



# MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS GK DIGEST

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**JUNE 2023**

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## PFC AND RITES SIGNS MOU FOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

**Current Context:** Power Finance Corporation (PFC), a Maharatana CPSU and India’s leading NBFC, has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with RITES Limited, a premier engineering consultancy company, to establish a strategic partnership for financing infrastructure and logistics sector projects in India and abroad.

### KEY POINTS

- **The MoU will enable both the companies to explore consultancy opportunities for various Government Bodies, Private Entities and Multilateral Funding Agencies.**
- The collaboration will focus on identifying, evaluating, and funding projects in transportation, logistics, energy and allied infrastructure.
- **The MoU was signed on May 26, 2023 in the presence of Ravinder Singh Dhillon, CMD, PFC, Rahul Mithal, CMD, RITES, Directors of PFC & other senior Officials of both Companies.**

## MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER EKNATH SHINDE ANNOUNCED THAT AHMEDNAGAR CITY WOULD BE RENAMED ‘AHILYANAGAR’

**Current Context:** Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced on Wednesday (May 31) that Ahmednagar city would be renamed Ahilyanagar after the Maratha warrior queen Ahilyabai Holkar.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The announcement was made on the occasion of the 298th birth anniversary of the 18th century ruler of Malwa's Holkar dynasty.
- **Ahilyabai Holkar was a remarkable woman who is remembered for her contributions to women's empowerment, education, social welfare, and temple construction.**
- She was known for her good governance, justice, and generosity. She built and restored many temples, ghats, wells, and forts across India. **She also patronized art, literature, and education.**

### INDIA HAS JOINED THE CENTRALISED LABORATORY NETWORK (CLN)

**Current Context:** The Centralised Laboratory Network (CLN) is a global network consisting of 15 partner facilities in 13 countries. It operates under the umbrella of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).

#### KEY FACTS

- **The primary objective of the CLN is to test vaccines that can be utilized during pandemics and epidemic disease outbreaks.**
- **India has joined the CLN through the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Virology (ICMR-NIV).**
- This will help India to access standardized methods and materials for testing vaccines against emerging infectious diseases and also support regional outbreak preparedness infrastructure

### BAJAJ ALLIANZ LIFE INSURANCE LAUNCHES INDIA'S 1ST INSURANCE PLAN FOR DIABETICS

**Current Context:** Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance has launched India's first term insurance product designed for Type 2 diabetics and pre-diabetic individuals.

#### DETAILS

- **The plan is called Bajaj Allianz Life Diabetic Term Plan Sub 8 HbA1c and it covers individuals whose HbA1c levels are up to 8%.**
- The plan also offers a 10% reduction on renewal premiums for those who demonstrate improvement in their HbA1c levels.

- **The plan aims to provide financial security for the family of diabetics and also support them with health management services**

### JSW STEEL BECOMES 1ST MANUFACTURER TO GET CII'S GREENPRO ECOLABEL

**Current Context:** JSW Steel, a leading integrated steel manufacturer in India, has received GreenPro ecolabel for its 'Automotive Steel' products.

#### ABOUT

- **The GreenPro ecolabel, developed by the Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) Green Business Centre, recognizes the highest standards of environmental sustainability and product performance in the Indian manufacturing sector.**
- JSW Steel is the first manufacturer to achieve this certification for its 'Automotive Steel' products.
- **This shows JSW Steel's commitment to producing high-quality, sustainable steel solutions for the automotive industry.**

### SPACEX LAUNCHED 52 STARLINK SATELLITES TO PROVIDE GLOBAL BROADBAND

**Current Context:** SpaceX launched 52 Starlink internet satellites on a Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California on March 17, 2023 and on June 1, 2023.

#### KEY POINTS

- **The Falcon 9's first stage landed on a droneship at sea after both launches, marking the eighth and fourteenth reuse of the booster respectively.**
- The Starlink satellites are equipped with optical space lasers, which help to provide truly global coverage and serve people in the most remote locations on Earth.

### MEDIUM-RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILE AGNI-1 WAS SUCCESSFULLY TEST-FIRED IN ODISHA

**Current Context:** India successfully carried out a training launch of a Medium-Range Ballistic Missile, Agni-1 on Thursday from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha. The missile is a proven system, capable of striking targets with a very high degree of precision.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The launch was carried out by the Strategic Forces Command, responsible for the management and administration of the country's tactical and nuclear assets.**
- The Agni-1 missile is part of the Agni series of missiles, which includes the Agni-1 (700km), Agni-2 (2000), Agni-3 (3000), Agni-4 (4000) and the Agni-5 with a range of 5,000 km.
- **The Agni series of missile systems provide credible nuclear deterrence to India against its adversaries like Pakistan and China.**

#### AIIMS NAGPUR BECOMES 1ST AIIMS TO RECEIVE NABH ACCREDITATION

**Current Context:** AIIMS Nagpur has become the first AIIMS in the country to receive the NABH accreditation, which is recognized globally as a standard for healthcare excellence.

