone Day Theme 2023 is 'Montreal Protocol: fixing the ozone layer and reducing

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climate change'.

- The Montreal Protocol was first implemented on 1 January 1989.
- In 1994, the United Nations General Assembly decided to organize World Ozone Day on the 16th of September.

#### International Red Panda Day 2023: September 17

- Every year the third Saturday of September is celebrated as International Red Panda Day.
- The Red Pandas were first described in the year 1825.
- In 2010, International Red Panda Day (IRPD) was launched by the Red Panda Network (RPN).
- The first International Red Panda Day was observed on 18th September 2010.

#### World Patient Safety Day 2023: September 17

- Every year September 17 is observed as World Patient Safety Day.
- The World Patient Safety Day **Theme in 2023 is "Engaging patients for patient safety",** to recognize the crucial role patients, families, and caregivers play in the safety of health care.
- Though this day was established in 2019, this **day was first observed in the year 2021.**

#### World Bamboo Day 2023: September 18

- Every year the 18th of September is celebrated as World Bamboo Day.
- World Bamboo Day was recognized by the World Bamboo Organization in the year of 2009.
- World Bamboo Day was founded by Kamesh Salam who was the former president of the World Bamboo Organization.

#### International Day of Peace 2023: September 21

- International Day of Peace is celebrated on 21st September of every year. Peace is commonly known as the lack of conflict.
- This year's theme is Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals
- The **United Nations General Assembly** declared the International Day of Peace to strengthen the ideas of peace.

#### World Alzheimers Day 2023: September 21

- Every year World Alzheimers Day is observed on 21st September.
- Alzheimer's is a brain disorder that slowly destroys the memory and thinking skills of a person.
- World Alzheimers Day 2023 Theme is "Never too early, never too late".
- Alzheimer's disease was first diagnosed in an old German lady in 1901 by Alois Alzheimer, a German Psychiatrist.

World Rose Day 2023: September 22

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- World Rose Day is observed on 22nd September of every year.
- Giving Someone hope for their life is the greatest thing of our life.
- This day is observed in order to remember a 12-year-old girl, Melinda Rose.

#### International Day of Sign Languages 2023: September 23

- The International Day of Sign Languages is celebrated every year on 23rd September.
- The UN General Assembly announced that the International Day of Sign Language is observed on 23rd September of every year.
- The International Day of Sign Languages was first celebrated in the year of 2018.
- September 23 is chosen to celebrate this day because on this date the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) was formed in the year of 1951.

#### Antyodaya Diwas 2023: 25 September 2023

- India celebrates Antyodaya Diwas annually on September 25 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.
- Antyodaya Diwas is celebrated annually in India to mark the birth anniversary of Indian leader Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.
- It is a day of remembrance and celebration of his life and legacy and he was one of the most prominent figures in **India's political history**.
- He was a co-founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS) and a thinker of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

#### World Tourism Day 2023:September 27

- World Tourism Day is celebrated annually on **September 27** to promote and raise awareness about the importance of tourism, both economically and socially.
- The theme of "**Tourism and Green Investments**" reinforces the idea that tourism can be a force for positive change when it aligns with environmental and social sustainability goals.
- It was established by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in 1980 and has been celebrated every year since then.

#### World Environmental Health Day 2023:September 26

- World Environmental Health Day is celebrated every year on 26 September.
- The day is dedicated to create awareness about the impact of environmental health on our overall health and well-being.
- The theme of World Environmental Health Day 2023 is "Global Environmental Public Health: Standing up to protect everyone's Health each and every day."

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#### Google's 25th Birthday: The tech giant's journey

• September 27, 2023, is a big occasion in the tech world - Google's 25th birthday.

#### World Maritime Day: September 28, 2023

- World Maritime Day is celebrated on the last Thursday of September each year.
- This year it will be celebrated on Thursday, September 28, 2023.
- This year's World Maritime theme is "MARPOL at 50 Our commitment goes on".
- The theme reflects the organization's long history of **protecting the environment** from the impact of shipping via a robust regulatory framework and emphasizes its ongoing commitment to this important work.

#### Eid Milad-un-Nabi 2023 being celebrated on September 28

- Eid Milad-un-Nabi, also known as Eid-e-Milad, Mawlid, Milad un Nabi, and Nabid is an important festival celebrated among Muslims.
- The day is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), the last messenger of Allah.

• Eid-e-Milad falls every year in the month of Rabi ul Awal.

#### World Rabies Day 2023: September 28

- World Rabies Day will be celebrated globally on September 28.
- This year we are celebrating the **17th** World Rabies Day. And this year's theme is "All for 1, One Health for All".
- World Rabies Day was established by the Global Alliance for Rabies Control in 2007 and later endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO).

#### World Heart Day 2023: September 29

- World Heart Day is observed every year on **September 29** to raise awareness about cardiovascular disease and the importance of heart health.
- The theme for World Heart Day 2023 is "Use Heart, Know Heart".
- The first World Health Day was observed in 1999 when the WFH collaborated with the World Health Organisation (WHO).

#### September 28: 116th anniversary birthday of Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 28 September paid tributes to the legendary revolutionary Shaheed Bhagat Singh on his 116<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary.
- Bhagat Singh was born on **28 September 1907** at Banga in Punjab, British India in a Sikh family. **International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste 2023: September 29, 2023**

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- The International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, which is observed on September
   29 each year, represents a global commitment to tackle these critical issues head-on.
- Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2020, this day aims to raise awareness about the staggering magnitude of food loss and waste and mobilize action at all levels to reduce it.
- The International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, with the 2023 theme **"Reducing** food loss and waste: Taking Action to Transform Food Systems".

#### About FAO :

- Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) is an international body which deals with food security, hunger and nutrition at global level.
- Director General of United Nations FAO: Qu-Dongyu.
- FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
- Establishment: FAO was established 16 October, 1945.
- Headquarters: Rome, Italy.
- Parent Organization: United Nation Economic and Social Council.
- FAO comprises 195 members including 194 countries and the European Union.

### **BANKING & FINANCE**

#### Bad Bank chairman Karnam Sekar resigns over disagreements in merger with IDRCL

- Karnam Sekar, the chairman of the National Asset Reconstruction Company of India (NARCL), commonly referred to as the Bad Bank, has resigned due to differences in the structure and functioning of the institution.
- National Asset Reconstruction Company of India (NARCL) Chairman Sekar resigned soon after a proposal for merging the public sector NARCL with India Debt Resolution Company Limited (IDRCL) was suggested.

#### What is a Bad Bank?

- A bad bank is a financial entity set up to buy Non-Performing Assets (NPAs), or Bad Loans, from banks.
- The **aim** of setting up a bad bank is to help ease the burden on banks by taking bad loans off their balance sheets and get them to lend again to customers without constraints.

About NARCL :

• Incorporated : July 2021 as a 'bad bank' to help dispose of the stressed assets of the commercial

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banks.

- Managing Director : N Sundar
- Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have a 51% ownership of NARCL.
- While FIs or debt management companies will hold **49%**.

#### About IDRCL :

- The IDRCL is a **service company** or an **operational entity**, which will manage assets and loop in market professionals and turnaround experts.
- Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and Public FIs will hold a maximum of 49% stake and the rest will be with private sector lenders.

#### ADB approves Rs.3.32 crores for safe public transport projects in Hyderabad

 A team of technology experts of Birla Institute of Technology & Science (BITS) Hyderabad, Telangana, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, Maharashtra and IIT Kharagpur, West Bengal coordinated by Prof. Prasanta Sahu, has won Asian Development Bank's grant of US\$3.99 lakh (₹3.32 crore) to develop Technologies for Urban Transit to Enhance Mobility and Safe Accessibility (TUTEM) to develop, test, and implement it in the public transport systems of Hyderabad.

#### About ADB :

- Established : 19 December 1966
- Headquarters : Mandaluyong, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa
- Membership : 68 countries

#### IIT Bombay partners with HSBC to support innovation-led green hydrogen initiatives

- The Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B) has partnered with Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) to pursue technological advancements towards making green hydrogen production more efficient, cost-effective, and scalable.
- The collaboration was inaugurated by **Smt Nirmala Sitharaman**, the Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, in Delhi on August 24, 2023.
- The focus will be on innovative projects that will help position green hydrogen as a strategic alternate fuel; help in building a robust, green hydrogen economy and achieve the government's vision of an energy-independent nation.

#### About Ministry of Electronics & IT :

• Cabinet Minister : Ashwini Vaishnaw

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• Minister of State : Rajeev Chandrasekhar

IIT Bombay receives a donation of USD 18.6 million from alumni towards the establishment of the Green Energy & Sustainability Research Hub

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has received a donation of USD 18.6 million (over 153 crore) from an alumnus towards the establishment of a Green Energy and Sustainability Research Hub.
- The focused areas include evaluating climate risks and developing effective mitigation strategies, climate change adaptation, and comprehensive environmental monitoring.
- It will facilitate research in several critical areas, including battery technologies, solar photovoltaics, biofuels, clean-air science, flood forecasting, and carbon capture, among others.

#### Savart Launched 'The Ad Astra Fund': The World's First Fully Automated Investment Fund

- Savart, one of India's largest investment advisors, launched its maiden and flagship Portfolio Management Service (PMS) called, The Ad Astra Fund -World's First Fully Automated Investment Fund, in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- On the day of its launch, The Ad Astra Fund secured investment commitments worth INR 31 crores, indicating strong initial investor interest.
- The fund has set an ambitious goal of reaching an Asset Under Management (AUM) of INR 350
   crores by the end of the fiscal year 2024 (FY24).
- This fund features end-to-end research automation, from investment opportunity discovery until exit, i.e The entire research and investment decision-making process is driven by their AI research system APART (Advanced Process Automation & Research Technology), which comprises 3 engines (Quant, Iris,Synapse).

#### About Savart :

- Established : 2017
- Headquarters : Hyderabad, Telangana
- CEO : Sankarsh Chanda

# Shriram Housing Finance Collaborates with IFC to Advance Environmentally Friendly Affordable Housing Finance in India

 Shriram Housing Finance Limited (SHFL), a leading affordable housing finance company, having in over 130 branches in India with 65,000 customers and International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank, announced a partnership to launch an affordable green housing lending product for self-constructed homes in India.







 The project will deploy IFC's Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiency (EDGE) certification tool for the affordable self-construction segment customers and impact monitoring tool (CAFI) for reporting of green affordable housing.

#### About IFC :

- Established : July 20, 1956
- Headquarters : Washington, D.C., United States
- Managing Director : Makhtar Diop
- Membership : 186 countries
- The IFC is an **international financial institution** that offers investment, advisory, and assetmanagement services to encourage private-sector development in less developed countries.

#### Muthoot Fincorp Limited Launches Muthoot FinCorp ONE

- Muthoot Fincorp Limited (MFL), a kerala based flagship entity of Muthoot Pappachan Group (Muthoot Blue), has introduced "Muthoot FinCorp ONE," a cutting-edge digital platform to offer an integrated range of financial solutions, including lending, investments, protection, and payments, all accessible through a single app.
- Muthoot FinCorp ONE is an all-in-one digital financial platform that makes getting an MSME & a Gold Loan, investing in Digital gold & NCDs, making payments & remittances, buying insurance & exchanging forex, simple and convenient.

#### Outward remittances under RBI's LRS rise 50% to \$9.1 billion in Q1

- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) liberalised remittance scheme (LRS) has displayed remarkable growth, with a 50.64% surge in outward remittances, reaching \$9.1 billion in the first quarter of fiscal year 2023-24.
- This surge has been influenced by various factors, including alterations in tax regulations and the gradual return to normalcy in international travel patterns.
- According to Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) data, Maharashtra remained the top destination with equity flows of \$4.5 billion in the June quarter, as against \$5.2 billion, marking a decline of 13.5%.
- Karnataka saw a 46% fall to just under \$1.5 billion during this period.
- Gujarat saw a 77% slump from \$3.2 billion to \$730 million.

#### About LRS scheme :

• LSR is a foreign exchange policy initiative introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2004.







 Under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme, all resident individuals, including minors, are allowed to freely remit up to USD 2,50,000 per financial year (April – March) for any permissible current or capital account transaction or a combination of both.

#### SEBI Releases Guidelines to Enhance Cybersecurity for MDs and CEOs of Exchanges

- Market Regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced a set of fresh guidelines aimed at bolstering cyber security and resilience among Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs), including stock exchanges, clearing corporations, and depositories.
- Market infrastructure institutions are required to conduct a comprehensive cyber audit a minimum of 2 times during each financial year.

#### SEBI Forms New Panel for Alternative Investment Policy Advisory Committee

- The Capital Market Regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has reconstituted its Alternative Investment Policy Advisory Committee and advises it on a range of issues impacting the further development of the Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) space.
- According to SEBI, the committee, initially constituted in March 2015, underwent a recent change in its composition in February 2022.
- Now, the committee has been expanded to include 25 members, up from its previous count of 20.

#### Chairperson & Members of the Committee :

- The committee is Chaired by Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy, & has submitted 3 reports on the AIF (Alternative Investment Fund) industry.
- Notably, Renuka Ramnath, the former chairperson of the Indian Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (IVCA), has been replaced on the committee by Karthik Reddy, the new chairman of IVCA.

#### Fitch Maintains BBB- Rating with Stable Outlook for SBI and 5 Other Public Sector Banks

- Fitch Ratings has reaffirmed the credit ratings of 6 major public sector banks in India including State Bank of India (SBI), Bank of Baroda (BoB), Punjab National Bank (PNB), Canara Bank, Bank of India (BoI), and Union Bank of India (UBI), have all received a BBB- rating with a stable outlook.
- In addition to the BBB- rating with a stable outlook, Fitch Ratings has also reaffirmed the following ratings for these banks:
  - > Viability rating at BB
  - Sovernment support rating at BBB-

#### PhonePe enters stock broking business with launch of Share.Market app

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- Walmart-backed payments giant PhonePe has introduced its stock broking platform, named Share(dot)Market, as part of its efforts to diversify its financial services.
- The new mobile app will allow users to trade and invest in stocks, mutual funds, and ETFs (exchange-traded funds).
- The Share(dot)Market app elevates discount broking by **providing market intelligence** and **quantitative research-based WealthBaskets**, a scalable technology platform.

#### About Phonepe :

- Established : 2015
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Founder & CEO : Sameer Nigam

#### SEBI Directs Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) to Create a Unified Online Dispute Resolution Portal

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has instructed Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) to establish and operate a unified Online Dispute Resolution Portal (ODR Portal).
- This portal will leverage **online conciliation** and **online arbitration** to resolve disputes arising in the Indian securities markets.
- MIIs, including **stock exchanges, depositories,** and **clearing corporations**, are tasked with collaborating to develop and operationalize the ODR Platform.

#### NPCI Introduces 'Falcon': India's Own Blockchain-Backed Open-Source Initiative

 The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has introduced 'Falcon,' an open-source project designed to simplify the management and utilization of blockchains based on 'Hyperledger Fabric' and supported on Kubernetes clusters.

#### Aim :

- To **assist blockchain developers** in leveraging distributed ledger technology for efficient, reliable, and automated deployment of network and Web3 solutions.
- It is particularly focused on fostering innovation in **blockchain-based payment solutions**.

#### What is Hyperledger?

- Hyperledger Fabric was initiated by Digital Asset and IBM, as per Investopedia.
  - > Hyperledger fabric is an **enterprise-level permission blockchain network**.
  - The framework serves as a foundation for creating blockchain-based products and solutions.

#### What are Kubernetes Clusters?







- Developed by Google engineers Joe Beda, Brendan Burns, and Craig McLuckie in 2014, Kubernetes is an open-source platform that assists the management of packaged software codes, also called containerised applications.
- In **2020**, NPCI introduced **'Vajra**,' a blockchain-driven system that automates payment clearing and settlement processes for NPCI products.

#### About NPCI :

- Founded : 2008
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Dilip Asbe
- The NPCI is an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India, is an initiative of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, for creating a robust Payment & Settlement Infrastructure in India.

#### Mastercard Introduces ALT ID Solution to Enhance Online Payment Security

- Mastercard, a global technology company in the payments industry, has introduced an ALT ID (Alternate Identifier) 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 ecommerce platforms.
- The **primary purpose** of this solution is to **enhance online payment security** for both merchants and consumers.
- Previously, mastercard rolled out a **card-on-file tokenization solution** for cardholders to safely complete transactions without revealing sensitive card details.

#### About Mastercard :

- Founded : 1966
- Headquarters : New York, United States of America
- CEO : Michael Miebach

#### Bank credit registers robust 16.3% y-o-y growth in June 2023

• As per **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) data on sectoral deployment of credit, Bank credit** registered a robust growth of **16.3% year-on-year (y-o-y)** in June 2023 as compared with 15% in







2022 on the back of strong demand for credit from sectors such as services, retail and agriculture, and allied activities.

Credit Growth Highlights by Sector :

- Services sector: Credit growth surged to 26.7% (y-o-y) in June 2023 from 12.8% in 2022.
- Personal loans: Registered a growth rate of 20.9% (y-o-y) in June 2023, compared to 18.1% in June 2022.
- Agriculture and allied activities: Credit growth improved to 19.7% (y-o-y) in June 2023 from 12.9% in 2022.
- Industry sector: Credit growth in this sector decelerated to 8.1% (y-o-y) in June 2023, down from 9.5% in June 2022.

• Credit Growth by Industry Size : Size-wise, credit to large industries rose by 6.4% (3.2% in 2022). About RBI :

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

RBI Permits Scheduled Commercial Banks to Offer Credit Lines via UPI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) (excluding Payment Banks, Small Finance Banks, and Regional Rural Banks) are now allowed to facilitate payments using pre-sanctioned credit lines for individuals with their prior consent through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system.
- UPI currently supports linkage with savings accounts, overdraft accounts, prepaid wallets, and credit cards.
- Banks can establish terms and conditions for the use of these credit lines, including aspects such as **credit limits, credit duration, interest rates**, and more.
- At present, UPI handles **75%** of the retail digital payments volume in India.
- UPI achieved a significant milestone by surpassing **10 billion transactions** in the month of August, 2023.

SBI Enables UPI Interoperability with eRupee Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) for Smooth Transactions

• The State Bank of India (SBI) has introduced UPI interoperability with its Digital Rupee (eRupee), also known as Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) to enhance customer convenience.







• This feature is accessible through the 'eRupee by SBI' application, enabling SBI CBDC users to scan merchant UPI QR codes for swift and secure transactions.

#### What is CBDC?

- CBDCs are **electronic forms of sovereign currency** issued by a country's central bank.
- They are designed to represent the official currency in digital form, similar to physical cash, and are backed by the government.
- CBDCs do not earn interest, but they can be converted into other forms of money, such as bank deposits.
- India's Digital Rupee, a CBDC, was launched by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on a pilot basis on December 1, 2022.
- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** announced the rollout of CBDC in the Union Budget 2022-23, signalling the government's commitment to a digital economy.
- CBDCs are part of a global trend toward digitising currency and offer a secure and efficient means of conducting digital transactions.

#### About SBI :

- Established : 1806
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Dinesh Khara

#### SEBI's Proposal to Establish a Performance Validation Agency for Intermediary Claim Verification

Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) came out with a
proposal to set up a Performance Validation Agency (PVA) to validate any claims of performance
by registered intermediaries including investment advisers, research analysts and portfolio
managers.

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- The **primary purpose** of the PVA would be to facilitate intermediaries in marketing their products based on validated performance data.
- The proposed PVA would enable intermediaries such as **investment advisers**, **research analysts**, and **portfolio managers** to showcase validated performance data to investors.
- Accordingly, the regulator has proposed to create an independent body called PVA to validate the claims related to investment advice, 'buy,sell,hold' recommendation, mutual fund scheme, portfolio management service, algorithm, by registered intermediaries such as investment advisers (IAs), research analysts (RAs), portfolio managers AMCs and stock brokers.







 It has been suggested that PVA should be a wholly-owned subsidiary of market infrastructure institutions (MIIs) or a jointly supported entity by multiple MIIs, whose purpose would be to enable intermediaries to market their products based on validations made by the PVA.

#### About SEBI :

- Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch (first woman to lead the SEBI)
- SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, Gol.

#### RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das Receives 'A+' Rating in Global Finance Central Banker Report 2023

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has been awarded an 'A+' rating in the Global Finance Central Bank Report Card 2023.
- According to Global Finance, Das has been ranked at the top position in the list of 3 central bank governors worldwide.
- The A+ category in the report also includes 2 other central bank governors: Thomas J. Jordan of Switzerland and Nguyen Thi Hong of Vietnam.
- The Central Banker Report Card is an **annual publication by Global Finance**, and it has been assessing and grading the performance of central bank governors since **1994**.
- The grades in the report are based on a scale from 'A' to 'F' and evaluate central bank governors' performance in areas such as inflation control, economic growth goals, currency stability, and interest rate management.
- An 'A' grade signifies excellent performance, while 'F' indicates outright failure.

#### Bajaj Auto Consumer Finance gets RBI Certificate to start Non-Banking Financial Activities

- Bajaj Auto Consumer Finance Limited (BACFL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bajaj Auto has received a certificate of registration from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to carry out operations as a non-deposit taking non-banking financial company (NBFC).
- The certification Registration was issued on 31 August 2023 from RBI under section 45-IA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 to commence/carry on the business of non banking financial institutions without accepting public deposits.

#### About Bajaj Auto Consumer Finance :

Established : 2021

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- Headquarters : Mumbai, Mahara
- CEO : Rakesh Makkar
- Bajaj Auto Consumer Finance is the **2nd non-banking financial company** in the Bajaj group.
- The group also houses Bajaj Finance and Bajaj Housing Finance, both of which are subsidiaries of financial services company Bajaj Finserv.

Punjab National Bank Introduces PNB GST Sahay App for Instant Loans Based on GST Invoices for MSMEs

- State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched the PNB GST Sahay App, a mobile application based on the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Sahay scheme, an end-to-end digital product under which lending can be done using GST invoices.
- With this integration, PNB has become the 1st public sector bank to enable seamless credit flow to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) by integrating GST invoices into the lending process.
- Through the app, all GST-registered MSMEs having an active account with PNB will be able to access the bank's GST Sahay service for loans starting from Rs 10,000 to Rs 2 lakh per invoice, subject to capping of Rs 10 lakh per borrower.

#### About PNB :

- Founded : 19 May 1894
- Headquarters : Dwarka, Delhi, India
- MD & CEO : Atul Kumar Goel
- Tagline : You Can Bank Upon

#### India and Singapore Successfully Conduct First Live Paperless Transaction via Trade Trust Platform

- India and Singapore piloted the first live paperless transaction using the Trade Trust platform, marking a milestone in the digital connection between India and Singapore.
- The transaction occurred following the India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable and a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- In 2022, a Joint India-Singapore Ministerial delegation called upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi and briefed him about the outcomes of the inaugural session of the India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR).

#### CCI Levies ₹40-Lakhs Fine on NTPC for Gun Jumping

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 40 lakh on NTPC
 Limited for the offence of gun jumping.

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- Gun jumping occurs when parties involved in a combination fail to notify CCI before consummating the transaction.
- The penalty was imposed because NTPC had acquired a **35.47% stake** in Ratnagiri Gas & Power without prior notification to CCI.

#### About CCI :

- Established: 14 October 2003
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairman: Ravneet Kaur
- The CCI is the chief national competition regulator in India.
- It is a statutory body within the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- CCI is probing various anti-competitive cases, including those relating to technology companies.

#### About NTPC Limited :

- Founded : 7 November 1975
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman & MD : Gurdeep Singh
- NTPC Limited, formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation, is an Indian central Public Sector Undertaking under the ownership of the Ministry of Power and the Government of India, who is engaged in the generation of electricity and other activities.

RBI approves amalgamation of Navanirman Co-operative Urban Bank with Rajadhani Co-op Urban Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has sanctioned the Scheme of Amalgamation of The Navanirman Co-operative Urban Bank Limited, Hyderabad, Telangana with Rajadhani Co-op. Urban Bank Ltd, Hyderabad, Telangana.
- The Scheme has been sanctioned in exercise of the powers conferred under Sub-Section (4) of Section 44A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, **1949**.

#### SBI Introduces Aadhaar-Based Enrolment for Social Security Schemes via Customer Service Points

- State Bank of India (SBI) has introduced a new feature that allows customers to enrol in social security schemes by providing their Aadhaar card.
- SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara unveiled the new feature which will be available at the bank's Customer Service Points (CSPs) that aims to make the process of enrolling in various social security schemes simpler.







 Customers can now easily enrol in important social security schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) using their Aadhaar.

#### Paytm Introduces Card Soundbox Device for Contactless UPI and Credit/Debit Card Payments

- **Paytm** has introduced the **Paytm Card Soundbox**, a device designed to facilitate mobile and card payments, including Visa, Mastercard, American Express, and RuPay.
- This product is aimed at helping merchants expand their businesses by offering a "tap and pay" solution for credit and debit card payments.
- It builds upon Paytm's earlier **innovation of audio-based confirmations** with the Paytm Soundbox.
- Paytm was the **1st company** to launch **audio-based confirmations** with Paytm Soundbox, transforming in-store payments in the country.

#### About Paytm :

- Established : 2010
- Headquarters : Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Founder & CEO : Vijay Shekhar Sharma

#### Federal Bank Introduces WhatsApp Lending Platform for Pre-Approved Personal Loans

- Federal Bank has introduced a WhatsApp Lending Platform to facilitate the application process for pre-approved personal loans.
- The platform's inauguration was conducted by Federal Bank's Chairman, **AP Hota**.

#### About Federal Bank :

- Headquarters : Aluva, Kochi, Kerala, India
- MD & CEO :Shyam Srinivasan
- Tagline : your perfect banking partner

#### Indian Bank Collaborates with OneCard to Introduce Mobile-First Co-Branded Credit Cards

- Indian Bank has partnered OneCard to introduce mobile-first, contactless and metal-co-branded credit cards.
- The card comes with a mobile app that allows cardholders to control their interactions.
- This international metal credit card is curated to offer a host of tailored benefits, including **lifetime** validity with zero joining and annual fees.

About OneCard :

- Headquarters : Pune, Maharashtra
- CEO : Anurag Sinha

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About Indian Bank :

- Established : 15 August 1907
- Headquarters : Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- MD & CEO : Shanti Lal Jain
- Tagline : Your Own Bank

#### Shivalik Small Finance Bank Partners with Fintech Infrastructure Firm Falcon to Provide Digital Products

- Shivalik Small Finance Bank, headquartered in North India, has entered into a partnership with Falcon, a fintech company for developing financial products like instant Digital Fixed Deposits (FDs) and savings accounts.
- One of the key benefits of this next-gen platform is that it will reduce the **cost** and **time required** for launching new financial products.
- The platform comes with several pre-equipped features, including **no-code mobile** and **web applications**.

About Shivalik Small Finance Bank :

- Headquarters : Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Managing Director : Anshul Swami
- Shivalik became the 1st Small Finance Bank in India to transition from an Urban Co-operative bank namely Shivalik Mercantile Co-operative Bank (SMCB).

### Manipal Cigna Health Appointed by IRDAI as Lead Insurer for Karnataka State Awareness Insurance Plan

 ManipalCigna Health Insurance has been appointed as the lead health insurer by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for the State Insurance Awareness Plan in Karnataka.

Objective :

- To **expand insurance coverage** and **raise awareness** about health insurance in Karnataka.
- ManipalCigna has introduced a new Kannada tagline, "Health Insurance Avashyaka" (Health Insurance is a Necessity), to emphasize the essential role of health insurance in ensuring both health and financial well-being.

SBI Card Introduces Enhanced Features for its Super-Premium Card 'AURUM'

• SBI Card, the largest credit card issuer in India, has introduced new features for its super premium card named 'AURUM targeted at C-suite executives and high net-worth individuals.

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- 'AURUM' is a by-invitation-only card, initially launched in February 2021 and now extends enhanced benefits to its users, ranging from introduction of new annual spends-based milestones and welcome benefits to additional international lounge benefits and golf privileges.
- With these enhancements, 'AURUM' cardholders can now enjoy benefits worth up to ₹2 lakh annually, based on their spending.

#### About SBI Card :

- Founded : May 1998
- Headquarters : Gurugram, Haryana, India
- MD & CEO : Abhijit Chakravorty
- SBI Card launched by State Bank of India (SBI) and GE Capital.

#### Indian Bank Extends Online Locker Agreement Execution through NeSL's DDE Platform

- Indian Bank became the 1st Public Sector Bank (PSB) to extend the facility of execution of online locker agreement through Digital Document Execution (DDE) Platform of National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL), India's 1st Information Utility and is registered with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
- The introduction of online locker agreements available **24/7** aims to enhance customer convenience and will reduce the turn-around time of the agreement execution.
- DDE is a fully automated contract execution platform with **paperless e-stamp** and **electronic signature (e-Sign) facility**.
- The facility of e-Sign includes Aadhar based (OTP/Biometric) and dongle-based digital signature.

#### SEBI to Enforce One-Hour Trade Settlement by March 2024

- Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), plans to introduce one-hour trade settlements in India by the end of the fiscal year, March 2024 with an aim to significantly reduce the time taken for the settlement of securities transactions.
- SEBI has adopted a roadmap to transition from the current settlement cycle to one-hour settlements, with the ultimate goal of achieving instantaneous settlements in the securities market.
   About SEBI :
  - Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
  - Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
  - Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch (first woman to lead the SEBI)

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• SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF),** Gol.

#### State Bank of India Introduces 'Nation First Transit Card' for Digital Fare Payments

- State Bank of India, the country's largest bank, has introduced the 'Nation First Transit Card' with the primary goal of enhancing commuting experiences and promoting digital payment adoption.
- To simplify digital ticket fare payments across multiple modes of transportation, including metros, buses, water ferries, parking facilities, and more, all within a single card.
- Beyond transportation, the 'Nation First Transit Card' can also be utilized for **retail and e-commerce transactions,** providing users with a convenient and versatile payment solution.

#### About SBI :

- Established : 1 July 1955
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara
- CFO : Kameshwar Rao Kodavanti

#### Bank of Baroda Introduces UPI ATM Facility at Over 6,000 ATMs Nationwide

- Bank of Baroda (BoB) has enabled the Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-Automated Teller Machine (ATM) facility at its ATMs nationwide, this new facility will allow customers to withdraw cash from ATMs without the need for a debit or credit card.
- BoB is recognized as the first Public Sector Bank to launch UPI ATMs in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and powered by NCR Corporation.

#### About BoB :

- Established : 20 July 1908
- Headquarters : Vadodara, Gujarat, India
- MD & CEO : Debadatta Chand
- Tagline : India's International Bank

#### Axis Bank Launches its Credit Cards Campaign named 'Open Experiences'

- Axis Bank, a prominent private sector bank in India, has unveiled its credit card campaign titled 'Open Experiences.'
- This campaign recognizes a notable shift in the concept of 'experience' in contemporary times.
- It acknowledges that today's consumers are looking for more than just materialistic gains and are seeking meaningful experiences.

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#### About Axis Bank :

- Established : 3 December 1993
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry
- Tagline : Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi

#### Global Trade Finance Gap Expands to \$2.5 Trillion in 2022 - ADB Survey

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) released its 2023 Trade Finance Gaps, Growth, and Jobs Survey, revealing that the global trade finance gap expanded to an unprecedented \$2.5 trillion in 2022, compared to \$1.7 trillion two years earlier.
- This gap represents the disparity between financing requests to facilitate international trade and the actual approvals granted.

#### About ADB :

- Established : 1966
- Headquarters : Manila, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa
- Membership : 68 members, including 49 regional members (countries in Asia and the Pacific) and 19 non-regional members (countries outside the region)

#### HDFC Bank Introduces 'Cardless EasyEMI' to Simplify Digital Consumer Loans

- HDFC Bank has partnered with a fintech ShopSe to offer end-to-end digital consumer loans -'Cardless EasyEMI'.
- The 'Cardless EasyEMI' program streamlines the consumer loan process, eliminating the need for physical **documents or extensive assistance**.
- Customers can easily convert their purchases into Equated Monthly Installments (EMIs) by scanning a QR code at participating ShopSe or bank merchant locations.

#### About HDFC Bank :

- Founded : 1st July 2023 (via the merger between HDFC-HDFC bank)
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan
- Tagline : We Understand Your World

# Union Bank of India Introduces Two Distinctive Debit Cards Tailored for High Net Worth Individuals (HNIs) and Women

• Union Bank of India (UBI) has introduced two new debit card variants - a Metal Card tailored for

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Ultra High Net Worth Individuals (HNIs) and another card with specialized benefits aimed at women.

- Both of these newly introduced debit cards are issued on the RuPay network, a domestic payment network in India.
- The launch of these two debit cards took place at the Global Fintech Fest in Mumbai,Maharashtra with the participation of Union Bank of India's MD & CEO, A. Manimekhalai, and Praveena Rai, Chief Operating Officer of NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India).

#### About Union Bank of India:

- Established: 1919
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- CEO: A. Manimekhalai
- Tagline: Good People to Bank with

#### Bharti AXA Life Launches "Income Laabh" to Streamline Insurance with Enhanced Protection

- Bharti AXA Life Insurance has introduced a new insurance product called "Bharti AXA Life Income Laabh" with the goal of simplifying insurance and providing maximum protection to customers.
- This plan is designed to offer both financial protection and a consistent income stream to policyholders.

#### About Bharti AXA Life Insurance :

- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Parag Raja
- Bharti AXA Life Insurance is a Joint Venture (JV) between Bharti Enterprises (51%) and French insurance company AXA (49%).

#### RBI Expected to Commence Digital Rupee Pilot in Call Money Market by October 2023

- Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Executive Director Ajay Kumar Choudhary announced that the RBI is likely to launch the pilot of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) for transactions in the interbank borrowing or call money market by October 2023.
- Participating Banks: Nine banks were selected by RBI for the wholesale CBDC pilot project, including 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.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das Urges Fintech Companies to Establish Self-Regulatory Organization (SRO)

• Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has urged fintech entities to establish a

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#### Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO).

- Fintech entities interested in being recognized as SROs must apply to the RBI.
- The RBI will issue a letter of recognition to suitable entities.
- FinTech, short for financial technology, encompasses software, mobile applications, and various technologies designed to enhance and automate traditional financial services for both businesses and consumers.

#### About RBI :

- Established : 1 April 1935
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy Governors : Swaminathan Janakiraman, Michael Patra, M. Rajeshwar Rao, T Rabi Sankar

#### Axis Bank Partners with Confirmation, a Leading Electronic Audit Balance Confirmation Platform

- Axis Bank, a leading private sector bank in India, has forged a strategic alliance with Confirmation, recognized as the world's foremost electronic audit balance confirmation platform.
- Through this partnership, Axis Bank will adopt electronic methods for sending and receiving auditors' Balance Confirmation Certificates (BCC).
- This shift **eliminates** the need for paper-based processes.

### Hitachi Payment Services Introduces India's 1st UPI-ATM in Collaboration with NPCI

- Hitachi Payment Services, a 100% subsidiary of Japan-based Hitachi Limited, has launched India's first Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-Automated Teller Machine (ATM) in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- The UPI-ATM, named Hitachi Money Spot UPI ATM, offers cardless cash withdrawals, eliminating the need for physical ATM cards.
- This UPI-ATM operates as a White Label ATM (WLA), a type of ATM operated by non-banking entities.

### About Hitachi Payment Services Private Limited :

- Founded : 2008
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sumil Vikamsey

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- Hitachi Payment Services is the **only White Label ATM operator** that provides a cash deposit facility at over 3,000 locations in India.
- Hitachi manages a substantial network of over 65,500 ATMs, including 27,500 cash recycling machines, and 9,500 White Label ATMs (WLAs).

AMFI Establishes Guidelines for Direct Mutual Fund Firms Seeking to Act as Agents for Asset Management Companies (AMCs)

- The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), has established a net worth requirement of Rs 1 crore for direct plan distributors interested in registering with them as execution-only platforms (EOPs).
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has mandated that online platforms exclusively dedicated to distributing direct mutual fund (MF) schemes must become EOPs.
- They can achieve this by registering either with exchanges (EOP Category 2) or with AMFI (EOP Category 1).

#### About AMFI :

- Established : August 22, 1995
- CEO : Mr. N. S. Venkatesh
- The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) is dedicated to fostering the Indian Mutual Fund Industry while upholding professional, **ethical**, and **healthy standards**.
- Its primary goal is to safeguard and promote the interests of mutual funds and their unit holders.
- As of now, AMFI represents 44 Asset Management Companies that are registered with SEBI as its members.

#### PSB Alliance Launches Door-Step Banking Services at 6,800 Locations

- **PSB Alliance Private Limited**, a company established by public sector banks (PSBs), plans to expand to **6,800 centres** across India by **June 2024**, a substantial increase from the current 100 centres with an aim to significantly increase the coverage of its DSB services.
- PSB Alliance is jointly owned by 12 public sector banks, with each bank holding an 8.33% stake in the company.
- This collaborative ownership structure enables the collective expansion of DSB services.

#### UPI Transactions in India Surpass 10 Billion Mark for the 1st Time in August 2023

• According to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the United Payments Interface

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**(UPI) crossed 10 billion** in the volume of transactions in August 2023, marking a significant milestone for the payments.

- As of August 30, 2023, the monthly transaction count on UPI had reached 10.24 billion, with a net transaction value totaling **₹15.18 trillion**.
- UPI is not limited to domestic usage alone, as it is increasingly used for small-ticket transactions. Moreover, it has become an integral part of India's foreign policy outreach.

#### About NPCI :

- Founded : 2008
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Dilip Asbe
- The NPCI is an umbrella organisation for creating and operating robust retail payments and settlement systems in India.
- It is an initiative of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

#### RBI and NPCI Introduce Credit Lines for UPI and Conversational Payments

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has launched several new digital payment products including Credit Line on UPI, UPI LITE X, Tap & Pay, Hello! UPI, and Conversational Bill Payments by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) during the Global Fintech Festival.
- To create an inclusive, resilient, and sustainable digital payments ecosystem in India.
- The goal is to help UPI (Unified Payments Interface) achieve a target of processing **100 billion** transactions per month.

#### About Global Fintech Fest :

- Global Fintech Fest (GFF) is the largest fintech conference.
- It is jointly organized by the NPCI, the Payments Council of India (PCI), and the Fintech Convergence Council (FCC).

#### Initial Batch of Infrastructure Loans for Tier 2 and Tier 3 Cities to Be Released Shortly

- The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry is preparing to disburse the first tranche of loans for ongoing projects in tier-2 and tier-3 cities under the Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF).
- UIDF has been established to address the priority sector lending shortfall.
- **Purpose:** The Fund will be used by public agencies to create urban infrastructure in tier-2 and tier-3 cities.

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#### About RIDF :

- The RIDF was set up by the Government in **1995-96** to finance ongoing rural Infrastructure projects.
- The Fund is maintained by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
- **Contribution:** Domestic commercial banks contribute to the Fund to the extent of their shortfall in stipulated priority sector lending to agriculture.

#### Mastercard and KredX Partners to Enhance B2B Payments with Incentives for Businesses and Suppliers

- Mastercard has strategically partnered with KredX (Minions Ventures Private Limited), India's largest supply chain finance platform, to transform Business to Business (B2B) digital payments, benefitting both enterprises and vendors.
- B2B payments involve the exchange of currency for goods or services between two businesses, excluding consumer transactions.
- These businesses can include corporations, retailers, wholesalers, and startups.

#### About Kredx :

- Founded : 2015
- Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka
- CEO : Manish Kumar

#### SEBI Mandates Online-Only Mode for Investor Protection and Education Fund Payments

• The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has stated that payments to the SEBI Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF) account can now be made only through online mode.