#### KEY FACTS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr Mansukh Mandaviya have congratulated the doctors and staff of AIIMS Nagpur for this great feat
- **NABH accreditation signifies the hospital's dedication to continuous improvement and adherence to the highest quality benchmarks.**

#### IIT MADRAS RESEARCH PARK & RBI'S INNOVATION CENTRE COLLABORATES

**Current Context:** A collaboration between Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), IIT Madras Research Park (IITMRP) and IIT Madras Incubation Cell (IITMIC) to introduce voice-banking solutions to eliminate language barriers across the country.

#### DETAILS

- **The voice-based banking solution aims at performing basic banking transactions through**

**voice-commands in the Indian languages of Hindi, Tamil and Telugu to start with, in addition to English.**

- The innovation will assist people who are illiterate and visually impaired, in their banking services and help the underbanked population in overcoming language barriers during their banking activities.
- **The project is expected to roll out a pilot in around 12-18 months and potentially scale them in the next 2-3 year.**

#### INDIA AND NEPAL SIGN PACTS ON ENERGY, TRANSPORT; INDIA TO IMPORT 10,000 MW OF ELECTRICITY FROM NEPAL

**Current Context:** India and Nepal have signed a series of agreements on energy and transport, including the export of Nepal's hydropower to Bangladesh through Indian territory.

#### ABOUT

- **India has set a target of importing 10,000 MW of electricity from Nepal in the coming years under a long-term Power Trade Agreement.**
- The two countries have also agreed to fast-track projects related to the Ramayana circuit and cooperate in setting up a fertilizer plant in Nepal.
- **The two Prime Ministers participated through a video link in the groundbreaking ceremony of the Gorakhpur-Bhutwal Transmission Line on the Indian side.**
- The two countries have signed the revised Treaty of Transit under which Nepal will get access to India's inland waterways

#### MYNTRA, KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LAUNCHES DIGITAL FASHION CO-BRANDED CREDIT CARD

**Current Context:** Co-branded credit card launched by Myntra and Kotak Mahindra Bank, this is the first-of-its-kind digital fashion and lifestyle credit card in India that offers unmatched benefits for shoppers. Some of the features of this card are:

#### KEY POINTS



- 7.5% instant discount on unlimited transactions on Myntra, up to Rs.750 per transaction
- Complimentary access to Myntra Insider
- 5%\* cashback on any purchase with some of the popular platforms: Swiggy, Swiggy Instamart, PVR, Cleartrip, Urban Company
- Unlimited 1.25% cashback on other card spends
- Quarterly Milestone of 2 PVR Movie tickets
- Rs 500 e-voucher on card activation
- **The card can be availed through a hassle-free digital journey within minutes, across Myntra as well as Kotak mobile applications.**
- Existing Myntra customers will be able to apply for the card through a completely digital journey on the Myntra app itself. The card will be available on MasterCard and RuPay networks

### MANAPPURAM FINANCE LAUNCHED DIGITAL LENDING APP 'MA-MONEY'

**Current Context:** Manappuram Finance has launched Ma-Money, a digital lending platform that will provide customers with all its financial products under one umbrella. The app is targeted at customers in tier 2 and tier 3 cities.

#### KEY FACTS

- **Ma-Money offers a wide range of loans, including personal loans, business loans, consumer durables' loans, loans for the healthcare industry, food industry, small-scale industries, car loans, home repair loans, among others.**
- The company hopes that the app will help it to scale up its digital business and reach a wider audience
- **The interest rates and eligibility criteria for Ma-Money may vary depending on the type of loan, amount, tenure, and credit profile of the borrower.**

### JAL SHAKTI MINISTER GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT LAUNCHED UNIFIED REGISTRATION PORTAL

**Current Context:** New portal launched by the Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on June 1, 2023. The portal will act as a one stop repository to assess investment and participation in Biogas/CBG sector at pan

India level and streamline the process of setting up CBG/Biogas plants in India.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The portal will also enable availing of multitude of benefits and support from the Ministries & Departments of Government of India.**
- The portal is part of the GOBARDhan initiative, which aims to convert waste to wealth towards promoting circular economy
- **Biogas generation reduces soil and water pollution by recycling organic waste that would otherwise end up in landfills or water bodies**

### NGEL & UPRVUNL SIGNED MOU TO DEVELOP RENEWABLE ENERGY PARKS

**Current Context:** NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) and Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (UPRVUNL) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on May 31, 2023 to collaborate in the development of renewable energy parks and projects in Uttar Pradesh.

#### ABOUT

- **The MoU aims to support the government's energy transition goals and facilitate the development of clean energy infrastructure in the state.**
- Some of the projects that the companies will work on include setting up ground-mounted and floating solar projects in Rihand reservoir and other water bodies and land area, developing renewable energy parks and projects wherever land is made available, and developing solar PV project dedicated for solarization of Ayodhya city

### 88% OF WAGE PAYMENTS MADE THROUGH AADHAAR BASED PAYMENT BRIDGE SYSTEM TILL MAY

**Current Context:** Aadhaar Based Payment Bridge System (ABPS), ABPS is a unique payment system implemented by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), which uses Aadhaar number as a central key for electronically channelizing the Government subsidies and benefits in the Aadhaar Enabled Bank Accounts (AEBA) of the intended beneficiaries.

## DETAILS

- It is a safer and faster way of payment transfer that avoids rejections due to frequent changes in bank account numbers by the beneficiaries.
- ABPS has been in use since 2017 under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. As of May 2023, about 88% of the wage payment has been made through ABPS

## INDIAN NAVY & IMU SIGNED MOU FOR TECHNICAL COLLABORATION

**Current Context:** The Indian Navy and the Indian Maritime University (IMU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Technical Collaboration on June 2, 2023 in New Delhi.

## KEY POINTS

- The MoU was signed by Vice Admiral Sandeep Naithani, Chief of Materiel and Dr. Malini V Shankar, IAS (Retd), Vice Chancellor IMU.
- The MoU sets forth the procedure towards collaboration in the fields of training, joint research & development, collaborative courses, resolution of field level issues by teams from Centre of Excellence (Marine Engg), INS Shivaji, Lonavala and IMU

## INDIA'S FIRST CARBON NEUTRAL VILLAGE BEING DEVELOPED

**Current Context:** India's first carbon neutral village is being developed in Bhiwandi Taluka of Thane district in Maharashtra. The project is an initiative of Union Minister of State Kapil Patil and Union Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh.

## KEY FACTS

- The aim is to reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainable practices for a cleaner and greener environment. As many as 121 tribal villages are being developed as model villages under this project.
- These model villages will serve as examples for sustainable development, demonstrating effective infrastructure, facilities and improved living conditions.

- In Bhiwandi Lok Sabha constituency, around 1.75 lakh farmers are getting benefited from Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Yojana, a scheme that provides financial assistance to the farmers, enhances their livelihood and promotes agricultural development

## 3RD G20 HEALTH WORKING GROUP MEETING IS BEING HELD AT HYDERABAD, TELANGANA

**Current Context:** The 3rd G20 Health Working Group Meeting is being held at Hyderabad, Telangana from June 4 to 6, 2023. The meeting is organised under India's presidency and will focus on three key priorities of the G20 Health Track:

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Health emergencies prevention, preparedness and response with a focus on antimicrobial resistance and one health framework
  - Strengthening cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector with a focus on access and availability of safe, effective, quality and affordable medical countermeasures (vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics)
  - Digital health innovations and solutions to aid universal health coverage and improve healthcare service delivery
- The meeting will also consist of a main event and a side event, with a focus on collaboration on research and development in medical countermeasures.
  - The delegates will be taken to Genome Valley, the home to renowned global life science companies, to showcase India's expertise in life sciences, research and pharmaceutical manufacturing sectors. They will also be introduced to the culture and cuisine of Hyderabad

## THE STATE BANK OF INDIA HAS LAUNCHED PROJECT KUBER IN BENGALURU

**Current Context:** Project Kuber is an initiative by the State Bank of India to launch four transaction banking hubs and one corporate salary package hub in Bengaluru.

#### ABOUT

- The objective is to source, facilitate, and cater to the various banking needs of customers, and these hubs will help increase SBI's market share in liability products.
- **The hubs will also offer services to corporate/non-corporate clients, from account opening to onboarding them on SBI's digital platforms. The project was launched on June 2, 2023.**
- This project will benefit customers by providing them with one-stop destination for all their payment and collection-related requirements

#### TN GOVT SIGNED 6 MOUS WORTH RS 818.9 CRORES WITH JAPANESE COMPANIES

**Current Context:** Tamil Nadu government has signed six memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with Japanese companies towards an investment of around Rs 818.9 crores in the State.

#### DETAILS

- **The MoUs were signed in the presence of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in Tokyo on Monday. The MoUs cover various sectors such as manufacturing, construction, engineering and trade.**
- The MoUs are expected to create more than 3,000 jobs in the State. This is the third set of MoUs signed by the state government during the nine-day business trip of Stalin
- **It will create more jobs for the local people and boost their income and living standards. It will also enhance the infrastructure and network capacity of the state and improve its connectivity and accessibility**

#### MNIT & NDSA SIGNED MOU TO SET UP INDIA'S FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND NATIONAL CENTRE

**Current Context:** The Malviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT) and the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA), Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish India's

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first-of-its-kind National Centre for Earthquake Safety of Dams which will focus on studying seismic hazards, developing new dams, and enhancing the protection of existing ones.

#### KEY POINTS

- **The MoJS has approved a financial grant of Rs 30 crore for establishing and running the centre for the next 5 years.**
- The objective of the centre is to develop indigenous expertise in addressing technology challenges related to the structural and earthquake safety of dams, thereby making India self-reliant in this field

#### SPACEX LAUNCHES 22 SECOND GENERATION STARLINK 'V2 MINI' SATELLITES

**Current Context:** SpaceX launched 22 second-generation Starlink satellites into orbit on Sunday, June 4 at 8:20 a.m. ET from Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The satellites are also known as 'V2 Mini' and they provide greater broadband capacity and more powerful propulsion systems than the previous versions.
- **The launch was the first of two planned by SpaceX on the same day, but the second one was delayed due to bad weather. The launch also marked the 13-year anniversary of SpaceX's first-ever Falcon 9 launch in 2010**

#### BAJAJ FINSERV SIGNED AN MOU WITH MAHARASHTRA GOVT

**Current Context:** Bajaj Finserv has signed an MoU with the Maharashtra government to develop Rs 5,000 crore projects in Pune, including a sustainable Bajaj Finserv Campus.