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• To streamline the payment process and enhance accessibility for all individuals and entities contributing to the fund.

#### About SEBI :

- Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch (first woman to lead the SEBI)
- SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance (MoF), Gol.

SEBI Grants Approval to Groww for Launching Its Inaugural Index Fund

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- Asset management company Groww Mutual Fund has received approval from the market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch its first index fund named Groww Nifty Total Market Index Fund.
- Groww Mutual Fund got approval for its 1st New Fund Offering (NFO) Groww Nifty Total Market Index Fund
- This comes after Zerodha submitted draft offer documents to the market regulator for the launch of 2 schemes, the Zerodha Tax Saver (ELSS) Nifty Large Midcap 250 Index Fund and the Zerodha Nifty Large Midcap 250 Index Fund (ZN250), in accordance with its mandate to establish passive schemes.

#### About Groww Mutual Fund :

- Headquarters : Bengaluru, Karnataka
- CEO : Varun Gupta

#### SBI Card Introduces 'SimplySAVE Merchant SBI Card' Targeting the MSME Sector

- India's largest pure-play credit card issuer, SBI Cards & Payment Services Limited (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 card was officially unveiled by **Mr. Dinesh Khara**, Chairman of State Bank of India, during the Global Fintech Fest held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

#### About SBI Card :

- Founded : May 1998
- Headquarters : Gurgaon, Haryana
- MD & CEO : Abhijit Chakravorty
- SBI Cards & Payment Services Limited, previously known as SBI Cards & Payment Services Private Limited, is a credit card company and payment provider in India.

#### AU Small Finance Unveils 'Zenith Metal Credit Card

- AU Small Finance Bank Limited has launched the 'Zenith + Super Premium Metal Credit Card' as an addition to its range of banking solutions.
- Lounge Access: The card offers premium lounge access, providing cardholders with a comfortable and luxurious travel experience.
- Personalized Concierge Services: Cardholders can access personalized concierge services,

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enhancing convenience and assistance.

• Welcome Benefits: The card includes a welcome package with either Premium Brand vouchers or Reward Points valued at **Rs 5000**, offering immediate benefits to new cardholders.

#### About AU Small Finance Bank Limited :

- Established: 1996
- Headquarters: Jaipur, Rajasthan
- MD & CEO: Sanjay Agarwal

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

- AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance have announced a strategic partnership to provide a wide range of life insurance products to AU Small Finance Bank's diverse customer base, addressing their financial security needs.
- The agreement was signed by Uttam Tibrewal, Executive Director of AU Small Finance Bank, and Tarun Chugh, MD & CEO of Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance.
- AU Small Finance Bank **aims** to leverage technology-based solutions to enhance the customer experience by offering a variety of life insurance products from Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance.

#### About AU Small Finance Bank :

- Headquarters : Jaipur, Rajasthan, India
- MD & CEO: Sanjay Agarwal

#### Bajaj Allianz Life Introduces New Savings Plan - Bajaj Allianz Life ACE

- Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Limited has launched a new savings plan called "Bajaj Allianz Life ACE."
- Bajaj Allianz Life ACE is a non-linked, participating early-income life insurance plan.
- It offers customers increased flexibility in customizing cash flows to align with their unique financial needs and goals.

#### About bajaj allianz life insurance company limited :

- Established : 2001
- Headquarters : Pune, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO: Tarun Chugh
- Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Co. Ltd., one of India's leading private life insurers, is a joint venture (JV) between Bajaj Finserv Limited, one of the most diversified non-banking financial institutions in India, and Allianz SE, one of the world's leading global insurer and asset manager.

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IDEMIA, Airtel Payments Bank, and HMD Global Collaborate to Enable Digital Rupee on Feature Phones

- IDEMIA, a global identity technologies and biometric solutions provider, has formed a partnership with Airtel Payments Bank (a subsidiary of Bharti Airtel) and HMD Global (the manufacturer of Nokia Phones) to introduce an offline system for enabling digital rupee payments on feature phones.
- Digital rupee is a tokenized digital representation of the Indian fiat currency issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as a central bank digital currency (CBDC).
- This initiative marks the first attempt to make the CBDC issued by the RBI available on feature phones through an application interface.

#### About IDEMIA :

- Headquarters : Courbevoie, France
- CEO : Pierre Barrial

#### About Airtel Payments Bank :

- Founded : January 2017.
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi
- MD & CEO : Anubrata Biswas.

#### About HMD Global :

- Founded : 1 December 2016
- Headquarters : Espoo, Finland
- Executive Chairman & CEO : Jean-Francois Baril

#### PhonePe SmartSpeakers Introduces Celebrity Voice Feature with Amitabh Bachchan

• PhonePe has launched a first-of-its-kind celebrity voice feature on its SmartSpeakers in collaboration with the iconic Indian actor Amitabh Bachchan.

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- This innovative feature enables PhonePe SmartSpeakers across India to validate customer payments using Amitabh Bachchan's distinctive voice.
- This industry-first celebrity voice feature is currently available in **Hindi** and **English**, with plans to roll this out for other languages in the future.

#### About PhonePe :

- Founded : 2015
- Headquarters : Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
- CEO : Sameer Nigam

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#### PNB Introduces Interoperability Between CBDC and UPI for Seamless Transactions

- State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) with Unified Payments Interface (UPI) interoperability feature in its digital rupee mobile application.
- This move is in line with the RBI's CBDC pilot project and unleashes a new potential in India's payment ecosystem.
- PNB customers can now use the PNB digital rupee app to scan the UPI QR code for payment to their merchants or complete a transaction at a merchant outlet.

#### About PNB :

- Founded : 19 May 1894
- Headquarters : Dwarka, Delhi, India
- MD & CEO : Atul Kumar Goel
- Tagline : You Can Bank Upon

#### RBI Plans to Eliminate Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (I-CRR)

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to phase out the incremental cash reserve ratio (I-CRR).
- To ensure a smooth transition and prevent disruptions to system liquidity and money market functioning, RBI has scheduled the release of I-CRR funds in 3 phases: 25% on September 9, another 25% on September 23, 2023, and the remaining 50% on October 7, 2023.
- This phased release is aimed at enhancing banks' capacity to meet credit demand, particularly during the upcoming festival season.
- The decision regarding I-CRR does not impact the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), which remains at 4.5%.

#### About RBI :

- Established : 1 April 1935
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy Governors : Swaminathan Janakiraman, Michael Patra, M. Rajeshwar Rao, T Rabi Sankar

#### HSBC India Introduces 'ONDC in a Box' to Enhance Corporate Service Portfolio

 Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, India or HSBC Bank India has launched Open Network for Digital Commerce ('ONDC) in a Box', a one-stop-shop proposition for corporates towards seamless enablement of ONDC during the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2023 held in

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Mumbai, Maharashtra.

• With this launch, HSBC India became the **1st foreign bank** in India to offer an ONDC-enabled proposition.

#### About HSBC India :

- Established : 1959
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- CEO : Hitendra Dave
- It is a foreign bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and thus is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

#### About ONDC :

- CEO : T Koshy
- ONDC, is a private **non-profit Section 8 company** established by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) of Government of India to develop open e-commerce.

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#### About Protean :

- Established : 1995
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Mahara
- MD & CEO : Suresh Sethi

#### Spice Money and Wimbo's PayU Collaboration Introduces 'Spice Pay UPI Solution for

- Spice Money, a subsidiary of DiGiSPICE Technologies is a fintech building 'nano preneurs' for emerging India, has partnered with Wimbo, a company under PayU, to introduce 'Spice Pay,' an innovative UPI (Unified Payments Interface) solution aimed at empowering rural India.
- This collaboration between Spice Money and Wimbo focuses on providing a range of financial services to rural areas, including instant prepaid cards, linked UPI IDs for wallet interoperability, and eKYC (Electronic Know Your Customer) solutions to address the challenge of mobile number seeding

### RBI Approves ICICI Bank's Proposal to Establish I-Process Services as a Wholly-Owned Subsidiary

• ICICI Bank has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to make I-Process Services (India) Private Limited (I-Process) its wholly-owned subsidiary, subject to certain conditions, as per







the bank's latest regulatory filing.

- The total cost for acquiring I-Process is estimated at Rs. 15.40 crore.
- This amount is subject to finalisation of pricing in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and on receipt of necessary approvals.
- The ICICI Bank currently holds 19% stake in iProcess.

#### About ICICI Bank :

- Established : 5 January 1994
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Sandeep Bakhshi

#### SEBI Approves NSE's Launch of Options on NYMEX WTI Crude Oil and Natural Gas Futures Contracts

- India's leading exchange, the National Stock Exchange (NSE) has received approval from the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to introduce Options on Futures for NYMEX WTI Crude Oil and Natural Gas futures contracts within its commodity derivatives segment.
- On May 15, 2023, NSE had previously launched rupee-denominated NYMEX WTI Crude Oil and Natural Gas futures contracts in its Commodity Derivatives section.

#### About NSE :

- Founded : 1992
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairperson : Girish Chandr Chaturvedi
- MD & CEO : Ashishkumar Chauhan
- National Stock Exchange of India Limited is one of the leading stock exchanges in India.
- NSE is under the ownership of various financial institutions such as **banks** and **insurance companies**.

#### About SEBI :

- Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch (first woman to lead the SEBI)
- SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, Gol.







#### Thomas Cook India Collaborates with NPCI to Launch RuPay Forex Card

- Thomas Cook (India) Limited witnessed a 5% surge in its shares following the announcement of its partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch a RuPay prepaid forex card for Indian travellers heading to the UAE.
- The introduction of the Thomas Cook RuPay card is initially targeting the UAE market.
- This move aligns with the growing trend of outbound travel from India, particularly to short-haul destinations like the UAE.
- This collaboration is made possible through the assistance of **CARD91**, an NPCI Certified Partner.
- It leverages NPCI's global card payment network to provide international payment solutions, aligning with India's "Made in India" initiative, for Indian travellers travelling abroad.

#### About Thomas Cook (India) Limited :

- Founded : 1881
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Mahesh lyer
- Thomas Cook Ltd. is an Indian travel agency, providing travel services including Foreign Exchange, International and Domestic Holidays, Visas, Passports, Travel Insurance and MICE.

### Cashfree Payments Collaborates with NPCI to Introduce 'AutoPay on QR' for Subscription-Based Businesses

 Cashfree Payments, a prominent player in the payments and API banking solutions sector, has collaborated with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to introduce 'AutoPay on QR.'

#### Aim :

- To **support subscription-based businesses** in improving customer acquisition, retention, and overall growth.
- Cashfree Payments' 'AutoPay on QR' enables subscription businesses to enhance their return on investment (ROI) on advertising expenditures by simplifying the mandate creation process in two clicks.

#### About Cashfree Payments :

- Established : 2015
- Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka
- CEO & Co-founder : Akash Sinha

#### About NPCI :

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- Founded : 2008
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Dilip Asbe
- The NPCI is an umbrella organisation for operating **retail payments and settlement systems** in India.
- It is an initiative of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, for creating a robust Payment & Settlement Infrastructure in India.

#### Mastercard, Invest India, and Ministry of Tourism Unveil Upgraded Priceless.com

- Mastercard has partnered with Invest India and the Ministry of Tourism to launch the Priceless India program.
- The Priceless India campaign is in alignment with India's **'Dekho Apna Desh'** initiative, promoting domestic and international travellers to explore India's rich cultural heritage.
- According to data from the Mastercard Economics Institute's Travel Industry Trends for 2023, consumer spending on travel experiences has witnessed a significant 65% increase compared to March 2019.
- The relaunch of 'priceless.com' in India is part of Mastercard's global effort to provide unique and unforgettable experiences to its cardholders.

#### About Mastercard :

- Established : 1966
- Headquarters : New York, United States

#### About Invest India :

- Established : 2009
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi
- CEO : Nivruti Rai
- Invest India is the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India, set up as a non-profit venture under the aegis of the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.
- It facilitates and empowers all investors under the 'Make in India' initiative to establish, operate and expand their businesses in India.

#### About Ministry of Tourism :

• Cabinet Minister : G. Kishan Reddy

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• Minister of State : Shripad Naik, Ajay Bhatt

RBI sets 30-day deadline for banks and NBFCs to release property documents after loan settlement

- Banks and NBFCs have been directed by RBI to release property documents within 30 days of settlement of loan accounts.
- All banks, **non-banking finance companies** (NBFCs) and **asset reconstruction companies** (ARCs) have been asked to release all the original movable/immovable property documents.
- They have also been asked to remove charges registered with any registry within a **period of 30 days** after full repayment/settlement of the loan account.

#### Bank of Baroda Unveils Festive Campaign "BOB Ke Sang Tyohaar Ki Umang"

- Bank of Baroda announced the start of the "BOB Ke Sang Tyohaar Ki Umang" holiday campaign, which would last through December 31, 2023.
- The launch of **4 new savings accounts from Bank of Baroda**, together with enticing interest rate promotions on loans for homes, cars, people, and education, are among the company's festival offers.
- The Bank launched four new savings accounts, LITE Savings Account
  - ✓ a lifetime no minimum balance account;
  - ✓ BRO Savings Account a zero balance savings account for students (16 to 25 years);
  - Parivar Account a family savings account designed to meet the needs of the entire family and

- ✓ the NRI PowerPack Account.
- BoB also launched a recurring deposit scheme, a BOB SDP (Systematic Deposit Plan).

SEBI Imposes Rs 21.5 Lakh Penalty on Reliance Home Finance, Top Executives for Non-disclosures, Concealing Adverse Information in Forensic Audit

- SEBI has imposed a penalty of ₹15 lakh on Reliance Home Finance.
- The penalty has been imposed for violating LODR (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirement) regulations and failure to disclose the adverse findings of a forensic report.
- A penalty of ₹2 lakh, ₹2.5 lakh and ₹2 lakh have been levied on Chief executive Ravindra Sharad Sudhalkar, company secretary and compliance officer Parul Jain and CFO Pinkesh Shah, respectively.

World Bank praises India's digital public infrastructure push







- The World Bank has released findings included in its G20 document saying India has achieved financial inclusion targets in just 6 years which would otherwise have taken at least 47 long years.
- The policy document prepared by the World Bank, without Digital Payment Infrastructure (DPI) such as Jan Dhan Bank accounts, Aadhaar, and Mobile phones (the JAM trinity), India may have taken 47 years to achieve financial inclusion rate of 80% which the country has achieved in just six years.

#### About WB:

- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
- Founded: July 1944,
- President: Ajay Banga.

#### Yes Bank partners with Juspay to launch HyperUPI

- Yes Bank has partnered with Juspay to launch HyperUPI NPCI's plug-in service that allows merchant apps to build in-app UPI payments.
- This plug-in software development kit (SDK) is built on a UPI-on-cloud stack, which also supports
   UPI payments for several consumer and merchant apps.
- Juspay was the first fintech player to build the UPI PSP on the cloud, which has recorded an uptime of over 99.99% and the highest transactions per second (TPS) of 5,000.

# IndusInd Bank launches 'Virtual Commercial Credit Card', empowering corporates and travel agents for hassle-free cross-border payments

- IndusInd Bank introduced the 'Virtual Commercial Card', for cross-border transactions for corporations and travel agents.
- Developed in collaboration with **Visa and Juspay**, this virtual card offers enhanced layers of security, allowing users to customise settings for each transaction.
- The 'Virtual Commercial Credit Card' meets the needs of businesses that conduct multiple bookings in various foreign currencies.

#### About IndusInd Bank

- IndusInd Bank Limited is an Indian financial services company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Established : April 1994 by then Union Finance Minister Manmohan Singh.
- CEO: Sumant Kathpalia, Headquarters: Mumbai.

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

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- The **Reserve Bank of India** released a list of **fifteen NBFCs figuring in the 'upper layer'** under the scale based regulation for these **lenders for the financial year 2024**.
- LIC Housing Finance Limited ranked first on the list, followed by Bajaj Finance Limited on second and Shriram Finance Limited (formerly Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited) on third.
- TMF Business Services Limited (formerly Tata Motors Finance Limited) was not included in the list despite qualifying due to its ongoing business reorganisation.
- The other NBFCs that are on RBI's 2023-24 list of NBFC-UL are HDB Financial Services, Aditya Birla Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services, Muthoot Finance, L&T Finance, Piramal Capital & Housing Finance, Tata Capital Financial Services, PNB Housing Finance, Indiabulls Housing Finance, and Bajaj Housing Finance.

#### RBI imposes monetary penalty on 4 co-operative banks

 The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalties on 4 cooperative banks for deficiencies in regulatory compliance.

List of 4 cooperative banks :

- The Becharaji Nagarik Sahakari Bank Limited., located in Mehsana, Gujarat, has been penalised ₹2.00 lakh.
- The Waghodia Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., located in Vadodara, Gujarat, faces a penalty of ₹5.00 lakh.
- The Viramgam Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd., situated in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, is also penalised ₹5.00 lakh.
- The Baramati Sahakari Bank Ltd., based in Baramati, Pune,Maharashtra has received a penalty of ₹2.00 lakh.

#### About RBI :

- Established : 1 April 1935
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

#### LIC Hands Over ₹1,831 Crore Dividend Cheque to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

- The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) presented a dividend cheque of Rs 1,831.09 crore to Finance Minister (FM) Smt Nirmala Sitharaman.
- As of June 2023, the Centre held an equity stake of **96.5%** in LIC.

About LIC :

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- Established : 1956
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Siddharth Mohanty
- Current MDs : Ipe Mini, M Jagannath, Tablesh Panday, Sat Pal Bhanoo

#### MobiKwik Introduces 'Lens' to Assist Users with Financial Wellness

- **MobiKwik**, a digital banking platform, has introduced a **new feature** called "Lens" to assist users with their financial wellness.
- MobiKwik Lens leverages Account Aggregator technology, which is a data science framework.

#### About MobiKwik :

- Founded : 2009
- Headquarters : Gurugram, Haryana
- Co-founder and CEO : Bipin Preet Singh
- MobiKwik is an Indian payment service provider that provides a mobile phone-based payment system and digital wallet.

# YES BANK and BriskPe Collaborate to Transform Cross-Border Payments for Indian Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises

- GoBrisk Technologies Private Limited (BriskPe), a cross-border payments FinTech company, and YES BANK have entered into a partnership to introduce BriskPe Account to Account (A2A), a cutting-edge suite of solutions designed to empower exporters and importers.
- This collaboration represents a significant leap in the realm of cross-border payments, benefiting **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** in the manufacturing and services sectors.
- The product is built on YES BANK's Online Payment Gateway Service Providers (OPGSP)
   Export APIs and offers features such as real-time transaction processing and instant eFIRA
   (Electronic Foreign Inward Remittance Advice) generation.

#### About BriskPe :

- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Co-founder & CEO : Sanjay Tripathy
- BriskPe is a financial technology company, established with a vision of becoming a global player & market leader in providing cross border B2B payments solutions for small-to-medium sized business (SMBs).

About YES Bank :

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- Established : 2004
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Prashant Kumar
- Tagline : Experience our Expertise

#### Indian Bank Launches 'IB SAATHI' to Offer Basic Banking Services

- Indian Bank has launched a financial inclusion solution called "IB SAATHI" (Sustainable Access and Aligning Technology for Holistic Inclusion).
- The initiative focuses on providing basic banking services to stakeholders through the **business** correspondent (BC) channel.
- The bank plans to offer basic banking services at all its branches for a minimum of 4 hours per day.

#### About Indian Bank :

- Established : 1907
- Headquarters : Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- MD & CEO : Shanti Lal Jain
- Tagline : Your Own Bank/ Apka Apna Bank \_\_\_\_\_

#### Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) Launches Online Safe Deposit Locker Allotment Service

 Public sector Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has introduced an online allotment of safe deposit locker facility for its customers and non-customers.

#### About IOB :

- Founded : 10 February 1937
- Headquarters : Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- MD & CEO : Ajay Kumar Srivastava
- Tagline : Good people to grow with

#### Maruti Collaborates with Indian Bank to Offer Financing Solutions to Dealers

- Maruti Suzuki India Limited has entered into a partnership with Indian Bank to offer financing solutions to its dealers.
- Both parties have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalise this collaboration.

#### About Maruti Suzuki India Limited :

- Founded : 24 February 1981
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- MD & CEO : Hisashi Takeuchi

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 Maruti Suzuki India Limited is the Indian subsidiary of Japanese automaker Suzuki Motor Corporation.

Reserve Bank's Frictionless Credit Initiative Leads to 70% Reduction in Lender Customer Acquisition Costs and 6% Savings for Borrowers

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is piloting a "**Frictionless Credit Initiative**" that has resulted in a substantial **70% reduction** in customer acquisition costs for lenders, on the other hand, borrowers are saving 6% of the loan amount.
- The pilot started with an all-digital KCC (kisan credit card) lending, developed by the RBI Innovation Hub on the public tech platform, in Tamil Nadu (TN) and Madhya Pradesh (MP) this April, 2023.
- The pilot program has been extended to 4 additional states: Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, and Gujarat (for dairy farmers) from August 17, 2023.

#### Max Life Insurance Launches 'SEWA' Plan, a Combined Life and Health Insurance Policy

- Max Life Insurance, a private life insurer, has entered the health and wellness segment by launching a new insurance plan called "Secure Earnings & Wellness Advantage" (SEWA).
- The SEWA plan is available in two variants "Elite" and "Lite."
- **Coverage :** The SEWA plan covers various aspects, including hospitalisation, ICU stays, surgeries, critical illness, disability, and life insurance.
- Max Life's research on retirement, known as the "India Retirement Index Study," indicates that 59% of Indians prioritise health when planning for retirement.
- The plan also offers customers access to the **Max Fit wellness digital app**, which incentivises them for leading a disciplined and healthier lifestyle, by providing enhanced maturity benefits.

#### About Max Life Insurance Company Limited :

- Established : 2000 (Commenced Operations : 2001)
- Headquarters : Gurugram, Haryana
- MD & CEO : Prashant Tripathy

### Star Health and Allied Insurance Introduces UPI QR Code Payment Option for Insurance Purchases

- Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited has introduced a UPI (Unified Payments Interface) QR code-based payment option for policy purchases and renewals.
- This customised solution aims to simplify the customer purchase experience, reducing it to just a few clicks.

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 Customers can make payments within seconds by scanning the customised QR code, ensuring a hassle-free, error-free, and efficient payment experience.

#### About Star Health and Allied Insurance Co Ltd :

- Established : 2006
- Headquarters : Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- MD & CEO : Anand Roy

### IREDA signs MoUs with Bank of Maharashtra for Financing Renewable Energy Projects

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a Mini Ratna (Category I) Government of India enterprise under the administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, has signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bank of Maharashtra (BoM).
- This collaboration aims to promote and facilitate co-lending and loan syndication for a diverse spectrum of Renewable Energy projects across the nation.
- Under this agreement, the Bank of Maharashtra can invest in the Bonds issued by IREDA in accordance with the specified terms and conditions of the offering.

#### About IREDA :

- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi
- Chairman & Managing Director : Pradip Kumar Das
- The IREDA is a **Public Limited Government Company** and a **Non-Banking Financial Institution** formed for setting up projects relating to new and renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency/conservation with the **motto:** "ENERGY FOR EVER".
- It is a Mini Ratna (Category I) Government of India Enterprise with the objective of promoting, developing and extending financial assistance and under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

### About BoM :

- Founded : 16 September 1935
- Headquarters : Pune, Maharashtra India
- MD & CEO : A. S. Rajeev
- Tagline : One Family One Bank

### IRDAI Established Interdisciplinary Standing Committee on Cyber Security

• The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has formed a standing committee on cyber security.

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Purpose of the committee :

- To conduct **regular reviews** of the threats associated with existing or emerging technologies in the insurance industry.
- This initiative was taken following the issuance of the Information and Cyber Security Guidelines in April, 2023.

#### Composition of the committee :

• The standing committee comprises **10 members** chaired by **PS Jagannatham**.

#### About IRDAI :

- Established : 1999
- Headquarters : Hyderabad, Telangana
- Chairperson : Debasish Panda
- The IRDAI is a statutory body under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance (MoF), Government
  of India (GoI) and is tasked with regulating and licensing the insurance and reinsurance
  industries in India.

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Launches Maxima Savings Account and Business Maxima Current Account for Premium Customers

- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (Ujjivan SFB), a leading small finance bank, has introduced the Maxima Savings Account and Business Maxima Current Account for the premium customer segment.
- These new offerings aim to improve the banking experience for both new and existing customers by providing a variety of services and benefits.
- The annual interest rate on the Maxima Savings Account is up to **7.5%** and customers can open the account with **Rs 1 lakh**.
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has introduced the Business Maxima Current Account for premium business customers.
- This account features convenient online banking, instant fund transfers, and cash management options.

#### About Ujjivan Small Finance Bank :

- Founded : 1 February 2017
- Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- MD & CEO : Mr. Ittira Davis

#### Gullak Partners with Juspay Becomes the First in India to Implement UPI Plugin SDK

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- Gullak, a prominent fintech app, has become the first to implement Juspay's UPI plugin SDK called "HyperUPI."
- The implementation of HyperUPI eliminates the need for Gullak's customers to switch to another UPI payment app when making payments during the checkout process.

#### SIDBI to raise Rs 10,000 crore from rights issue next fiscal

- SIDBI has planned to raise ₹10,000 crore from the rights issue next fiscal to expand its capital base.
- SIDBI, which refinances SME loans, plans to conduct the rights issue in **two tranches of ₹5,000** crore each next fiscal.
- SIDBI expects to increase its assets to ₹5 lakh crore by March 2024 from about ₹4 lakh crore in March 2023.
- The shareholders will subscribe to the proposed rights issue.
- The Central Government owns 20.8% of SIDBI.

#### E-rupee worth ₹16.39 crores in circulation as of March 2023

- Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) or e-rupee worth ₹16.39 crores is in circulation.
- This is according to data from RBI's Handbook of Statistics on the Indian Economy for FY23.
- The data showed that out of total e-rupee circulation, ₹10.69 crore was wholesale CBDC and ₹5.70 crore was retail CBDC.
- The circulation was highest for ₹500 CBDC notes at ₹2.71 crore.
- This was followed by ₹200 notes at 1.16%.
- Circulation for all other currency denominations of 50 paise to ₹100 was below 1%.
- It ranged between 0.01- 0.83%

### SEBI Details Procedure Allowing Board Seats For REIT, InvIT Holders

- SEBI notified the framework that allows unitholders of real estate investment trusts and infrastructure investment trusts to nominate representatives on the boards.
- A circular from the market regulator said that unitholders who own at least 10% of the outstanding REITs or InvITs, either individually or collectively, may nominate a director to the boards of investment managers of a REIT or InvIT.
- Any subsequent intimations shall be made within 10 days of the end of every financial year. On receipt of the intimation, unitholders who are interested shall inform their investment manager within the next 10 days.

#### About REITs

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 Real Estate Investment Trusts or REITs are investment trusts (like mutual funds) that own and operate real estate properties generating regular income and capital appreciation on their investments.

#### About InvITs

 Infrastructure Investment Trusts or InvITs are also like mutual funds that pool money from investors that own and operate operational infrastructure assets like highways, roads, pipelines, warehouses, power plants, etc.

#### RBI Issues Revised Norms for Classification and Valuation of Investment Portfolios by Banks

- The **RBI issued revised norms** for the **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 apply from April 1, 2024, to all Commercial Banks excluding Regional Rural Banks.
- "Held for Trading (HFT) shall be a separate investment subcategory within FVTPL.
- At present, banks are allowed to set aside more than 25% of total investments under HTM, provided the investment in government securities to meet the statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) requirement, is capped at 18%.

### 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, and zero waiting period, among others.**
- Zero Waiting Periods: The campaign emphasizes the plan's special feature of zero waiting periods, which guarantees policyholders rapid coverage.
- 100% Bill Payment: ACKO highlights its dedication to paying 100% of medical expenses in order to lessen financial strains during medical emergencies.
- Full Disclosures for Stress-Free Claims: The advertising campaign implores policyholders to divulge all of their medical conditions. This transparency makes the claims process easier and less stressful.
- Ease of Filing Claims: ACKO places a strong emphasis on the simplicity of filing claims, making it a painless procedure for clients.

#### Ministry of Finance approves welfare measures for LIC agents and employees

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- The Ministry of Finance approved a series of welfare measures for the benefit of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) agents and employees.
- The welfare measures are related to the amendments to LIC (Agents) Regulations, 2017, Enhancement of Gratuity Limit, and Uniform Rate of Family Pension among others.
- More than 13 lakh agents and more than 1 lakh regular employees, who play a pivotal role in the growth of LIC and the deepening of insurance penetration in India, will benefit from these welfare measures.

#### ADB moderates India's GDP growth hopes this year(2023) to 6.3%

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) pared its growth forecast for India's economy to 6.3% for this year, from 6.4% estimated earlier, citing the impact of falling exports and erratic rainfall patterns that could hit farm output.
- The Bank's economists also raised their inflation forecast for the year to 5.5% from 5% estimated in April and retained their real GDP growth projection for 2024-25 at 6.7%, influenced by expectations that private investment and industrial output will rise.
- Additionally, ADB revised its inflation projection for India for FY24 to 5.5 per cent, up from the previous 5 per cent.

Finance Ministry is comfortable with 6.5% baseline GDP growth estimate for FY24

- Terming India's economic outlook for the current fiscal remains "bright", the **finance ministry** stated the baseline estimate for **GDP growth** in FY24 is **6.5%**.
- The Indian economy grew by **7.2 percent** last fiscal but growth is expected to slow down in the current fiscal due to the global slowdown.
- The economy however, grew at a higher than anticipated rate of 7.8% in the first quarter of 2023-24, raising growth projections by private agencies for the fiscal.

#### What is GDP?

• Gross domestic product (GDP) is a monetary measure of the market value of all the final goods and services produced in a specific time period by a country or countries.

#### About Ministry of Finance:

- The Ministry of Finance is a ministry within the Government of India concerned with the economy of India, serving as the Treasury of India.
- Formed: 29 October 1946
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Jurisdiction: Government of India

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• Minister responsible: Nirmala Sitharaman

### Axis Bank Launched 'NEO For Business' Banking Platform For MSMEs

- Axis Bank announces the launch of 'NEO for Business', a distinctive Transaction Banking platform specially curated for Indian Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- This is a first-of-its-kind comprehensive digital proposition that caters to the real, current, and emerging Transaction Banking needs of MSMEs.

#### About Axis Bank:

- Founded: 3 December 1993 as UTI Bank
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO: Mr Amitabh Choudhary
- Tagline: Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi

### JP Morgan to add G-Secs to its emerging market index

- In a development that could help India attract \$21 billion (Rs 1.7 lakh crore) worth of investments from the next fiscal, global financial firm JP Morgan stated that it plans to include Indian government bonds (IGBs) or government securities (G-Secs) into its benchmark Emerging Market index.
- This is the **first time** Indian G-Secs have been added to a major global bond index.
- The inclusion of the IGBs will be staggered over a 10-month period from June 28, 2024 to March 31, 2025.
- Beginning with 1%, the weightage of Indian G-Secs would rise to a maximum of 10% over the 10 months until March 2025.

#### About JP Morgan:

- J.P. Morgan & Co. is an American financial institution specialized in investment banking, asset management and private banking Industry.
- Founded: 1871
- Founder: J. P. Morgan
- Headquarters: New York City

#### **RBI Implements Basel-III Capital Framework for All India Financial Institutions**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced norms on the Basel III capital framework, fundraising, exposure guidelines, and norms on the classification and valuation of investment portfolios for All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs), which will come into effect from April 2024.
- India has **5 AIFIs** that are regulated by the RBI.

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 These institutions are 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).

#### About LCR :

- The liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) will require banks to hold a buffer of high-quality liquid assets sufficient to deal with the cash outflows encountered in an acute short-term stress scenario as specified by supervisors.
- The goal is to ensure that banks have enough liquidity for a 30-day stress scenario if it were to happen.

#### About NSFR :

- The Net Stable Funds Rate (NSFR) requires banks to maintain a stable funding profile in relation to their off-balance-sheet assets and activities.
- NSFR requires banks to fund their activities with **stable sources of finance** (reliable over the one-year horizon).
- The minimum NSFR requirement is **100%**.

About Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) :

- The Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) issues **Basel Norms for international** banking regulations.
- The goal of these norms is to strengthen the international banking system by coordinating banking regulations around the world.

#### About RBI :

- Established : 1 April 1935
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

#### SEBI Simplifies Regulations for Large Corporations Accessing the Debt Market

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced several relaxations for Large Corporates (LCs) to facilitate their financing needs from the debt market.
- Initially, SEBI had mandated that LCs must raise 25% of their financing requirements from the debt market.
- This requirement **aimed** to promote the growth of the corporate bond market in India.

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#### About SEBI :

- Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch (first woman to lead the SEBI)
- SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, Gol.

#### SBI Raises ₹10,000 Crore through 7.49% Infrastructure Bonds

- The State Bank of India (SBI) successfully raised ₹10,000 crore through the issuance of infrastructure bonds at an interest rate of 7.49%.
- This marks SBI's **4th infrastructure bond issuance**, demonstrating the bank's continued efforts to raise funds for infrastructure development.
- The infrastructure bonds have a **15-year maturity period** and offer a yield of 7.49%.
- Prior to this issuance, SBI had raised ₹3,101 crore through additional tier-I (AT-1) bonds and ₹10,000 crore through long-term 15-year infrastructure bonds in July 2023.
- The total outstanding long-term bonds now stand at ₹39,718 crore.

#### What are Infrastructure bonds?

- Infrastructure bonds are **financial instruments** issued by governments or private companies to raise funds specifically dedicated to financing various infrastructure projects.
- These projects encompass a wide range, including the development of critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, airports, power plants, railways, and telecommunications networks.

#### About SBI:

- Founded: July 1, 1955
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman Dinesh Khara

#### **RBI Releases Draft Master Direction on Handling Wilful and Large Defaulters**

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued a "**Draft Master Direction**" that focuses on the treatment of wilful defaulters and large defaulters in the banking and financial sector.
- RBI has invited comments and feedback on this draft Master Direction, and stakeholders have the opportunity to provide input until **October 31, 2023**.







 The proposed rules are intended to apply to a diverse range of regulated entities, including banks, non-bank lenders (including housing finance companies), cooperative banks, regional rural banks, local area banks, and All India Financial Institutions (AIFI).

#### PhonePe Introduces Indus Appstore to Compete with Google Play in India

- **PhonePe**, a Bengaluru-based digital payments company, has introduced its own app store platform called the "Indus Appstore Developer Platform to attract Android developers in India.
- Free Registration and Upload: The platform offers free registration and allows developers to upload apps for the first year.
- No Platform Fee: There is no platform fee associated with using the Indus Appstore Developer Platform.
- No Commission on In-App Purchases: Unlike other app stores like Google Play, PhonePe's
  platform does not charge a commission on in-app purchases, making it an attractive option for
  developers.

#### About PhonePe :

- Founded : 2015
- Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka
- TruCap and HDFC Bank Collaborate for Co-Lending to Support Underserved MSME Borrowers
  - TruCap Finance Limited (TRU), a non-banking finance company specializing in gold and business loans, and HDFC Bank have entered into a co-lending partnership.
  - TRU will utilize its Lending-as-a-Service (L-a-a-S) model as part of this partnership to deliver quality credit solutions to underserved borrowers.
  - The partnership **aims** to provide MSME business loans and Gold Loans to borrowers, with a particular focus on those located in non-urban or rural areas.

#### About HDFC Bank :

- Founded : 1994
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan.
- Tagline : We Understand Your World

### SBI Launches Digital NRE and NRO Account Opening via YONO App

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- The State Bank of India (SBI) has introduced a digital facility for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to effortlessly open Non-Residential External (NRE) and Non- Resident Ordinary (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.

#### What is the difference between NRE and NRO?

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.

#### RBI Reports ₹16.39 Crore Worth of E-Rupees in Circulation as of March 2023

- As of March 2023, data from the Reserve Bank of India's Handbook of Statistics on the Indian Economy for FY23 indicates that the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), also known as the e-rupee, was in circulation with a total worth of Rs 16.39 crore.
- Out of the total e-rupee circulation, Rs 10.69 crore constituted wholesale CBDC, while Rs 5.70 crore comprised retail CBDC.

#### CBDC Initiatives :

- The Reserve Bank of India initiated **two pilot programs** for CBDC.
- The wholesale CBDC pilot, referred to as CBDC (W), began in **November 2022**, initially focusing on settling secondary market transactions in government securities.

- The retail pilot, known as CBDC (R), was launched in **December 2022**, within a closed user group comprising participating customers, banks, and merchants.
- The retail e-rupee was initially introduced with **8 public and private sector banks** and has since been extended to more banks. It has also been made interoperable with UPI QR codes

#### India's Household Savings Hit Lowest Level in 5 Decades During FY23

- According to the data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) indicates that household savings in India have reached their lowest levels in decades.
- In Financial Year 2023 (FY23), household savings accounted for 5.1% of the gross domestic product (GDP).
- The annual financial liabilities of households increased to 5.8% of GDP in FY23, compared to 3.8% in FY22.
- It has highlighted that household savings have shown a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 9.2% between 2013-14 and 2021-22.

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About Ministry of Finance :

- Cabinet Minister : Nirmala Sitharaman
- Minister of State : Bhagwat Karad, Pankaj Choudhary

RBI Introduces Data Quality Index for Commercial & Microfinance Segments

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) directed credit information companies (CICs) to establish a common Data Quality Index (DQI) for both commercial and microfinance segments.
- RBI mandated that CICs should provide the DQIs for Commercial and Microfinance segments to all Credit Institutions (CIs) by March 31, 2024.
- CICs in India are regulated by the RBI and governed by the Credit Information Companies Regulation Act, 2005 (CICRA) and other RBI rules and regulations.
- As per **Section 15** of the CICRA, every Credit Institution (like banks) is required to be a member of at least one CIC.
- CICs are authorized to seek and obtain information from their member credit institutions.
- At present, 4 credit information companies are given certificates of registration by the RBI.
- These companies are Credit Information Bureau (India) Limited (CIBIL), Equifax Credit
   Information Services Private Limited, Experian Credit Information Company of India Private
   Limited and CRIF High Mark Credit Information Services Private Limited.

#### RBI cancels licence of The Kapol Co-operative Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled license of The Kapol Co-operative Bank over inadequate capital and earning prospects.
- "The continuance of the bank is prejudicial to the interests of its depositors, the bank with its
  present financial position would be unable to pay its present depositors in full, and public interest
  would be adversely affected if the bank is allowed to carry on its banking business any further,".
- 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)

subject to the provisions of DICGC Act, 1961, release stated.

 The release also stated that as per the data submitted by the bank, 96.09 percent of the depositors are entitled to receive full amount of their deposits from DICGC.

#### Afghanistan currency emerges as best-performing unit globally in September quarter

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- Afghanistan's currency has emerged as the world's best-performing unit in the September quarter, rallying 9 percent during the three-month period and 14 percent so far this year amid foreign aid flows and the US releasing funds to the war-torn country.
- The mostly agrarian economy of the now Taliban-ruled Afghanistan had tanked almost 30%, and its currency had dropped to 124.2 against the US dollar on **August 16, 2021.**

#### SIDBI Collaborates with DLAI for Fintech-driven Small Loan Distribution

- The Digital Lenders Association of India (DLAI) and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) have signed an agreement to collaborate to boost digital adoption in lending and develop policies to protect consumer interest.
- The MoU envisages collaboration between DLAI and SIDBI to develop standard protocols to expedite the adoption of digital lending partnerships, including alliances between banks and lending service providers (LSPs), co-lending collaborations, and developing model partnership agreements.
- The development institution will also explore partnerships for its "Prayaas" scheme for informal enterprises, co-lending, GST Sahay, Express loan, green financing and other direct credit schemes SIDBI.