#### KEY FACTS

- **The project is expected to create 40,000 job opportunities within the state and contribute to the development of Pune as a financial center.**
- The project will also adhere to global sustainability standards and adopt a net-zero approach

- It will enhance the state's infrastructure by developing a sustainable and green campus with state-of-the-art facilities

## FIRST CHENNAI-SRI LANKA REGULAR CRUISE PASSENGER VESSEL MV EMPRESS HAS BEEN FLAGGED OFF

**Current Context:** The first regular international cruise passenger vessel mv Empress from Chennai Port that will connect three ports on Sri Lanka was flagged off by Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal on Monday.

### ABOUT

- The cruise service is a result of the memorandum of understanding signed between Chennai Port and Waterways Leisure Tourism for domestic and international cruise service at the Incredible India International Cruise Conference in 2022.
- **The cruise service will visit Hambantota, Trincomalee and Kankasanturai in Sri Lanka. It is a milestone for the cruise tourism sector in India**

## KHELO INDIA UNIVERSITY GAMES 2022 HELD IN UP: PANJAB UNIVERSITY TOPS MEDAL TALLY

**Current Context:** Khelo India University Games 2022 held in UP. It was a grand event that showcased the talent and potential of the university athletes from across the country.

### DETAILS

- **Panjab University topped the medal tally with 69 medals (26 gold, 17 silver and 26 bronze). The games were inaugurated by Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur and Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath on 5th May 2023 in Lucknow.**
- The games were held in four cities of Uttar Pradesh: Gautam Buddha Nagar, Lucknow, Varanasi and Gorakhpur.
- **The official mascot of the games was Jeetu, a representation of the Barasingha, an endangered deer species found in Uttar Pradesh**

## MOU SIGNED BETWEEN MICROSOFT AND INDIAN GOVT

**Current Context:** Microsoft has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Directorate General of Training (DGT) under the Ministry of Skills Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) to train youth in digital and cybersecurity skills in India.

### KEY POINTS

- **The collaboration aims to enable 6,000 students and 200 educators at government-led Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and National Skills Training Institutions (NSTIs) with AI and cloud skills.**
- The training will also include courses on web development, Power BI, soft skills and CyberShiksha program for women.
- **The initiative was welcomed by Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Electronics and Information Technology of India, who said that it will help young Indians get better access to skills that are more relevant in this fast-changing digital age.**

## BOB LAUNCHES ICCW FACILITY FOR CASH WITHDRAWALS USING UPI ON ITS ATMS

**Current Context:** ICCW facility for cash withdrawals using UPI on BoB ATMs, this is a new and innovative service that allows customers to withdraw cash from Bank of Baroda ATMs without the need for a physical debit card.

### KEY FACTS

- **They just need to select the 'UPI cash withdrawal' option, enter the amount, scan the QR code displayed on the ATM screen with their UPI app, and authorize the transaction with their UPI PIN.**
- **This facility is secure, convenient and interoperable with other participating banks that use ICCW-enabled UPI apps.**
- Customers can avail of two transactions per day per account, with a limit of 5,000 per transaction.
- **This is a groundbreaking feature that makes banking more accessible and easy for customers.**

## KOTAK PRIVATE LAUNCHES RÉSERVE, A SAVINGS PROGRAMME FOR UHNIS AND HNIS

**Current Context:** Kotak Private Banking launching a new savings programme for the super rich, Kotak Réserve is a by-invite programme that offers exclusive lifestyle benefits in areas such as travel, health and wellness, and entertainment.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Some of the key offerings of Kotak Réserve include an **Epicure Privileged Membership by Taj, Lafayette Luxury Concierge services**, BookMyShow vouchers, preferential pricing on services, and the Kotak White Reserve credit card.
- The programme aims to deliver a premium banking experience by offering bespoke experiences to its UHNI and HNI clientele.

#### EPFO FORMED 3 COMMITTEES TO FRAME DRAFT SCHEMES FOR PF, PENSION AND INSURANCE

**Current Context:** EPFO stands for Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, which is a retirement fund body under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India. EPFO has formed three committees to frame draft schemes for pension, provident fund and insurance under the retirement fund body, in line with the provisions of the Social Security Code, 2020.

#### DETAILS

- The **Social Security Code, 2020** aims to amend and consolidate the existing labour laws relating to social security and extend social security benefits to all employees and workers irrespective of belonging to the organised as well as unorganised sector. **The three schemes are:**
  - Employee's Provident Fund Scheme (EPFS) for provident fund
  - Employee's Pension Scheme (EPS) for pension
  - Employees Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme (EDLIS) for insurance
- The committees are expected to submit the draft schemes to EPFO by **June 23, 2023**. The draft schemes should conform to the mandate and the contours of the Code.
- The committees may engage in deliberation with the officers/experts within or outside EPFO in this

process if required. The government of India will consider the draft schemes after they are submitted by EPFO.

#### HARYANA TO START CAMPAIGN FOR WASTE COLLECTION AND SEGREGATION AWARENESS

**Current Context:** Haryana's door-to-door waste collection and segregation campaign, this campaign is part of the state government's efforts to transform every city into a Clean City, Safe City.