#### About SIDBI :

- Founded: 2 April 1990
- Headquarters: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Chairman & MD : Sivasubramanian Ramann
- Small Industries Development Bank of India is the apex regulatory body for overall licensing and regulation of **micro, small and medium enterprise finance companies in India**.

#### IREDA signs MoUs with Bank of Maharashtra for Financing Renewable Energy Projects

- State-owned Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) have entered into an initial pact to finance renewable energy projects in India.
- The collaboration **aims** to promote and facilitate co-lending and loan syndication for a diverse spectrum of renewable energy projects across the nation.
- The MoU was signed by General Manager (Technical Services), IREDA, Shri Bharat Singh Rajput and General Manager (Retail & MSME Credit), Bank of Maharashtra, Shri Rajesh Singh at IREDA's Business Centre, New Delhi.

#### About IREDA :

• Established : 1987

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- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi
- Chairman & Managing Director : Pradip Kumar Das
- IREDA is formed as a Mini Ratna Government of India Enterprise under Government of India and administratively controlled by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**.

#### About BoM :

- Established : 1935
- Headquarters : Pune, Maharashtra
- Managing Director & CEO : Shri. A.S. Rajeev
- Tagline : One Family One Bank

#### About Ministry of New and Renewable Energy :

- Cabinet Minister : Raj Kumar Singh
- Minister of State : Bhagwanth Khuba

#### REC and PNB Ink MoU for Co-Financing Rs. 55,000 Crore Infrastructure Projects over 3 Years

- REC Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (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 3 years.
- Executive Director (Infra & Logistics), REC, Shri T.S.C Bosh, and CGM (Corporate Credit Division), PNB, Shri Rajeeva signed the MoU in Gurugram, Haryana.
- As part of its commitment to sustainability, the company also plans to expand its loan portfolio for green projects to ₹3 trillion by 2030.

#### About REC Limited :

- Established : 25 July 1969
- Headquarters : Gurugram, Haryana
- Chairman & Managing Director : Vivek Kumar Dewagan
- REC Limited, formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, of which Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC) is holding company, which in turn is under the ownership of the Ministry of Power, the Government of India.

#### About PNB :

- Established : 19 May 1894
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi

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- MD & CEO : Atul Kumar Goel
- Tagline : The Name You Can Bank Upon

Poonawalla Fincorp Receives RBI Approval for Co-Branded Credit Card Partnership with IndusInd Bank

- Poonawalla Fincorp Limited (formerly known as Magma Fincorp), a Cyrus Poonawalla grouppromoted Non Banking Finance Company (NBFC), has received Reserve Bank of India's approval to issue co-branded credit cards with IndusInd Bank.
- The company envisages to launch this credit card within 3 months.

#### What are co-branded credit cards?

- Co-branded credit cards are the product of a **mutual partnership** between a particular merchant and a credit card issuer.
- Together, they create a credit card that bears the merchant's logo and provide merchant-specific benefits to brand-loyal consumers.

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#### About Poonawalla Fincorp Limited :

- Headquarters : Pune, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Adar Poonawalla

#### About IndusInd Bank Limited :

- Established : April 1994
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Sumant Kathpalia
- Tagline : We Make You Feel Richer

### RBI asks banks to display information on borrowers linked to SARFAESI Act

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a directive requiring banks to publicly display information about borrowers who are linked to the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002.
- Some bankers have expressed concerns about the task's complexity, especially for uploading historical data dating back to 2002, within the **6-month deadline** set by RBI.
- The directive applies to a range of **financial institutions**, including **commercial banks**, **non-banking finance companies** (NBFCs), **housing finance companies**, and **asset reconstruction companies**.
- RBI's move is part of its broader efforts to enhance transparency in the financial sector.

RBI imposes monetary penalty on 3 co-operative banks - Saraswat Co-operative Bank, Bassein Catholic Co-operative Bank, Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank







- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalties on 3 cooperative banks -Saraswat Co-operative Bank Limited, Bassein Catholic Co-operative Bank Limited, and Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank Limited - due to deficiencies in regulatory compliance.
- Saraswat Co-operative Bank Limited, based in Mumbai, has been fined ₹23 lakh.
- Bassein Catholic Co-operative Bank Ltd., located in Vasai, Maharashtra, received a monetary penalty of ₹25 lakh.
- Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd., situated in Rajkot, faced a monetary penalty of ₹13 lakh.

#### RBI imposes monetary penalty on State Bank of India, Indian Bank and Punjab & Sind Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalties on 3 banks viz, State Bank of India, Indian Bank and Punjab & Sind Bank in exercise of powers vested in RBI conferred under the provisions of Section 47A(1)(c) read with Sections 46(4)(i) and 51(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- The RBI imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1.30 Crore on State Bank of India (the bank) for noncompliance with certain directions issued by RBI on 'Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions' and 'Guidelines on Management of Intra-Group Transactions and Exposures'.
- The RBI imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1.62 crore on Indian Bank (the bank) for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on 'Loans and Advances Statutory and Other Restrictions', 'Reserve Bank of India [Know Your Customer (KYC)] Directions, 2016' and 'Reserve Bank of India (Interest Rate on Deposits) Directions, 2016'.
- The RBI imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1.00 crore on Punjab & Sind Bank (the bank) for non-compliance with the provisions of sub-section (2) of Section 26A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (BR Act) read with directions issued by RBI on 'The Depositor Education and Awareness Fund Scheme, 2014-Section 26A of Banking Regulation Act, 1949-Operational Guidelines'.

### Worldline Unveils India Digital Payments Report for the First Half of 2023

- Worldline, a global leader in payment services, has released its India Digital Payments Report for the first half of 2023 (January to June 2023), offering insights into significant trends in the digital payments landscape.
- The report highlights the continued success of the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** and expects it to maintain its **dominance** in the Indian digital payments space.
- The top 10 states and Union Territories with the highest number of transactions at physical touchpoints in 2022 for Worldline India were Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Delhi, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, and West Bengal.

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- 3 UPI apps are dominant in terms of volume and value; PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm.
- The top 5 issuers of credit cards are HDFC, SBI, ICICI, Axis and Kotak respectively and the top 5 issuers of debit cards are SBI, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, HDFC and Bank of India.

#### About Worldline :

- Headquarters : Bezons, France
- Chairman & CEO : Gilles Grapinet

# HDFC Securities Launches All-In-One Discount Broking App 'HDFC SKY' Open to All Investors and Traders

- HDFC Securities Limited has introduced a discount broking all-in-one mobile app called "HDFC SKY."
- The app is designed to cater to investors and traders of all experience levels, **aiming** to provide a seamless experience for individuals looking to participate in the financial markets and achieve their financial objectives.

#### About HDFC Securities Limited :

- Established : 2000
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Dhiraj Relli
- HDFC Securities Limited is a subsidiary of India's leading financial establishment, HDFC Bank.

### RBI Sets Ways and Means Advances (WMA) Limit at ₹50,000 Crore for Government for H2 of FY 2023-24

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set the limit for Ways and Means Advances (WMA) for the government for the second half (Oct-Mar) of the financial year 2023-24 at ₹50,000 crore.
- The RBI initiates the issuance of market loans when the government utilises **75%** of the WMA limit.
- For overdrafts beyond the WMA limit, an interest rate of **2%** above the repo rate is applied.

#### About WMA :

- It was introduced in 1997 and comes under Section 17(5) of the RBI Act of 1934.
- It was introduced to end the four-decade-old system of ad-hoc treasury bills to finance the central government deficit.
- It was designed to provide immediate cash support to the government when needed, helping to manage deficits and ensure smooth financial operations.
- The government is required to repay the amount within 90 days.

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#### NATIONAL NEWS

Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurates Utkela Airport, and direct flight between Utkela and Bhubaneshwar

- Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia along with Gen. Vijay Kumar Singh (Rtd.) MoS, Ministry of Civil Aviation inaugurated Utkela Airport and a direct flight between Utkela and Bhubaneshwar.
- Utkela Airport is owned by the Government of Odisha.
- It has been developed as a regional airport **under** the **UDAN scheme** of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, **Government of India** at a cost of **Rs. 31.07 Cr**.

#### About Odisha :

- Governor : Ganeshi Lal
- Chief Minister : Naveen Patnai
- Capital : Bhubaneswar
- National Park : Simlipal National Park, Bhitarkanika National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Ushakothi Wildlife Sanctuary, Tikarpada Wildlife Sanctuary

#### President Draupadi Murmu launches "Year of Positive Change" in Raipur

- President Draupadi Murmu launched the state-level program of "Year of Positive Change" at Prajapita Brahmakumari Ishwariya Vishwavidyalaya in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
- Chhattisgarh Governor **Biswabhusan Harichandan** and Chief Minister **Bhupesh Baghel** were also present on the occasion.

#### About Chhattisgarh :

- Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandan
- Chief Minister: Bhupesh Baghel
- Capital: Raipur
- National Park: Guru Ghasi Das (Sanjay) National Park, Kanger Valley National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary: Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary, Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary

#### India will host the 1st edition of 'Global IndiaAl 2023 ' in October 2023

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) will be organizing the Global IndiaAl 2023, scheduled for October 2023.
- Union Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Electronics & IT, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar chairs the conference's steering committee which is entrusted with the task of

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shaping the contours of the Global IndiaAl 2023.

 It draws members from MeitY's Digital Economy Advisory group and other prominent leaders in the field of AI.

#### BRICS+6 to control 30% of global GDP, 46% population - SBI Report

- The addition of 6 new members to the BRICS grouping will see it controlling 46% of the world's population and 30% of its economic output.
- At the latest BRICS summit in Johannesburg, the present members -- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa decided to add Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates as new members of the grouping.
- The new members will become part of BRICS effective January 1, 2024.
- The acronym BRICS was originally coined in 2001 by Goldman Sachs economists led by Jim O'Neill.

#### About BRICS :

- Headquarters : Shanghai, China
- Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa make up the BRICS group of countries.
- It makes up around 26% of the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and more than 40% of the world's population.

#### The Cabinet has approved a Rs. 5,000 crores PRIP scheme aimed at boosting research and innovation.

- The Union Cabinet has given the green light to the National Policy on Research and Development and Innovation in the Pharma-MedTech Sector.
- This decision is accompanied by the approval of the Scheme for Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma-MedTech Sector (PRIP), with a substantial allocation of Rs 5,000 crore for a 5-year period spanning from FY24 to FY28.
- The scheme was rolled out earlier this month by the government with the belief that the Indian pharmaceutical industry has the potential to increase its current 3.4% share of the global market to 5% by the year 2030.
- The National Policy focuses on **3 key areas:** strengthening the regulatory framework, incentivising investment in innovation, and enabling an ecosystem for innovation and research.

#### Sixth Rashtriya Poshan Maah begins

- The Sixth Rashtriya Poshan Maah begins and the Government is celebrating it throughout September this year.
- The flagship initiative of the Central government, POSHAN Abhiyaan has been instrumental in

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advancing nutritional outcomes for pregnant women, lactating mothers, adolescent girls, and children under six years of age in a comprehensive manner.

ASI to launch "Adopt a Heritage 2.0 programme" Indian Heritage app and e-permission portal on 4th September 2023

- The Archeological Survey of India (ASI) has 3696 monuments under protection, which are spread throughout the country.
- These monuments not only exhibit the rich cultural heritage of India but also play a significant role in **fostering economic growth**.
- To this end and to further enhance the experience of visitors, ASI will be launching the "Adopt a Heritage 2.0" programme at Samvet Auditorium, IGNCA, New Delhi.
- The programme is a revamped version of the **earlier scheme launched in 2017** and clearly defines the amenities sought for different monuments as per AMASR Act 1958.

#### About ASI

- The Archaeological Survey of India is an Indian government agency that is responsible for archaeological research and the conservation and preservation of cultural-historical monuments in the country.
- It was founded in 1861 by Alexander Cunningham who also became its first Director-General.
- Founded: 1861
- Founder: Alexander Cunningham
- Director General: Prof Kishore Kumar Basa
- Headquarters: New Delhi

Union Power and NRE Minister and International Solar Alliance President inaugurates Nine Solar Demonstration Projects in Uganda, Comoros and Mali

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) hosted its 5th regional meeting in Kigali, Rwanda supported by the Government of Rwanda, with 36 countries and Ministers of 15 countries participating.
- At the meeting, the President, the International Solar Alliance and Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Government of India, Shri R. K. Singh, who joined the meeting virtually from New Delhi, inaugurated a total of nine solar power demonstration projects in the Republic of Uganda, the Union of Comoros and the Republic of Mali.
- Four of these projects are in Uganda, two in Comoros and three in Mali.

About ISA:







- The International Solar Alliance is an alliance of more than 120 signatory countries, most being sunshine countries, which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.
- Founded: 30 November 2015
- President: R. K. Singh
- Founders: Narendra Modi, François Hollande
- Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana, India

#### About Rwanda:

- Capital: Kigali
- Currency: Rwandan Franc
- Prime minister: Édouard Ngirente

The combined Index of Eight Core Industries increased by 8.0% (provisional) in July 2023 as compared to the Index of July 2022

- The combined Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) increased by 8.0 per cent (provisional) in July 2023 as compared to the Index of July 2022.
- The production of Coal, Steel, Natural Gas, Cement, Electricity, Refinery Products, Fertilizers and Crude Oil increased in July 2023 over the corresponding month of last year.
- ICI measures combined and individual performance of production of eight core industries viz. Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity.
- The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 percent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Viacom18 secures BCCI TV and digital rights in ₹5,963-cr deal

- Reliance-backed Viacom18 has bagged BCCI TV and digital rights, in a five-year deal worth
   ₹5,963 crore.
- This further cements Viacom's OTT bid, eroding Disney Star's digital supremacy on the counter.
- The cricket body had set the base price for the bilateral rights to be ₹45 crore per match.

#### About BCCI :

- Founded : December 1928
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- President : Roger Binny
- The BCCI is the national governing body of Cricket in India.

#### About Viacom18

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- Viacom18 Media Private Limited is a Mumbai-based media company; it is a joint venture between Network18 Group—a subsidiary of Reliance Industries, and Paramount Global.
- It was founded in 2007 and owns various channels, as well as content production studios in India.
- CEO: Jyoti S. Deshpande
- Founded: November 2007

#### Agri and financial sectors buoy GDP growth to 7.8% in April-June quarter

- Good performance of agriculture and financial sectors helped the Indian economy to grow by 7.8 per cent in the April-June quarter of fiscal year 2023-24 (Q1FY24), Statistics office reported.
- Though the government is optimistic about momentum, experts do not agree.
- Economic growth based on GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth rate was 13.1 per cent during April-June quarter 2022-23 and 6.1 per cent during January-March quarter of previous fiscal (FY23).
- India's agriculture sector recorded growth of 3.5% in three months, up from 2.4% in the April-June quarter last year, according to the data released by the government-run National Statistical Office.

Shri Amit Shah launched the Amrit Kalash Yatra under the 'Meri Maati-Mera Desh' campaign in New Delhi

- The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, launched the Amrit Kalash Yatra under the 'Meri Mati-Mera Desh' campaign in New Delhi.
- Amrit Kalash Yatra will be organized across the country and under this, soil of seven and a half thousand kalash will be brought from all the regions of the country to Amrit Vatika in Delhi.
- Amrit Vatika will be built near the National War Memorial, symbolizing a commitment to Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat.

Shri Parshottam Rupala will chair a one-day "National Conference on KCC for Fisheries" in Mumbai

- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala will chair a one-day "National Conference on KCC for Fisheries" at Yashwantrao Chavan Centre in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The Conference is being jointly organized by the Department of Fisheries (DoF) and the Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying (DAHD) to resolve pressing on-ground issues.

#### About Maharashtra

- Governor: Ramesh Bais
- Chief Minister: Eknath Shinde

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- Capital: Mumbai
- National Park: Tadoba National Park, Navegaon National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnala Bird Sanctuary, Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary
- UNESCO Heritage Sites: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, The Victorian and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai, Ajanta Caves, Elephanta Caves, Ellora Caves

Shri Parshottam Rupala lays the Foundation Stone for the establishment of Multi-Purpose Seaweed Park in Tamil Nadu

- On the third day of the Sagar Parikrama Phase VIII, Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala laid the Foundation Stone for the establishment of Multi-Purpose Seaweed Park in Tamil Nadu.
- This begins a new chapter and is seen as a key strategic initiative to boost the seaweed sector in India.

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

- Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia, Union Minister for Civil Aviation & Steel, inaugurated the 'International Aerospace Conference: Moving Towards Inclusive Global Value Chains'.
- It was jointly organized 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.

About CII :

- Founded: 1895
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Director General : Chandrajit Banerjee
- The CII is a **non-governmental trade association** and advocacy group.

G20 Technical Workshop on Climate Resilient Agriculture begins at Hyderabad in Telangana

- The three-day G20 technical workshop on Climate Resilient Agriculture was inaugurated by the union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ms Shoba Karandlaje at Shamshad in Hyderabad.
- The event is being attended by over 100 delegates including from India and abroad from G20

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countries and invited countries.

 The Minister said several initiatives were launched by the country in climate change like the Network Project on Climate Change (NPCC), National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) with long-term and integrated strategies for achieving key goals in the context of climate change.

#### About Telangana :

- Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan
- Chief Minister: K. Chandrashekar Rao
- Capital: Hyderabad
- National Park: Mrugavani National Park, Mahavir Harina Vanasthali National Park

#### MoS for Culture Meenakshi Lekhi launches Adopt a Heritage 2.0 programme in New Delhi

- Minister of State for Culture Meenakshi Lekhi launched Adopt a Heritage 2.0 programme in New Delhi to enhance the visitor experience at the Heritage Site.
- The programme is envisioned by the Archaeological Survey of India to collaborate with the private sector companies, trusts and NGOs
- It aims to engage corporate stakeholders in enhancing the amenities at three thousand 697 protected monuments spread across the country, showcasing India's rich cultural legacy.

#### Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates Amrita Patel Centre of Public Health in Gujarat

- Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the Amrita Patel Centre of Public Health
   in Anand in Gujarat
- The Government is stressing holistic health to strengthen the health infrastructure in the country.

#### About Gujarat :

- Governor: Acharya Devvrat
- Chief minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel
- Capital: Gandhinagar
- National Park: Vansda National Park, Gir National Park, Marine National Park, Velavadar National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary, Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, Shoolpaneshwar
   Wildlife Sanctuary

### Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launches 3-year partnership with Meta, Education to Entrepreneurship: Empowering a generation of students, educators and entrepreneurs

• Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched a 3-year partnership "Education to Entrepreneurship: Empowering a

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Generation of Students, Educators and Entrepreneurs" between the Ministry of Education,

Ministry Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Meta in New Delhi.

• 3 Letters of Intent (LoI) were exchanged between Meta and NIESBUD, AICTE and CBSE.

### Centre's Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing education platform to offer AI help

- The National eGovernance Division (NeGD) will integrate Personalised Adaptive Learning (PAL) into the Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) platform.
- Under the Personalised Adaptive Learning, each student will have an individualised learning experience.

### About DIKSHA

- DIKSHA is an initiative of the National Council of Educational Research and Training.
- It has QR-coded textbooks and various specialized e-contents for classes 1-12 in 33 languages.
- It was launched on 5th September 2017.

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

- The government has granted deemed university status to the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).
- This announcement was made by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan while attending the 63rd Foundation Day Celebration Programme of NCERT in New Delhi.
- Bal Bhavan is an autonomous institute headquartered in New Delhi.
- Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru founded it in 1956.
- Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated an Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) Laboratory.

#### About NCERT

- National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is an autonomous organisation.
- It was set up in 1961.
- Dr Dinesh Prasad Saklani is its director.

### PM Narendra Modi to embark on a two-day visit to Indonesia

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a two-day visit to Indonesia to attend the 20th ASEAN-India Summit and 18th East Asia Summit.
- The two Summits will be hosted in Jakarta by Indonesia, the current Chair of ASEAN.

### About Indonesia :

- President : Joko Widodo
- Currency : Indonesian rupiah (Rp)

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#### 'Green Hydrogen Pilots in India' Conference held in the run-up to G20 Summit

- In the run-up to the 18th G20 Summit, a day-long conference on "Green Hydrogen Pilots in India" was held in New Delhi.
- The conference showcased various Green Hydrogen Pilots being implemented by both India's public and private sector companies.
- National Green Hydrogen Mission are the pilot projects, which have been allocated Rs. 1,466 crores.
- The **conference**, **hosted by NTPC Ltd.**, also presented pioneering innovative pilots and progress in green hydrogen technology.

#### Jal Jeevan Mission Achieves Milestone of 13 Crore Rural Households Tap Connections

- The **Jal Jeevan Mission** (JJM) achieved another milestone of providing tap water connections to 13 Crore rural households.
- Working with 'speed and scale', the life changing mission has increased the rural tap connection coverage from only 3.23 Crore households at the start of the Mission in August 2019 to 13 crore in just 4 years.
- The Jal Jeevan Mission was announced by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi from the ramparts of the Red Fort on 15th August 2019 as the country celebrated its 73rd Independence Day.

#### 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 (8 metals) using the traditional casting method.

#### The average processing time of Income Tax Returns reduced to 10 days

- Average processing time of Income Tax Returns (ITR) has been reduced to ten days in the Assessment Year 2023-24.
- The average processing time of ITR was 82 days in the Assessment Year 2019-20, and 16 days in Assessment Year 2022-23.

#### India Unveils the First Portable Hospital in the World, the Arogya Maitri Cube

- India has built the world's first disaster hospital that can be airlifted, packed in 72 cubes.
- It has been named as 'Aarogya Maitri Cube'.

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#### What is Aarogya Maitri Cube?

- Aarogya Maitri Cube is the world's first disaster hospital that can be airlifted.
- It has been developed indigenously under Project BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri).

#### Three-fourths of India's irrigation sources run on electricity:

- The latest/sixth edition of the Minor Irrigation Census (MIC) finds that electricity is the dominant source (3/4th) of power to extract water, over diesel, windmills, and solar pumps.
- The MIC is a compendium of borewells, tubewells, and other privately owned irrigation sources by farmers.
- Out of all MI schemes, 21.93 million (94.8%) were for groundwater (GW) and 1.21 million (5.2%) for surface-water (SW) extraction.
- UP had the largest number of MI schemes in the country (17.2%) followed by Maharashtra (15.4%) and MP (9.9%).
- Leading States in GW schemes are UP, Maharashtra, MP; whereas Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Odisha and Jharkhand have the highest share in SW schemes.

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

- The Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi has approved an amount of Rs. 1164.53
   cr. for the Industrial Development Scheme (IDS), 2017 for Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- The government of India announced the Industrial Development Scheme, 2017, in 2018 vide Notification No.2(2)/2018-SPS dated 23rd April 2018 for the state of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- Under this scheme, the total financial outlay was Rs.131.90 crore.

#### About HP :

- Governor : Shiv Pratap Shukla
- Chief Minister : Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu
- Capital : Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter)
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Daranghati Sanctuary, Kanwar Sanctuary, Rupi Bhawa Sanctuary

#### About Uttarakhand :

- Governor : Gurmit Singh
- Chief Minister : Pushkar Singh Dhami

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- National Park : Corbett National Park, Govind National Park, Nanda Devi National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary, Jhilmil Wildlife Sanctuary

Cabinet approves the Scheme titled Viability Gap Funding for Development of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister approves the Scheme for Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for the 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).
- A watershed moment in the long list of pro-environment measures taken by the Government, the move is expected to bring down the cost of battery storage systems increasing their viability.

### NTPC Limited to Inaugurate India's 1st Green Hydrogen Fueling Station in One Month

- NTPC Limited, a state-owned power producer, is set to commission India's 1st inaugural Green Hydrogen fueling station in Ladakh within the coming month.
- Green Hydrogen Production and Usage : The project is designed to generate 80 kilograms per day of exceptionally pure Hydrogen, measuring at 99.97% purity.
- This Hydrogen will undergo compression, storage, and dispensation for various applications, including fueling.
- Hydrogen Fuel Cell Buses in Ladakh : NTPC intends to introduce 5 Hydrogen fuel cell buses in the Ladakh region.

#### About NTPC Limited :

- Founded : 7 November 1975
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman & MD : Gurdeep Singh
- NTPC Limited, formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation, is an Indian central Public Sector Undertaking under the ownership of the Ministry of Power and the Government of India, who is engaged in the generation of electricity and other activities.

### Ministry of Tourism to launch national competition on 'Tourism for Tomorrow'

- The Ministry of Tourism will launch a national competition on 'Tourism for Tomorrow' to identify best practices and case studies aligned with five priorities of the G20 Goa roadmap.
- The competition will be launched on World Tourism Day on the 27th of September.

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 The New Delhi Leaders Declaration which was adopted during the G20 Summit underlined the significance of the 'Goa Roadmap for Tourism as a vehicle for achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

#### FSSAI officially recognises Mithun as a food animal

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has recently recognised Mithun, a semi domesticated bovine animal as a food animal paving the way for the promotion of its consumption and commercial rearing on the hills of Northeast.
- Mithun has been included in the **Domestic Animal Diversity Information System** (DADIS) database.
- 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.

#### About FSSAI

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India is a statutory body established under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India. The FSSAI has been established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, of 2006, which is a consolidating statute related to food safety and regulation in India.
- Founded: 5 September 2008
- Headquarters: New Delhi

#### Center to stop sites from weaving 'dark patterns' to mislead buyers

- The Union government has released draft guidelines to curb "dark patterns" used by online platforms.
- The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) conducted an interactive stakeholder consultation on 'Dark Patterns' in June 2023.
- After that, a task force was constituted to submit recommendations on the identification and regulation of dark patterns.
- Based on the recommendations of this task force and deliberations with other stakeholders, draft guidelines for the Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns have been framed.

#### 56% of new internet users to be from rural India by 2025

- Around 56 per cent of total new internet users will be from rural India by 2025, according to a report by TransUnion CIBIL, which said that currently, 36% of digital payment users hail from rural parts of the country.
- The growing adoption is being driven by the fact that **52%** of the country's population is under 40

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years of age, higher than the global average of 46%.

• Further, of the 6.7 crore IT returns filed in FY23, over 2 crore were filed by Gen Z, the report adds that individual EPFO accounts too have seen twofold growth over the last 10 years.

#### Union Government tightens 'beneficial owner' rules under PMLA

- The Union government has further tightened rules for the ultimate beneficiary and fine tuned the definition of reporting entity under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).
- The amendments aim to give **more power to the agency** under the PMLA Act and enlarge the type and nature of individuals who can come under the ambit of the Act.
- The Finance Ministry has notified changes in the Prevention of Money Laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules, 2005. Accordingly, a person having ownership of more than 10% of the capital or profits of a partnership will be brought within the ambit of the sub rule 3 as a 'beneficial owner'.

#### PM Modi announces launch of Global Biofuel Alliance

- India announced the launch of the Global Biofuel Alliance and urged G-20 nations to join the initiative with a plea to take ethanol blending with petrol globally to 20%.
- The Alliance was launched by Mr. Modi along with a host of global leaders including U.S. President Joe Biden, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit.
- Besides India, the initiating members include Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Italy, Mauritius, South Africa, the UAE and the U.S., while Canada and Singapore are observer countries.

#### PM Modi addresses the ASEAN- India summit at Jakarta

- PM Modi addressed the 20th ASEAN-India summit at Jakarta in Indonesia.
- He presented a **12-point proposal to strengthen India-ASEAN cooperation**.
- He informed us that the India-ASEAN partnership has reached the fourth decade.
- He informed me it is an honour for him to **co-chair the Summit**.
- PM Modi informed ASEAN is the central pillar of India's Act East policy.
- He informed along with history and geography, shared values, regional integration, and the shared belief in peace, prosperity and a multipolar world unite India and ASEAN.

#### About ASEAN :

- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional intergovernmental organization comprising 10 Southeast Asian countries.
- It was established in **1967** with the signing of the **Bangkok declaration**.

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- **Members:** Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam.
- The first summit meeting of the ASEAN union was hosted in 1976 on Indonesia's most prominent island Bali.

#### About Indonesia :

- President : Joko Widodo
- Currency : Indonesian rupiah (Rp)

## G-20 Summit clinches New Delhi Declaration

- New Delhi Leaders' Declaration adopted at the G20 summit 2023.
- G20 leaders have given 100% consensus on all 83 paras of the Declaration.
- New Delhi Leaders' Declaration focuses on: Strong, Sustainable, Balanced, and Inclusive Growth, Accelerating Progress on SDGs, Green Development Pact for a Sustainable Future, Multilateral Institutions for the 21st Century, and Reinvigorating Multilateralism.
- As per India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant, every single country has come together to focus on green development.
- The European Commission urged G20 countries to agree to global targets on tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency by 2030 to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- In conclusion, there were a few broader takeaways that this Summit projected a strong commitment for future Presidencies including for the new cycle beginning in 2026 — Brazil in 2024, South Africa in 2025, and the US in 2026.

## Cabinet approves eCourts Phase III for 4 years

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the eCourts Project Phase III as a Central Sector Scheme spanning four years (2023 onwards) with a financial outlay of Rs.7210 crore.
- In line with the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji's "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas", eCourts Mission Mode Project is the prime mover for improving access to justice using technology.
- As a part of the National eGovernance Plan, the e-Courts Project has been under implementation since 2007 for ICT enablement of the Indian Judiciary Phase II which will conclude in 2023.

Cabinet approves foreign investment of up to Rs.9589 crore in M/s Suven Pharmaceuticals Limited

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- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi approved the FDI proposal for foreign investment of up to Rs.9589 crore in M/s Suven Pharmaceuticals Limited by M/s Berhyanda Limited, Cyprus.
- The approval is for the acquisition of up to 76.1% equity shares of M/s Suven Pharmaceuticals Limited, a public limited Indian pharmaceutical company listed on the National Stock Exchange of India Limited and the Bombay Stock Exchange Limited, by M/s Berhyanda Limited, Cyprus, by way of transfer of shares of from existing promoter shareholders and public shareholders through mandatory Open Offer.
- The aggregate foreign investment may increase up to 90.1% in M/s Suven Pharmaceuticals Limited.
- The proposal has been evaluated by SEBI, RBI, CCI and other relevant agencies.

Cabinet approves signing of an MoU between India and Armenia on cooperation in the field of sharing successful Digital Solutions implemented at the Population Scale for Digital Transformation

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister approves the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology of the Republic of India and the Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in the field of sharing successful Digital Solutions implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation.
- The MoU shall come into effect from the date of signature of the Parties and shall remain in force for a **period of 3 years**.
- Both G2G and B2B bilateral Cooperation in the field of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) will be enhanced.
- The activities contemplated in this MoU would be financed through their administration's regular operating allocations.

#### About Armenia :

- Prime Minister: Nikol Pashinyan
- Capital: Yerevan
- Currency: Armenian Dram

Cabinet approves signing of an MoU between India and Antigua & Barbuda on cooperation in the field of sharing successful Digital Solutions implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation

• The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister approves the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology of the** 







Republic of India and the Ministry of Information, Communications Technologies, Utilities and Energy of the Antigua & Barbuda on Cooperation in the field of sharing successful Digital Solutions implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation.

- The MoU shall come into effect from the date of signature of the Parties and shall remain in force for a **period of 3 years**.
- Both G2G and B2B bilateral Cooperation in the field of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) will be enhanced.
- The activities contemplated in this MoU would be financed through their administration's regular operating allocations.

#### About Antigua & Barbuda

- Prime minister: Gaston Browne
- Capital: Saint John's
- Currency: East Caribbean Dollar

Cabinet approves signing of an MoU between India and Sierra Leone on cooperation in the field of sharing successful Digital Solutions implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister approves the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of the Republic of India 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.
- The MoU shall come into effect from the date of signature of the Parties and shall remain in force for a **period of 3 years**.
- Both G2G and B2B bilateral Cooperation in the field of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) will be enhanced.
- The activities contemplated in this MoU would be financed through their administration's regular operating allocations.

#### About Sierra Leone :

- President: Julius Maada Bio
- Capital: Freetown
- Currency: Sierra Leonean Leone

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Cabinet approves scheme for release of grant to support LPG connections to Women under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

 The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the extension of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) for the release of 75 lakh LPG connections over three years from Financial Year 2023-24 to 2025-26.

#### PM to launch rail sector projects worth more than six thousand crore rupees in Chhattisgarh:

- In Chhattisgarh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate important rail sector projects to the nation.
- The Prime Minister's emphasis on improving connectivity across the country will get a boost with the dedication to the nation of important rail sector **projects worth more than Rs. 6 thousand crores** in the public programme in Raigarh.
- These projects include Chhattisgarh East Rail Project Phase-I, 3rd rail line between Champa to Jamga, 3rd rail line between Pendra Road to Anuppur and the Merry-Go-Round system connecting Talaipalli Coal Mine to NTPC Lara Super Thermal Power Station.

#### About Chhattisgarh :

- Governor : Biswabhusan Harichandan
- Chief Minister :Bhupesh Baghel
- Capital : Raipur
- National Park : Guru Ghasi Das (Sanjay) National Park, Kanger Valley National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary, Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary

## 3rd All India Official Language Conference to be held in Pune

- The **3rd All India Official Language Conference** will be held on the 14th and the 15th of September in **Pune**.
- Ms. Arya announced Pune is a popular city and has a historical tradition, hence, Pune has been chosen for the third All India Official Language Conference.
- The Conference will be attended by learned speakers and scholars of the Hindi language.
- Some of the topics to be discussed during the conference include Rajbhasha@2047: Linguistic Panorama of Developed India (including artificial intelligence), Role of Media in Development of Hindi, and Indian Cinema and Hindi among others.

#### About Maharashtra :

• Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari

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- Chief minister: Eknath Shinde
- Capital: Mumbai
- National Park : Tadoba National Park, Navegaon National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries : Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnala Bird Sanctuary, Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary
- UNESCO Heritage Sites : Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, The Victorian and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai, Ajanta Caves, Elephanta Caves, Ellora Caves

## PM lays the foundation stone of Petrochemical Complex at BPCL Bina Refinery in MP

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, laid the foundation stone of Downstream Petrochemical Complex and Refinery Expansion Project, at BPCL's Bina Refinery in Bina, Madhya Pradesh.
- This state-of-the-art refinery, which will be developed at a **cost of about Rs. 49,000 crore,** will produce about **1200 KTPA** (Kilo-Tonnes Per Annum) of ethylene and propylene, which are a vital component for various sectors like textiles, packaging, pharma, among others.

#### About MP:

- Governor : Mangubhai C. Patel
- Chief Minister : Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- Capital : Bhopal
- National Park : Satpura National Park, Kanha National Park, Bandhavgarh National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary, Bori Wildlife Sanctuary

## Cabinet approves foreign investment of up to Rs.9589 crore in M/s Suven Pharmaceuticals Limited

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi approved the FDI proposal for foreign investment of up to Rs.9589 crore in M/s Suven Pharmaceuticals Limited by M/s Berhyanda Limited, Cyprus.
- The approval is for the acquisition of up to 76.1% equity shares of M/s Suven Pharmaceuticals Limited, a public limited Indian pharmaceutical company listed on the National Stock Exchange of India Limited and the Bombay Stock Exchange Limited, by M/s Berhyanda Limited, Cyprus, by way of transfer of shares of from existing promoter shareholders and public shareholders through mandatory Open Offer.
- The aggregate foreign investment may increase up to 90.1% in M/s Suven Pharmaceuticals Limited.

#### About Advent Funds :

• The Advent Funds are managed by Advent International Corporation, an entity incorporated in the

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USA.

- Advent International Corporation, set up in 1984 has made investments of about USD 75 billion in 42 countries.
- Advent India started investments in India in 2007 and so far it has invested about Rs 34000 crores in 20 Indian companies across healthcare, financial services, industrial manufacturing, consumer goods and IT services sectors.

## Education Ministry asks States to bring all data under one platform

- Under the National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR), the Ministry of Education is pushing States to open Vidya Samiksha Kendras (VSKs).
- Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSKs) is a data repository that will have data from all schemes run by the Ministry of Education (MoE).
- The control rooms of these Kendras will collect data to track key performance indicators as well as analyze data collated from **govt schemes** '**using AI & machine-learning.'**
- EkStep Foundation, which is a non-profit organization co-founded by former Chairman of Unique Identification Authority of India, Nandan Nilekani, is on board in an advisory role for implementing the VSK project.

## About NDEAR :

- NDEAR is an education initiative that is federated, unbundled, interoperable, inclusive, accessible, and constantly evolving.
- Its primary objective is to create and deliver innovative solutions that benefit students, teachers, parents, communities, and administrators, resulting in the timely implementation of policy goals.
- NDEAR operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Education in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY).
- Its goal is to promote a common set of principles and approaches for building, using, and reusing technology for education, enabling a more streamlined and effective approach to education technology.

## 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 scheme till March 2024.
- PM-KUSUM or the Pradhan Mantri Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyaan is a demand-driven scheme and, therefore, quantities or capacities are allocated under the three components of the scheme based on demand received from the states.







 For agriculture feeder solarisation, central financial assistance (CFA) of ₹1.05 crore per MW is provided.

## About PM KUSUM :

- The PM-KUSUM Scheme was launched in 2019.
- The Scheme consists of three components
- Component A: 10,000 MW of solar capacity through the installation of small Solar Power Plants of individual plants of capacity up to 2 MW.
- Component B: Installation of 20 lakhs standalone Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps.
- Component C: Solarisation of 15 Lakh Grid-connected Agriculture Pumps
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

## Coal India to invest Rs 24,750 crore in 61 eco-friendly projects

- Coal India Limited (CIL) has planned a capital investment of about Rs. 24,750 crore in the next few years on 61 First Mile Connectivity (FMC) projects.
- To come up in three phases, these projects combined will have a capacity of 763.5 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) when completed.
- 35 FMC projects under the first phase having 414.5 MTPA capacity account for Rs. 10,750 crore.
- The second and third phase projects account for 9 and 17 respectively.

India becomes 13th country that can issue internationally accepted OIML Certificates

- India has become the 13th country in the world that can issue Internationally Accepted OIML (International Organisation of Legal Metrology) Certificates.
- Now Indian manufacturers or their agents can obtain OIML Certificates for their measuring instruments from the Indian OIML Issuing Authority which is Legal Metrology Division, Department of Consumer Affairs.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launches Special Campaign 3.0 portal to reduce pendency in govt offices

- Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions Dr Jitendra Singh has launched a Special Campaign 3.0 portal at a function in New Delhi.
- Through this dedicated portal scdpm.nic.in the Special Campaign 3.0 will be monitored.
- The Government has announced to conduct Special Campaign 3.0 from the 2nd to the 31st of October this year with a focus on Swachhata and reducing pendency in Government Offices with a saturation approach.

## G-20 Global Partnership Meeting for Financial Inclusion underway in Mumbai

• The Fourth G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI) Meeting is being held in Mumbai.

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- More than 50 delegates from G20 member countries, special invitee countries and International Organisations are participating in the meeting.
- The GPFI members are holding discussions related to GPFI work regarding the implementation of G20 GPFI High-Level Principles for Digital Financial Inclusion, Update of National Remittance Plans and SME best practices and innovative instruments to overcome common constraints in SME financing.

Shri Parshottam Rupala inaugurates Second Edition of ICAR-CIBA's Shrimp Farmers Conclave-2023 at Navsari, Gujarat

- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala inaugurated Second Edition of ICAR-CIBA's (ICAR-Central Institute of Brackish water Aquaculture) Shrimp Farmers Conclave-2023 at the Navsari Agricultural University Campus in Gujarat.
- Shri Parshottam Rupala conveyed his gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, for approving the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampadan Yojana with the financial outlay of Rs. 20,050 crores for the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture sector.
- This paved the way for developing a project implemented by ICAR-CIBA on "Genetic improvement program of Penaeus indicus (Indian white shrimp)-Phase-I" with an outlay of Rs.25 crores under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) to establish a National Genetic Improvement Facility for shrimp breeding.
- Two Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) were signed between CIBA and National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB); CIBA and Fish Farmers Producer Organization (FFPO) of Gujarat respectively for implementing the crop insurance for aquaculture with premium subsidy offered by the NFDB and technology support for the FFPO.

## Government rolls out UPAg, a unified portal for agri statistics

- The Centre launched a unified portal for agricultural statistics and named it as UPAg (Unified Portal for Agricultural Statistics) and termed it as a groundbreaking move to address the complex governance challenges India's farm sector is facing now.
- The portal will empower stakeholders with real-time, reliable, and standardized information, paving the way for more responsive and efficient agricultural policies.
- Unified Portal for Agricultural Statistics developed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (DA & FW) was launched by NITI Aayog members.

## All reported births, and deaths to be digitally registered from October 1, 2023

• According to a government notification, all reported births and deaths in the country will be digitally

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registered on the Centre's portal from October 1.

- The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023 paves way for digital birth certificates
- It will be compulsory for States to register births and deaths on the **Centre's Civil Registration** System (CRS) portal and share data with the **Registrar General of India** (RGI).

## About NPR:

- NPR, first collected in 2010 and updated in 2015 through door-to-door enumeration, already has a database of 119 crore residents.
- NPR is the first step to the creation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), as per the Citizenship Act.
- It will be compulsory for States to register births and deaths on the Centre's Civil Registration System (CRS) portal and share data with the RGI which functions under the Union Home Ministry.

## The 14th edition of the World Spice Congress begins in Navi Mumbai

- The 14th edition of the World Spice Congress (WSC) began at Vashi in Navi Mumbai.
- World Spice Congress (WSC) was planned and conceived in 1990 as a forum for discussion and interaction between the importers and exporters of spices.
- The theme of the WSC 2023 is VISION 2030: S-P-I-C-E-S, which stands for sustainability, productivity, innovation, collaboration, excellence and safety.

## About The Spices Board of India

- The Spices Board of India was constituted on 26th February 1987 under the Spices Board Act 1986 with the merger of the erstwhile Cardamom Board (1968) and Spices Export Promotion Council (1960).
- It is functioning under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

India has 150 elephant corridors spanning 15 range-states, West Bengal tops list

- India has at least 150 elephant corridors spanning 15 range-states across four elephant-bearing regions, with West Bengal topping the list with 26 such land strips, according to a new Union Environment Ministry report.
- The central government's 2010 Elephant Task Force report (Gajah report) listed 88 corridors in the country.
- The latest **report, titled "Elephant Corridors of India",** also highlights that the intensity of elephant use has increased in 59 of these corridors, remained stable in 29 and decreased in 29 others.
- West Bengal leads with the highest number of elephant corridors in India, accounting for over 17 per

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cent of the total such land patches in the country.

Union Minister of Civil Aviation inaugurates 'Udaan Bhawan' at Delhi's Safdarjung Airport

 With the inauguration of Udaan Bhawan,' an Integrated Office Complex at Delhi's Safdarjung Airport which was inaugurated by Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Steel, in the august presence of General (Dr.) Vijay Kumar Singh (Retd.), Union Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways & Civil Aviation and Shri Vumlunmang Vualnam, Secretary, MoCA.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launches 'Skills on Wheels' initiative with NSDC and IndusInd Bank to promote skilling

- Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla launched 'Skills on Wheels' initiative with NSDC and IndusInd Bank with a flagging off ceremony.
- Under the partnership, 60,000 youth will be empowered over a period of five years with the objective of improving the livelihood of rural households by providing relevant skills training to its youth population.
- Aligned with this mission, this partnership with IndusInd Bank is aimed at empowering the youth of the nation through the 'Skills on Wheels' project.

Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal introduces Women's Reservation Bill in Lok Sabha

- The government has introduced the Women's Reservation Bill in the Lok Sabha.
- The Bill has been named Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam.
- Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal introduced the 128th Amendment Bill, 2023 in this regard.
- The old Parliament House has been renamed as Samvidhan Sadan.

10th meeting of India-Malaysia Joint Sub-Committee on Defence Science, Technology and Industry Cooperation held in New Delhi

- The **10th meeting** of the **India-Malaysia Joint Sub-Committee** on **Defence Science, Technology** and Industry Cooperation was held in **New Delhi**.
- The meeting was co-chaired by Joint Secretary (Naval Systems), Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence Shri Rajeev Prakash and Under Secretary, Defence Industry Division, Ministry of Defence, Malaysia Mr Eris Jemadi bin Tajudin.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launches 'PM Vishwakarma' Scheme for traditional artisans and craftspeople on occasion of Vishwakarma Jayanti

• Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the PM Vishwakarma scheme in New Delhi on the occasion of Vishwakarma Jayanti.

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- The scheme will provide government support to workers engaged in traditional crafts and skills.
- This scheme was first announced by PM Modi during his Independence Day speech.
- It is a new scheme with an **outlay of Rs 13,000 crore** and is fully funded by the Central government.

## Shantiniketan included in UNESCO World Heritage list

- During the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee, the decision to include Santiniketan in the list was taken.
- The 45th session of the World Heritage Committee is currently underway in Saudi Arabia.
- Shantiniketan was established in 1901 by Maharshi Debendranath Tagore, father of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore.
- Shantiniketan is located in Birbhum district of West Bengal.
- Shantiniketan has become the 41st UNESCO World Heritage Site in India.
- It has become the third UNESCO World Heritage Site in West Bengal after the Sundarbans National Park and the Darjeeling Mountain Railways.
- Last year, West Bengal's Durga Puja was placed in "Intangible Cultural Heritage of humanity" under UNESCO.

## About ICOMOS

 International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) is a France-based international nongovernmental organization.

## About UNESCO

- Headquarters: Paris, France
- Founded: 16 November 1945, London, United Kingdom
- Head: Audrey Azoulay

The 14th edition of Global Skills Summit begins, to focus on empowering youth and creating future

- The 14th edition of the Global Skills Summit has begun in Delhi.
- The theme of the two-day Summit is building skills, empowering youth, and creating a future.
- The Summit aims to focus on **creating a road map for a high-quality industry**-led skilling ecosystem in India.

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

- The government will launch 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.

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- These initiatives will be launched by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar.
- 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.

Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia to inaugurate new infrastructure at Tezu airport on 24th September 2023

- Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia, Minister for Civil Aviation and Steel, along with Shri Pema Khandu, Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh will inaugurate the newly developed infrastructure of Tezu Airport.
- Tezu Airport is a domestic airport located in the town of Tezu which operates through a single runway.
- The airport is developed on 212 acres of land and is capable of handling operations for ATR 72 type of aircraft.
- The works undertaken for Rs. 170 Cr. include the extension of the runway (1500m x 30m) and the construction of a new apron for 02 nos.

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) in New Delhi in 2027.
- India's leading research and academic institutes, the National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCCBM), and IIT Delhi successfully presented India's bid before the Steering Committee members of the Conference during the ongoing 16th ICCC at Bangkok, Thailand.
- Besides India, other bidders were from Switzerland and the UAE.
- The **9th Congress was organized in New Delhi in 1992 by NCCBM** and the present 16th ICCC is being held in Bangkok, Thailand from 18-22 September 2023.

## PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate 16 Atal Awasiya Vidyalayas built across UP

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Varanasi 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.
- Prime Minister Modi will also lay the foundation stone of the International Cricket Stadium in Varanasi.







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- 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 the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 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 a more than 30acre area, at a cost of about 450 crore rupees.

IndiGo announces new direct flights connecting Hyderabad and Colombo from November 2023

- India's leading airline, IndiGo, has announced new direct flights connecting Hyderabad and Colombo from November this year.
- The development marks a significant milestone as IndiGo becomes the first Indian carrier to establish direct connectivity between the two vibrant cities.
- Connectivity between India and Sri Lanka has improved over the last one year with flights having resumed between Jaffna and Chennai which have now been made daily.

India temporarily suspends visa services including E-visa for Canadian citizens citing security threats

- India has temporarily suspended visa services in Canada including E-visa.
- Addressing media in New Delhi, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi informed that the decision was taken due to the incitement of violence and inaction of Canadian authority and creating an environment that disrupts the functions of the Indian High Commission and Consulates in Canada.
- He also stated that Canadian citizens in a **third country will not be able to apply for an Indian visa**.

Health Ministry reduces qualifying percentile for NEET PG Counselling to zero across all categories this year

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has reduced the cut-off percentile for Postgraduate courses (Medical/ Dental) for NEET PG Counselling 2023.
- Now, the qualifying percentile has been reduced to 'zero' across all categories.
- This was announced in a notification issued by the Medical Counselling Committee (MCC).







• All candidates who appeared for the NEET PG 2023 exam will now qualify to participate in the postgraduate medical counselling rounds. Medical aspirants can check out the official notice on the official website: mcc.nic.in.

PM to inaugurate 'International Lawyers' Conference 2023' on 23rd September in New Delhi

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 'International Lawyers' Conference 2023' at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- International Lawyer's Conference 2023 is being organised by the Bar Council of India on the theme 'Emerging Challenges in Justice Delivery System'.

Shri Manoj Ahuja launches Innovative Mobile Application and Web Portal for General Crop Estimation Survey (GCES) to Revolutionize Farming Practices

- Shri Manoj Ahuja, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) launched the mobile application and the web portal for GCES (General Crop Estimation Survey).
- This revolutionary portal and mobile application have been designed to transform agricultural practices across the nation.
- Shri Ahuja emphasized the need for real-time estimates and technology in agriculture.

Shri Kailash Choudhary Launches AI Chatbot for PM-KISAN Scheme

- The Union Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India launched an Al Chatbot for the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme in New Delhi.
- The AI Chatbot launch marks a significant step towards enhancing the efficiency and reach of the PM-KISAN scheme, and also providing farmers prompt, clear, and accurate responses to their queries.

## About PM-KISAN

 The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is a central sector scheme launched in February 2019 to support the financial needs of land-holding farmers in India. The scheme offers an annual financial benefit of Rs 6,000/- in three equal instalments to eligible farmers' families through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode. Since its inception, over Rs. 2.61 Lakhs Crores disbursed to more than 11 Crore farmers so far, it stands as one of the largest DBT schemes globally.

Prime Minister Modi to lay foundation stone of International Cricket Stadium in Varanasi

 Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of an International Cricket Stadium in Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi.







- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has spent Rs 121 crores on land acquisition to construct the stadium while the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has earmarked a budget of Rs 330 crores for the stadium's construction.
- The stadium will have a capacity of **30,000 spectators**.

## About UP:

- Governor : Anandiben Patel
- Chief Minister : Yogi Adityanath
- Capital : Lucknow
- National Park : Dudhuwa National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary, KishanpurWildlife Sanctuary, National Chambal Sanctuary, Kaimoor Wildlife Sanctuary.

#### 14th edition of Global Skills Summit begins in New Delhi

- The 14th edition of the Global Skills Summit has begun in Delhi.
- The theme of the two-day Summit is **building skills, empowering youth, and creating a future.**

#### Aim of the Summit:

• The Summit aims to focus on creating a road map for a high-quality industry-led skilling ecosystem in India.

## About Delhi:

- Governor : Vinai Kumar Saxena
- Chief Minister : Arvind Kejriwal
- Capital : Delhi
- National Park : National Zoological Park, Butterfly Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, Aravali Biodiversity Park.

## AI Chatbot for PM-KISAN Scheme launched

- The Union Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare in India has unveiled an AI Chatbot for the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme, marking a significant milestone in enhancing the scheme's efficiency and reach.
- The **AI Chatbot** will provide farmers with quick, accurate, and clear responses to their queries, offering a user-friendly interface to engage with the program effectively.







- The Chatbot will facilitate access to scheme information and grievance resolution, with plans to expand its services to include weather updates, soil conditions, and bank transactions.
- It is the **first AI Chatbot integrated** with a major government flagship program and is set to empower farmers with accessible information, transparency, and informed decision-making.
- Currently available in **five languages**, it will soon expand to cover all **22 languages** of the country.

## About PM-KISAN Scheme:

- **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi** (PMKISAN) is an initiative by the government of India that gives farmers up to ₹6,000 per year as minimum income support.
- The initiative was announced by Piyush Goyal during the 2019 Interim Union Budget of India on 1 February 2019.
- The scheme was first conceived and implemented by government of **Telangana** as the **Rythu Bandhu scheme**, where a certain amount is given directly to eligible farmers.

## One Nation One Election Committee headed by former President Ramnath Kovind meets in New Delhi

- Taking the issue of **one nation one election** forward, the high level committee headed by former President **Ramnath Kovind** held in New Delhi.
- It has decided to go in for larger consultations with various stakeholders like political parties and the Law Commission on the issue of holding synchronized polls in the country.

## About One Nation One Election:

- The government had notified the **8-member committee on September 2** to examine and make recommendations for holding simultaneous elections at all levels.
- Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury had earlier declined to be part of the committee saying the Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge was excluded from the panel whereas Mr Azad, a former Congress leader, was included.

## Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh inaugurates Bharat Drone Shakti 2023

- The first C-295 MW transport aircraft formally inducted in the presence of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh at the Indian Air Force airbase in Hindan, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari and other dignitaries were also present during the induction ceremony. Earlier, Mr. Singh inaugurated the two-day Bharat Drone Shakti 2023.
- India has formalized the acquisition of **56 Airbus C-295 aircraft** to replace the Indian Air Force AVRO fleet.
- The Indian Air Force received the **first C-295 MW transport aircraft at Seville in Spain** on the 13th of September which was attended by Air Chief Marshal VR Choudhari.

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## 40% electric vehicles sold in India manufactured in Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu has become one of the largest manufacturers of Electric Vehicles (EV) sold this year, data from Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' Vahan Dashboard stated.
- Out of the 10 lakh EVs sold in India this year (2023), over 4 lakh were manufactured in Tamil Nadu.
- According to the Vahan Dashboard data, as many as 10,44,600 EVs were registered with RTOs from January until September 20.
- Of this, Tamil Nadu sold 4,14,802 EVs manufactured based on registration of all EVs across the state's RTOs.
- Leading original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) -- Ola Electric, TVS Motor, Ather Energy, and Ampere Vehicles –have their EV manufacturing facilities in the state and now it expects investments worth Rs 50,000 crore in this space by 2025 and the creation of 150,000 jobs.

## About Tamil Nadu:

- Governor : R N Ravi
- Chief Minister : M K Stalin
- Capital : Chennai
- National Park : Guindy National Park, Mudumalai National Park, Mukurthi National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Anamalai Tiger Reserve, Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary & National Park

Minister of Power, New and Renewable Energy RK Singh inaugurates 'India Energy Summit 2023' in New Delhi

- Minister of Power, New and Renewable Energy RK Singh today inaugurated the 'India Energy Summit 2023' at FICCI Federation House in New Delhi.
- Two-day Summit aims to focus on the development of an **enabling Green Hydrogen ecosystem** in the country.

# Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launches

## India's first Green Hydrogen fuel cell bus in Delhi

- Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched a first-of-its-kind Hydrogen
   Fuel Cell Bus from India Gate in New Delhi.
- Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Rameswar Teli stated that these buses are a
  positive step towards India's aim to reach net zero carbon emission by 2070.

EAM S Jaishankar, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres discuss India's G20 Presidency, global challenges

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• External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres discussed India's G20 Presidency as well as the situation in Afghanistan, Myanmar, and other global challenges during their meeting in New York.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah to preside over 31st meeting of Northern Zonal Council

- In Punjab, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah will preside over the 31st meeting of the Northern Zonal Council in Amritsar.
- Northern Zonal Council comprises the states of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, and the Union Territories of Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, and Chandigarh.

#### Issues Discussed:

- This Northern Zonal Council will discuss a wide range of issues in this meeting.
- These issues include Bhakra Beas Management Board, affiliation to Punjab University, road construction work under Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana PMGSY, Canal projects, and water sharing, issues related to reorganization of states, development of infrastructure, land acquisition, environmental and forest-related clearance, regional connectivity under the UDAN scheme and other issues of common interest at the regional level.

## President Droupadi Murmu in the fourth edition of ISAC 2022

- The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is organizing the two-day India Smart Cities
   Conclave 2023 at Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
- President Droupadi Murmu will be felicitating the winners of the 4th edition of the India Smart Cities Award Contest (ISAC) 2022.
- The India Smart Cities Award Contest (ISAC) is organized under the Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India.
- The ISAC 2022 award had a two-stage submission process consisting of 'Qualifying Stage', which
  involved overall assessment of the city's performance, and the 'Proposal Stage' which required the
  smart cities to submit their nominations for six award categories as follows:
  - Project Awards: 10 different themes,
  - Innovation Awards: 2 different themes,
  - National/Zonal City Awards,
  - State Awards,
  - UT Award, and
  - Partners Awards, 3 different themes

Modified FCRA rules: NGOs to give details of assets created from foreign funds

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- The Home Ministry has modified rules pertaining to filing of annual returns by Non-Government Organisations NGOs registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act FCRA asking them to provide details of moveable and immovable assets created by them using foreign funds every year.
- The Ministry in a gazette notification stated that in exercise of the powers conferred by section 48
  of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, the Central Government hereby makes the
  rules further to amend the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules, 2011.
- The Home Ministry also decided to extend the validity of FCRA licence of those entities, whose licences were expiring on 30th of this month (September 2023) and renewal was pending till 31st March next year (2024).

#### Foreign Contribution (regulation) Act, 2010 :

- The Foreign Contribution (regulation) Act, 2010 is an act of the Parliament of India, by the 42nd Act of 2010.
- It is a consolidating act whose scope is to regulate the acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution or foreign hospitality by certain individuals or associations or companies and to prohibit acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution or foreign hospitality for any activities detrimental to the national interest and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

## About Ministry of Home Affairs :

- The Ministry of Home Affairs or simply the Home Ministry, is a ministry of the Government of India.
- It is mainly responsible for the maintenance of internal security and domestic policy.
- It is headed by Minister of Home Affairs.
- Formed: 15 August 1947
- Responsible Minister: Amit Shah

# Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya to launch National Policy on R&D and Innovation in Pharma-MedTech Sector

- Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers and Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India will launch the National Policy on Research and Development and Innovation in Pharma-MedTech Sector in India.
- In addition to this, the Union Minister will launch the Scheme for the promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma MedTech Sector (PRIP).

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- The main objective National Policy on Research and Development in the Pharma-MedTech Sector is to motivate R&D in pharmaceuticals, including traditional medicines & phytopharmaceuticals and medical devices.
- The policy will help India grow the Pharma-MedTech Sector to **USD 120-130 Billion** over the next decade, which will further increase its contribution to the GDP by about 100 basis points.

Union Minister SP Singh Baghel Presides Over AIIMS Delhi 68th Foundation Day Celebrations

- All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi has celebrated the 68th Foundation Day on the campus grounds, which was attended by Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Professor S P Singh Baghel.
- On this occasion, Prof. S P Singh Baghel visited the AIIM's exhibition organized on the theme "AIIMS: Leading India's Health Care Security". After this, Dr. V K Paul delivered the Diamond Jubilee Oration on the occasion.
- Dr VK Paul shared the COVID-19 Vaccination Journey, titled the story of "Atmanirbharta" and "Atmavishwas". India has achieved success in manufacturing both indigenous vaccines and foreign vaccines under technology transfer during the pandemic.

About AIIMS Delhi:

- All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, also known as AIIMS Delhi, is a public medical research university and hospital in New Delhi, India.
- The institute is governed by the AIIMS Act, 1956 and operates autonomously under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- President: Mansukh Mandaviya
- Established: 1956
- Motto: "The body is indeed the primary instrument of dharma."

## Govt plans to develop electric highway between Delhi and Jaipur

- Union Minister of Road Transport and Highway, Nitin Gadkari has stated that electric buses are very popular and the government is planning to make an electric **highway from Delhi to Jaipur**.
- He stated this while addressing the **20th** Indo-US Economic Summit in **New Delhi**.
- the rate will be less than 30 percent as compared to diesel buses.

PM Modi to launch projects at Chhota Udepur in Gujarat

 Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for projects worth over 5200 crore rupees at Chhota Udepur in Gujarat.







- These projects include the school infrastructure projects worth over 4500 crore rupees under the programme 'Mission Schools of Excellence'.
- The PM will also preside over a function marking the two decades of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit.
- Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, the initiative was conceptualised by the Chief Minister of Gujarat Narendra Modi to attract global businesses when the state was still suffering from the ill effects of the devastating earthquake.

#### About Gujarat:

- Capital: Gandhinagar
- Chief Minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel
- Governor: Acharya Devvrat
- National Park: Gir National Park, Marine National Park, Bhavnagar Blackbuck National Park, Vansda national park

## India's first lighthouse festival opens in Goa

- India's First Lighthouse Festival began in Goa.
- Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ports, along with Chief Minister of Goa Shri Pramod
  Sawant, inaugurated the festival at Fort Aguada Lighthouse.
- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the 1st edition of the 'Bharatiya Prakash Sthamb Utsav' or Indian Lighthouse Festival at Goa's iconic Fort Aguada.

#### About Goa:

- Capital: Panaji
- Chief Minister: Pramod Sawant
- Governor: P. S. Sreedharan Pillai
- National Park & Wildlife Sanctuary: Anshi National Park, Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary, Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary, Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary, Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary, Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary

#### PM Modi Remembers Lata Mangeshkar On Her Birth Anniversary:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to singing legend Lata Mangeshkar on her 94th birth anniversary.
- Born on September 28, 1929, the contribution of the 'Nightingale of India' to music is unforgettable.

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Awards won by Mangeshkar:

- She received the Dadasaheb Phalke Award.
- She was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 2001.
- In 2007, France made her an Officer of the National Order of the Legion of Honour, the country's highest civilian award.
- She was the recipient of three National Film Awards, 15 Bengal Film Journalists' Association Awards, four Filmfare Best Female Playback Awards, before declining further ones, two Filmfare Special Awards, the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award amongst others.
- In 1974, she became the first Indian playback singer to perform at the Royal Albert Hall in London, England.

#### 4th edition of Indo-Latin American Cultural Festival organised by ICCR begins in New Delhi

- The fourth edition of Indo-Latin American Cultural Festival organised by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) began in New Delhi.
- Total 34 artists from three countries Colombia, Ecuador and Chile are participating in the twoday festival.
- ICCR President **Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe** stated that the vibrant celebration of culture and art aims to showcase the rich cultural heritage of **Latin America**.

## PM Modi to launch week-long programme 'Sankalp Saptaah' for Aspirational Blocks

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch a week-long programme for Aspirational Blocks in the country called **Sankalp Saptaah** in **New Delhi**.
- The inaugural programme will witness participation of about **3,000** panchayat and block level people's representatives and functionaries from across the country in **Bharat Mandapam**.
- Sankalp Saptaah is linked to the effective implementation of Aspirational Blocks Programme ABP.
- The nationwide programme was launched by the Prime Minister on **7th January** this year (2023) to improve governance at the block level and enhance the quality of life of citizens.
- The Sankalp Saptaah is a culmination of the chintan shivirs.
- The themes for the first six days include Sampoorna Swasthya, Suposhit Pariwaar, Swachhta, Krishi, Shiksha, and Samridhi Diwas.

## 28% GST rate on online gaming from October 1

India is set to implement a 28 per cent Goods and Service Tax on online gaming from October 1, 2023.

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- The announcement was made by Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs chairperson Sanjay Agarwal.
- The announcement comes nearly two months after the Lok Sabha had passed amendments to two GST laws with a voice vote.
- The amendments are related to the insertion of provision in the third schedule of CGST Act, 2017 to provide clarity on the taxation of supplies in the casinos, horse racing and online gaming.
- On the other hand, amendment in the IGST Act relates to inserting a provision to impose GST liability on online money gaming provided by offshore entities.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

#### Kathmandu-Kalinga Literary Festival concludes in Lalitpur, Nepal

- The Kathmandu-Kalinga Literary Festival, spanning 3 days, concluded in Lalitpur, Nepal.
- The festival was inaugurated by Nepal's Minister for Foreign Affairs, NP Saud.
- **Participating Countries:** Literature from several South Asian countries was showcased during the festival, including India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka.
- The festival showcased literature, music, dance, poetry and other art forms.

#### About Nepal :

- President : Ram Chandra Poudel
- Prime Minister : Pushpa Kamal Dahal
- Capital : Kathmandu
- Currency : Nepalese rupee

## Uttar Pradesh Leads in Electric Vehicle Registrations with the Highest Number

- Uttar Pradesh (UP) has emerged with the highest adoption rate of electric vehicles in the country, with 1,70,269 electric vehicles registered in the state.
- According to data from Vahan, which tracks vehicle registrations, there has been a **4.9% increase** in the overall number of electric vehicles registered in India.
- Between January and September of CY23, a total of 10,24,781 electric vehicles were registered in India.
- As per the statistics, after UP, **Maharashtra** registered the highest number of electric vehicles with 1,24,558 and **Karnataka** with 1,00,235.

#### Indonesia Introduces 'Golden Visa' Program to Attract Foreign Investors

• Indonesia has introduced a 'golden visa' program aimed at attracting foreign individuals and

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corporate investors to stimulate its national economy.

- The golden visa offers an extended residence permit for a duration of 5 to 10 years, providing a long-term stay option for eligible applicants.
- To qualify for a 5-year golden visa, an individual must establish a company in Indonesia with a minimum investment of **\$2.5 million**.
- For a 10-year visa, the required investment increases to **\$5 million**.

## About Indonesia :

- President : Joko Widodo
- Capital : Jakarta
- Currency : Indonesian rupiah

Memorandum of Understanding Signed for India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) at G20 Summit

- During the G20 Summit in New Delhi, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed among the governments of India, the United States (US), Saudi Arabia, the European Union (EU), the United Arab Emirates (UAE), France, Germany, and Italy to establish the India - Middle East -Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).
- The IMEC project is part of the PGII (Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment), which is a Western-led initiative aimed at funding infrastructure projects worldwide.
- It is considered a response to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

## United Kingdom Re-enters European Union's €95.5 Billion Horizon Research Programme

- The United Kingdom (UK) government has officially announced its decision to rejoin Horizon Europe, the European Union's research funding program with a budget of €95 billion.
- With this move, UK scientists will now have access to a significant source of funding.
- In addition to Horizon Europe, the UK will also rejoin the European Union's Earth observation program, known as Copernicus.

# G20 Leaders Approve Goa Roadmap and "Travel for LiFE" Program for Significant Boost to Tourism Sector

- Group of Twenty (G20) leaders have unanimously endorsed the "Goa Roadmap for Tourism" as a significant step toward achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The "Goa Roadmap" is an outcome of India's G20 Tourism Track and serves as a blueprint for

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promoting sustainable global tourism.

• This roadmap aligns with the theme of India's G20 Presidency and emphasises the role of tourism in society, the economy, and environmental sustainability.

#### About Ministry of Tourism :

- Cabinet Minister : G. Kishan Reddy
- Minister of State : Shripad Naik, Ajay Bhatt

## Italy Reportedly Considering Withdrawal from China's Belt and Road Initiative

- Italian Prime Minister Mr Giorgia Meloni reportedly discussed Italy's intention to withdraw from the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) with the Chinese Premier during a private meeting at the G20 Summit in 2023.
- Italy is the **sole G7 country** that joined the BRI in 2019, setting it apart from other major Western economies.
- China's Belt and Road Initiative (also known as **One Belt, One Road (OBOR)**) envisages the construction of a maze of road, rail and port projects through a number of countries.
- It aims to strengthen Beijing's economic leadership through a vast program of infrastructure building throughout China's neighbouring regions.
- The BRI is often referred to as the "21st Century Silk Road" due to its aim of enhancing connectivity and trade routes.

## About Italy :

- President : Sergio Mattarella
- Prime Minister : Giorgia Meloni
- Capital : Rome
- Currency : Euro

G20 Leaders' Summit in New Delhi Highlights Climate Change in the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration

- The G20 Leaders' Summit took place in New Delhi on September 9 and 10, 2023.
- The New Delhi Leaders' Declaration adopted during the summit prominently highlighted climate change on the global geopolitical agenda.
- The New Delhi Declaration also underscores inadequacies in addressing **climate change**, **expressing concern** that global ambition and implementation of the Paris Agreement commitments to address climate change, remain insufficient.
- The G20 leaders reiterated their commitment to achieving **global net-zero greenhouse gas emissions** or carbon neutrality by or around mid-century.

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## PM Modi Unveils Global Biofuel Alliance at G20 Summit

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced the establishment of the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA).
- It's an **India-led initiative** aimed at creating an alliance among governments, international organisations, and industry players to promote the adoption of biofuels.

#### Membership and Founding Countries :

- The GBA has garnered support from **19 countries**, including G20 members and non-member nations.
- A total of 19 countries and **12 international organisations** have so far agreed to join the alliance, including both G20 members and non-member countries.
- Founding members of the alliance include India, Brazil, and the United States.

Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi Unveils India-Middle East-Europe Mega Economic Corridor

• The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi has announced the commencement of the India-Middle East-Europe Mega Economic Corridor (IMEC).

**Participating Countries :** 

• The IMEC project involves several countries, including India, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, the European Union, France, Italy, Germany, and the United States.

#### Objective :

• The primary goal of the project is to facilitate **increased trade** among the participating countries, with a specific focus on trading energy products.

## Components of IMEC :

 IMEC consists of 2 main corridors: an Eastern Corridor connecting India to the Gulf region and a Northern Corridor connecting the Gulf region to Europe.

## India and the UK Conduct the 12th Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) Meeting in New Delhi

- The 12th Round of Ministerial India-United Kingdom (UK) Economic and Financial Dialogue took place in New Delhi.
- The Indian delegation was led by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, and the UK delegation was led by Rt. Hon. Mr. Jeremy Hunt, MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, U.K.
- The 11th India-United Kingdom Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) was held on September 02, 2021 virtually chaired by Indian Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman and the United Kingdom Treasury Chancellor Mr. Rishi Sunak.

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#### About United Kingdom :

- Cabinet Minister : Nirmala Sitharaman
- Minister of State : Bhagwat Karad, Pankaj Choudhary

#### About UK :

- Prime Minister : Rishi Sunak
- Capital : London
- Currency : Pound sterling

## African Union Granted Permanent Membership in G20

- The African Union has officially become a member of the G20 group, and this inclusion was made at the invitation of Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who was hosting the G20 Summit.
- A Leaders Declaration is expected to be adopted at the conclusion of the 18th G20 Summit, which is being held at the state-of-the-art Bharat Mandapam Convention Centre in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- The theme of India's G20 presidency is "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam One Earth, One Family, One Future."

#### About African Union :

- Headquarters : Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- Current Chairperson: Azali Assoumani.
- Official language : Kiswahili

## UNDP India Collaborates with NABARD to Promote Data-Driven Agricultural Innovations

• The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have signed a 5-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

#### Aim :

- To co-create data-driven digital public goods, including DiCRA (Data in Climate Resilient Agriculture), with a focus on building sustainable agricultural practices and securing livelihoods, especially for small farmholders, including women.
- The MoU was signed by Mr. Sanjeev Rohilla, Chief General Manager of NABARD, and Ms.
   Isabelle Tschan, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative.

#### About NABARD :

- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Shri. Shaji K V

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- It was established on the recommendations of B. Sivaraman Committee (by Act 61, 1981 of Parliament) on 12 July 1982 to implement the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act 1981.
- NABARD is an **apex regulatory body** for the overall regulation of regional rural banks and apex cooperative banks in India.
- It is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance (MoF), Government of India (Gol).

## About UNDP :

- Established: 22 November 1965
- Headquarters: New York, United States
- Administrator : Achim Steiner
- The UNDP is a United Nations agency tasked with helping countries eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable economic growth and human development.
- It was founded with the merging of the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) and the Special Fund.

## United Kingdom commits \$2 billion to Green Climate Fund

- The United Kingdom (UK) has pledged \$2 billion to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in the wake of G20 leaders' commitment to addressing climate change and ensuring developed nations contribute to climate funds for developing countries.
- This commitment is regarded as one of the largest funding pledges made by the UK to **combat climate change**.
- The commitment follows the UK Prime Minister's announcement at Conference of the Parties (COP27) that the UK would triple its funding for climate adaptation.
- The GCF was established by **194 countries** following the Copenhagen Accord at COP15.
- The GCF is the world's largest global fund dedicated to supporting developing nations in reducing global emissions and helping communities adapt to the impacts of climate change.

## About UK :

- Prime Minister: Rishi Sunak
- Capital: London
- Currency: Pound sterling

## Myanmar not allowed to chair 2026 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) meet

Southeast Asian leaders decided that Myanmar would not chair the Association of Southeast
 Asian Nations (ASEAN) 2026 meeting due to military seizure of power in the country.

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- ASEAN Summit is the highest policy-making body in ASEAN comprising the Heads of State of ASEAN Member States.
- ASEAN Summit meetings are held **twice annually**, determined by the Chair of the ASEAN Summit in consultation with other member States.
- The first ASEAN Summit was held in Bali, Indonesia, in 1976.

## About ASEAN :

- Established : 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration).
- Headquarters : Jakarta, Indonesia
- Secretary General : Kao Kim Hourn
- ASEAN is a political and economic union of 10 member states in Southeast Asia.
- Founders: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- The other members are Brunei, Vietnam, Lao PDR (People's Democratic Republic), Myanmar, and Cambodia.

10th Session of Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Plenary Takes Place in Bonn, Germany

 The 10th session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is being held in Bonn, Germany, from August 28 to 2 September, 2023.

## What is IPBES?

- The IPBES is an independent inter-governmental body established by States to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development.
- IPBES was established on **April 21, 2012,** in Panama City, with the participation of 94 governments.
- The 9th session of the Plenary of IPBES 9 was held in Bonn, Germany, from 3 to 9 July 2022.

## About Germany :

- President : Frank-Walter Steinmeier
- Capital : Berlin
- Currency : Euro

UNESCO Releases Inaugural Guidance on the Application of Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) in Education

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- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has published its 1st guidance on the use of Generative AI (GenAI) in education, emphasising the importance of regulating this technology.
- UNESCO calls on governmental agencies to regulate the use of GenAl in education.
- This includes measures to protect data privacy and the implementation of an age limit for users.
- The guidance highlights the emergence of GenAl chatbots like **ChatGPT**, launched by Microsoftbacked OpenAl in November.

#### About UNESCO:

- Established : 16 November 1945
- Headquarters : Paris, France
- Director General : Audrey Azoulay
- Parent Organisation : United Nations Economic and Social Council
- UNESCO is a **specialised agency of the United Nations (UN)** aimed at promoting world peace and security through international cooperation in education, arts, sciences and culture.

#### World Bank & UNICEF Assessment Reveals 52 Million Children in Extreme Poverty in India

- The World Bank and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) conducted an assessment called "Global Trends in Child Monetary Poverty According to International Poverty Lines."
- According to the assessment, India has approximately 52 million children living in extreme poverty.
- The report highlights that every second person living in extreme poverty globally is a child.
- The assessment indicates that the majority of poor children are concentrated in **two regions: sub-**Saharan Africa and South Asia.
- Among children, the highest poverty rate is observed in the 0-5 year age group.
- In this age group, approximately 18.3%, equivalent to 99 million children, lived in extremely poor households.
- According to the assessment, 5% of children in India live in extremely poor households.

## About World Bank :

- Established : July 7, 1944
- Headquarters : Washington, D.C., United States
- President : Ajay Banga

#### About UNICEF :

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- Established : 1946
- Headquarters : New York, United States of America
- Executive Director : Catherine M. Russell

## ADB predicts 6.5 per cent GDP growth for Bangladesh in FY 2024

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has projected Bangladesh's gross domestic product (GDP) growth to be 6.5 per cent in the fiscal year 2024, compared to an estimated growth of 6 per cent in fiscal 2023.
- The projection was made in the latest ADB report, 'Asian Development Outlook (ADO) September 2023,' released.
- ADB also predicted that Inflation in Bangladesh will ease from 9.0% in FY2023 to 6.6% in FY2024.

#### Pakistan's General Elections To Be Held In January 2024:

- Pakistan's election commission announced that the general elections in the country will take place in the **last week of January 2024**.
- General elections are scheduled to be held in Pakistan within 90 days after the dissolution of the National Assembly, which was prematurely dissolved on August 9, 2023.

#### About Pakistan:

- Capital: Islamabad
- Currency: Rupees
- President: Arif Alvi

#### Singapore is now the world's freest economy

- **Singapore** has dethroned **Hong Kong** to become the world's freest economy, according to a report released by **Canadian think tank Fraser Institute**.
- For the first time since the Economic Freedom of the World Index started in 1970, Hong Kong slipped to second place from the number one spot and its score is about to drop even further.

#### About Singapore:

- Capital: Singapore
- Currency: Dollars
- President: Tharman Shanmugaratnam

## Foreign ministers of Quad nations meet on sidelines of UN General Assembly

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- The foreign ministers of Quad group -- which includes India, Australia, Japan and the United States—met on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session in New York.
- The meeting was attended by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, and Japan's new Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa.

#### About Quad:

- Established: 2007
- Members: India, Australia, Japan and United states

Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Invites US President Joe Biden as Chief Guest for Republic Day 2024

- Indian Prime Minister (PM) Shri Narendra Modi has extended an invitation to United States (US) President Joe Biden to be the Chief Guest for India's Republic Day celebrations on January 26, 2024.
- The invitation was made during a bilateral meeting between PM Modi and President Biden on the sidelines of the G20 summit in **Delhi**, which took place on September 8, 2023.
- If President Biden accepts the invitation, he will become the second US President to serve as the Chief Guest at India's Republic Day celebrations.
- The first US President to attend this event was **Barack Obama** in 2015.
- In the 2022 Republic Day celebrations, the Chief Guest was Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.

## About USA:

- Capital: Washington, D.C
- Currency: Dollar
- President: Joe Biden

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak Extends Ban on New Petrol and Diesel Cars by 5 Years in Net Zero Reset

- Rishi Sunak, the British Prime Minister (PM), has announced a delay of **5 years** in the **ban on petrol and diesel cars** until 2035.
- The delay is attributed to a cost-of-living crisis in the UK, and Sunak characterized it as a shift toward a more "pragmatic, proportionate, and realistic path."







- Despite the delay, the UK remains committed to its goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.
- 'Net zero emissions' refers to achieving an overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) production and greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere.

#### Dubai Unveils Comprehensive Guide to Generative AI in Media at the 21st Arab Media Forum

- In a significant move towards harnessing the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the media landscape, the UAE Ministry of Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications, in collaboration with the Dubai Media Council, has officially launched a groundbreaking guide titled '100 Practical Use Cases of Generative AI in Media.
- It also underscores the nation's aspiration to elevate its global stature as a hub for Al application development, leveraging such innovations to foster sustainable development, enhance productivity and efficiency, and catalyze paradigm shifts in vital sectors.

#### India-US 2 plus 2 Intersessional Dialogue held in Washington

- India-US 2 plus 2 Intersessional Dialogue was held in Washington.
- Underscoring the transformative momentum in the India-US relationship, the two countries held discussions on opportunities to further strengthen interoperability and logistics cooperation.
- The Indian delegation was led by Additional Secretary in External Affairs Ministry Vani Rao and Joint Secretary in the Defence Ministry Vishwesh Negi.
- The American side was led by Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs Dr.
   Ely Ratner and Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu.