#### KEY POINTS

- The campaign aims to raise awareness among the residents about the importance of waste management and to implement the **Mukhyamantri Shehri Nikay Swamitva Yojana**, which is a scheme to rectify property tax and property ID issues.
- The state government has also set a goal to implement door-to-door collection of garbage from one lakh houses in Sonipat and to produce energy and fertilizer from this waste material.
- The campaign is expected to improve the sanitation and hygiene of the cities and to reduce environmental pollution

#### GOOGLE PAY INTRODUCES UPI VERIFICATION THROUGH AADHAAR

**Current Context:** Google Pay has launched a new feature that enables users to register for Unified Payments Interface (UPI) using their Aadhaar number through the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

#### KEY FACTS

- This eliminates the need for a debit card and makes the process easier and faster. Users who want to activate UPI through Aadhaar should have a valid phone number linked to their bank and registered with the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
- They can enter the first 6 digits of their Aadhaar number and complete the UPI onboarding process through OTP verification.
- This feature is currently available for a few banks and more banks are expected to follow soon

## SIDBI SIGNS PACT WITH HDFC BANK TO OFFER FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS TO MSMEs

**Current Context:** SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) has signed a pact with HDFC Bank (Housing Development Finance Corporation) to offer financial solutions to MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises).

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The pact aims to provide complete financial products and services to MSME customers in a seamless manner.**
- This will enable MSMEs to avail financial products and services of both the banks. The pact was signed on June 6, 2023
- **MSMEs will benefit from this partnership by getting access to comprehensive financial products and services from both SIDBI and HDFC Bank.**
- This will help them in growing, developing and commercializing their businesses. **They will also get refinance support, discounting of bills, and funding support from SIDBI.**

## GALAXEYE SPACE TO LAUNCH WORLD'S 1ST MULTI-SENSOR EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE 'DRISHTI'

**Current Context:** GalaxEye is a space-tech startup incubated by IIT-Madras that is building the world's first multi-sensor earth observation satellite. The startup is using a visible spectrum camera that can provide synchronized imaging that can take multiple images at the same time.

### ABOUT

- The startup plans to launch its first satellite, Drishti Mission, in mid-2024. The satellite will use data fusion technology to produce images with extremely high resolution and perform all-weather imaging without atmospheric interference.
- **The startup aims to provide GeoAnalytics as a key tool for various industries. GalaxEye has also signed partnerships and commercial contracts with several leading organizations in the space tech ecosystem**

## INDIAN NAVY PARTNERS WITH QNU LABS TO PROCURE QUANTUM ENCRYPTION SYSTEMS

**Current Context:** a partnership between the Indian Navy and QNu Labs, a quantum cybersecurity provider. The partnership involves the procurement and deployment of Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) based systems, which are secure communication techniques using principles of quantum mechanics.

### DETAILS

- **The QKD systems will be used in a hub & spoke configuration across multiple locations to enhance data and communication security.**
- This is a landmark initiative that positions the Indian Navy as a pioneer in the field of quantum secure communication within the country.

## UP GOVT LAUNCHED "NAND BABA MILK MISSION" SCHEME & FAMILY ID PORTAL

**Current Context:** Nand Baba Milk Mission Scheme. It is a scheme launched by the Uttar Pradesh government on June 6, 2023 to boost the dairy sector and provide remunerative prices to the milk producers.

### KEY POINTS

- **Under this scheme, the government plans to set up five Dairy Farmer Producer Organisation (Dairy FPO) in five districts of the state as a pilot project, in which women will also play a major role.**
- The scheme has a budget of Rs 1,000 crore. The scheme also aims to facilitate sale of milk at a reasonable price in villages through dairy co-operative societies.
- **The scheme has been named after Nand Baba, who was the foster father of Lord Krishna and a symbol of cow protection**

## BCI SIGNS MOU WITH BAR COUNCIL OF ENGLAND & WALES

**Current Context:** The Bar Council of India (BCI) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Bar Council of England and Wales and the Law Society of England and Wales for an exchange programme of lawyers and law students for mutual exchange of training and learning among each other's jurisdiction.

### KEY FACTS

- **The MoU was signed on 5th June, 2023, at a meeting held in London attended by several delegates of BCI**, the Chairman of the Bar Council of India, the President of the Bar Council of England, and Wales as well as the President of the Law Society of England and Wales.
- Under the MoU, the Bar Council of India has been authorized to recommend some young lawyers to the Law Society and to the Bar Council of England & Wales to provide opportunities of training and learning in international law firms, good law offices and in English law courts.
- **The MoU further provides for extending training facilities to the solicitors & barristers of England and Wales.**

### J&K MAINTAINS FIRST RANK IN UT CATEGORY IN FOOD SAFETY INDEX 2022-23

**Current Context:** Jammu and Kashmir has maintained its first rank in the Union Territory (UT) category in Food Safety Index 2022-23.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Department of Food and Drugs Administration J&K has received the award third time in a row for 2021, 2022, and 2023.**
- The index is released annually by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to measure the performance of states and UTs on various parameters of food safety.

### NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RECENT ADVANCES IN SCHOOL EDUCATION

**Current Context:** National Conference on Recent Advances in School Education (RASE 2023) which is going to be held at Dr. B R Ambedkar National Institute of Technology in Jalandhar, the primary objective of the conference is to create an atmosphere for the implementation of NEP 2020.