India, US, UAE, and Israel Collaborate on Joint Space Venture to Address Environmental Issues and Climate Change

- Israel, India, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the United States have jointly announced a new space venture during the 78th United Nations General Assembly session in New York.
- These countries are members of the I2U2 group, also known as the West Asia Quad.
- The group was founded in October 2021 by the foreign ministers of these nations to promote collaboration in various sectors, including water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security.

#### About US :

- President : Joe Biden
- Capital : Washington, D.C.
- Currency : U.S. dollar

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## About USA :

- President : Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- Prime Minister : Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
- Capital : Abu Dhabi
- Currency : UAE dirham

#### About Israel :

- President : Isaac Herzog
- Prime Minister : Benjamin Netanyahu
- Capital : Jerusalem
- Currency : New shekel

## ICMR Study Reveals Indians Consume 8g of Salt Daily, Exceeding WHO Standards by 3%

- According to a study conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the average daily salt consumption among Indians is 8 grams, which exceeds the World Health Organization (WHO) standard by 3%.
- The study reveals that men tend to consume more salt, with an average of 8.9 grams per day.
- Employed individuals also have a relatively high salt intake, at 8.6 grams daily.
- The WHO recommends a daily salt intake of **5 grams** for maintaining a healthy life.

## About ICMR :

- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Director General : Rajiv Bahl
- The ICMR, the **apex body** in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research, is one of the oldest and largest medical research bodies in the world.

#### About WHO :

- Established : 7 April 1948
- Headquarters : Geneva, Switzerland
- Director general : Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
- The WHO is a **specialised agency** of the United Nations responsible for international public health.

SDG Summit 2023 Initiates Accelerated Progress Toward Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in New York

- The SDG Summit 2023 was a significant international event held in New York.
- The summit marked the beginning of a new phase focused on accelerating progress toward achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

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- The primary aim of the SDGs is to promote global prosperity, address inequalities, and protect the environment while pursuing sustainable development.
- There are a total of 17 Sustainable Development Goals, each addressing different aspects of global challenges, including poverty, inequality, climate change, and more.

## **STATE NEWS**

## Delhi Government Launches Portal 'E-Vanlekh' To Empower Citizens To Protect Forests, Wildlife

- Delhi Environment and Forest Minister Gopal Rai launched a portal evanlekh.eforest.delhi.gov.in to enhance public awareness about the forest and wildlife sanctuary areas that need protection.
- Also, users can generate KML (formerly known as Keyhole Markup Language) files on the portal.
- KML is an XML (eXtensible Markup Language) based file format for displaying information in a geographic context in an Earth browser such as Google Earth.

## Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin to Introduce Multilingual 'Speaking for India' Podcasts

- Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) President and Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, M.K. Stalin, has initiated a series of podcasts titled "Speaking for India" as part of his campaign against the BJPled Union government.
- These podcasts will be made available in multiple languages, including English and various Indian languages, through translations.
- The audio series aims to shed light on how the BJP-led government, which is expected to conclude in 2024, has impacted India.

#### About Tamil Nadu :

- Governor: R. N. Ravi
- Chief minister: M. K. Stalin
- Capital: Chennai
- Dance : Bharatnatyam, Karakattam
- National Park: Mudumalai National Park, Mukurthi National Park, Guindy National Park, Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Kalakad Wildlife Sanctuary, Karikili Bird Sanctuary, Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary
- Tiger Reserve: Anamalai Tiger Reserve
- Biosphere Reserve : Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve

#### Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Introduces the LEAP Membership Card by the Startup Mission

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- Kerala Chief Minister (CM) Shri Pinarayi Vijayan has launched the statewide membership card of Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) 'LEAP (Launch, Empower, Accelerate, Prosper) Coworks' and also inaugurated the refurbished headquarters of KSUM in Thejaswini Building, Technopark Phase 1, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Besides that, he also inaugurated the **first phase** of the **country's first Digital Science Park**.
- LEAP Coworks is a pioneering government initiative **aimed** at transforming industry incubators into co-working spaces.
- The **primary goal** is to provide an environment conducive to innovation and collaboration, fostering a successful startup ecosystem.

#### About KSUM :

- Founded : 2006
- Headquarters : Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India
- CEO : Anoop Ambika

#### About Kerala:

- Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan
- Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan
- Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
- National Parks: Periyar National Park, Mathikettan National Park, Eravikulam National Park, Silent Valley National Park, Indira Gandhi National Park

#### Assam Government Establishes 3-Member Committee to Draft Anti-Polygamy Legislation

- The Assam government has established a 3 -member committee to draft a law aimed at ending polygamy within Assam.
- The committee consists of prominent individuals, including Advocate-General **Devajit Saikia**, Legal Remembrancer **Kuntal Sharma Pathak**, and Director-General of Police **Gyanendra Pratap Singh**.
- The newly formed committee has been tasked with preparing the draft for an anti-polygamy Bill within a stipulated period of **45 days**.

#### About Assam :

- Governor : Gulab Chand Kataria
- Chief Minister : Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Capital: Guwahati
- National Park: Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Nameri National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary: Garampani Wildlife Sanctuary, Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary, Bornadi Wildlife

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#### Sanctuary

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Unveils 'SABAL' Scheme for Specially-Abled Children

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched the Mukhya Mantri Sporting Abilities, Rebuilding Aspirations and Livelihood Scheme (SABAL) from Nadaun in district Hamirpur, HP.
- Aim: To improve the lives of specially-abled children in HP.
- **Coverage**: Approximately 400 schools across Hamirpur, Solan, and Shimla districts are included in this scheme.

### About HP :

- Governor : Shiv Pratap Shukla
- Chief Minister : Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu
- National Parks : Great Himalayan National Park , Khirganga National Park, Pin Valley National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries : Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary, Chandratal Wildlife Sanctuary (Ramsar Site)

Jharkhand Cabinet approves Rs 1000 pension for transgender community & inclusion in backward classes category

- The Jharkhand Cabinet, led by Chief Minister (CM) Hemant Soren, has approved the inclusion of the transgender community in the state's universal pension scheme, known as "Mukhyamantri Rajya Samajik Suraksha Pension Yojana."
- Under this scheme, transgender individuals will receive a monthly pension of **Rs 1,000**.
- To qualify for the pension scheme, transgender individuals must obtain a certificate from the deputy commissioner's office.
- Eligibility criteria include being **18 years of age** or older and possessing a voter ID card.

### About Jharkhand :

- Governor : C. P. Radhakrishnan
- Chief Minister : Hemant Soren
- Capital : Ranchi
- Tiger Reserve : Palamu Tiger Reserve
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary, Gautam Budha Wildlife Sanctuary, Udhwa Lake Bird Wildlife Sanctuary

### Salem Sago from Tamil Nadu Granted a Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

• The Salem Starch and Sago Manufacturers Service Industrial Co-operative Society Limited, commonly known as SagoServe, has been conferred with the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for

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### Salem Sago.

 The District Collector, S Karmegam, officially presented the GI certificate to Lalithaditya Neelam, the Administrator of SagoServe, during an official program.

### About Sagosarva :

- Established : 1981
- It is a cooperative society with **374 members** from various districts including Salem, Namakkal, Dharmapuri, Erode, Perambalur, Trichy, Tiruvannamalai and Villupuram.

### Nagaland becomes the 1st North Eastern State to Introduce Aadhaar-Linked Birth

- Nagaland has become the 1st State in the North Eastern Region to initiate Aadhaar Linked Birth Registration (ALBR).
- This innovative initiative integrates Aadhaar enrollment for children in the age group of **0 to 5 years** within the birth registration process.
- To facilitate seamless access for children to various social welfare schemes specifically designed for their well-being.
- The commencement of the launch was formally led by Commissioner **T Mhabemo Yanthan**.

### About Nagaland:

- Governor: Shri La Ganesan
- Chief minister: Neiphiu Rio
- Capital: Kohima

### N. Chandrababu Naidu, Former Andhra CM and TDP Chief, Arrested in Skill Development Case

- **N. Chandrababu Naidu,** the Chief of Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and former Chief Minister (CM) of Andhra Pradesh, has been **arrested** on charges of corruption.
- Naidu's arrest is linked to an alleged scam amounting to 317 crore rupees in the Andhra Pradesh
   State Skill Development Corporation during his tenure as CM.
- The AP State Skill Development Corporation was established to provide skill training to youth during the TDP regime, which governed Andhra Pradesh from **2014 to 2019**.

### Union Home Minister Amit Shah Chairs Western Zonal Council Meeting in Gandhinagar, Gujarat

- Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah chaired the 26th Western Zonal Council meeting held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The meeting was attended by the Chief Ministers of the Western Zone states: Gujarat Chief Minister

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# Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – September 2023

**Bhupendra Patel,** Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde, Goa CM **Pramod Sawant**, and Administrator of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu Praful Patel.

### About Gujarat :

- Governor: Acharya Devvrat
- Chief minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel
- Capital: Gandhinagar
- National Park: Vansda National Park, Gir National Park, Marine National Park, Velavadar National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary, Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, Shoolpaneshwar
   Wildlife Sanctuary

#### Ahmedabad becomes 2nd city in India to implement emission trading scheme

- The Gujarat government has announced that Ahmedabad has become the 2nd city in India to adopt an Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) for particulate pollution with an aim to regulate industrial emissions effectively and contribute to reducing pollution levels in Gujarat.
- The first Indian city to implement such a scheme was **Surat**, also located in the state of Gujarat.
- The ETS in Ahmedabad specifically targets particulate matter (PM) emissions and is the world's 1st ETS dedicated to PM emissions.
- It primarily focuses on industries in the textile sector within the Narol and Vatva industrial clusters.
- ETS, also known as a "**cap-and-trade**" system, sets a cap on the amount of pollution allowed from regulated industries and issues permits for emissions.

#### About Gujarat :

- Governor: Acharya Devvrat
- Chief minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel
- Capital: Gandhinagar
- National Park : Vansda National Park, Gir National Park, Marine National Park, Velavadar National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries : Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary, Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, Shoolpaneshwar
   Wildlife Sanctuary

### Odisha's 'Koraput Kalajeera Rice' receives Geographical Indications (GI) Status

- Odisha's 'Koraput Kalajeera Rice,' renowned for its unique aroma and nutritional value, has been officially recognized with Geographical Indications (GI) status.
- This aromatic rice variety, often referred to as the 'Prince of Rice,' resembles coriander seeds in

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### Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – September 2023

appearance.

- The application for GI registration of 'Koraput Kalajeera Rice' was initiated in January 2022 by the Jaivik Sri Farmers Producer Company Limited in Pujariput, Koraput district, Odisha.
- 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.'

### About Odisha :

- Governor : Ganeshi Lal
- Chief Minister : Naveen Patnaik
- Capital : Bhubaneswar
- National Parks : Simlipal National Park, Bhitarkanika National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries : Tikarpada Wildlife Sanctuary, Chilika Wildlife Sanctuary, Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary.

Maharashtra Cabinet Grants Approval for Rs. 837 Crores Cybersecurity Initiative to Combat Escalating Cybercrimes

- The Maharashtra cabinet has decided to implement a cyber-security project worth Rs 837 crore due to increasing cases of cybercrime in Maharashtra.
- The project features a **24-hour call centre** dedicated to citizens, providing them with a convenient avenue to report cybercrimes promptly.
- The project's implementation and oversight will be carried out by the Special Inspector General of Police (Cyber), ensuring a focused and efficient approach to tackling cybercrimes.
- The project encompasses critical components like a Command and Control Centre, Technology Assisted Investigation capabilities, a Center of Excellence, a Cloud-Based Data Centre, and a Security Operation Centre, collectively enhancing the state's cybersecurity capabilities.

#### About Maharashtra :

- Governor: Ramesh Bais
- Chief Minister: Eknath Shinde
- Capital: Mumbai
- National Park: Tadoba National Park, Navegaon National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnala Bird Sanctuary, Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary
- UNESCO Heritage Sites: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, The Victorian and Art Deco

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Ensemble of Mumbai, Ajanta Caves, Elephanta Caves, Ellora Caves

Govt's new insurance scheme for gig workers offers Rs 4 lakh cover

- Karnataka is the second state after Rajasthan to launch an insurance scheme for gig workers.
- The state government rolled out an insurance scheme with a cover of Rs 4 lakh for gig workers across the state.
- The state will pay the entire premium for the scheme under which workers will get a life insurance cover of Rs 2 lakh and accidental cover of Rs 2 lakh.

Odisha signs MoU with six banks for giving banking services in unbanked gram panchayats

- The Odisha government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with six public sector banks for providing banking services in all unbanked gram panchayats (GPs) of the state through customer service point (CSP) Plus banking outlets.
- These banks were the State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Union Bank of India, UCO Bank, Bank of India and Bank of Baroda.
- The scheme will be implemented in a phased manner to cover unbanked GPs of the state within the current financial year 2023-24.
- Odisha is the first state in the entire country to adopt such a model for providing banking services to all GPs.

### Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria Introduces 'Sarpanch Samvaad' Mobile App

- Assam Governor Shri Gulab Chand Kataria launched the 'Sarpanch Samvad' mobile app at Raj Bhavan in Guwahati, Assam.
- The 'Sarpanch Samvad' app has been developed by the Quality Council of India (QCI).
- **Objective:** To provide comprehensive support to sarpanchs (village heads) and promote their growth as leaders.
- Aim : To connect approximately 2.5 lakh sarpanchs across India & serves as a holistic platform for networking, knowledge dissemination, and collaboration among sarpanchs.

### About QCI :

- Established : 1997
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairperson : Jaxay Shah
- Secretary General : Dr. Ravi P. Singh
- The QCI, established by the **Government of India (GoI)** and the Indian industry, is the apex organisation responsible for establishing and operating the third-party national accreditation

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system, improving quality across sectors and advising the government and other stakeholders on matters concerning quality.

- Constituent Boards: QCI has established various constituent boards, each responsible for accreditation in specific areas:
- NABL (National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories): Accredits testing and calibration laboratories.
- NABH (National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers): Accredits hospitals and healthcare providers.
- NABCB (National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies): Accredits certification and inspection bodies
- NABET (National Accreditation Board for Education and Training): Accredits education and training institutions.
- QCI's National Board for Quality Promotion is responsible for running the national quality campaign, emphasising the importance of quality across various sectors.

### About Assam :

- Governor : Gulab Chand Kataria
- Chief Minister : Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Capital: Guwahati
- National Park: Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Nameri National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary: Garampani Wildlife Sanctuary, Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary, Bornadi Wildlife Sanctuary
- Dance : Bihu, Jhumur Dance, Bagurumba

### Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin Unveils the Kalaignar Women's Rights Fund Scheme

- Tamil Nadu (TN) Chief Minister (CM) Shri MK Stalin has inaugurated the 'Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thittam' (Kalaignar Women's Rights Assistance Scheme), which provides a monthly assistance of Rs. 1,000 to women in TN.
- The scheme would be launched on September 15, 2023, coinciding with the birth anniversary of C N Annadurai.
- The choice of the launch date holds historical significance, as it marks the birth anniversary of C
   N Annadurai, the first Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and a prominent Dravidian leader.

### About Tamil Nadu :

• Governor: R. N. Ravi

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- Chief minister: M. K. Stalin
- Capital: Chennai
- Dance : Bharatnatyam, Karakattam
- National Park: Mudumalai National Park, Mukurthi National Park, Guindy National Park, Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Kalakad Wildlife Sanctuary, Karikili Bird Sanctuary, Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary
- Tiger Reserve: Anamalai Tiger Reserve
- Biosphere Reserve : Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve

### Uttar Pradesh Government Introduces Special Gift Deed Scheme

- The Uttar Pradesh (UP) Government has introduced a special Gift Deed Scheme.
- The Yogi Adityanath Government launched this scheme with the aim of promoting harmony and resolving property-related family disputes.
- **Beneficiaries:** From August 5, 2023, to September 12, 2023, the scheme has benefited more than 43,574 people.

• Financial Impact: Under this scheme, the public has received a total benefit of Rs 1,807.31 crore.

### About UP :

- Governor : Anandiben Patel
- Chief Minister : Yogi Adityanath
- Capital : Lucknow
- National Park : Dudhwa National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary, Chandraprabha Wildlife Sanctuary, National Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary

#### Goa CM Pramod Sawant Unveils Initiatives to Empower Homemakers and Entrepreneurs

- The Griha Adhar scheme has been launched to empower the homemakers of Goa.
- Goa Chief Minister Shri Pramod Sawant distributed Griha Adhar sanction orders to numerous beneficiaries.
- The initiative is organised by the Directorate of Women and Child Development with the aim of providing financial support to homemakers to enhance their quality of life and promote their independence.

#### About Goa :

• Governor : P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

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- Chief Minister : Pramod Sawant
- Capital : Panaji
- Airports : Dabolim Airport, Manohar International Airport

#### Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launches 'e-Bhoomi' Portal for land purchase

- Haryana Chief Minister Shri Manohar Lal Khattar launched the e-Bhoomi portal with an aim to simplify the land purchase process for government projects with the consent of landowners.
- The government aims at purchasing land in a transparent manner with the consent of the landowners.
- The offer of land on the new portal would be valid for 6 months.
- A minimum offer of **10 acres** has been made mandatory for voluntary offers made by aggregators.
- Khattar also inaugurated the 'No-Litigation Policy-2023 portal' to resolve land acquisition issues from 2011 for the expansion of the Industrial Model Township (IMT) Manesar.
- He launched the **HMJIS portal** to combat illegal mining in Haryana, replacing the previously launched e-Ravana portal.
- The Haryana government introduced the issuance of Other Backward Classes (OBC) certificates through the Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) system.
- He also unveiled the portal for the **Mukhyamantri Shehri Awas Yojana**, an initiative aimed at providing housing to **economically weaker sections**.

### About Haryana :

- Governor : Bandaru Dattatreya
- Chief Minister : Manohar Lal Khattar
- Capital : Chandigarh
- Wildlife Sanctuaries : Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary, Bir Shikargah Wildlife Sanctuary

The indefinite Rail-Roko movement called by Kurmi community began in Jharkhand

- The indefinite Rail-Roko movement called by the Kurmi community began in Jharkhand.
- The members of the Kurmi community are demanding their inclusion in the Scheduled Tribe list.
- After the Calcutta High Court banned the movement in West Bengal, the Kurmi community withdrew the movement in West Bengal.
- Besides, the agitators have gathered in large numbers near to Gomo, Muri, and Neemdih railway stations in Jharkhand.

President Droupadi Murmu to inaugurate first Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show at Greater Noida

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- President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate the first Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show in India Expo Centre and Mart in Greater Noida.
- The trade show will be held from September 21 to 25.
- Governor of state Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister of UP Yogi Adityanath and Industrial Minister Nand Gopal Nandi will also be present on the inaugural pharmaceuticals, dairy, electronics, and ecommerce.
- The five-day event will be held at the India Expo Mart in Knowledge Park, Greater Noida.

### The fourth meeting of the G-20 Infrastructure Working Group begins in Madhya Pradesh

- Under India's G-20 presidency, a two-day, fourth meeting of the G-20 Infrastructure Working Group began at Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh.
- This is the last meeting of the Infrastructure Working Group under the Indian G20 Presidency.
- The meeting is being hosted and chaired by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India along with Australia and Brazil as co-chairs.

### 4th Nadi Utsav to commence at IGNCA in New Delhi

- The 4th Nadi Utsav will commence 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 will feature a wide range of programs including Cultural Performances, a book fair, a documentary film festival, and a puppet show.

### Assam's Biswanath Ghat selected as India's Best Tourism Village 2023

- Biswanath Ghat in Assam has been selected as the Best Tourism Village of India 2023 by the Ministry of Tourism, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.
- Biswanath Ghat has been selected from amongst 791 applications from 31 states and Union Territories.
- The Ghat is also popularly known as "Gupta Kashi' in comparison with Kashi during the golden rule of the Guptas.

#### About Assam :

- Governor : Gulab Chand Kataria
- Chief Minister : Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Capital : Dispur
- National Park : Manas National Park, Khaziranga National Park, Nameri National Park, Orang National Park

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• Wildlife Sanctuary : Garampani Wildlife Sanctuary, Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary, Bornadi Wildlife Sanctuary, Chakrasila Wildlife Sanctuary

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Unveils 108-Foot-Tall Statue of Adi Shankaracharya in Omkareshwar as a Symbol of Oneness

- The Chief Minister (CM) of Madhya Pradesh (MP) **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** unveiled the **108-foottall 'Statue of Oneness'** depicting Adi Shankaracharya as a 12-year-old child.
- The statue is located in Omkareshwar.
- The unveiling of this statue in Omkareshwar is expected to create an important tourism circuit, connecting it with other religious towns in the region, including **Ujjain, Maheshwar, and Mandu**.

### About MP :

- Governor : Mangubhai C. Patel
- Chief Minister : Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- Capital : Bhopal
- National Park : Satpura National Park, Kanha National Park, Bandhavgarh National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary, Bori Wildlife Sanctuary

Madhya Pradesh Designates 'Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve' as its 7th Tiger Sanctuary

- The Madhya Pradesh (MP) Government has declared the creation of the "Veerangana Durgavati
   Tiger Reserve," which becomes the 7th tiger reserve in MP.
- Existing Tiger Reserves in Madhya Pradesh: Madhya Pradesh is already renowned for its 6 existing tiger reserves, namely Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Panna, Pench, Sanjay Dubri, and Satpura.
- The addition of the Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve further strengthens the state's commitment to tiger conservation.
- With this addition, India now has a total of **54 tiger reserves** across the country.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launches Integrated Consumer Portal of Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Limited (HPSEB)

- Himachal Pradesh (HP) Chief Minister (CM) Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched the Integrated Electricity Consumer Portal of Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Limited (HPSEBL).
- Aim : To usher in a paperless work culture within the organization, which is expected to streamline administrative processes and expedite services.
- This is a part of transforming HP into a Green Energy State by **31**<sup>st</sup> March, 2026.

About HP :

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- Governor : Shiv Pratap Shukla
- Chief Minister : Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu
- National Park : Pin Valley National Park, Great Himalayan National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Kalatop Khajjiar Sanctuary

### Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu Introduces 'Chief Minister's Workers Welfare Scheme'

- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister (CM) Pema Khandu has announced the rollout of a new scheme titled 'Mukhya Mantri Shramik Kalyan Yojana' for the welfare of the labour force of the state.
- Under this scheme, the maternity benefit for families of workers has been increased from 1,000 rupees to 6,000 rupees.
- The compensation for natural death under the scheme has been increased significantly, from 50,000 rupees to 2 lakhs rupees.

### About Arunachal Pradesh :

- Governor : Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik
- Chief minister: Pema Khandu •
- Capital : Itanagar
- National Park : Namdapha National Park, Manas National Park, Mouling National Park •
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Talle Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary

### Tamil Nadu planning a Disney-like 100-acre amusement park outside Chennai

Tamil Nadu plans to develop a large-format 100-acre theme park along the lines of those run by Disney and Universal Studios on the outskirts of **Chennai** through private sector participation, according to its new tourism policy.

The state government's tourism department released its tourism policy, under which it has outlined 12 priority tourism segments -- Adventure Tourism, Recreation Tourism, Caravan Tourism, Rural and Plantation Tourism, Coastal Tourism, Cultural Tourism, Medical and Wellness Tourism, Religious Tourism, Eco Tourism, MICE Tourism, Heritage Tourism and Film Tourism.

### Jharkhand people celebrates Karma Puja

• Karma Puja was celebrated in Jharkhand, which is one of the most popular festivals related to harvest, worship of nature, bond between brother and sister, and homage to the Karam tree.

### About Jharkhand :

- Governor : C. P. Radhakrishnan
- Chief Minister : Hemant Soren

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If there are any suggestions/ errors in this PDF contact us via this email: support@guidely.in







- Capital : Ranchi
- Tiger Reserve : Palamu Tiger Reserve
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary, Gautam Budha Wildlife Sanctuary, Udhwa Lake Bird Wildlife Sanctuary

### Bihar Government Unveils New Program to Support Unemployed Youth from Minority Communities

- The **Bihar government** is launching the **'Mukhyamantri Alpsankhyak Udyami Yojana'** for **unemployed youths** from the minority community.
- The decision to implement this scheme was made during a cabinet meeting chaired by **Chief Minister Shri Nitish Kumar.**
- Under the scheme, eligible unemployed individuals from the minority community will receive Rs
   10 lakh to establish a new industry.
- The new scheme will be implemented similarly to existing schemes such as Mukhyamantri SC/ST/EBC Udyami Yojana, Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyami Yojna (MMUY), and the Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Yojana (MYUY).
- The Bihar government has also decided to offer free medical tests and treatment at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (IGIMS, Patna).

### About Bihar :

- Governor : Rajendra Arlekar
- Chief Minister : Nitish Kumar
- Capital : Patna
- National Park : Valmiki National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Valmiki Vanya Prani Sanctuary, Bhimbandh Sanctuary, Pant Vanya Prani Sanctuary, Kanwar Jheel Bird Sanctuary

Madhya Pradesh Government Collaborates with Magic Bus India Foundation for Life Skills Education Program in Government Schools

- Magic Bus India Foundation, a non-profit organization focusing on education and skilling, has collaborated with the Madhya Pradesh (MP) government to launch "Project Saksham," a life skills education program in government schools.
- Magic Bus will provide training to master trainers, who will then train 18,000 government teachers, to impart life skills to around one million adolescents across 9,000 government schools that include CM Rise Schools, Middle Schools, Special Residential Schools including Eklavya







Model Residential Schools (EMRS), Kanya Shiksha Parisar (KSP), Model Residential Schools (MRS) Hostels and Ashram, specifically targeting adolescents from grades 6 to 10.

### Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to launch rural housing scheme in Chhattisgarh

- Rahul Gandhi, a Congress leader, is set to launch the "Mukhyamantri Gramin Awas Nyay Yojna (MGANY)" rural housing scheme in Bilaspur district, Chhattisgarh.
- The primary goal of MGANY is to offer financial assistance to individuals who are homeless or have kutcha houses in rural areas.
- During the "Awas Nyay Sammelan" event, Rahul Gandhi and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will transfer the first instalment of Rs 25,000 each to 1,30,000 beneficiaries for the construction of their houses.
- As part of the event, the government will also transfer Rs 5 crore to the accounts of 500 beneficiaries under the "Mukhyamantri Nirman Shramik Awas Sahayata Yojana," which was launched in May 2022.

### About Chhattisgarh :

- Governor : Biswabhusan Harichandan
- Chief Minister : Bhupesh Baghel
- National Park : Indravati National Park, Kanger Valley National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Sitanadi Wildlife Sanctuary, Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary

#### **BUSINESS NEWS**

### ONGC to invest Rs 2 trillion for net zero emissions by 2038

- State-owned ONGC plans to invest around ₹2 trillion towards its energy transition efforts until 2038.
- The company had **announced its plans to invest ₹1 trillion over the next 7 years** on energy transition initiatives.
- It announced scope 1 and scope 2 transitions by 2038.
- ONGC is also planning to set up 2 green-field oil-to-chemical (O2C) plants.

### About ONGC:

- The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited is an Indian central public sector undertaking under the ownership of the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**, Government of India.
- The company is headquartered in New Delhi.
- ONGC was founded on 14 August 1956.
- Arun Kumar Singh (Chairman & CEO)

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### India's Coal Production grew by 12.85 % to 67.65 Million Tonnes in August

- Coal Production in the country grew by 12.85 percent to 67.65 Million Tonnes in the month of August this year as compared to 59.95 Million Tonnes in the same month of last year.
- It also said that the production of **Coal India Limited (CIL)** has risen to **52.27 million Tonnes** in August 2023 as compared to 46.17 Million Tonnes in August 2022 with a growth of 13.21 percent.
- The cumulative coal production till August 2023 has also seen a quantum jump to around 349 million Tonnes during the current fiscal as compared to over 316 Million Tonnes during the same period of the previous year.

### About CIL :

 Coal India Limited (CIL) is a Maharatna Central public sector undertaking under the ownership of the Ministry of Coal.

### Centre's fiscal deficit soars to 34% of Budget Estimate in April-July 2023

- Up-front tax devolutions and higher expenditure pushed the Centre's fiscal deficit to Rs 6.1 lakh crore or 34 percent of the budget estimate during the April-July period of the current fiscal (2023-24).
- This is nearly 78 percent higher than last fiscal.
- The deficit during the corresponding period of the last fiscal was ₹3.4 lakh crore or 20.5 percent of the budget estimate.

### IOC lines up ₹2.4 lakh crore to achieve net-zero emissions target

- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) plans to spend about ₹2.4 lakh crore to achieve its net-zero operational emissions target by 2046.
- Indian Oil will invest Rs 1 lakh crore in expanding capacity to refine and turn crude oil into fuel and a staggering Rs 2.4 lakh crore in projects that will help it achieve net-zero carbon emissions from its operations.
- Another Rs 60,000 crore is planned to be invested in setting up a giant petrochemical complex at Paradip in Odisha.
- The expansion includes a new 9-million tonnes-per-annum oil refinery at Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu.
- In LPG, it has launched a unique QR code-based 'Track N Trace' pilot initiative.

### About IOCL:

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Founded: 30 June 1959

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Chairman: Shrikant Madhav Vaidya

### TCS extends contract with life insurance firm Athora Netherlands

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has expanded its long-standing partnership with Athora Netherlands (formerly VIVAT) to help the Dutch life insurance and pension provider with a better IT operating model to enhance customer experience, operational resilience and business agility.
- TCS first started working with Athora Netherlands, which was then VIVAT, in 2015.

### About Netherland:

- Capital: Amsterda
- Currency Euro.

### About TCS :

- Founded: 1968
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Natarajan Chandrasekaran
- MD & CEO : Rajesh Gopinathan
- Tata Consultancy Services, a division of Tata Sons Limited, is a global IT services organisation that provides a comprehensive range of IT services to its clients in diverse industries.

### CCI Imposes Penalty Of Rs 1 crore On Bharti Airtel

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on Bharti Airtel for failure to comply with the provisions of Section 6(2) of the Competition Act, 2002.
- The penalty concerns the acquisition of a stake by the company in Bharti Telemedia from Warburg Pincus affiliate entity Lion Meadow Investment Limited.

### Amazon to invest \$15 million in nature-based projects in Asia-Pacific region

- Amazon has announced a \$15-million allocation for nature-based solutions in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region.
- The fund will invest an **initial \$3 million** into projects in India, beginning with a **first project** in the Western Ghats to plant 300,000 trees.
- The allocation draws from Amazon's \$100-million Right Now Climate Fund, created in 2019 to support nature conservation and restoration projects that enhance climate resilience and biodiversity while driving social and environmental benefits in communities where they operate.

Pine Labs introduces new PoS device for QR, card-based payments







- Digital payments provider Pine Labs has launched Mini, a cheaper variant of its point-of-sale (PoS) device, which will allow merchants to accept both quick response (QR)-based and cardbased payments.
- The device is **near field communication** (NFC)- enabled and can accept card payments only through the tap-to-pay mode.

### About Pine Labs:

- Founded: 1998
- Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India
- CEO: B Amrish Rau
- Pine Labs is an Indian company that provides financing and retail transaction technology.

### Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2023-24 Series II opens for subscription

- Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGB) opened for subscription which will remain open for buying till 15th September.
- This is the second Series of SGB schemes in the 2023-24 fiscal.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that the price of the gold bonds will be 5,923 rupees per gram.
- The RBI also announced a discount for online applicants to the scheme.

### PSU general insurers' market share below a third of industry

- Market share of PSU general insurers reached for the first time below a third of industry's premium.
- During the first five months of the current fiscal, the premium income of public sector insurers have fallen by 1% to ₹34,203 crore.
- PSU insurers' market share declined to less than a third at 32.5% from 33.4%.
- Premium income of PSUs declined from ₹37,100 crore to ₹34,203 crore.

### Retail inflation based on CPI slips to 6.83% in August 2023

- Retail inflation, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), slipped to 6.83 per cent in August this year.
- According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation data released, rural areas saw a slightly **higher inflation rate at 7.02%** compared to urban areas at 6.59 per cent.
- CPI for the last month fell from a 15-month high of 7.44% in July, mainly due to a decline in vegetable prices.
- The Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) for August stood at 9.94% falling from 11.51 percent in July.

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### About Retail Inflation:

- The Consumer Price Index (CPI), which tracks retail inflation, tracks price increases as seen by retail consumers.
- The Wholesale Price Index (WPI), on the other hand, tracks wholesale inflation and gauges it at the producer level.

#### RBI Grants Approval for Sandeep bakhshi's Re-appointment as ICICI Bank's MD & CEO

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted approval for the re-appointment of Sandeep Bakhshi as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of India's 2nd largest private sector bank, ICICI Bank.
- Sandeep Bakhshi's re-appointment is for a duration of 3 years, effective from October 4, 2023, until October 3, 2026.
- This marks his 2nd tenure extension.
- Previously, in 2021, he was reappointed for a period of 2 years, extending until October 2023.
- Sandeep Bakhshi has been leading ICICI Bank since October 2018, holding the position of MD & CEO.

uidelv

### About ICICI Bank Limited :

- Established : 5 January 1994
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Sandeep Bakhshi
- Tagline : Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka

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

- The index of industrial production jumped to a 5-month high.
- As per the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation data, IIP grew by 5.7% in July this year as compared to 3.7% in June 2023.
- It was 2.2% in July 2022.
- The manufacturing sector having 77% weightage in IIP grew by 4.6%.
- The Basic Metal sector climbed 12.8%, Mining output rose by 10.7% and Electricity grew by 8% for July 2023.

#### About IIP

• The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is an index that shows the growth rates in different industry groups of the economy in a stipulated period.

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• The IIP index is computed and published by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) monthly. EU lists Alphabet, Amazon, Meta and three other tech giants as 'gatekeepers' under strict competition rules

# • The European Commission has designated six technology giants – Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, ByteDance, Meta, and Microsoft – as gatekeepers under the Digital Markets Act (DMA).

- In total, **22 core platform services** provided by **gatekeepers** have been designated.
- According to the rules, any service offered by the company that meets two criteria is gatekeeper designated.
- These are: They have a market value of at least EUR 75 billion (approximately \$82 billion), and
- Either own a social platform or app that is used by at least 45 million people every month or have at least 10,000 active business users.

### The Nifty 50 of NSE has breached the 20,000 milestone.

- The NSE Nifty 50 recently managed to cross the 20,000 mark for the first time.
- NIFTY is a market index introduced by the National Stock Exchange (NSE).
- It is a blended word National Stock Exchange and Fifty coined by NSE.

### Businesses with turnover of ₹100 crore or more to get 30 days time for reporting invoices on IRP Portal

- GST assessees with turnover of at least ₹100 crore will now have up to 30 days to disclose invoices on the e-invoice portal.
- New norms will become effective from November 1.
- Earlier, the time limit was kept at 7 days.
- This time limit is applicable for taxpayers with Aggregate Annual Turnover (AATO) greater than or equal to ₹100 crore.

Aditya Birla Finance participates in OCEN to launch Instant Purchase Order financing for MSMEs on GeM Sahay

- Aditya Birla Finance (ABFL), the lending arm of Aditya Birla Capital (ABCL), has joined the public financing platform Open Credit Enablement Network (OCEN) by launching instant Purchase Order (PO) financing for MSMEs registered on Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Sahay platform.
- OCEN is a decentralized open credit network conceived by the non-profit think tank iSPIRT foundation as a digital public infrastructure.

#### 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.

### **About Stable Money**

- Stable Money is a fixed-return investment platform that allows users to access fixed deposits, debt mutual funds, and bonds.
- Saurabh Jain and Harish Reddy, founders of Stable Money.

### Global debt declined to \$235 trillion in 2022 but stayed above pre-Covid level: IMF

- The global debt burden retreated for the second year in a row, even though it remains above its already-high pre-pandemic level, according to the latest update of the IMF Global Debt Database.
- The **total debt stood at 238 per cent** of global gross domestic product last year, 9 percentage points higher than in 2019.
- In US dollar terms, **debt amounted to \$235 trillion**, or \$200 billion above its level in 2021.
- As for non-financial corporate debt, China's 28% share is the largest in the world.

### About IMF :

- Founded: 1990
- Headquarters : North Hollywood, California, United States of America
- Founders : Brian Novis, Susie Novis, and Brian G.M. Durie
- The IMF is an American non-profit organization serving patients with myeloma, a cancer of plasma cells in the bone marrow.
- The Foundation's reach extends to more than 525,000 members in 140 countries worldwide.
- Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund.

### REC extends Rs. 6,075 crore loan to Greenko for setting up 1,440 MW Pumped Storage Project

- REC Limited has sanctioned Rs. 6,075 Crore loan to renewable energy company Greenko for setting up a 1,440 MW Standalone Pumped Storage Project.
- The country's premier NBFC-IFC is also in advanced discussions with Greenko and is poised to extend financial support for multiple clean energy projects.
- The National Electricity Plan of the Central Electricity Authority estimates an overall Renewable installed capacity growth of around 4 times between FY 2022 and FY 2032 (~7 times under Solar, ~5.5 times under Pumped Storage Project, ~3 times under Wind).

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### About REC Ltd.

- REC Limited is an NBFC focusing on Power Sector Financing and Development across India.
- The financial assistance to BMRCL forms part of REC's foray into funding infrastructure development.
- Established in 1969, REC Limited has completed over fifty years of operations.
- It provides financial assistance to the complete power sector value chain; for various types of projects including Generation, Transmission, Distribution and Renewable Energy.
- REC's funding illuminates every fourth bulb in India.

### Infosys signs \$1.5 billion deal to leverage AI solutions

- IT major **Infosys has signed a contract worth \$1.5 billion** with a global company for a **period of 15 years** to leverage the company's platforms and **artificial intelligence (AI) solutions**.
- This is the fifth mega-deal for Infosys this financial year.
- In May, it won a deal worth \$1.5 billion with British oil and gas company BP.
- This was followed by a second pact worth \$454 million with Danske Bank in June.
- In July, Infosys announced a \$2 billion deal with an existing strategic client.
- Most recently in August, Infosys and Liberty Global, a London-based telecom, signed a \$1.64 billion deal for the initial five years to evolve and scale up the telco's digital entertainment and connectivity platforms.

#### Gross Direct Tax collections registered Rs 9.87 lakh crore for FY 2023-24

- Gross Direct Tax collections for the Financial Year (FY) 2023-24, as of the 16th September, have registered a growth of 18.2 per cent.
- The gross collection stands at nine lakh 87 thousand 61 crore rupees as compared to eight lakh 34 thousand 469 crore rupees in the corresponding period of the last FY.
- The provisional figures of Direct Tax collections for this FY show that net collection stands at eight lakh 65 thousand 117 crore rupees as compared to seven lakh 416 crore rupees in the same period of the last FY.

#### 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 year) which is 23.51 per cent 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 per cent so far this financial year with over nine lakh 87 thousand crore rupees.

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Goods exports decline 6.8% in August to \$34.48 billion, but 'green shoots visible'

- India's goods exports decreased 6.8% in August to \$34.48 billion.
- India's goods exports declined for the seventh consecutive month in August 2023 (year-on-year).
- India's imports in August 2023 have declined 5.23% to \$58.64 billion.

### EPFO records the highest payroll addition with 18.75 lakh net members during the month of July, 2023

- EPFO's provisional payroll data released highlights that EPFO has added 18.75 lakh net members in the month of July 2023.
- The addition during the month is the highest since the first publishing of EPFO payroll data from April 2018 covering the period of September 2017 onwards.
- A growing trend has continued since the last three months with an **increase of around 85,932 net members** over the previous month of June, 2023.
- Majority of new members joining EPFO are in the age-group of 18-25 years constituting roughly
   58.45% of total new members addition during the month.