#### ABOUT

- **The conference will also bring together leading academic scientists, researchers, research scholars and industry to exchange and share their experiences and research results about all aspects of School Education.**

- The conference was inaugurated by Shri Anurag Thakur, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports; and Minister of Information and Broadcasting on June 9, 2023.
- **He said that the National Education Policy aims to make education more inclusive, engaging and relevant for students.**
- He also stressed on the importance of 'Indianness' in education and said that NEP 2020 was not made by 'people in AC rooms' but by people who understand the ground realities.

### INDIA AND SERBIA AGREE TO SET BILATERAL TRADE OF 1 BILLION EUROS

**Current Context:** According to the Ministry of External Affairs, President Droupadi Murmu and her Serbian counterpart Aleksandar Vucic agreed to set a target for bilateral trade from the present 320 million euros to one billion euros by the end of the decade.

#### DETAILS

- They also discussed cooperation in various fields such as defence, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, information technology, culture and tourism.
- **President Vucic described Serbia's relationship with India as a fraternity and told President Murmu to consider Serbia as a second motherland.**

### META & MWCD LAUNCHED AMRIT GENERATION CAMPAIGN TO EMPOWER YOUTHS

**Current Context:** Meta (formerly known as Facebook) and Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) launched the Amrit Generation campaign to empower and engage the youth of India (age group of 16-18 years) to express their aspirations and dreams for the future.

#### KEY POINTS

- **The campaign starts from 8th June 2023. The campaign invites young people from across the country to showcase their creativity and share their aspirations by creating Reels on Instagram and Facebook using the hashtag (#) Amrit Generation.**

- Fifty entries from the campaign will be selected and invited to New Delhi for a unique opportunity to interact with senior policymakers and industry leaders.

## ICAI AND IBA TO SET UP A COMMON PLATFORM FOR BALANCE CONFIRMATIONS

**Current Context:** ICAI and IBA setting up a common platform for balance confirmations, this initiative is aimed at providing more transparency, efficiency and reducing auditing costs for chartered accountants and banks.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The platform will be jointly owned by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and will initially cover only public sector banks.**
- The platform will be developed and maintained by PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. (PSB Alliance), which will work with the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT).
- **The need for such a mechanism has been felt because there is no standardised process or format for obtaining balance confirmation from banks, which exposes auditors to risk and leads to scams such as the Satyam Computers case in 2009.**

## MADHYA PRADESH TO LAUNCH 'LADLI BAHNA' SCHEME

**Current Context:** Ladli Bahna scheme announced by Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan. It is a scheme to provide financial assistance of Rs 1,000 per month to women aged between 23-60 years who are not income tax payees and whose families' annual income is below Rs 2.5 lakh.

### KEY FACTS

- **The scheme aims to empower women socially and economically and improve their health and nutrition.**
- The scheme was launched on March 5, 2023 on the CM's 65th birthday and the first installment was transferred to 1.25 crore women on June 10, 2023.
- **The CM has hinted at increasing the amount to Rs 3,000 depending on the state's finances.**

## UNION MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING & WATERWAYS SARBANANDA SONOWAL LAUNCHED 'SAGAR SAMRIDHI'

**Current Context:** Sagar Samridhi is an online dredging monitoring system that was launched by the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways on June 9, 2023. It is aimed at tightening the monitoring regime for dredging contracts and also focus on monetising dredged material.

### ABOUT

- **It is part of the government's efforts to expedite the 'Waste to Wealth' initiative. The system has been developed by National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC), the technological arm of MoPSW.**
- The system will help in project implementation and cut costs by providing real-time dredging reports, daily and monthly progress visualisation, dredger performance and downtime monitoring, and location track data.

## INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SIGNS A MOU WITH AMAZON KISAN

**Current Context:** Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Amazon Kisan, they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 8th June 2023 to collaborate on guiding the farmers on scientific cultivation of different crops for optimum yield and income.

### DETAILS

- ICAR will provide technological backstopping to the farmers through Amazon's network, while Amazon will provide training support and assist farmers in marketing their produce through its online platform.
- **This partnership aims to improve farmers' livelihood and boost crop yield, as well as to ensure access to high-quality fresh produce for consumers across India, including through Amazon Fresh.**



## INDIA, FRANCE, AND UAE CONCLUDE SUCCESSFUL TRILATERAL MARITIME EXERCISE

**Current Context:** India, France, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) successfully concluded their first trilateral maritime exercise in the Gulf of Oman on June 8. The two-day exercise, which began on June 7, involved the participation of naval assets from all three countries.

### KEY POINTS

- **The exercise was aimed at enhancing maritime security and interoperability among the participating nations.**
- The exercise witnessed a wide spectrum of naval operations such as Surface Warfare, involving tactical firing and Drills for Missile engagements on surface targets, Helicopter Cross Deck Landing Operations, gunnery exercises, seamanship drills, Advanced Air Defence Exercises and Boarding operations.
- **The exercise also included cross-embarkation of personnel for the exchange of best practices**

## INDIA ARMY SIGNED ITS 2ND PROCUREMENT CONTRACT WITH ASTROME TECH PVT LTD

**Current Context:** The Indian Army has signed a contract with Astrome Tech Pvt Ltd for procurement of indigenously developed 'Tactical LAN Radio' through Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) on 09 June 2023. This is the second procurement contract through iDEX signed by Army.

### KEY FACTS

- **'Tactical LAN Radio' is a state-of-the-art high bandwidth backhaul wireless radio equipment for provisioning of reliable and failsafe communication.**
- The solution offers an enhanced range of communication and embedded frequency hopping mechanism to preclude chances of interception and long-range point-to-multipoint high-bandwidth communication.
- **The system also incorporates enhanced safety features and can operate continuously for 48 hours on a single set basis without any breakdown**

## UNION MINISTER SARBANANDA SONOWAL FLAGGED OFF MV EMPRESS

**Current Context:** Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off the maiden International Cruise Vessel - MV Empress, India's first international cruise vessel - from Chennai to Sri Lanka in Chennai on June 5, 2023.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **This marks the beginning of the international cruise tourism terminal at Chennai, built at a cost of 17.21 crores.**
- The cruise service is expected to boost the business of cruise tourism in the region and provide a world class experience to the passengers
- **The facilities on board MV Empress include luxurious amenities, entertainment and breathtaking views. The tour packages on board MV Empress will be offered for 2, 3, 4 and 5 nights**

## CENTRE TAKES 5 SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS FOR STRENGTHENING PRIMARY AGRICULTURAL CREDIT SOCIETIES

**Current Context:** The government has taken five more important decisions revolving around PACS. These decisions were taken in a meeting between the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya in New Delhi on June 8, 2023.

### ABOUT

- PACS which are not functioning as fertilizer retailers will be identified and encouraged to function as retailers on the basis of feasibility in a phased manner.
- PACS which is not currently functioning as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhi Kendras (PMKSK) will be brought under the ambit of PMKSK.
- PACS will be connected with the marketing of organic fertilizers, especially fermented organic manure (FoM) or liquid fermented

organic manure (LFOM) or phosphate-enriched organic manure (PROM).

- PACS can also be employed as drone entrepreneurs for spraying fertilizers and pesticides. Drones can also be used for the survey of the property.
- Under the Market Development Assistance (MDA) scheme of the Department of Fertilizers, fertilizer companies will act as an aggregator for small bio-organic producers to market the end product, in this supply and marketing chain of bio-organic fertilizers PACS will also be included as wholesalers/retailers
- **A Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS) is a basic unit and the smallest cooperative credit institution in India.** There are about one lakh Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Societies present across the country

## GOVERNMENT OF INDIA CONSTITUTES PEACE COMMITTEE IN MANIPUR

**Current Context:** The Government of India has constituted a Peace Committee in Manipur under the Chairpersonship of Governor, Manipur. The members of the committee include Chief Minister, a few Ministers in the State Government, MP, MLAs and leaders from different political parties.

### DETAILS

- **The Committee also includes former civil servants, educationists, litterateurs, artists, social workers and representatives of different ethnic groups.**
- The mandate of the Committee will be to facilitate peace making process among various ethnic groups of the State, including peaceful dialogue and negotiations between conflicting parties/groups.
- **The Committee should strengthen social cohesiveness, mutual understanding and facilitate cordial communication between various ethnic groups.**
- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah had visited the state of Manipur during 29th May 2023 to 1st June 2023 and had announced constitution of Peace Committee after taking stock of the situation

## PM NARENDRA MODI INAUGURATED THE FIRST-EVER NATIONAL TRAINING CONCLAVE

**Current Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first-ever National Training Conclave at the International Exhibition and Convention Centre in Delhi's Pragati Maidan on Sunday.

### KEY POINTS

- **The conclave is an initiative by the government to strengthen the training infrastructure for civil servants across the country.**
- It is also a part of the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB) – 'Mission Karmayogi' which was launched to prepare a future-ready civil service with the right attitude, skills and knowledge
- **The conclave aims to foster collaboration among civil services training institutes and generate actionable solutions and comprehensive strategies for capacity building.**

## SBM BANK INDIA LAUNCHES WORLD ELITE METAL DEBIT CARD

**Current Context:** SBM Bank India has launched the SBM World Elite Metal Debit Card in collaboration with Mastercard on June 7, 2023. It is an on-request gateway to a world of luxury for the uber-affluent Indian.

### KEY FACTS

- The card is designed and being offered exclusively to SBM Private customers. It offers a range of specially curated travel programmes, lifestyle, and luxury benefits such as:
  - Access to 500 luxury hotels, resorts and Michelin-star restaurants globally, including Taj Epicure.
  - Unlimited complimentary airport lounge access globally.
  - Cash withdrawals at any ATM, any number of times, at no extra cost
  - Access to the finest health advisors, and coordinators, a network of more than

50,000 of the world's leading medical experts

- VIP access to 46 premium golf clubs and golf programs across 12 countries.