### Emcure Pharma plans to launch \$400-500 million IPO in 2024, hires Kotak, Jefferies for it

- Emcure Pharmaceuticals is planning to raise \$400-500 million from initial public offering (IPO) in 2024.
- The development revives the listing plans for the pharmaceutical company which it shelved in 2022 as Russia's invasion of Ukraine disrupted global markets.
- The company has hired investment banks **JP Morgan**, **Jefferies and Kotak** for the IPO and the sources stated that it is targeting a valuation of about \$3 billion.

### Aditya Birla Finance to raise ₹2,000 crore via maiden NCD public issue

- Aditya Birla Finance Limited, a subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited, is to raise up to ₹2,000 crore through its maiden public issue of non-convertible debentures (NCDs).
- NCDs are fixed-income securities listed with major stock exchanges (BSE and NSE) in India.
- These NCDs can be an option for investors with a medium risk tolerance who are seeking alternatives to bank and corporate FDs.
- NCDs cannot be converted into shares or equities.

### What are Non-Convertible Debentures?

- Non-convertible debentures are **fixed-income instruments** for specific terms and interest rates.
- Big companies issue them to raise funds without giving any option of conversion to equity.
- The interest rates offered on NCD debentures are more or less fixed.
- On maturity, the investor will get back the principal amount along with interest.

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- Since NCDs are not backed by collateral, but just the creditworthiness of the issuer, ratings given by credit rating agencies become important.
- Such ratings help investors to understand the history of the issuer's creditworthiness and what it may look like in the future.

### Types of Non-Convertible Debentures: Secured and Unsecured

### Secured NCDs

• Secured NCDs are those NCDs that are backed by the issuer company's assets.

### Unsecured NCDs

 When the NCDs are based only on the creditworthiness of the issuer and not backed by assets, they are called unsecured NCDs.

### Zepto most preferred startup for professionals in India: LinkedIn ranking

- E-commerce platform **Zepto**, which has turned unicorn recently, has emerged as the **top startup** in India in terms of professionals' preferred workplace, according to a list by a top recruiting platform.
- Startups that followed the e-grocery app in the ranking include EV cab aggregator BluSmart, fintech company Ditto Insurance, audio OTT platform Pocket FM and Skyroot Aerospace, respectively.
- LinkedIn released its **'Top 25 Indian Startups List'**, an annual ranking of emerging companies where professionals want to work, based on the hiring platform's data of almost 1 crore members.
- Zepto climbed three spots from number 4 last year as the top startup in terms of employee growth, jobseeker interest, member engagement within the company and its employees, and the startups pulling talent from LinkedIn's Top Companies list.

### Aditya Birla Fashion acquires 51% stake in TCNS Clothing

- Aditya Birla Fashion Retail Ltd (ABFRL) has completed the acquisition of a 51 percent stake in TCNS Clothing to become a promoter of the women's apparel brand.
- TCNS has become a subsidiary of the company, and will also be a material subsidiary of the company in accordance with SEBI Listing Regulations.
- On May 5, Aditya Birla Group firm had announced that it will acquire a majority stake in TCNS Clothing, in a deal worth **Rs 1,650 crore**.

### Byju's to rebrand WhiteHat Jr as Byju's Future School

• Byju's has decided to **rebrand** its wholly-owned subsidiary **WhiteHat Jr**, while fully integrating the company's assets into other business verticals including its holding entity Think & Learn Pvt, a move aimed at reducing costs to tide over an immediate liquidity crunch.

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 WhiteHat Jr, which Byju's acquired for a whopping \$300 million cash deal three years ago, has been one of the company's biggest loss-making subsidiaries, thanks to its high marketing and employee benefit costs.

Vedanta demerger of operations on cards: Aluminium, steel, oil businesses may be listed separately

- Vedanta Ltd, controlled by metal and mining mogul Anil Agarwal, is reportedly closing a deal to demerge its businesses into several listed entities.
- The company is expected to demerge its **metals, power, aluminium,** and **oil** and **gas** businesses.
- Vedanta Ltd.'s parent firm, Vedanta Resources, will remain the holding company.

### TCS continues to be India's most valuable brand, but combined value of top brands drops 4%

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) continues to be India's most valuable brand at \$43 billion, according to Kantar BrandZ Top 75 most valuable Indian brands report.
- India's top 75 brands have a combined brand value of \$379 billion, a decline of 4 percent from 2022.
- TCS and Infosys recorded a drop of 6 percent and 17 percent, respectively in 2023.
- HDFC Bank, Infosys and Airtel also retained the top four spots, while State Bank of India (SBI) entered the list, Kantar stated in a report.
- He further stated that India's GDP (gross domestic product) growth has been 7 percent CAGR (compound annual growth rate) over the last 10 years while brand value growth is 19 percent.
- The automotive category produced the top 75's two fastest risers -- TVS with a brand value of \$1.90 billion and Mahindra at \$2.01 billion.
- The category recorded the second highest category growth at **19 percent**.
- TVS gained **59 percent** in value and Mahindra grew its value by **48 percent**.

### **APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS**

### Geetika Srivastava appointed as India's 1st Woman diplomat to head mission in Pakistan

- Geetika Srivastava, an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 2005 batch, has created history by becoming the first-ever female Charge d'Affaires (CDA) at the Indian High Commission in Islamabad, Pakistan.
- Srivastava's appointment is followed by the tenure of Suresh Kumar, who is soon to return to New Delhi.
- Saad Warraich, the present Director General of Afghanistan, Iran, and Turkey desk at Pakistan's foreign ministry, will take on the role of the **new Chargé d'Affaires** in New Delhi.

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### About Pakistan:

- Capital: Islamabad
- Currency: Rupee
- **President:** Arif Alvi

Former Chief Justice of India NV Ramana Appointed as a Member of Singapore's International Mediator Panel

- Justice Ramana took part in the 'Singapore Convention Week', the annual convention organised by Singapore's Ministry of Law, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and over 20 partner organisations.
- N. V. Ramana is a former Indian judge and journalist who served as the **48th Chief Justice of** India.

### About SIMC :

- Established : 2014
- Chairman : George Lim
- CEO : Wee Meng Chuan
- SIMC is an independent not-for-profit organisation in Singapore providing mediation services, through its panel of international mediators, to parties wishing to resolve their cross-border commercial disputes amicably.

### IndianOil Appoints Chef Sanjeev Kapoor as Brand Ambassador for Indane XTRATEJ LPG

- Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IndianOil IOCL) is strategically expanding its presence in the commercial and industrial LPG segment and for that IndianOil has chosen celebrity chef Sanjeev Kapoor as the brand ambassador for its Indane XTRATEJ LPG brand.
- The announcement regarding this collaboration took place during the **'Indane XtraTej Hotelier** Harmony Meet' held in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

### About IOCL :

- Founded : 30 June 1959
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi
- Chairman : Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
- The IOCL is an Indian multinational oil and gas company under the ownership of the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas,** Government of India.

Amazon Partners with India Post to Adopt Digital Assistant for MSME Exporters







- Amazon has signed an agreement with India Post to simplify cross-border logistics for MSME exporters.
- Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh unveiled a postal stamp to commemorate a decade of partnership between India Post and Amazon at the e-commerce company's Sambhav Summit 2023.
- Amazon also announced its engagement with Indian Railways' Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India (DFC), which makes Amazon the first e-commerce company in the country to leverage DFC for shipping customer packages through freight railway routes in India.
- Amazon has pledged to digitize 10 million MSMEs, generate USD 20 billion in cumulative ecommerce exports and create 2 million jobs in India by 2025.

### About India Post :

- Established : 1 October 1854
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- India Post is a government-operated postal system in India, part of the Department of Post under the Ministry of Communications.

### Smt. Jaya Varma Sinha appointed as 1st Woman Chairperson & CEO of Railway Board

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Smt. Jaya
   Varma Sinha as Chairperson & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Railway Board.
- She is the **1st woman** to hold this prestigious position in the Indian Railways since the establishment of the Railway Board in 1905.
- She succeeds Anil Kumar Lahoti, whose tenure concluded on August 31, 2023.

### About Ministry of Railways :

- Cabinet Minister : Ashwini Vaishnaw
- Minister of State : Raosaheb Danve, Darshana Jardosh

### Brice Oligui Nguema to Take Oath as Transitional President of Gabon

- Brigadier General Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema, Commander-in-Chief of the Gabonese Republican Guard, is set to be sworn in as the "transitional president" of Gabon.
- He will also assume the position of **Chairman of the Committee** for the Transition and Restoration of Institutions.
- This development follows the confirmation by the Gabonese Election Center that the incumbent President Bongo has officially secured a third term as president, winning with **64.27%** of the vote.

About Gabon :







- Capital : Capital: Libreville
- Currency : Central African CFA franc

### CCI Director-General Atul Verma Receives 3-Month Extension in Tenure

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has granted a 3-month extension to Atul Verma, its Director-General (DG), effective from September 1, 2023.
- He will now hold office till November 30, 2023.
- This marks the **2nd time** that Atul Verma's deputation tenure has been extended.
- In May,2023 the CCI had extended his deputation by 3 months, initially until the end of August.

### About CCI :

- Established : 14 October 2003
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi
- Chairperson : Ravneet Kaur
- The CCI is the chief national competition regulator in India.
- It is a statutory body within the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and is responsible for enforcing the Competition Act, 2002 to promote competition and prevent activities that have an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India.

### Indian-Origin Economist Shanmugaratnam Triumphs in Singapore Presidential Election

- Indian-origin Singapore economist and Former Senior Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam (66 years) has been elected as the 9th President of Singapore.
- He will succeed Halimah Yacob, Singapore's 1st female president whose term will conclude on September 13, 2023.
- This victory is especially noteworthy as it comes after a gap of ten years, marking the country's first contested presidential polls since 2011.
- Tharman Shanmugaratnam won 70.4% of the vote, defeating two Chinese-origin contenders, Ng Kok Song (15.7%) and Tan Kin Lian (13.88%).
- Tharman will be Singapore's third Indian-origin President after Sellapan Ramanathan and Chengara Veetil Devan Nair.

### About Singapore :

- Prime Minister : Lee Hsien Loong
- Capital: Singapore
- Currency: Singapore Dollar

Uday Kotak Steps Down as MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank; Dipak Gupta Assumes Interim

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#### Leadership

- Uday Kotak, the founder and long-standing Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL), stepped down from his role on September 1, 2023, ahead of his term coming to an end by December 31, 2023.
- Dipak Gupta, the Joint Managing Director, is serving as the interim MD and CEO until December 31, 2023.

### About KMBL :

- Established: 1985
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Tagline: Let's Make Money Simple

#### Manish Desai Takes Office as Principal Director General of Press Information Bureau

• Manish Desai, a senior Indian Information Service (IIS) officer, has been appointed as the Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau (PIB).

- He will take over from the outgoing Rajesh Malhotra, who is retiring.
- Manish Desai will also serve as the principal spokesperson for the Government.

#### Other Notable Appointments :

- **Dhirendra Ojha,** the current Press Registrar in the Registrar of Newspapers in India, has been appointed as the Director General of the Central Bureau of Communication.
- Jane Namchu, a senior IIS officer and Additional Director General of PIB Guwahati has been given an additional charge as head of PIB Kolkata.
- Bhupendra Kainthola, another senior IIS officer, has been appointed as the Press Registrar of the Registrar of Newspapers in India (RNI).

#### About PIB :

- Founded: June 1919
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- First Indian To lead the bureau as Principal Information Officer : J Natarajan (1941)
- The PIB is a nodal agency of the Government of India under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- PIB disseminates information to print, electronic and web media on government plans, policies, programme initiatives and achievements marking its centennial anniversary in June, 2023.

#### About Ministry of Information & Broadcasting :

• Cabinet Minister : Anurag Thakur

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# Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – September 2023

• Minister of State : L. Murugan

### Actor R Madhavan Appointed as New President of Film and Television Institute of India

- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) appointed actor R Madhavan as the president of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) Society and chairperson of the governing council.
- Madhavan replaces actor and filmmaker Shekhar Kapur, whose tenure as FTII president ended in March, 2023.
- Madhavan's appointment comes in the wake of the success of his film, 'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect.' Analyze the impact of this film's national recognition, including the Best Feature Film award at the 69th National Film Awards, on Madhavan's career and reputation.

### About FTII :

- Established : 1960
- Headquarters : Pune, Maharashtra, India
- The FTII is a film institute under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the Government of India (GoI) and aided by the Central Government of India.

### Cognizant India Chairman and MD Rajesh Nambiar appointed as Nasscom Chairperson

- Rajesh Nambiar, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Cognizant India, has been appointed as the Chairperson of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom).
- Rajesh Nambiar succeeds Anant Maheshwari, the former President of Microsoft India.
- Nambiar has previously served as the vice-chairperson of Nasscom.

#### About Nasscom :

- Founded : 1988
- Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- President : Debjani Ghosh
- The Nasscom is an Indian non-governmental trade association and advocacy group that primarily serves the Indian technology industry.

#### Sato Kilman elected as Vanuatu's new prime minister

- Four-time Vanuatu Prime Minister (PM) Sato Kilman has been picked for the top job for a record
   5th time, ending Alatoi Ishmael Kalsakau's 9-month reign as leader of the government.
- Kilman received a total of **27 votes**, while Kalsakau got 23 votes.







• Previously, he was Prime Minister of Vanuatu on 4 occasions, from December 2010 to April 2011, May to June 2011, June 2011 to March 2013, June 2015 to February 2016.

### About Vanuatu :

- President : Nikenike Vurobaravu
- Capital : Port Vila
- Currency : Vatu

### Sudarshan Venu Sworn In as Member-Trustee of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams

- Sudarshan Venu, the Managing Director of Chennai-based TVS Motor Company, has taken the oath as a member-trustee of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) trust board.
- N. Naga Satyam & Chevireddy Mohith Reddy also took oath.
- The oath was administered to Sudarshan Venu by TTD Joint Executive Officer Veerabrahmam.
- The ceremony took place at **Bangaru Vakili**, which is located inside the sanctum sanctorum of the Lord Venkateswara temple.

### Swaraj Tractors Names MS Dhoni as Brand Ambassador

- Swaraj Tractors, an Indian indigenous tractor manufacturer, has selected the former Indian cricket captain, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, as its new brand ambassador.
- The official announcement of this partnership took place during the launch event of Swaraj's latest offering, the "Swaraj Target," a compact and lightweight tractor model.
- Swaraj Tractors aims to strengthen its commitment to providing innovative and dependable mechanisation solutions to farmers across India through this collaboration with MS Dhoni.

### Mahavir Lunawat appointed as Chairman of AIBI

- Association of Investment Bankers of India (AIBI), the investment bankers' sole representative body to SEBI and various statutory authorities appointed Mahavir Lunawat, Managing Director (MD) of Pantomath Capital Advisors as its Chairman for 2 years starting September 2023.
- The Chairman of AIBI holds a crucial position, representing Investment Bankers on the Primary Market Advisory Committee (PMAC) of SEBI.

### About AIBI :

- Establishment: AIBI was originally incorporated as a Public Limited Company in **1993**.
- In 2010, the organization's name was changed from AMBI to the Association of Investment Bankers of India (AIBI).

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 AIBI is the investment banking industry's only representative to all statutory authorities, particularly SEBI.

RBI Grants Approval for Dipak Gupta's Interim Appointment as MD and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has granted its approval for the appointment of **Dipak Gupta** as the **interim Managing Director (MD)** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **Kotak Mahindra Bank** for a period of 2 months, commencing from September 2, 2023.
- This decision followed the early resignation of **Uday Kotak**, the bank's previous MD and CEO, who stepped down 3 months prior to the end of his tenure.
- Two prominent internal candidates vying for the CEO position at Kotak Mahindra Bank are:
- Shanti Ekambaram: Currently, Shanti Ekambaram heads the bank's consumer
- banking division.
- KVS Manian: With a long tenure at the bank since 1994, KVS Manian holds responsibilities related to corporate, institutional, and investment banking.

### About KMBL :

- Established: 1985
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Tagline: Let's Make Money Simple

### Srinivasan K Swamy elected as Chairman of Audit Bureau of Circulation for 2023-24

• Srinivasan K Swamy, Executive Chairman of R K Swamy Hansa Group, has been elected as the Chairman of Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for the year 2023-2024.

Other Appointments :

- Mr. Riyad Mathew, Chief Associate Editor & Director of Malayala Manorama, representing Publisher Members on the Council, was unanimously elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Bureau for the year 2023-2024.
- Mr. Mohit Jain, Executive Director of Bennett, Coleman & Company Limited, representing Publisher Members on the Council, was unanimously elected as the Hon. Secretary of the Bureau for the year 2023-2024.
- Mr. Vikram Sakhuja, Partner & Group CEO Media & OOH of Madison Communications Private Limited, representing Advertising Agencies Members on the Council, was unanimously re-elected as the Hon. Treasurer of the Bureau for the year 2023-2024.

### About Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) :

• Founded : 1948

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- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- The Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) of India is a **non-profit circulation-auditing organisation**.
- It certifies and audits the circulations of major publications, including newspapers and magazines in India.

### IRS officer Rahul Navin appointed as interim director of Enforcement Directorate

- Rahul Navin, a 1993-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, has been appointed as the incharge director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), succeeding the incumbent Sanjay Kumar Mishra.
- He is currently working as Special Director-Chief Vigilance Officer (ED headquarters).

### About ED :

- Founded : 1 May 1956
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- The ED is a **domestic law enforcement and economic intelligence agency** responsible for enforcing economic laws and combating economic crimes in India.
- It operates under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance (MoF), Government of India (Gol).
- It is responsible for the enforcement of the Foreign Exchange Management Act 2019 (FEMA),
   Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018, and certain provisions under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

### Mastercard India appoints former SBI head Rajnish Kumar as its Non Executive Chairman

- Mastercard, a global technology company in the payments industry, has appointed Rajnish Kumar, former Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI), as the Chairman of Mastercard India.
- In his role as Chairman of Mastercard India, Rajnish Kumar will serve in a **non-executive advisory** capacity.
- He will provide guidance to Mastercard's South Asia executive leadership team, which is led by **Gautam Aggarwal**, Division President for South Asia and Country Corporate Officer for India.

#### About Mastercard :

- Established : 1966
- Headquarters : New York, United States of America
- CEO : Michael Miebach
- It offers a range of payment transaction processing and other related-payment services (such as travel-related payments and bookings).

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• The company has connections across 210 countries.

### UAE's Etihad Airways Appoints Actress Katrina Kaif as Brand Ambassador

- Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has appointed Bollywood actress Katrina Kaif as its brand ambassador.
- This marks the **2nd collaboration** between Etihad Airways and Katrina Kaif in more than a decade.

### About Etihad Airways :

- Founded : July 2003 (Commenced operations : November 2003)
- Headquarters : Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- Chairman : Mohammed Ali Al Shorafa
- CEO : Antonoaldo Neves

### Senior Diplomat Santosh Jha Appointed as India's High Commissioner To Sri Lanka

- Santosh Jha, a senior diplomat, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka.
- He succeeds Gopal Baglay, who has been named as the High Commissioner of India to Australia.
- Ambassador Santosh Jha assumed his current role as Ambassador of India to Belgium, Luxembourg, and the European Union on July 17, 2020.

### Sanjiv Kapoor Appointed as CEO of Saudi Low-Cost Carrier flyadeal

- The renowned aviation and travel veteran **Sanjiv Kapoor** has been appointed as the **new Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **Flyadeal Airlines**, a low-cost carrier (LCC) based in Saudi Arabia.
- Sanjiv Kapoor, who is a United States (US) citizen, replaces Con Korfiatis, who served as the CEO of Flyadeal since its launch in 2017.
- Before joining Flyadeal, Sanjiv Kapoor served as the CEO of Jet Airways and also worked as an advisor to the **Director General of SAUDI**, the national airline of Saudi Arabia.

#### About Flyadeal :

- Founded : 2016 (Commenced Operations : 23 September 2017)
- Headquarters : Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- Flyadeal is a Saudi low-cost airline based at King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah.
- It is the **3rd -largest airline** in Saudi Arabia with an 11% share of seat capacity.

### Vivek Bhasin Takes Charge as 14th Director of BARC

• Senior nuclear scientist Vivek Bhasin has assumed the role of the 14th Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).

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• He succeeds **Ajit Kumar Mohanty**, who was appointed as the Secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy and Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission earlier in 2023.

### About Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) :

- Established : 3 January 1954
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- The BARC is India's premier nuclear research facility.
- It operates under the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE**), which is directly overseen by the Prime Minister of India.
- Homi Jehangir Bhabha conceived the nuclear program in India.
- Bhabha established the **Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR)** to carry out nuclear science research in 1945.
- To intensify the effort to exploit nuclear energy for the benefit of the nation, Dr Bhabha established the Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay (AEET), in January 1954 for a multidisciplinary research program essential for the ambitious nuclear program of India.
- After the demise of Bhabha in 1966, AEET was renamed Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).

### Justice Qazi Faez Isa sworn in as the 29th chief justice of Pakistan

- Justice Qazi Faez Isa was sworn in as the 29th Chief Justice of Pakistan in a ceremony held at Aiwan-i-Sadr in Islamabad.
- The oath of office was administered by President Arif Alvi.
- His term as Chief Justice in the Supreme Court will be 13 months, which will end on 25 October 2024.

# Bhargav Dasgupta Resigns as MD & CEO of ICICI Lombard, Set to Join ADB as Vice President for Market Solutions

- Bhargav Dasgupta, who served as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ICICI Lombard General Insurance, has resigned from his position after nearly a 14-year tenure with the company.
- Dasgupta will be joining the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as a Vice President for a period of 3 years.
- In his new position at ADB, Dasgupta will be responsible for managing the operations of ADB's Private Sector Operations Department and the Office of Markets Development and Public– Private Partnerships.

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### About ADB :

- Established : 19 December 1966
- Headquarters : Mandaluyong, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa
- Membership : 68 countries

### Actor Suresh Gopi Nominated as President of Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute (SRFTI)

- Malayalam actor and politician Suresh Gopi was nominated as the president of the Kolkatabased Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute (SRFTI).
- He will also be performing the responsibilities of a chairman of its governing council.
- He has been nominated for a period of 3 years.

### About SRFTI :

- Established : 1995
- Headquarters : Kolkata, West Bengal

### Liberty General Insurance appoints Parag Ved as Director & CEO Designate

- Liberty General Insurance, a private general insurance company, has announced the appointment of Parag Ved as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and a Director on the board.
- Parag Ved assumes the role of CEO following the retirement of **Roopam Asthana**, indicating a leadership transition within the organization.
- Prior to joining Liberty General Insurance, Parag Ved served as the **President of Consumer Lines** at Tata AIG General Insurance, showcasing his extensive experience in the insurance industry.

### About Liberty General Insurance :

- Founded : 2013
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- It is a joint venture among US property casualty insurer Liberty Mutual Insurance Group, Indian private investment fund Enam Securities, and Indian industrial conglomerate DP Jindal Group.

### RBI deputy governor M Rajeshwar Rao gets a term extension by one year.

- The central government extended the term of M Rajeshwar Rao as the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Deputy Governor by one year.
- The re-appointment has been approved by the Cabinet's Appointments Committee.
- Rao was appointed as the Deputy Governor of the central bank in October 2020 for a period of three years.

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RBI Grants Approval for Sashidhar Jagdishan's Re-Appointment as MD and CEO of HDFC Bank for 3 Years

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the re-appointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of HDFC Bank for 3 years starting from October 27, 2023.
- In March 2023, HDFC Bank board had recommended the re-appointment of Jagdishan for a period of 3 years.
- Sashidhar Jagdishan assumed the position of MD & CEO of HDFC Bank in October 2020, succeeding Aditya Puri upon his retirement.

### About HDFC Bank :

- Founded : 1994
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan.
- Tagline : We Understand Your World

### BYJU'S Names Arjun Mohan as India CEO Following Mrinal Mohit's Resignation

- Edtech giant BYJU'S has appointed Arjun Mohan as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for its
  India operations.
- Arjun Mohan succeeds Mrinal Mohit, who was a founding partner and the outgoing head of India business at BYJU's.
- Mrinal Mohit served as the CEO of India operations at BYJU's and left the company to pursue personal aspirations.

### RBI Approves K N Madhusoodanan as Part-Time Chairman of Dhanlaxmi Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed KN Madhusoodanan as the part-time chairman of Dhanlaxmi Bank for a period of 3 years.
- The appointment of KN Madhusoodanan comes after the RBI rejected a proposal to appoint G
   Rajagopalan Nair as the part-time chairman of the bank.

### About Dhanlaxmi Bank :

- Founded : 14 November 1927
- Headquarters : Thrissur, Kerala, India
- MD & CEO : J. K. Shivan

### Senior bureaucrat Piyush Goyal's tenure as National Intelligence Grid chief extended

• The Centre has granted an extension to senior bureaucrat Piyush Goyal's tenure as the Chief

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Executive Officer (CEO) of National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID).

The government has also approved the extension of Sukriti Likhi's tenure as Additional Secretary
 & Financial Adviser.

#### About NATGRID :

- National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) is an integrated intelligence master database structure for counter-terrorism purposes
- NATGRID was conceptualised and developed in the aftermath of the **2008 Mumbai attacks**.
- It aims to enhance national security by enabling seamless information sharing and analysis among various intelligence and law enforcement agencies.

### AWARDS AND HONOURS

### Assam-based oncologist among winners of 2023 Ramon Magsaysay Award

- Oncologist Ravi Kannan, a recipient of India's fourth-highest civilian award Padma Shri and the director of Assam's Cachar Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (CCHRC), has been named one of the four winners of the 2023 Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia's equivalent of the Nobel prize.
- According to the citation on the website of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, under Dr. Kannan's leadership, the CCHRC became a full-fledged comprehensive cancer hospital and research centre.

#### About Assam :

- Governor : Gulab Chand Kataria
- Chief Minister : Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Capital: Dispur
- National Park: Kaziranga National Park, Nameri National Park, Manas National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary: Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary, Bornadi Wildlife Sanctuary

### 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).
- This is an upgrade of the station's ratings, from gold in **2019 to platinum in 2023**.
- The Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) is part of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and was formed in the year 2001.

### OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, Becomes the First Recipient of an Indonesian Golden Visa

• OpenAI Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sam Altman is the first person to get an Indonesian golden

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visa as Southeast Asia's largest economy seeks to draw foreign investors.

- Golden visas are offered in various categories, including those based on capital investment.
- Another category is the "golden visa" for individuals with international renown who can bring benefits to Indonesia.
- Sam Altman's Golden Visa is valid for a period of 10 years.

## About OpenAI :

- Founded : December 10, 2015
- Headquarters : San Francisco, California, United States
- Chairman & President : Greg Brockman
- The Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar Awards have been awarded to 12 distinguished scientists in 2022.
  - The country's top annual science prize, Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar Awards, was announced after a gap of two years.
  - This year **12 scientists** will get the awards in seven categories.
  - Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Director General of CSIR announced the awards for the year 2022 in the presence of Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh.
  - The 'One Week One Lab' program started at CSIRNIScPR which will continue till 16 September.
- Nobel Foundation announced winners of this year's Nobel Prizes to get extra one million crowns
  - The Nobel Foundation has announced that the winners of this year's Nobel Prizes will get an extra one million crowns.
  - This means that the 2023 laureates will receive a **total financial reward of 11 million Swedish crowns** which is equivalent to **around 986,000 dollars (8.1 crore rupees)**.

84 artists conferred with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar presented the one-time Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards to 84 artists from varied fields of performing arts.
- 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.

## Odisha scientist Swati Nayak wins Norman Borlaug Award

- The award, instituted by the World Food Prize Foundation, is named in honour of Nobel Laureate and Green Revolution's chief architect **Dr Norman E Borlaug**.
- Odisha scientist Dr Swati Nayak has been named the 2023 recipient of the Norman E. Borlaug
   Award for field research and application for her work in the field of food and nutrition







• She is the third Indian and first Odisha to receive the award.

## About Odisha :

- Governor : Ganeshi Lal
- Chief Minister : Naveen Patnaik
- Capital : Bhubaneswar
- National Park : Simlipal National Park, Bhitarkanika National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Ushakothi Wildlife Sanctuary, Tikarpada Wildlife Sanctuary

## Waheeda Rehman to be conferred with Dadasaheb Phalke award

- Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has announced that this year's **Dadasaheb Phalke** Lifetime Achievement Award recipient will be veteran actress Waheeda Rehman.
- The legendary actor has worked in films such as Guide and Reshma Aur Shera.
- Dadasaheb Phalke, known as the 'Father of Indian Cinema,' directed 27 short films and over 90 full-length movies during his nearly two-decade-long filmmaking career.

## Nita Ambani receives prestigious Citizen of Mumbai Award

 Reliance Foundation chairperson Nita Ambani was awarded the 'Citizen of Mumbai' Award 2023-24 by the Rotary Club of Bombay for her contributions to healthcare, education, sports, arts, and culture.

## Virat Kohli's wax statue to be inaugurated at Madame Tussauds museum in Singapore

- Indian cricket legend Virat Kohli is poised to receive a prestigious honor as he is set to be immortalized with a wax statue at the Madame Tussauds Museum in Singapore.
- This remarkable achievement comes as no surprise, considering that the former captain of the Indian cricket team already boasts a wax replica at the Madame Tussauds in Delhi, which was unveiled in 2018.
- Other sporting legends such as **Sachin Tendulkar**, **Kapil Dev**, **Lionel Messi**, **and Usain Bolt** also grace the halls of Madame Tussauds with their wax counterparts.
- However, it is noteworthy that only three cricketers, namely **Kohli, Tendulkar, and Kapil**, have been honoured with wax statues meticulously crafted by the Madame Tussauds team.

## Nikhil Wagh, Public Relations Officer, Goa Shipyard Limited, was honored with the award

- Nikhil Mukund Wagh, Public Relations Officer of Goa Shipyard Limited, a company under the Ministry of Defence, Government of India, was honoured with the "Promising PR Person of the Year" award in New Delhi.
- The award was given at an event held by the Public Relations Council of India in **Delhi**.

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 The award was given by the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defense and MP Jual Oram and on this occasion former Secretary of Tourism Department Vinod Zutshi, Chief Guide of PRCI Jairam and National President of PRCI Geeta Shankar attended the event.

## '2018-Everyone is a Hero' India's official entry to Oscars 2024

- In a significant development for the Indian film industry, the Malayalam movie "2018 Everyone is a Hero" has been selected as India's official entry for the 96th Academy Awards, also known as the Oscars, set to take place in 2024.
- Directed by the talented filmmaker Jude Anthany Joseph, the movie "2018 Everyone is a Hero" has garnered critical acclaim and box office success for its compelling storytelling, remarkable performances, and its thoughtful exploration of the events surrounding the severe 2018 Kerala floods that devastated the region.
- As the official entry from India, this film will compete to be in the nomination list for the **Best** International Feature Film category at the Oscars.

## **ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS**

## SoftBank Reduces Investment in India's Zomato via \$115 Million Transaction

- SoftBank Vision Growth Fund has divested a 1.17% stake in Zomato, a notable food delivery firm, as part of a transaction valued at ₹947 crore (\$114.7 million).
- According to the data from the National Stock Exchange, the firms who bought Zomato shares include the International Monetary Fund, Morgan Stanley Asia Singapore, Societe Generale, Goldman Sachs (Singapore), Invesco Mutual Fund and Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance.

## About Zomato :

- Founded: 2008
- Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana, India
- Founders : Deepinder Goyal and Pankaj Chaddah
- CEO : Deepinder Goyal

## CCI approves merger of Tata SIA Airlines into Air India

 The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the merger of Tata SIA Airlines Limited (TSAL) into Air India Limited (AIL), and the acquisition of certain shareholding by Singapore Airlines in Air India subject to compliance of voluntary commitments offered by the parties.







• With this approval, Air India can potentially become the country's largest international carrier and second-largest domestic airline after IndiGo.

## About TSAL :

- TSAL is a joint venture (JV) between TSPL and SIA, with TSPL and SIA holding 51% and 49% of the total shareholding, respectively.
- TSAL operates under the brand name "Vistara". TSAL is engaged in the business of providing the following services: (a) domestic scheduled air passenger transport service, (b) international scheduled air passenger transport service, (c) air cargo transport services; and (d) charter flight services (domestic and international).

## LIC Mutual Fund Successfully Completes Merger with IDBI Mutual Fund to Enhance Product Portfolio

- LIC Mutual Fund (LIC MF) has completed the takeover of schemes of IDBI Mutual Fund.
- This strategic move aligns with LIC MF's objectives of strengthening and diversifying its product offerings, expanding its market presence, and increasing its Assets Under Management (AUM) to establish itself as a prominent fund house in India.

JICE

## About LIC Mutual Fund :

- Established : 1989
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : TS Ramakrishnan
- LIC MF is an asset management company (AMC) with Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) as its sponsor and other stakeholders being LIC Housing Finance Ltd, GIC Housing Finance Ltd and Union Bank of India.

## About IDBI MF :

- Established : 2010
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Raj Kishore Singh

## GQG Acquired More Than 5 Crore Shares From IDFC First Bank's V Vaidyanathan

- American investment firm GQG Partners completed the acquisition of more than 5 crore shares from V Vaidyanathan, Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of IDFC First Bank.
- The exchange took place at a price of Rs 94.5 per share, based on available data.
- This transaction involved approximately 0.8% of the total equity of IDFC First Bank.
- Utilisation of Funds: V Vaidyanathan planned to utilise the proceeds from the sale as follows:

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- Rs 229 crore for subscribing to new shares of IDFC First Bank.
- Rs 240.5 crore for payment of income tax related to exercising stock options.
- Rs 9.2 crore for pre-committed causes.

## About IDFC First Bank :

- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : V. Vaidyanathan
- Tagline : Always You First

## Razorpay acquires digital invoicing & customer engagement startup BillMe

• **Razorpay**, a fintech platform based in Bengaluru, has acquired **BillMe**, a Mumbai-based digital invoicing and customer engagement startup.

## Objective of the Partnership :

- To enable businesses to enhance their engagement with end consumers through a hybrid model.
- This acquisition marks the 8th acquisition by Razorpay.

## About BillMe :

- Founded : 2018
- Founders : Kuber Pritmani, Jai Hemrajani and Rupam Jain
- BillMe has provided its services to more than 4,000 businesses and 15,000 retail Points Of Sale (POS) since its inception.

#### About Razorpay :

- Established : 2014
- Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka
- Managing Director (MD) : Shashank Kumar
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO): Harshil Mathur

## CCI approves the acquisition of approximately 24.16% of total equity shareholding in Quality Care India Limited by Centella Mauritius Holdings Limited

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of approximately 24.16% of the total equity shareholding in Quality Care India Limited by Centella Mauritius Holdings Limited.
- The proposed combination relates to the acquisition of approximately 24.16% of the total equity shareholding in Quality Care India Limited (QCIL) by Centella Mauritius Holdings Limited.
- QCIL is an unlisted public limited company with its registered office in Hyderabad. QCIL is a multispecialty healthcare provider in India.

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CCI approves acquisition of 72.49% stake (approx.) in Quality Care India by BCP Asia II

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of approximately 72.49% stake in Quality Care India by BCP Asia II.
- The Proposed Combination envisages the acquisition of ~72.49% of the total equity shareholding of Quality Care India Limited (Target), on a fully diluted basis, by BCP Asia II Topco IV Pte. Ltd (BCP Asia II/Acquirer) from Touch Healthcare Private Limited.

CCI approves the acquisition of an additional unit holding in Highways Infrastructure Trust by 2452991 Ontario Limited and acquisition of an equity stake in Highway Concessions One Private Limited by 2743298 Ontario Limited

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed acquisition of an additional unit holding in Highways Infrastructure Trust by 2452991 Ontario Limited and the acquisition of an equity stake in Highway Concessions One Private Limited by 2743298 Ontario Limited.
- 2452991 Ontario Limited (OTPP 1) and 2743298 Ontario Limited (OTPP 2) are solely controlled by the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board (OTPPB).
- Highways Infrastructure Trust (Target Trust) is an infrastructure investment trust registered with the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) under the SEBI (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014 (InvIT Regulations).

CCI approves certain shareholding in TVS Credit Services Limited by PI Opportunities Fund-I Scheme-II along with certain Individuals

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed acquisition of certain shareholding in TVS Credit Services Limited by PI Opportunities Fund-I Scheme-II along with certain Individuals.
- The PI Opportunities Fund-I Scheme-II, is a trust established under the laws of India and registered as a Category II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- PI Opportunities Fund-I Scheme-II is managed by PI Investment Advisory LLP, as a delegate of the trustee, **namely Hasham Premji Private Limited**.
- The **Premji Foundation was set up to advance the philanthropic initiatives of Premji Invest** and is ultimately controlled by Mr. Azim Premji.

RBI Grants Approval for the Merger of Sahebrao Deshmukh Urban Co-operative Bank with Cosmos Co-operative Bank

• The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the Scheme of Amalgamation of The Sahebrao

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Deshmukh Co-operative Bank, which is located in Mumbai, Maharashtra, with The Cosmos Co-operative Bank Limited, based in Pune, Maharashtra.

 The approval for this amalgamation is granted by the RBI in accordance with its powers conferred under Sub-Section (4) of Section 44A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, and in conjunction with Section 56 of the same Act.

## OneWeb set to offer services in India soon as Eutelsat-OneWeb merger finalized

- Eutelsat Communications SA and OneWeb completed an all-share merger after getting approval from shareholders.
- This merger will create Eutelsat Group, with OneWeb now serving as a subsidiary and will operate commercially as Eutelsat OneWeb.
- Headquartered out of **Paris**, the merged entity will have **Bharti Enterprises** as its largest shareholder with a **21.2%** share.

## **DEFENCE NEWS**

## Indian Navy's Mahendragiri Warship Successfully Launched in Mumbai

- The Vice-President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar along with his wife Dr. Sudesh Dhankhar, launched the warship 'Mahendragiri' built at M/s Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- 'Mahendragiri' is the **7th stealth frigate** under Project 17A of the Indian Navy, and the 4th constructed by MDL.
- It is named after a mountain peak in Eastern Ghats located in the state of Orissa.
- The ship was named by **Dr Sudesh Dhankhar**, wife of Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar who was the chief guest on the occasion.
- A total of **7 ships** were built under Project 17-A these are Indian Naval Ship (INS) Nilgiri, INS Himgiri, INS Udaygiri, INS Dunagiri, INS Taragiri, INS Vindhyagiri, INS Mahendragiri.

## About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister : Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State : Ministry of Defence
- Defence Secretary : Giridhar Aramane

## IAF to conduct mega drills amid LAC row with China







- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is conducting a training exercise named "Trishul" to test its combat readiness.
- The exercise will involve fighter planes, transport aircraft, helicopters, and other assets in the country's northern and western sectors.
- The exercise will be conducted by the air force's Western Air Command (WAC) from September 4 to 14, 2023.

## About WAC :

- Headquarters : Subroto Park in Delhi
- WAC is the largest operational command of the IAF.
- It operates from bases in Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, and Haryana.

## About IAF :

- Established : 1932
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi
- Chief of the Air Staff : Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari

Launch of the First Ship, DSC A 20' (Yard 325), in the Five-Ship Diving Support Craft (DSC) Project in Titagarh, Kolkata (WB) on the Hooghly River

- DSC A 20' (Yard 325), the first ship of the Five (05) Diving Support Craft (DSC) project, was launched at Titagarh, Kolkata (WB) onto the Hooghly River.
- DSC A 20' is constructed by M/s Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd (TRSL).
- These ships boast a catamaran hull design and measure approximately 30 metres in length.
- Their displacement is estimated to be around **300 tons**.
- All 5 DSCs, including DSC A 20', are scheduled to be handed over to the Indian Navy in the fiscal year 2024-25.

#### About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister : Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State : Ministry of Defence
- Defence Secretary : Giridhar Aramane

## 21st Edition of India-France Bilateral Naval Exercise 'VARUNA' 2023 conducted in Arabian Sea

- The 2nd phase of the Indian-French bilateral naval exercise, Varuna 2023, took place in the Arabian Sea.
- The exercise witnessed the participation of guided missile frigates, tankers, Maritime Patrol Aircraft

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and integral helicopters from the two sides.

- The 1st phase of the Varuna exercise occurred off India's Western Seaboard from January 16 to January 20, 2023.
- This exercise also commemorates the 25th year of the India-France strategic partnership.

Indian Navy and Uber Collaborate for Private Travel of Naval Personnel and Their Families Nationwide in India

- The Indian Navy has joined hands with a cab aggregator service with an aim to provide reliable, convenient, safe and economical mobility solutions for personal travel and commute of naval personnel and families across India.
- The Navy signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Uber in the presence of Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar and senior officials of the company.

## About Indian Navy :

- Founded : 26 January 1950
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi
- Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) : Admiral R. Hari Kumar

## About Uber Technologies, Inc :

- Founded : March 2009
- Headquarters: San Francisco, California, United States.
- Chairman : Ronald Sugar
- CEO : Dara Khosrowshahi
- Uber Technologies, Inc. is an American transportation conglomerate that mainly provides ridehailing services where individuals can hail a vehicle using the Uber app on their phone.

#### Thal Sena Bhawan of the Indian Army to Adhere to GRIHA-IV Green Standards

- The Indian Army's upcoming Thal Sena Bhawan (TSB) is being constructed in adherence to GRIHA-IV (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) norms.
- It has been designed for a building life of about 100 years, and is earthquake-resistant, according to C.P. Kukreja Architects, who have been awarded the project.
- The building will be ready by May-June 2025.
- GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment), derives its name from the Sanskrit word meaning 'Abode.'

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## Indian Air Force & Drone Federation of India to co-host Bharat Drone Shakti 2023

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is collaborating with the Drone Federation of India to host 'Bharat Drone Shakti 2023.'
- The event is scheduled for September 25th and 26th, 2023, and it will take place at the IAF's airbase in Hindon, located in Ghaziabad where the Indian drone industry shall give live aerial demonstrations.
- 'Bharat Drone Shakti 2023' aims to showcase the potential of the Indian drone industry.

## About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister : Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State : Ministry of Defence
- Defence Secretary : Giridhar Aramane

## About IAF :

- Established : 1932
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi
- Chief of the Air Staff : Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari

## Border Roads Organisation to Build World's Highest Fighter Airfield in Ladakh

- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is set to construct the world's highest fighter airfield in the Nyoma region of Ladakh.
- The airfield will be situated at an elevation of **13,700 feet**, making it one of the highest airfields globally for fighter jets.
- The foundation stone for this project was scheduled to be laid by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on September 12, 2023, at the Devak Bridge.
- India is actively working on infrastructure development along the 3,488 km stretch of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China.

## About BRO :

- Established : 7 May 1960
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi
- Director General : Lt. Gen. Rajeev Chaudhry
- Motto : Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam (everything is achievable through hard work)

Indian Coast Guard Attends the 19th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) in Istanbul, Turkey

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- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) participated in the 19th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM), which took place from September 5 to September 8, 2023, in Istanbul, Turkey.
- A 4-member ICG delegation was led by DG Rakesh Pal, Director General of the ICG.
- HACGAM includes 23 member Coast Guard agencies and 2 associate members: the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
- HACGAM is a result of a **Japanese initiative** aimed at promoting cooperation among regional Coast Guards.
- It was initiated following the capture of the pirated vessel MV Alondra Rainbow by the Indian Coast Guard in November 1999.
- The previous edition of HACGAM was held in New Delhi in 2022.

## About ICG :

- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi
- Director General : Rakesh Pal
- Motto : Vayam Rakshama (We Protect)

## About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister : Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State : Ministry of Defence
- Defence Secretary : Giridhar Aramane

## Indian Air Force Receives Its 1st C-295 Aircraft from Airbus in Spain

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has received the first C-295MW transport aircraft from Airbus in Seville, Spain.
- The IAF has ordered a total of 56 C-295MW aircraft under a project valued at ₹21,935 crores.

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- The C-295MW is a transport aircraft with a capacity of **5-10 tonnes**.
- The new C-295MW aircraft will replace the **legacy Avro aircraft** in the Indian Air Force, which were procured in the 1960s.
- It is capable of **Short Take-off and Landing (STOL)** and can operate on short, unprepared airstrips.
- The aircraft can be converted into an air tanker, capable of delivering up to **6,000 kg of gasoline** to fixed and rotary-wing receivers by adding a detachable refuelling kit.
- The 2nd C-295 will be delivered in May **2024**, followed by seven more aircraft in 2024, at a rate of one per month.

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## About IAF :

- Established : 1932
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi
- Chief of the Air Staff : Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari

## About Spain :

- King: Felipe VI of Spain
- Prime Minister: Pedro Sánchez
- Capital: Madrid
- Currency : Euro

Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) Approves Proposals Worth Rs 45,000 Crore, Including Purchase of 12 Su-30MKIs for Indian Air Force (IAF)

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, approved a total of 9 acquisition proposals totalling Rs 45,000 crore for the Indian Armed forces, including procurement of 12 Su-30MKIs for the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- These acquisitions are intended to strengthen the capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces.
- 12 Su-30MKIs for the Indian Air Force (IAF) would be manufactured in India by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- Su-30MKIs will be equipped with more than 60% indigenous content.

## About DAC :

- DAC was set up on the recommendation of the Group of Ministers on Reforming the National Security System in February 2001.
- The DAC is the **highest decision-making body** in the Defence Ministry for deciding on new policies and capital acquisitions for the Army, Navy ,Air Force and the Indian Coast Guard.
- The Union Defence Minister is the Chairman of the Council.

## INS Sumedha Joins Exercise BRIGHT STAR 2023 with Navies of Egypt, Italy, and Greece

- The Indian Navy Ship (INS) Sumedha participated in Exercise Bright Star-23 with multiple other navies in the Mediterranean Sea.
- INS Sumedha exercised with navies of Egypt, Italy, Greece, Cyprus and Qatar.

## About INS Sumedha :

- INS Sumedha is the 3rd ship of the indigenously built Saryu-class Naval Offshore Patrol Vessels (NOPV).
- It was designed and constructed by Goa Shipyard Limited.

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- The vessel was commissioned into the Indian Navy on March 7, 2014.
- It is part of the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet and is based in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

Shri Rajnath Singh Inaugurates 90 Border Infrastructure Projects Worth Over Rs 2,900 Crore (\$350 Million)

- Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh has dedicated to the nation 90 infrastructure projects of Border Roads Organisation (BRO), worth over Rs 2,900 crore (\$350 Million), spread across 11 States/Union Territories.
- The projects were inaugurated by the Raksha Mantri at an event in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K).
- The 422.9-meter long Class 70 RCC Devak bridge is strategically significant, enhancing the operational preparedness of the Armed Forces and fostering socio-economic development in the region.

## About BRO :

- Founded : 7 May 1960
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Director General : Lt. Gen. Rajeev Chaudhary
- The BRO is a statutory body under the ownership of the Ministry of Defence, Government of India.
- Its primary role is to develop and maintain road networks in India's border areas and in friendly neighbouring countries.

13th Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference (IPACC) to be held from 26 to 27 of September in New Delhi

- The 13th Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference (IPACC) will be held from 26 to 27 of this month at Manekshaw Centre, in New Delhi.
- The two-day conference will be attended by army chiefs of the 30 Indo-Pacific region to discuss security cooperation, and collective strategies in the Indo-Pacific region.
- This will be the 13th biennial event which will be hosted by the Indian Army and US Army Pacific.
- Chief-of-Staff of the US Army, General James C McConville, along with his delegation, will be present for the two events that he will co-host along with Chief of Indian Army Staff General Manoj Pande.

## Airports Authority of India inducts two new B-360 types of aircraft into AAI Flight Inspection Fleet

- The Airports Authority of India has added two new B-360 types of aircraft equipped with an advanced state Flight Inspection system into the AAI Flight Inspection Fleet.
- The induction ceremony took place in the presence of Civil Aviation Minister **Jyotiraditya Scindia**, and Minister of State for Civil Aviation **Mr. Vijay Kumar Singh at the Safdarjung Airport**.

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10th meeting of India-Malaysia Joint Sub-Committee on Defence Science, Technology and Industry Cooperation held in New Delhi

- The 10th meeting of the India-Malaysia Joint Sub-Committee on Defence Science, Technology and Industry Cooperation was held in New Delhi.
- According to the Defence Ministry, the existing defence research and industry cooperation between the two countries was reviewed and discussions were held on issues of mutual interest during the meeting.

## Military Leaders of 3 West African Countries Sign a Security Pact

- Sahel security pact has been signed by military leaders of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger.
- The military leaders of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger signed a mutual defence pact.
- Ministerial delegations from these three Sahel countries announced this pact in Mali's capital Bamako.
- The Liptako-Gourma Charter established the Alliance of Sahel States (AES).
- Its main objective is to establish an architecture of collective defence and mutual assistance.

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 the Republic of Singapore Navy is being held till 24 of this month.
- The SIMBEX enhances interoperability and mutual understanding between two navies.
- The Exercise is conducted in two phases Harbour Phase & Sea phase.
- Ranvijay, Kavaratti, and Sindhukesari, Long-Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft P81 participated in the exercise.

#### India-US Army to host Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference from 25th September

- The Defence Ministry, the Indian Army and the United States Army will co-host a joint military conference in New Delhi from the 25th to the 27th of September 2023.
- Chiefs of Armies and delegates of thirty-five countries will attend the 13th Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference IPACC, the 47th Indo-Pacific Armies Management Seminar IPAMS, and the 9th Senior Enlisted Leaders Forum SELF.
- The central theme for this forum is "Together for Peace: Sustaining Peace and Stability in the Indo-Pacific Region."

#### 19th Edition of YUDH ABHYAS Military Exercise to Take Place in Alaska

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- The **19th edition of "EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS"** will be conducted from **September 25 to October 8, 2023,** in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, **United States of America (USA)**.
- The theme of the Exercise is 'Employment of an Integrated Battle Group in Mountain/ Extreme Climatic Conditions' under Chapter VII of the United Nations mandate.

## Note :

- The **18th edition** of the exercise took place in Auli, **Uttarakhand**, India, in November 2022.
- The 1st edition of the exercise took place in Agra Uttar Pradesh (UP), India in 2002.
- It is an **annual exercise** conducted jointly by the Indian Army and the United States Army.

## Participants :

- Indian Army Contingent: The Indian Army contingent participating in this edition comprises 350 personnel.
- Lead Battalion: The lead battalion from the Indian side is affiliated with the MARATHA Light Infantry Regiment.
- US Army : The 1-24 Infantry Battalion of the 1st Brigade Combat Team will participate from the US side.

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## About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister : Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State : Ministry of Defence
- Defence Secretary : Giridhar Aramane

## Indian Army Inducts 600 Indigenously-Manufactured 'Vibhav' Anti-Tank Mines

- The Indian Army has inducted 600 indigenously manufactured self-neutralizing anti-tank mines known as "Vibhav."
- Vibhav is a **self-neutralizing anti-tank mine**, meaning it has the capability to deactivate itself after a certain period.
- These anti-tank mines were designed and developed entirely within India through a collaboration with the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- Vibhav" is equipped with an **electronic anti-handling and anti-lift device (EAHALD)**, which remains active for 120 days after arming.

## About Indian Army :

- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) : General Anil Chauhan
- Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) : General Manoj Pande

Indian Naval Ship Sahyadri participates in the maiden India-Indonesia-Australia trilateral Maritime

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#### Exercise

- Indian Navy's indigenously built warship Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sahyadri, mission deployed in Indo-Pacific, participated in the maiden trilateral Maritime Partnership Exercise with the ships and aircraft from the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and Indonesian Navy.
- INS Sahyadri, the third ship of the indigenously designed and built Project-17 class multirole stealth frigates was built at Mazagon Dock Ltd, Mumbai, Maharashtra and is commanded by Capt Rajan Kapoor.

#### **Objective**:

• The trilateral exercise **aimed** to strengthen the partnership among the maritime nations of India, Australia, and Indonesia. It focused on enhancing their collective capability to support a stable, peaceful, and secure Indo-Pacific region.

## About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister : Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State : Ajay Bhatt

## Indian Air Force inducts first C-295 transport aircraft at Hindon Air Force Station

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) inducted its first C-295 transport aircraft at Hindon Air Force Station in
   Uttar Pradesh (UP).
- The aircraft will be assigned to IAF Squadron No. 11, known as "The Rhinos."
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari attended the induction ceremony, which included a 'Sarv Dharm Puja' (multi-faith prayer).
- The C-295 transport aircraft will replace the HS-748 Avro aircraft, enhancing the IAF's medium-lift tactical capability.

#### About IAF :

- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi
- Chief of Defence Staff : General Anil Chauhan
- Chief of the Air Staff : Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari
- Vice Chief of the Air Staff : Air marshal Amar Preet Singh

## **SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

Chandrayaan-3's Pragyan Rover Confirms Presence of Sulphur, Oxygen, Iron, and Titanium on Moon's South Pole

• The Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) instrument onboard 'Pragyan' rover of

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Chandrayaan-3 has "unambiguously confirmed" the presence of sulphur on the lunar surface near the south pole, through first-ever in-situ measurements.

- Apart from sulphur, the LIBS instrument has also detected various other elements as anticipated, including aluminium (AI), sulphur (S), calcium (Ca), iron (Fe), chromium (Cr), and titanium (Ti) on the lunar surface.
- LIBS instrument is developed at the Laboratory for Electro-Optics Systems at Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru where the first India satellite was fabricated in 1975.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced the decision to name the spot where Chandrayaan-3 Vikram lander made soft landing as 'Shiv Shakti Point' and the site where the Chandrayaan-2 lander crash-landed on the Moon's surface in 2019 would be known as 'Tiranga Point'.
- To celebrate India's achievements in space exploration, August 23, the date of Chandrayaan-3's lunar landing, was announced as 'National Space Day,'.

ISRO released a graph of temperature variation on lunar surface measured by Chandrayaan-3's payload

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) released a graph of the temperature variation between the moon's surface and a point around 8 cm below as measured by an instrument named ChaSTE probe.
- This crucial data release follows just 4 days after the Vikram lander and Pragyaan rover at the location referred to as the 'Shiv Shakti' point, a name bestowed by PM Shri Narendra Modi.
- The Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE) stands as a temperature probe.
- It's equipped with 10 sensors and can be mechanically driven into the moon's surface using a motor, reaching depths of up to 10 cm.

About ISRO :

- Established : 15 August 1969
- Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka
- Chairman : Sreedhara Somanath

Japan Prepares for Dual-Purpose Space Launch: Simultaneous Deployment of Lunar Lander and X-Ray Probe

 Japan prepares to launch a dual-purpose mission from one rocket, deploying SLIM or Smart Lander to investigate the Moon to showcase precise moon landing techniques and XRISM for enhanced celestial analysis.

About XRISM :







 The X-Ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission (XRISM) is a joint mission of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), involving contributions from the European Space Agency (ESA) and Canadian Space Agency as well.

Aim :

• To observe X-rays coming from deep space and to identify their wavelengths with unprecedented precision.

## BHEL Manufactures 1st Indigenous SCR Catalysts for Yadadri Power Station to Reduce NOx Emissions

- A government engineering firm, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) manufactured India's 1st set of Catalysts for Selective Catalyst Reactors (SCR) for limiting Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) emissions from thermal power plants.
- The first set of indigenously manufactured SCR catalysts for the 5x800 MW Yadadri Thermal Power Station in Telangana, were flagged off by Renuka Gera, Director (Industrial Systems & Products), BHEL, from the company's Solar Business Division (SBD) unit in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

About BHEL :

- Established : 1956
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi
- BHEL is an **Indian central public sector undertaking** and the largest government-owned power generation equipment manufacturer.
- It is under the ownership of the Government of India and administrative control of the Ministry of Heavy Industries.

## India's 1st Solar Mission, Aditya L1, Successfully Launched from Sriharikota for Sun Study

 The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched the Aditya-L1 (Lagrange Point 1) orbiter, India's first solar mission, using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C57) rocket from the Second Launch Pad (SLP) of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

## Aim :

- To study solar winds, which can cause disruptions on Earth, including phenomena like auroras.
- Aditya-L1 is the **25th mission** using the PSLV-XL configuration.

## **Mission Timeline :**

- Aditya L-1 has begun its **125-day journey** into space.
- The project director for Aditya-L1 is **Nigar Shaji** from Tamil Nadu (TN).

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#### Mission Budget :

- ISRO Aditya L1 Mission Budget is Rs 400 Crore and ISRO Started working on Aditya L1 from December 2019.
- Lagrange Points are positions in space where gravitational forces from **two celestial bodies**, in this case, the Earth and the Sun, balance out.
- Lagrange Points, named after Italian-French mathematician Joseph-Louis Lagrange.
- According to ISRO, there are **7** payloads of Aditya L-1 Mission which are divided into 2 categories: Remote Sensing Payloads and In-situ Payloads.

## About ISRO :

- Established: 15 August 1969
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Chairman: S. Somanath

## ISRO successfully launched 7 Singaporean satellites on board PSLV-C56 Rocket from Sriharikota

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s PSLV-C56 rocket successfully launched Singapore's DS-SAR satellite and 6 co-passenger payloads from the first launch-pad (FLP) of Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (AP).
- This mission, PSLV-C56 / DS-SAR, is a dedicated commercial mission conducted by NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) for ST Engineering, Singapore.
- This is the 58th flight of PSLV and 17th flight of PSLV in Core Alone configuration.

## List of 6 co-passengers:

- 1. VELOX-AM, a technology demonstration microsatellite (23 kg)
- 2. ARCADE Atmospheric Coupling and Dynamics Explorer (ARCADE), an experimental satellite
- 3. SCOOB-II, a 3U nanosatellite flying a technology demonstrator payload
- 4. NuLIoN by NuSpace, an advanced 3U nanosatellite enabling seamless IoT connectivity in both urban & remote locations.
- 5. Galassia-2, a 3U nanosatellite that will be orbiting at low earth orbit.
- 6. ORB-12 STRIDER, satellite is developed under an International collaboration
- All satellites were injected into a 535 km circular orbit with a 5-degree orbital inclination.

## About ISRO :

- Established: 15 August 1969
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Chairman: S. Somanath

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Hyderabad Firm Grene Robotics Introduces India's First AI-Powered Anti-Drone System 'Indrajaal'

- Hyderabad-based company Grene Robotics has initiated the demonstration of its weapons platform 'Indrajaal,'the world's only autonomous wide area anti-drone, Counter-Unmanned Aircraft System (C-UAS), in Hyderabad.
- The demonstration of Indrajaal is a significant milestone in Indian defense technology.
- This anti-drone system is capable of safeguarding against various drone classifications, including **micro, mini, small, large, and extra-large drones,** enhancing security measures for the future.

ISRO-developed device for fishers' safety successfully tested at Neendakara

- 'Nabhmitra', a device developed by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)-Space Applications Centre (Ahmedabad, Gujarat) for the safety of fishermen, was successfully tested at Neendakara, a coastal area in Kollam city, Kerala.
- It enables two-way messaging services from and to sea for the safety of fishermen.
- The device is designed to communicate weather and cyclone warnings to fishermen in their **local language**, enhancing their understanding and safety.

Japan Successfully Launches Rocket Carrying Lunar Lander and X-ray Telescope to Investigate Universe's Origins

- Japan launched a rocket carrying a lunar lander and an X-ray telescope as part of a mission known as "Moon Sniper."
- The Moon Sniper mission is Japan's 3rd Moon mission & the budget of the entire mission is \$100 million.
- The rocket, named HII-A, was launched from the Tanegashima Space Center in Japan.
- The launch was broadcast live by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

#### About Japan :

- Prime Minister: Fumio Kishida
- Capital: Tokyo
- Currency: Japanese yen

## China to Launch Wide Field Survey Telescope for Detecting Faint Space Signals

- China is set to launch the Wide Field Survey Telescope (WFST), the largest time-domain survey facility in the Northern Hemisphere, in September, 2023.
- The WFST, characterised by a **2.5-meter primary mirror** and a prime-focus camera with a large field of view, is currently undergoing engineering debugging and pilot observation processes.

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## About China:

- President: Xi Jinping
- Capital: Beijing
- Currency: Renminbi

## Indian Air Force Conducts Test of Indigenous Military Combat Parachute System

The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully tested the efficacy and foolproof functioning of the Military
 Combat Parachute System which is indigenously designed and developed by Aerial Delivery
 Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE).

## About ADRDE :

- Established : 1969
- Headquarters : Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh
- Director : Manoj Kumar
- The ADRDE is a laboratory of the Indian Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

## North Korea launches new 'tactical nuclear attack submarine' named Hero Kim Kun Ok

- North Korea has launched its 1st tactical nuclear attack submarine, submarine No 841 named the Hero Kim Kun Ok, which was unveiled ahead of the country's 75th anniversary of its founding day (September 09, 1948).
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un personally oversaw the official launch of the nuclear-powered submarine.

## NASA's Lucy Spacecraft Records Its Inaugural Images of Asteroid Dinkinesh

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Lucy spacecraft has captured its first images of the main belt asteroid Dinkinesh, marking the beginning of a 12-year voyage.
- The Dinkinesh asteroid was first discovered in **1999** as part of the LINEAR survey.
- It is classified as a **slow rotator** with a moderately large light-curve amplitude.
- Dinkinesh is categorised as an S-type asteroid, indicating a composition primarily composed of silicates and some metal.
- The images of Dinkinesh were captured using Lucy's high-resolution camera, known as the Lucy Long Range Reconnaissance Imager (L'LORRI instrument).

About NASA :

• Founded : July 29, 1958

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- Headquarters : Washington, D.C, United States
- Administrator : Bill Nelson

Marine Scientists Unveil Genetic Secrets of Indian Oil Sardine through Genome Decoding

- Scientists at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) have achieved a significant breakthrough by decoding the entire genome of the Indian oil sardine (Sardinella longiceps), a popular food fish in India.
- This marks the **first time** that the genome of a marine fish species from the Indian subcontinent has been decoded.
- Indian oil sardine belongs to the genus **Sardinella** and is a ray-finned fish species.
- It is a crucial fisheries resource in the Indian subcontinent and contributes significantly, approximately **10%**, to India's total marine fisheries industry.

## About CMFRI :

- Established : 1947
- Headquarters : Kochi, Kerala
- Director : Dr. A. Gopalakrishnan

## NASA capsule carrying first asteroid samples lands on Earth

• National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) successfully retrieved its first asteroid samples from deep space, with the capsule parachuting into the Utah desert.

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- The asteroid hunting spacecraft OSIRIS-REx was responsible for collecting and delivering the pristine asteroid material.
- The sample capsule was released during a flyby of Earth from a distance of **100,000 km** and landed in a remote area of military land approximately 4 hours later.
- OSIRIS-REx stands for Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer.
- OSIRIS-REx is NASA's first mission to collect a sample from an asteroid.
- The spacecraft launched in **September 2016** and arrived at the near-Earth asteroid Bennu in December 2018.

#### About NASA :

- Founded : July 29, 1958
- Headquarters : Washington, D.C, United States
- Administrator : Bill Nelson

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## Taiwan launches the island's first domestically made submarine Narwhal/Hai Kun for testing

- Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen inaugurated the island's first domestically manufactured submarine named "Hai Kun" during its testing phase at a port in Kaohsiung city, Taiwan.
- The submarine received its official name, "Hai Kun," which is derived from a **mythological fish of gigantic proportions** known for its ability to transform into an equally enormous bird.
- The submarine's English name is "**Narwhal**," inspired by the narwhal, a single-tusked whale featured in National Geographic's list of the world's weirdest creatures.

## About Taiwan :

- President : Tsai Ing-wen
- Capital : Taipei
- Currency : New Taiwan dollar

## CURRENT AFFAIRS: BOOKS & AUTHORS

## 'Elon Musk' biography becomes second bestseller by Walter Isaacson

• Elon Musk's biography by American author-journalist Walter Isaacson, saw strong sales during its first week after launch, with a total of 92,560 copies being sold, according to data compiled by the book tracking platform Circana BookScan.

## MOUS AND AGREEMENT

# Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare signs an MoU with private sector to generate employment for Veterans

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Directorate General Resettlement (DGR) under Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, Ministry of Defence and M/s Genpact India Private Limited in New Delhi.
- The MoU between DGR and Corporates endeavours to bring the corporate companies and Ex-Servicemen on a common platform to generate employment opportunities for the esteemed Ex-Servicemen of the Defence Services.

MoU signed between Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation

 A momentous collaboration has been cemented as the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25.







- This strategic partnership aims to enhance the socio-economic upliftment of Safai Karamcharis, Manual Scavengers, Waste Pickers and their dependents.
- Capital subsidy ranging from 50 to 32% is provided to sanitation workers taking up mechanized cleaning works under Swachhta Udyami Yojana (SUY).
- NSKFDC also provides loans up to Rs.1.00 lacs under its Mahila Samridhi Yojana and Micro Credit Finance Scheme.

India and Kenya agree to deepen cooperation in maritime security in Indian Ocean region & joint training in counter insurgency

- India and Kenya agreed to further deepen cooperation in maritime security in the Indian Ocean region.
- A bilateral meeting was held between Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and Cabinet Secretary for Defence of Kenya Aden Bare Duale in New Delhi.
- India and Kenya agreed to enhance cooperation in **maritime security** in the **Indian Ocean region** and **joint training** in **counter-insurgency**.

## About Kenya :

- Capital: Nairobi
- Currency: Kenyan Shilling

## 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 **decarbonization technologies** such as carbon sequestration.
- 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.

## About NTPC

- Founded: 7 November 1975
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Gurdeep Singh is the Chairman & Managing Director of NTPC

## NCDEX, Maharashtra to sign an MoU to help subsidise turmeric growers to take part in options trade

• NCDEX, one of India's leading future exchanges, will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU)

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with the Maharashtra government to subsidize turmeric growers to take part in options trading.

 Farmers will particularly take part in "put" options trading through farmer producer organizations (FPOs).

## About NCDEX

- National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited is an Indian online commodity and derivative exchange based in India.
- It is under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- MD & CEO : Arun Raste

IREDA signs MoUs with Union Bank of India and Bank of Baroda to co-finance Renewable Energy projects

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the Union Bank of India (UBI) and Bank of Baroda (BoB).
- These agreements will empower IREDA to collaborate with UBI and BoB, in co-lending and loan syndication for a wide range of renewable energy projects, including both established and emerging RE technologies.

## About IREDA :

- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi
- Chairman & Managing Director : Pradip Kumar Das
- The IREDA is a **Public Limited Government Company** and a **Non-Banking Financial Institution** formed for setting up projects relating to new and renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency/conservation with the **motto: "ENERGY FOR EVER"**.
- It is a Mini Ratna (Category I) Government of India Enterprise with the objective of promoting, developing and extending financial assistance and under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

## About BoB :

- Founded : 20 July 1908
- Headquarters : Vadodara, Gujarat, India
- MD & CEO : Debadatta Chand
- Tagline : India's International Bank
- Bank of Baroda operates more than 11,000 ATMs across India

## About UBI :

• Founded : 11 November 1919

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- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : A. Manimekhalai
- Tagline : Good People to Bank with

## IREDA and IIFCL team up to finance renewable energy projects

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL), to finance renewable energy projects.
- The MoU will empower IREDA and IIFCL to engage in Co-Lending / Co-Origination and Loan Syndication for all categories of Renewable Energy projects, including **Small Hydro projects**.
- The MoU was signed by Chairman & Managing Director, IREDA, Shri Pradip Kumar Das and Managing Director, IIFCL, Shri P R Jaishankar.

#### About IREDA:

 Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) is a PSU under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) and India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL) is a whollyowned Government of India company set up in 2006 to provide long-term financial assistance to viable infrastructure projects.

Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the United Nations World Tourism Organization, unveils the G20 Tourism and SDG Dashboard

- The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, in collaboration with the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), unveiled the G20 Tourism and SDG Dashboard.
- Minister of Tourism, Culture and DONER, Shri G. Kishan Reddy, launched the dashboard in a virtual ceremony.
- Developed under the leadership of India's G20 Presidency and with the expert knowledge partnership of UNWTO, the dashboard is a testament to India's commitment to sustainable tourism.
- It showcases best practices, case studies, and insights from G20 countries, all modelled for achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs).

#### About UNWTO

- Founded: 1946
- Headquarters: Madrid, Spain
- Head: Secretary-General; Zurab Pololikashvili

#### India Post and Shiprocket partner to strengthen e-commerce export ecosystem

• The Department of Posts, as part of its ongoing initiatives to create an export ecosystem for e-

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commerce in the country, entered into an agreement with **Bigfoot Retail Solution Pvt Ltd** (Shiprocket), one of the leading e-commerce enablement platforms.

- The collaboration aims to enhance e-commerce exports by leveraging India Post's extensive presence and reliable shipping solutions.
- The **agreement was signed** in New Delhi in the presence **of Shri Alok Sharma**, Director General Postal Services, Chief Postmaster General Delhi **Ms Manju Kumar and Shri Saahil Goel**, CEO, of Shiprocket, marking a significant milestone in India's cross-border e-commerce landscape.

## Centre signs an MoU with Adobe to help children learn Artificial Intelligence

- The Union Ministry of Education signed an agreement with global software major Adobe to help children develop creative expression in classrooms using the application Adobe Express.
- Training and certification in creativity and digital literacy will be provided to about 20 million students and 5,00,000 teachers by 2027 using Adobe Express-based curriculum.

## About Adobe:

- CEO: Shantanu Narayen
- Headquarters: San Jose, California, United States
- Founders: Charles Geschke, John Warnock
- Founded: December 1982

## TCS partners with JLR for £800 million digital transformation deal

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) have announced a strategic partnership to transform JLR's digital estate and build a new, future-ready digital core.
- The partnership is valued at £800 million over the next five years.
- TCS will leverage its deep domain expertise, proprietary platforms and vast partner ecosystem to help JLR enhance its digital capacity, and transform and simplify its digital estate, under the partnership.

#### About TCS:

- Founders: Faquir Chand Kohli, J. R. D. Tata
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- CEO: K. Krithivasan
- Founded: 1 April 1968

## India and Saudi Arabia sign Agreement on Cooperation in Energy Sector

• India and Saudi Arabia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of energy.

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- The MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was signed in New Delhi, by the Union Minister for New & Renewable Energy and Power, Government of India, Shri R. K. Singh for the Indian side and Minister of Energy for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Royal Highness Abdulaziz bin Salman Al-Saud for the Saudi side.
- The MoU will develop a stronger partnership between India and Saudi Arabia in the field of energy.

#### About Saudi Arabia :

- Prime Minister: Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud
- Capital : Riyadh
- Currency : Saudi riyal

#### NTPC Green Energy Limited to collaborate with Nayara Energy for Green Hydrogen

- NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of India's leading integrated power producer NTPC Limited, and Nayara Energy, a new-age international downstream energy company of international scale, have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore opportunities in the Green Hydrogen and Green Energy space.
- The MoU envisages collaboration to produce Green Hydrogen for Nayara Energy's captive usage, accelerate decarbonisation and catalyse reduction in carbon footprint.
- The collaboration is in line with NTPC's initiatives to **develop hydrogen projects** in India and aligns with the **vision of a self-reliant India** (Atmanirbhar Bharat) as laid out **by the Prime Minister**.

## About NTPC:

- NTPC is India's largest Power Utility having a total installed capacity of more than 73 GW. As part
  of increasing its renewable energy portfolio, a wholly-owned subsidiary NGEL has been formed to
  take up Renewable Energy Parks and Projects including businesses in the area of Green
  Hydrogen, Energy Storage Technologies, and Round-the-Clock RE Power. NTPC Group has a
  plan of 60 GW of RE capacity by the year 2032 and is currently working on a pipeline of 20+ GW,
  out of which over 3 GW is operational capacity.
- Founded: 7 November 1975
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Gurdeep Singh is the Chairman & Managing Director of NTPC

#### About Nayara Energy

• Nayara Energy is an integrated downstream company of an international scale with a strong presence across the hydrocarbon value chain from refining to retail. Nayara Energy owns India's







second-largest single-site refinery at Vadinar, Gujarat with a capacity of 20 MMTPA. It is one of the world's most modern and complex refineries with a complexity of 11.8, which is amongst the highest globally. The company has over 6,000 operational retail outlets spread across India.

## 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 the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank).
- The proceeds of the loan will be used towards refinancing for on-lending to REC's borrowers in the power, infrastructure and logistics sectors for importing capital equipment.
- The funds will be raised as part of **REC's Market Borrowing Programme of Rs. 1.20 lakh crore** for the year **2023-24**.
- This is the first term loan being extended by EXIM Bank to REC.

## About REC:

• REC Limited is an NBFC focusing on Power Sector Financing and Development across India. Established in 1969, REC Limited has completed over fifty years of operations.

## About Export-Import Bank India :

- Established : 1982.
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Managing Director : Harsha Bangari
- It is wholly owned by the government of India (Gol) and was set up to finance, facilitate and promote India's international trade.

#### NVIDIA Collaborates with Reliance and Tata Group to Develop AI Infrastructure in

- United States (US)-based chipmaker NVIDIA has formed strategic partnerships with two of India's largest conglomerates, Reliance Industries and Tata Group, to establish artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure in India and enhance the skill set of the country's workforce.
- In collaboration with Reliance, NVIDIA will develop India's own foundational large language model, specifically trained on the country's diverse languages, catering to generative AI applications for India's vast population.
- NVIDIA will provide AI supercomputing services and technologies as part of this initiative.

#### About Nvidia :

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- Established : April 5, 1993
- Headquarters : Santa Clara, California, United States
- President & CEO : Jensen Huang

Bharat 6G Alliance and Next G Alliance sign MoU to explore collaboration opportunities

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore collaboration opportunities on 6G wireless technologies in India and other parts of the world was signed between Bharat 6G Alliance and Next G Alliance, an Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS) initiative.
- The MoU was signed by the Bharat 6G Alliance Chair N. G. Subramaniam and the President and CEO of the ATIS's Next G Alliance Susan Miller.
- The MoU will facilitate aligning research and development priorities that support a common 6G vision and creating secure and trusted telecommunications as well as resilient supply chains.

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

- The Ministry of Labour and Employment signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with leading private job portals, companies/employers and skill providers to integrate with the National Career Service (NCS) portal of the Ministry here.
- The objective of MoUs is to enhance employment opportunities and services for jobseekers on the 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.

IICA and UNICEF jointly organize workshops on Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR)

- The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), organized a workshop on Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) in collaboration with UNICEF and the National Stock Exchange at the NSE premises in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The workshop was attended by above 50 Sustainability, CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility), ESG (Environment, Social and Governance) and BHR (Business Human Rights) professionals from key corporate houses.

## ABOUT IICA :

 IICA is an institution established by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Government of India as an autonomous body to act as a think-tank and a centre of excellence to support the growth of the corporate sector in India through an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach.







- RRU is an Institution of National Importance under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- It is a pioneering national security and police University of India.

## About UNICEF :

- Headquarters: New York,
- Founded: 11 December 1946
- Founders: United Nations General Assembly, Ludwik Rajchman
- Head: Catherine M. Russell

Indian Railways' Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) Vadodara and Airbus Inks an MoU for Aerospace Teaching and Research

- Indian Railways' Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) Vadodara and Airbus have entered into a collaboration to strengthen the Indian aviation sector through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- An MoU was signed at Rail Bhawan, New Delhi between Mr. Rémi Maillard (President and Managing Director, AIRBUS India and South Asia) and Prof. Manoj Choudhary (Vice-Chancellor, Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya).
- The MoU signing ceremony took place in New Delhi at Rail Bhawan and was attended by Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics, and IT, who also serves as the First Chancellor of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya.

## About Airbus :

 Airbus is the world's largest manufacturer of commercial aircraft and is a significant producer of helicopters, defense, and space equipment.

Also, Airbus and Tata have announced a partnership to design, innovate, manufacture, and develop the C295 aircraft in India, with a facility located in Vadodara, Gujarat.

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

- Delhi Metro Rail Corporation and Bharat Electronics Limited 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.
- The **Communication-Based Train Control System** will optimize train operations, increase frequency, and enhance passenger services while efficiently utilizing rail infrastructure.
- The prototype i-CBTC Product will be deployed soon on a test track.

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## About BEL:

- Headquarters: Bengaluru
- Founded: 1954, Bengaluru
- Key people: Bhanu Prakash Srivastava; (Officiating Chairman and managing Director)

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

- Amazon Web Services (AWS) India has signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) to support space-tech innovations through cloud computing.
- ISRO, IN-SPACe, and AWS will work collaboratively to nurture and grow the start-up community in the space-tech sector.
- The three organisations will also collaborate on a new initiative to train students and educators in cloud computing, AI, ML, analytics, and security by leveraging AWS education programs.

15 countries join UN convention to promote legal certainty in judicial sale of ships

- In a significant development, 15 countries, including China, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Switzerland, signed the UN Convention on the International Effects of Judicial Sales of Ships.
- Maritime transport plays a leading role in international trade, and it is estimated that more than 90 per cent of global traded goods are transported by sea. This makes the ship a vital asset.
- The Beijing Conventionon the Judicial Sale of Ships, as it is now known, was developed by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) to address the problem of bona fide new owners finding themselves dealing with previous creditors laying claim to the ship as security for a loan.

## About IMO

- The International Maritime Organization is a specialised agency of the United Nations responsible for regulating shipping.
- The IMO was established following agreement at a UN conference held in Geneva in 1948 and the IMO came into existence ten years later, meeting for the first time on 17 March 1958.
- Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.

Maruti Suzuki partners with Indian Bank to provide financing solutions to dealers

• Maruti Suzuki India Ltd has partnered with Indian Bank to provide financing solutions to its dealers.

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 The two parties have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which will empower over 4,000 Maruti Suzuki dealerships across the country with comprehensive inventory funding options for their working capital requirements.

## Air India enters interline partnership with Bangkok Airways

- As part of its effort to expand its global network, Air India has entered into an interline partnership with Bangkok Airways in order to provide greater connectivity within Thailand and other countries in Southeast Asia.
- The agreement comprises seamless connections via Air India's Bangkok, Hong Kong and Singapore gateways to and from 10 destinations in Thailand, Laos and Cambodia on Bangkok Airways' route network as well as complimentary lounge access at available airports regardless of cabin class.

## About Air India

- Air India is the flag carrier of India, headquartered in New Delhi.
- It is owned by Talace Private Limited, a fully owned subsidiary of Tata Sons, after Air India Limited's former owner, the Government of India, completed the sale.
- CEO: Campbell Wilson.

## Tata Power, SIDBI tie up to facilitate solar adoption by MSMEs

- Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd (TPREL) inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to provide accessible financing options to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) looking to adopt solar solutions.
- This collaboration aims to promote solar energy adoption among MSMEs by providing tailored and innovative financing solutions through SIDBI's 4E (End-to-End Energy Efficiency) Scheme, which offers competitive interest rates and flexible loan limits, catering to the specific needs of the MSME sector.

## About SIDBI:

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), was established under an Act of Parliament in 1990.
- Headquarters: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India.
- Established: 2 April 1990
- Headquarters : Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Chairman & Managing Director : Sivasubramanian Ramann

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- SIDBI is the apex regulatory body for overall licensing and regulation of micro, small and medium enterprise finance companies in India.
- It is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance (MoF), Government of India (Gol).

## About MSME :

 The MSME term was introduced by the Government of India (Gol) in agreement with the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006.

REC ties up debt funding of Rs. 3081 crore to Serentica for 560 MW greenfield solar-wind project in Gadag, Karnataka

- REC Limited has sanctioned debt funding of more than Rs. 3,081 Crore to renewable energy company Serentica Renewables for its 560 MW peak greenfield solar-wind hybrid project in Gadag district of Karnataka.
- REC Limited, a Maharatna company, has emerged as a frontrunner in catalyzing India's energy transition, in alignment with the **nation's COP26 commitments** and recent G20 pledges under India's G20 Presidency.
- With a resolute vision and unwavering commitment, REC is on a trajectory to achieve a green finance loan book of Rs. 3 lakh Crore by the fiscal year 2030.

## About Karnataka :

- Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot
- Chief minister: Siddaramaiah
- Capital: Bengaluru
- National Park : Bandipur NP, Kudremukh NP
- Wildlife Sanctuaries : B R Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, Gudavi Bird Sanctuary, Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary
- Tiger Reserve : Nagarahole Tiger Reserve, Bhadra Tiger Reserve
- Festival : Hampi, Mahamastakabhisheka (Shravanabelagola)
- Dance : Yakshagana, Dollu Kunitha, Bolak-aat (Bolak Dance)

## NHAI Inks Agreement to Develop Multi Modal Logistics Park at Bengaluru

National Highways Logistics Management Ltd (NHLML), a 100% owned company of NHAI signed an agreement for the development of Multi Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) at Bengaluru proposed to be developed under the Public Private Partnership (DBFOT) model at an estimated cost of Rs 1,770 crore, the agreement has been signed between Government SPV, Bengaluru MMLP Pvt. Ltd. & Concessionaire SPV M/s. PATH Bengaluru Logistics Park Pvt. Ltd.







• The **project is poised to become the first and largest MMLP** ever implemented in the country under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission signs three MoUs to promote Khadi Products

- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises inked 3 separate MoUs, and laid the foundation stone of 'Modern Khadi of New India' in the Amritkal of Independent India.
- The objective of these MoUs is to prepare a roadmap to modernize the Khadi and Village Industries Commission and popularize its products among the youth as per the vision of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- On this occasion, Shri Kumar distributed a margin money subsidy of Rs 150 crore to the beneficiaries under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme.

## About KVIC :

- Founded : 1957
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Manoj Kumar
- KVIC is a statutory body formed in April 1957 by the Government of India (GoI), under the Act of Parliament, 'Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956'.
- It is an apex organization under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

## Odisha Govt of Odisha signs MoU with Gopalpur Port for expansion

- The **Odisha government signed** an MoU with **Gopalpur Port** for further development and expansion of the **facility in Ganjam district**.
- The Odisha government handed over more than 119 acres of land to Gopalpur Port after the signing of the Mou.
- The MoU was signed by the Director Ports and Inland Waterway Transport, Commerce and Transport department, Padmalochan Rou and CEO, of Gopalpur Port Private Limited in the presence of Commerce and Transport minister Tukuni Sahu.

## About Odisha :

- Governor : Ganeshi Lal
- Chief Minister : Naveen Patnaik
- Capital : Bhubaneswar
- National Park : Simlipal National Park, Bhitarkanika National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Ushakothi Wildlife Sanctuary, Tikarpada Wildlife Sanctuary

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NHAI Collaborates with DMRC to Strengthen Design & Construction of Bridges and Other Structures

- National Highways network, 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.
- The MoU was signed in the presence of NHAI Chairman Shri Santosh Kumar Yadav and Dr. Vikas Kumar, Managing Director, DMRC along with other senior officials from NHAI and DMRC.

C-DOT and CSIR-National Physical Laboratory sign agreement for 'Development of NavIC based IST traceable Primary Reference Time Clock for Telecom Sector:

- Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), the premier Telecom R&D Centre of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (NPL) signed an agreement for the 'Development of NavIC-based IST traceable Primary Reference Time Clock (PRTC) for Telecom Sector'.
- The agreement is signed under the Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) scheme of the DoT for providing funding support to domestic companies and institutions involved in technology design, development, and commercialization of telecommunication products and solutions to enable affordable broadband and mobile services in rural and remote areas.
- The project focuses on the development of a device which shall provide direct Indian Standard Time (IST) traceability to all the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) within ± 20 ns.

India Global Forum and World Governments Summit signed an MoU to develop the 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, geoeconomic perspectives, and innovative solutions.
- The partnership will also focus on cultivating and fostering thought leadership, producing research on emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities that pertain to the Global South.
- The World Governments Summit Organization is a global, neutral, non-profit organization dedicated to shaping the future of governments.

TCS, BankID BankAxept team up to bolster Norway's financial infrastructure







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# Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – September 2023

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has forged a strategic partnership with BankID BankAxept AS, the linchpin of Norway's financial infrastructure, to establish and manage an operations command center in Oslo, Norway.
- The deal aims to enhance the resilience, security, and availability of the country's critical financial infrastructure.
- BankID BankAxept AS plays a pivotal role in Norway's financial landscape with 80% of the country's card payments made using BankAxept cards and over 90% of the population dependent on BankID for electronic identification.

#### About BankID BankAxept:

- Introduced: 1991
- Country: Norway
- 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.

#### About TCS :

- Tata Consultancy Services is an IT services, consulting and business solutions organization that has been partnering with many of the world's largest businesses in their transformation journeys for over 55 years.
- Hemakiran Gupta, Head, Banking, Financial Services & Insurance Continental Europe, TCS.

#### ONGC inks pact with NTPC Green for renewable energy projects

- State-owned **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation** (ONGC) has signed an initial agreement with **NTPC Green Energy** Ltd to explore setting up green hydrogen and offshore wind projects.
- The MoU was signed by ONGC executive director Debdulal Adhikari and NTPC Green Energy Ltd (NGEL) CEO Mohit Bhargava in the presence of ONGC chairman and CEO Arun Kumar Singh and NTPC chairman and managing director Gurdeep Singh.

#### About ONGC:

- The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is an Indian central public sector undertaking under the ownership of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India.
- The company is headquartered in New Delhi.
- ONGC was founded on **14 August 1956** by the Government of India.







 It is the largest government-owned-oil and gas explorer and producer in the country and produces around **70 percent** of India's domestic production of crude oil and around **84 percent** of natural gas.

#### About NTPC Green Energy Ltd:

- NTPC Green Energy Limited is an unlisted public company as a Government of India.
- Established: 07 April, 2022
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- CEO: Mohit Bhargava

#### ONGC inks crude oil pact with MRPL

- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Ltd has inked the Crude Oil Sales Agreement (COSA) with Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) for the sale and purchase of crude oil.
- The current agreement between ONGC and MRPL will be applicable till March 31, 2024.

#### About MRPL:

- Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL), is a division of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) which is under the ownership of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas of the Government of India.
- Established in **1988**, the refinery is located at **Katipalla**, north from the centre of **Mangalore**.
- The refinery was established after displacing five villages, namely, **Bala, Kalavar, Kuthetoor, Katipalla, and Adyapadi**.

#### Brookfield to invest up to \$845 million in joint venture with Axis Energy

- Brookfield Asset Management has entered into a joint venture with Hyderabad-based Axis
   Energy Ventures India to set up a renewable energy development platform, with the investment management company investing up to \$845 million.
- The Indian firm will provide its existing pipeline of wind and solar power projects that are under various stages of development in the country.

#### HP announces collaboration with Google to make Chromebook in India

- HP, a well-known brand for computers and printers, has teamed up with Google to make Chromebooks right here in India, supporting the 'Make in India' initiative.
- These Chromebook devices will be created at the Flex Facility near Chennai, where HP has been making laptops and desktops since August 2020.

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#### CURRENT AFFAIRS: SUMMITS & CONFERENCE

India Presents PM Gatishakti National Master Plan at Asian Development Bank's 2023 Regional Cooperation and Integration Conference in Georgia

- India showcased PM Gatishakti National Master Plan at the '2023 Regional Cooperation and Integration Conference: Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Integration through Economic Corridor Development (ECD)', organised by Asian Development Bank (ADB) at Tbilisi, Georgia.
- The conference took place from September 5th to 7th, 2023.
- More than 30 member countries participated, including senior officials from ADB's Developing Member Countries, representatives from development partner agencies, and regional cooperation organisations.

#### About ADB :

- Established : 1966
- Headquarters : Manila, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa
- Membership : 68 members, including 49 regional members (countries in Asia and the Pacific) and 19 non-regional members (countries outside the region)

#### About Ministry of Commerce & Industry :

- Cabinet Minister : Piyush Goyal
- Minister of State : Anupriya Patel, Som Parkash

## REC Limited Conducts 54th Annual General Meeting (AGM)

- REC Limited conducted its 54th Annual General Meeting (AGM) via video conferencing.
- The meeting was chaired by **Shri Vivek Kumar Dewangan**, Chairman & Managing Director, and was attended by all Directors on the Company's Board.
- Many shareholders also participated in the meeting through video conferencing

#### About REC Limited :

- Established : 1969
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman & Managing Director : Vivek Kumar Dewangan
- REC Limited, formerly **Rural Electrification Corporation Limited**, of which Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC) is holding company, which in turn is under the ownership of the **Ministry of Power**, the Government of India.

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ICCR to organise 4th Edition of Indo-Latin American Cultural Festival on 28 & 29 September in New Delhi

- Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) will organise the 4th Edition of the Indo-Latin American Cultural Festival on the 28th and the 29th of September in New Delhi.
- The festival is being organised in association with the Embassies of Colombia, Ecuador, and Chile.
- Addressing a press conference in New Delhi, ICCR President Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe stated the vibrant celebration of culture and art aims to showcase the rich cultural heritage of Latin America.

#### About ICCR:

- The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), is an autonomous organisation of the Government of India, involved in India's global cultural relations, through cultural exchange with other countries and their people.
- Established: 9 April 1950 by Maulana Abul kalamAzad (the first Education Minister of independent India)
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- President: Vinay Sahasrabuddhe
- Director General: Kumar Tuhin

#### PM Modi to inaugurate two day International Lawyers Conference in Delhi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate a two-day International Lawyers Conference in New Delhi.
- The theme of the Conference is Emerging Challenges in the Justice Delivery System.
- This conference is being organized for the first time by the Bar Council of India.
- Topics such as emerging legal trends, challenges in cross-border litigation, legal technology, and environmental law will be discussed.

#### **RANKING AND INDEX**

#### Mukesh Ambani, Gautam Adani top the Fortune India Rich List for 2023

- Mukesh Ambani, the founder of Reliance Industries (RIL), tops the Fortune India Rich List with a wealth of \$99.7 billion.
- Gautam Adani, the chairman of the Adani Group, secures the 2nd position on the list with a wealth of \$63.71 billion.
- The **Mistry family** of Shapoorji Pallonji Group holds the 3rd position, with a wealth of \$34.6 billion.

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• The Poonawalla family, owners of Serum Institute, stands 4th with a wealth of \$32.9 billion.

#### India ranks first in grassroots crypto adoption

- India has been ranked first in grassroots crypto adoption, even amid a tough regulatory environment, according to Chainalysis' 2023 Global Crypto Adoption Index.
- The country ranked first in **four parameters** including centralized service value received, retail centralized service value received, DeFi value received and Retail DeFi value received.
- Nigeria ranked second in the index, followed by Vietnam, United States and Ukraine.
- However, India is also advocating for worldwide crypto legislation, most recently at the G20 Summit hosted by the country.

#### Best Countries Ranking 2023: Switzerland Stays At Top Position, India Climbs One Spot To 30th

- Switzerland has once again claimed the title of the world's best country, according to the latest U.S.
   News & World Report's annual Best Countries rankings.
- This marks Switzerland's second consecutive year at the pinnacle and its sixth time overall as the No.
  1 nation on the list.
- The rankings, released recently, reaffirm Switzerland's supremacy, closely followed by
  - Canada at No. 2,
  - Sweden at No. 3,
  - Australia at No. 4,
  - and the United States at No. 5.
- According to the 8th edition of US News & World Report's Best Countries 2023, India was ranked 30th.
- The rankings are developed in collaboration with global marketing communications company WPP and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

#### Infosys only Indian firm in TIME's top 100 World's Best Companies of 2023

- 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.
- 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

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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.

#### About Infosys :

- Founded : 2 July 1981
- Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- MD & CEO : Salil Parekh
- Infosys Limited is an **Indian multinational information technology company** that provides business consulting, information technology and outsourcing services.

#### Sahasra Electronic to Introduce India's First Locally Manufactured Desktop Motherboard

- Sahasra Electronic Solutions, based in Noida,Uttar Pradesh (UP) is part of the Sahasra Group and is gearing up to introduce the first Made-in-India computer motherboard to the market in November, 2023.
- The motherboard, which will be designed around the latest Intel **13th generation chipset**, is currently undergoing trials.
- Sahasra Semiconductor, a part of Sahasra Group, is part of the Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS).

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS: ENVIRONMENT

#### World's Largest Flower, The Rafflesia, Is Nearing Extinction

- The World's largest flower the Rafflesia is nearing extinction. New research indicates that the Rafflesia, best known for its speckled red petals and "dead flesh" smell, may not exist a few years down the line.
- While it's known as the world's largest flower, the Rafflesia is actually a parasite in the disguise of a flower.
- As per researchers from the International Union for Conservation of Nature, one of the species of this flower has been classified as "critically endangered".
- To understand the plant better and to correctly identify its conservation status, an international group of botanists examined a total of 42 species of the Rafflesia across all five Southeast Asian countries.

CUSAT researchers name new marine tardigrade species after Kalam

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- In a tribute to 'Missile Man' Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, researchers from the Marine Biology department of Cochin University of Science and Technology (Cusat) named a new species of marine tardigrade that they discovered after the former President.
- Named 'Batillipes kalami', the new species of tardigrades was found by researchers in the intertidal beach sediments of Mandapam coast, close to Kalam's birth place in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu.
- Tardigrades, often referred to as water bears, are eight-legged micro-animals found in the water.
- The newly-discovered species is approximately 0.17mm long and 0.05mm wide, characterised by four pairs of legs.

#### **SPORTS NEWS**

#### Neeraj Chopra finishes second in men's javelin event in Zurich Diamond League:

- Newly-crowned world champion Neeraj Chopra finished second with a final round throw of 85.71
   m in the men's javelin event of the Diamond League Meeting at Zurich.
- The 25-year-old Chopra, also the reigning Olympic champion, produced three legal throws of 80.79m, 85.22m and 85.71m.
- He finished behind Jakub Vadlejch of the Czech Republic, who had won a bronze in the World Championships.

#### About Germany :

- President : Frank-Walter Steinmeier
- Capital: Berlin
- Currency- Euro.

# Grandmaster D Gukesh overtakes Viswanathan Anand as India's top chess player in the International ranking

- Teenager Grandmaster D. Gukesh has replaced the legendary Viswanathan Anand as India's top chess player after more than three decades.
- Anand has been India's No.1 since July 1986.
- The **17-year-old Chennai Grandmaster**, who recently lost in the quarterfinals of the FIDE World Cup in Baku to Magnus Carlsen, moved ahead of Anand to be **ranked No.8 in the world**.

#### About FIDE

- Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland
- Founded: 20 July 1924

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# Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – September 2023

- President: Arkady Dvorkovich
- Membership: 200 national associations

India emerged victorious over Pakistan in a penalty shootout, securing the Men's Hockey 5s Asia Cup:

- India was crowned Asian Hockey 5s champions after beating Pakistan 6-4 after penalty shootouts in the final.
- This is the first time in three meetings that India has beaten Pakistan in the Hockey 5s format.
- From 2-4 down in the second half, India took the game to the shootout after two goals from Mohammed Raheel.

#### About FIH

- Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland
- Founder: Paul Léautey
- Founded: 7 January 1924, Paris, France
- CEO: Thierry Weil

#### Danielle McGahey set to become the first transgender woman to feature in international cricket

- Danielle McGahey, 29, is set to become the first transgender woman player to play in international cricket.
- For the **first time** in international cricket, a transgender woman player will feature in ICC-related tournaments.
- The **right-hand batter from Australia**, who moved **to Canada** in 2020, had fulfilled the eligibility criteria for **male-to-female (MTF**) transition, per ICC.

#### About Canada

- Capital: Ottawa
- Prime Minister: Justin Trudeau
- The Canadian dollar is the currency of Canada.

#### In Football, Mohun Bagan beat East Bengal 1-0 to lift the Durand Cup 2023 in Kolkata

- Mohun Bagan clinched the Durand Cup 2023 trophy beating East Bengal 1-0 at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata.
- Mohun Bagan won the **132nd Durand Cup** for the first time in 23 years. Registering this victory, Mohun Bagan SG has become the first team in the history of the Durand Cup to win 17 titles.
- East Bengal are the second-most successful team in the Durand Cup, and have 16 titles under its name.

#### First ever 'Climate Cup' Football tournament 2023 begins in Leh, Ladakh

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- Climate Football Cup 2023, the first-ever professional football tournament in the Union Territory of Ladakh, began.
- The seven-day event will be held at the Open Astroturf Stadium in Spithuk, Leh.

#### About Ladakh :

- Lieutenant Governor: B. D. Mishra
- Capitals : Leh, Kargil

# Thailand Women's Cricket Team's Nattaya Boochatham Becomes First Bowler From Associate Nation to Claim 100 Wickets in T20Is

- Thailand spinner Nattaya Boochatham created history with a three-wicket haul during the ICC
   Women's T20 World Cup Asia Region Qualifier game against Kuwait.
- In the match, Boochatham finished with a figure of 3/3 to complete 100 wickets in T20Is, becoming the first player, both from men's and women's from an Associate nation to get to the landmark in T20Is.

#### Amul to be the official sponsor of Indian Contingent for XIX Asian Games

- Amul will be the Official Sponsor of the Indian Contingent for the XIX Asian Games 2022 to be held in Hangzhou, China from September 23 to October 8 2023.
- Amul has partnered with an Indian sports person through the Indian Olympic Association since the London 2012 Olympics for all Indian contingents to the Olympics, Commonwealth Games and Asian Games and we are pleased to further strengthen our decade-long relationship.

#### About Amul

- Founders: Verghese Kurien, Tribhuvandas Kishibhai Patel;
- Founded : 14 December 1946
- Headquarters : Anand, Gujarat
- Managing Director : Jayen MehtaJayen Mehta
- Amul, a dairy co-operative based in the western state of Gujarat, is one of the largest milk producers in the world.
- It is under the ownership of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Limited (GCMMF), Department of Cooperation, Government of Gujarat.

#### About China :

- President : Xi Jinping
- Capital : Beijing
- Currency : Renminbi

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#### ICC, IndusInd Bank to Ink Multi-Year Sponsorship Deal

- IndusInd Bank has agreed to a multi-year sponsorship deal with the International Cricket Council (ICC), beginning with the men's Cricket World Cup in India.
- The multi-year deal is valued at \$20-\$24 million (about Rs 160-200 crore).
- BharatPe and Byju have joined other tech startups like Unacademy, MPL, and Paytm that have cut down on their sponsorship investments amid a decline in private equity funding and focus on profitability
- The ICC's other top-tier sponsors include MRF Tyres, Booking.com, Aramco, and Emirates.

#### About ICC

- Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- Founded: 15 June 1909
- CEO: Geoff Allardice
- Chairman: Greg Barclay

#### About IndusInd Bank:

- CEO: Sumant Kathpalia
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founder: S. P. Hinduja
- Founded: April 1994, Mumbai

#### Indian men's team finishes with bronze medal at Asian Table Tennis Championships 2023

In Table Tennis, the Indian men's team finished with a bronze medal at the Asian Table Tennis
 Championships 2023 following a semi-final defeat to Chinese Taipei in Pyeongchang, the Republic of Korea.

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- The Indian men's table tennis team comprising Sharath Kamal, Harmeet Desai and Sathiyan Gnanasekaran lost 0-3 in their final four matches.
- The two losing semi-finalists are awarded bronze medals at the competition.
- The Asian Table Tennis Championships 2023 was also a qualifier for the Paris 2024 Olympics.

#### About Table Tennis Federation of India

- President: Meghna Ahlawat
- Founded: 1926
- Secretary: Kamlesh Mehta
- Headquarters: Delhi
- Membership: 32 state units and 37 institutions

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#### About South Korea :

- President : Yoon Suk Yeol
- Prime Minister : Han Duck-soo
- Capital : Seoul
- Currency : South Korean won

#### DD SPORTS Rebrands as DD SPORTS HD

- Prasar Bharati, the country's public broadcaster, has rebranded DD Sports as DD Sports HD.
- This addition marks the inclusion of another High-Definition channel in its broadcasting lineup.
- DD Sports HD made its debut by telecasting ongoing Asia Cup cricket matches.
- DD Sports HD is expected to become the preferred choice for sports lovers due to its high-definition content and to enhance the viewing experience for sports enthusiasts.
- DD Sports has formed partnerships with leading sports organizations like the NBA (National Basketball Association) and PGTA (Professional Golf Tour of India) to bring fresh and exciting content to the channel.

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#### About Ministry of Information & Broadcasting :

- Cabinet Minister : Anurag Thakur
- Minister of State : L. Murugan

# Novak Djokovic defeated Daniil Medvedev in the US Open final to claim his record 24th Grand Slam title:

- In US Open Tennis, Novak Djokovic created history winning the 24th Grand Slam title.
- Serbian star Djokovic **defeated Daniil Medvedev** of Russia 63, 76, 63 to win the US Open 2023 Men's Singles final at the **Arthur Ashe Stadium**, **New York City**.
- With this, 36 year old Djokovic equals Margaret Court's record of **24 Grand Slam tennis titles**, the most by any player in history.
- Djokovic, already the oldest French Open singles champion, became the oldest US Open singles champion in the pro era.

American teenager Coco Gauff wins maiden US Open Women's Singles title in a thrilling match against Aryna Sabalenka:

- In US Open tennis, American teenage tennis sensation Coco Gauff secured her maiden Women's Singles title, defeating Aryna Sabalenka in the title clash in New York.
- Gauff produced a gutsy performance on the Arthur Ashe Stadium court to win 26, 63, 62.

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#### Max Verstappen creates F1 history as he scores 10th consecutive win at Monza

- Max Verstappen and Red Bull created history at the Italian Grand Prix 2023, as the Dutch sensation secured his 10th consecutive Formula 1 victory.
- In doing so, Verstappen surpassed Sebastian Vettel's nine consecutive wins from 2009, and Red Bull extended their winning streak to a remarkable 15 races.
- Verstappen has won every race since the Miami Grand Prix on May 7 and is set to join only Juan Manuel Fangio, Michael Schumacher, Sebastian Vettel and Lewis Hamilton as drivers who have won a hat-trick of championships.
- The Monza circuit was the stage for this record-breaking performance, where Verstappen initially lined up behind the pole-sitting Carlos Sainz of Ferrari.

The Subroto Cup International Football Tournaments 62nd edition will take place on September 19.

- 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 the Under-14 Sub Junior Boys Competition will be held in Bengaluru.
- Air Marshal R K Anand and Vice Chairman Subroto Mukherjee Sports Education Society informed that this tournament aims to promote football at the grassroots level.

#### Virat Kohli becomes fastest to reach 13,000 ODI runs, smashes ton

- India batter Virat Kohli became the fastest to reach 13,000 ODI runs during the Asia Cup Super 4
   clash against arch-rival Pakistan at the R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo.
- The 34-year-old bettered the record of fellow Indian veteran Sachin Tendulkar (321 innings), by achieving the feat in just 277 innings.
- Additionally, with this century, **Kohli has now scored four consecutive 100s** at this stadium, the joint-most highest centuries at a single venue alongside South African great Hashim Amla.
- The other three tons were against Sri Lanka— two of which came in 2017 and one in 2012.

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 meters came in his second attempt.

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- However, the Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch, won his third title with a best throw of 84.24 meters.
- Reigning Olympic and world champion Chopra, who holds the Indian national record of 89.94 meters, won a world championship silver medal at the same venue last year with an 88.13-meter effort.

#### Germany beat Serbia to win first-ever FIBA Basketball World Cup

- Germany has won their first-ever FIBA Basketball World Cup title by beating undermanned Serbia 83-77 in a slugfest of the two European powerhouses in Manila.
- Germany became the first team to win a FIBA World Cup crown in their final debut since Spain in 2006.
- FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 took place in the Philippines, Japan, and Indonesia from August 25 to September 10

#### About FIBA:

• The International Basketball Federation is an association of national organizations that governs the sport of basketball worldwide.

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- President: Hamane Niang
- Founded: 18 June 1932
- Headquarters: Mies, Switzerland

#### 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.
- This was Elavenil Valarivan's second individual ISSF World Cup medal.
- 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.

#### About ISSF:

- Founded: 1907
- Headquarters: Munich, Germany
- Membership: 150 regions
- Secretary: Willi Grill (Secretary-General)

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#### India beats Sri Lanka by 10 Wickets in Colombo to win Asia Cup 2023 title

- In Cricket, India demolished hosts Sri Lanka by registering a 10-wicket win in the final to lift the Asia
   Cup in Colombo.
- Opting to bat, the hosts were bundled out for a paltry score of 50 runs in just 15.2 overs.
- India's Mohammed Siraj brought Sri Lanka down to their knees with a six-wicket haul.
- He was followed by Hardik Pandya who took three wickets, along with one wicket by Jasprit Bumrah.

ICC releases official Anthem 'Dil Jashn Bole' for Men's Cricket World Cup featuring Ranveer Singh and influencers

- The International Cricket Council released the official Anthem for the Men's Cricket World Cup beginning on the 5th of next month.
- The theme of the anthem is Dil Jashn Bole and it features Bollywood superstar Ranveer Singh and other popular social media influencers.

#### 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 spotleaps to take him to the top.
- Jasprit Bumrah, who has come back after a long injury break, climbed up two places to the 27th position.
- Hardik Pandya rose eight spots to the 50th rank.

#### Harmanpreet, Lovlina To Be Flag-Bearers At Asian Games Opening Ceremony

- The Indian men's hockey team skipper and the Tokyo Olympic bronze medallist will lead the contingent at the opening ceremony.
- Men's hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh and Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist boxer Lovlina Borgohain will be India's flag-bearers at the opening ceremony of the 19th Asian Games that kicks off.
- At the **2018 Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang**, the Indian contingent was **led by Neeraj** Chopra at the opening ceremony.

#### BCCI announces SBI Life as Official Partner for domestic & international season 2023-26

• SBI Life has joined hands with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) as one of the official partners for the BCCI Domestic and International Season 2023-2026.







- SBI Life has signed a 3-year deal with the BCCI and their partnership will begin with the upcoming three-match ODI series against Australia, starting September 22, 2023.
- SBI Life is a top-tier life insurance provider in India, and the BCCI is one of the most potent and significant sporting organizations in the world.

#### About SBI Life:

- One of the top life insurance providers in India is SBI Life Insurance Company Limited, also known as SBI Life.
- It is a joint venture between the French-based BNP Paribas Cardif and the State Bank of India (SBI), one of the biggest and most reputable banks in India.
- The main ownership in this partnership is held by SBI.

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

- Young Indian wrestler Antim Panghal secured a bronze medal in the women's 53 kg category at the ongoing World Championships in Belgrade, Serbia.
- He also secured the Paris Olympics 2024 quota for India.
- 19-year-old 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.
- Antim has captured India's 23rd medal in the World Championships till date, which includes one gold, five silver and 17 bronze medals.

#### ICC Player of the Month (August 2023): Babar claims third honor

- Pakistan skipper **Babar Azam** clinched his third ICC Player of the Month award this year as he won the award for the month of **August 2023**.
- The experienced batter continued to impress with his exceptional performances, and therefore, he owns the top spot in the ICC ODI Batting Rankings.
- Ireland seamer Arlene Kelly won the ICC Women's Player of the Month award for August.

India's overall tally stands at 11 medals in Asian Games at Hangzhou

- India's overall tally stands at eleven medals- two gold, three silver and six bronze in the Asian Games at Hangzhou, China so far.
- The Indian Women's Cricket team clinched the second gold for the country, beating Sri Lanka by 19 runs at the final match.
- Smriti Mandhana showed her mettle by scoring 46 runs, contributing immensely to India's total of 116 runs.

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- It followed Indian trio Rudrankksh Patil, Divyang Panwar and Aishwary Tomar's gold win in the Men's 10m air rifle team event, also held.
- Indian Men's Quadruple Scull team and men's four team in **Rowing bagged bronze**, while Aishwary **Tomar won bronze in men's 10m air rifle** -individual- event.
- In **25m rapid fire pistol team Men's event,** Indian team comprising Anish Bhanwala, Vijayveer Sidhu and Adarsh Singh too has secured the bronze.

#### Formula One: Max Verstappen wins Japanese Grand Prix

- Red Bull's **Max Verstappen** clinched an easy win at the **Japanese Grand Prix** to move a step closer to earning his third back-to-back Formula One championship.
- The win at the Suzuka Circuit helped Verstappen in claiming his 13th victory in 16 races so far this season.

#### Hangzhou Asian Games: India's Neha Thakur bags silver medal

- Indian sailor **Neha Thakur** grabbed **a silver** in girl's dinghy ILCA-4 event to open the country's medal count in the sport of the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou.
- A rising sailor from National Sailing School Bhopal, Neha finished with a total of 32 points but her net score of 27 helped her earn the second spot behind gold medallist Noppassorn Khunboonjan of Thailand.
- Singapore's Kiera Marie Carlyle settled for a bronze with a net score of 28.

#### SAFF Under-19: India to take on hosts Nepal in semifinal

- India will take on hosts Nepal in the semifinal of the SAFF Under-19 Football Championship in Kathmandu.
- On the other hand, Nepal claimed the second spot in Group A, following Pakistan.
- Earlier, **Pakistan** will take on Bhutan in the first semi-final.

#### About 2023 SAFF U-19:

- The 2023 SAFF U-19 Championship is the 5th edition of the SAFF U-19 Championship, an international football competition for men's under-19 national teams organized by South Asian Football Federation (SAFF).
- It taking place from 21–30 September 2023 in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- India are the defending champions, who won their second title in 2022 by defeating Bangladesh in the final

#### India's Sift Kaur Samra wins gold in women's 50m Rifle event at Asian Games 2023

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- 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 composed of Manu Bhaker, Rhythm Sangwan and Esha Singh also claimed the gold medal.
- Meanwhile, Esha Singh in an individual women's 25m pistol event won Silver, behind China's Rui Liu.
- Vishnu Saravanan, has added another medal by securing a bronze in the ILCA- 7 event at the Asian Games 2023.
- 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.

In Asian Games at Hangzhou, India's Roshibina Devi Naorem clinches Silver medal

- The highly-talented **Roshibina Devi** bagged the silver **medal in** the **60 kg** of the Wushu competition in the ongoing Asian Games 2023.
- She missed a chance to win gold after losing in the final to her Chinese opponent Xiaowei Wu 2 0.
- At the last edition of the Asian Games, India's 13-member Wushu contingent returned with four bronze medals.
- With this victory, India has showcased one its best results in Wushu in the Asian Games since
   Wangkhem Sandhyarani Devi's silver win in Asian Games 2010.

Swapnil-Aishwary-Akhil Trio Bags Asian Games Gold, Break World Record In Men's 50m Rifle 3P Team

- The Indian shooting contingent continues to dominate at the ongoing Asian Games in Hangzhou as the men's trio of Swapnil Kusal, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar and Akhil Sheoran clinched a gold medal at the 50 m rifle men's 3P event.
- With a score of 1769 points, Team India secured the gold.
- The silver medal was won by China with 1763 points and the bronze medal went to South Korea with 1748 points.
- With their score, India also broke the world record of 1761 points held by the USA since last year.

Asian Games: Nepal break T20I records; Yuvi's fastest 50 record shattered

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- Nepal's Kushal Malla shattered multiple all-time batting records in T20Is as he scored a sensational century in the first match of Group A in the ongoing Asian Games men's cricket competition against Mongolia on September 27.
- Malla's ton saw him take down the long-standing record of Rohit Sharma.
- Malla only took 34 balls to reach the three-figure mark against Mongolia and became the fastest centurion in the T20I format shattering Rohit Sharma's record of 35-ball 100 in T20Is.
- Meanwhile, his teammate Dipendra Singh Airee reached his half-century in just nine balls and broke Yuvraj Singh's 12-ball 50 record.

#### Asian Games 2023 India's Medal Tally: Complete list of medals won by India across sports

• The Indian contingent once again looks gritty to showcase a stellar performance in the 19th edition of the event which is currently going on in Hangzhou, China.

#### **OBITUARIES**

#### Renowned 'Margaritaville' Singer, Jimmy Buffett, Passed Away

- Jimmy Buffett, the American singer-songwriter who transformed from a laid-back Key West resident into a billionaire responsible for the perpetual "Margaritaville" lifestyle brand, has passed away at the age of 76.
- He was renowned for his unique music style known as "tropical rock," which celebrated the concept of "island escapism.

#### Veteran Kerala Congress leader & former Speaker Vakkom Purushothaman Passed away

- Former Kerala speaker and senior Congress leader **Vakkom Purushothaman** passed away at the age of 95 in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- He was elected to the Kerala Assembly 5 times from Attingal Assembly constituency and became a minister **thrice** from **1971-1977**, **1980-1981**, **2004-2006**.
- He was the longest-served Speaker of the Kerala assembly, from 1982 to 1984 and again from 2001 to 2004.
- He was also elected twice to the Lok Sabha from Alappuzha constituency and served from 1984 to 1991 & 1989-1991.
- Purushothaman served as the 6th Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from 1993 to 1996, the Governor of Mizoram from 2011 to 2014 and Governor of Tripura for two months in 2014.
- N. Valarmathi, the Voice Behind ISRO's Launch Countdowns, Passed Away

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- N Valarmathi, the renowned Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) scientist known for her voice during rocket launch countdowns, passed away in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).
- Notably, she announced countdowns for rocket launches at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, including the last countdown for Chandrayaan-3.
- She is an Indian scientist and project director of **RISAT-1**, India's first indigenously-developed radar imaging satellite (RIS) which was launched successfully in 2012.
- She is the **1st person** to receive the **Abdul Kalam Award**, instituted in 2015 by the Government of Tamil Nadu in honour of former President Abdul Kalam.

#### Former Zimbabwe cricket legend Heath Streak Passed away

- Former Zimbabwe's great cricketer captain Heath Streak passed away at the age of 49.
- He remains the **only Zimbabwean cricketer** to have taken over 100 Test wickets and completed the double of 2000 runs and 200 wickets in ODIs.
- In 2021, Streak was given an **8-year ban from cricket** after admitting breaches of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) anti-corruption code.

#### Australian Olympic swimming gold medallist John Devitt Passed away

- Australian former swimming champion John Thomas Devitt passed away at the age of 86 in Sydney, Australia.
- John Devitt was born on 4 February 1937 in Granville, New South Wales, Australia.
- He won his only individual Olympic gold medal in the 100-metre freestyle at Rome.
- He was also a member of the **gold-medal-winning** 4x200 Australian freestyle relay at the Melbourne Games four years earlier.

#### Chief of Special Protection Group (SPG) for PM Modi's Security, Arun Kumar Sinha, Passes Away

- Director of Special Protection Group (SPG), responsible for providing proximate security to the Prime Minister of India, Arun Kumar Sinha passed away at the age of 61.
- Arun Kumar Sinha was an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the 1987 Kerala cadre.

#### About SPG :

- Founded : 8 April 1985
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi
- The SPG is an elite force that is specially tasked to provide **protection** to the 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.

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#### Renowned cartoonist Ajit Ninan Passed away

- Political **cartoonist Ajit Ninan**, known globally for his outstanding caricatures, passed away at the age of 68.
- Ajit Ninan born in 1955 at Hyderabad, Telangana.
- He was an Indian political cartoonist, best known for drawing the Centrestage series of cartoons in
   'India Today' magazine and Ninan's World in 'The Times of India.'
- He was also known for his celebrated comic strip, 'Detective Moochhwala', which featured the eponymous detective and his pet dog, in India Today's Target magazine in the 1980s.

#### First president of Moldova Mircea Snegur Passed away

- Mircea Snegur, who led Moldova to independence and served as its first president, has passed away at the age of 83.
- He served as the first president of Moldova from **1990 to 1997**, making significant contributions during this pivotal period in the country's history.

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#### About Moldova :

- President : Maia Sandu
- Capital : Chișinău
- Currency : Moldovan leu

#### Hindustani Classical Vocalist Malini Rajurkar passed away

- Hindustani classical vocalist **Malini Rajurkar**, an exponent of Gwalior gharana passed away at the age of 82.
- Rajurkar was born in 1941 in Ajmer, **Rajasthan**.
- She was well-known for her expertise in the "tappa" style of music, which is a captivating form of Indian semi-classical vocal music.
- Tappa is characterised by its fast-paced and intricate melodies.
- Malini Rajurkar received the prestigious **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award** for her significant contributions to Indian classical music in **2001**.

#### 3 Idiots Actor Akhil Mishra Passed Away At 67

• Actor Akhil Mishra, who has worked in films such as the Aamir Khan-starrer '3 Idiots' and 'Bhopal: A Prayer for Rain' passed away after an accident in the kitchen at the age of 67.

Twice elected Italian president Giorgio Napolitano Passed away

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- Former Italian president Giorgio Napolitano, Passed away at the age of 98 in Rome, Italy.
- Giorgio Napolitano born on 29 June 1925 in Naples, Italy.
- He held the office of the President of Italy for over 9 years and 4 months, making him the longestserving president in the history of the Italian Republic.

Renowned Agricultural Scientist MS Swaminathan, Pioneer of India's Green Revolution, Passes Away

- Father of India's iconic Green Revolution, Professor Monkombu Sambasivan Swaminathan, or MS Swaminathan, as he is popularly known passed away in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).
- MS Swaminathan was born on August 7, 1925, in the Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu, India.
- He was referred to as "the Father of Economic Ecology" by the United Nations Environment Programme.
- In 1987, he was awarded the first World Food Prize after which Swaminathan set up the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) in Chennai's Taramani by using the \$200,000 prize money.
- He was the recipient of some of India's highest honours including Padma Shri (1967), Padma Bhushan (1972) and Padma Vibhushan (1989).

Delhi-based Bharatanatyam artiste & Padma Bhushan Awardee Saroja Vaidyanathan Passed away

- Indian choreographer, guru and a notable exponent of Bharatanatyam Saroja Vaidyanathan passed away at the age of 86 in Delhi.
- Saroja Vaidyanathan was born on September 19, 1937, in Bellary, Karnataka, India.
- Padma Awards: She was honoured with two prestigious Padma awards by the Government of India. She received the Padma Shri in 2002 and the Padma Bhushan in 2013.
- Sahitya Kala Parishad Samman: Saroja Vaidyanathan was a recipient of the Sahitya Kala Parishad Samman awarded by the Government of Delhi.
- Kalaimamani Title: She was bestowed with the Kalaimamani title by the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram.

#### Actor Michael Gambon, Famous for Role as Dumbledore in 'Harry Potter,' Passed Away

- British-Irish actor Michael Gambon, renowned for his portrayal of the wizard Albus Dumbledore in the later "Harry Potter" movies, has passed away at the age of 82.
- Michael John Gambon was born on October 19, 1940, in the Cabra suburb of Dublin, Ireland.
- Over his six-decade-long career, he received 3 Olivier Awards for A Chorus of Disapproval (1985), A View from the Bridge (1987), and Man of the Moment (1990), 2 Screen Actors Guild Awards, and 4 BAFTA Awards for The Singing Detective (1986), Wives and Daughters (1999), Longitude

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