- **The card is valid for a period of 5 years from the date of issue**

## KARNATAKA CM SIDDARAMAIAH LAUNCHES GOVERNMENT'S FLAGSHIP SCHEME SHAKTI

**Current Context:** SchemeShakti is a free travel scheme for women and transgenders in Karnataka, launched by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on June 11, 2023.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The scheme allows women and transgenders to travel for free in government buses within the state.
- **The scheme is expected to benefit more than 41.8 lakh women passengers every day and cost the state exchequer an estimated Rs 4,051.56 crore annually.**
- The scheme is one of the five guarantees promised by the Congress ahead of the assembly elections

## ADB TO FUND USD 130 MILLION LOAN FOR HORTICULTURE IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

**Current Context:** The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a loan agreement worth \$130 million on June 08, 2023 to increase agricultural productivity, improve access to irrigation and promote horticulture agribusinesses to raise farmers' income in Himachal Pradesh.

### ABOUT

- **The project will help increase the income and resilience to the effects of climate change of at least 15,000 farm households across 7 districts of the state namely Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, Sirmour, Solan, and Una.**
- The project will improve on-farm irrigation and water management in about 6,000 hectares of farmland by rehabilitating or building new irrigation schemes and strengthening the capacity of water user associations for micro irrigation management.

- **The project will also help create an ecosystem to enhance farmers' access to markets of subtropical horticulture by organizing them into cluster-wide and district-wide community horticulture production and marketing associations and a state-level farmer producer company.**

## MADHYA PRADESH TO TRANSFER RS 6423 CRORE IN BANK ACCOUNTS OF FARMERS

**Current Context:** Madhya Pradesh's Kisan-Kalyan Mahakumbh, this is a programme organized by the state government to transfer Rs 6,423 crore in the bank accounts of farmers as relief funds against crop loss.

### DETAILS

- **The programme will be attended by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan at the Mohanpura Dam in Rajgarh district today.**
- They will also inaugurate the Mohanpura-Kundalia Pressurized Pipe Irrigation System Project built at a cost of Rs 8,481 crore.
- **This project is one of the largest in the world and will benefit lakhs of farmers.**

## KOTAK LIFE & DGR SIGNED MOU

**Current Context:** DGR and Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Limited, MoU was signed on 12 June, 2023 in New Delhi to generate employment opportunities for ex-servicemen of the Defence Services.

### KEY POINTS

- **The MoU aims to bring the corporate companies and ex-servicemen on a common platform and provide skilled manpower and a dignified second career to the veterans.**
- MoU will help in achieving the objectives of providing skilled manpower and fulfilling the corporate social responsibility of the private sector.

## GLOBAL SLAVERY INDEX 2023: WITH 11 MILLION FORCED LABOURERS INDIA TOPS

**Current Context:** According to the Global Slavery Index 2023, India tops the list of G20 nations with 11 million people working as forced laborers. The number of people living in conditions of modern slavery has increased by 25% over the last 5 years, reaching 50 million people.

#### KEY FACTS

- Modern slavery refers to situations of exploitation that a person cannot refuse or leave because of threats, violence, coercion, deception, or abuses of power.
- **It includes forced labour, forced marriage, debt bondage, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, slavery-like practices, and the sale and exploitation of children.**

#### RING PARTNERS WITH NPCI TO INTEGRATE UPI PLUG-IN

**Current Context:** partnership between RING and NPCI, RING is a digital credit platform that has integrated the UPI Plug-in functionality into its services.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- This will allow RING users to create a UPI ID and link it to their bank accounts, and make UPI payments by scanning any merchant's QR code.
- **This will also help RING acquire new customers who use UPI as a preferred mode of payment.**

#### SECOND SUMMIT OF SUPREME AUDIT INSTITUTIONS OF G20 COUNTRIES

**Current Context:** Meeting of the Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) of the G20 countries that took place in Goa on June 12-13, 2023. The summit was chaired by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, Shri Girish Chandra Murmu.

#### DETAILS

- **The main topics of discussion were the Blue Economy and Responsible Artificial Intelligence, which are the new-age opportunities and concerns for sustainable development.**
- The summit also adopted the SAI20 Communique, which is an action-oriented document that reflects the collective vision and

commitment of the SAIs to audit the national priorities in the G20 countries

- **The theme of the SAI20 summit was Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, which means "the world as one earth, one family and one future".**

#### PNB LAUNCHES IVR-BASED UPI PAY123

**Current Context:** PNB has launched an IVR-based UPI solution, UPI123 PAY, in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

#### ABOUT

- **It is a service that allows users of feature phones to make secure and real-time payments using the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) without internet.**
- Users can initiate transactions by calling an IVR number and entering their UPI PIN. The service is also available in multiple regional languages

#### RBI GOVERNOR SHAKTIKANTA DAS LAUNCHED FINANCIAL INCLUSION DASHBOARD ANTARDRISHTI

**Current Context:** RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das launched a financial inclusion dashboard named 'Antardrishti' on June 5th 2023. The dashboard will provide the required insight to assess and monitor the progress of financial inclusion by capturing relevant parameters such as access, usage and quality of financial services.

#### KEY POINTS

- **This tool will also make it possible to assess the degree of financial exclusion at a local level across the nation so that such areas can be addressed.**
- The dashboard, presently intended for internal use in the RBI, will further facilitate greater financial inclusion through a multi-stakeholder approach

#### NSE, MAHARASHTRA GOVT & MONEYBEE INSTITUTE SIGN MOU

**Current Context:** This MoU is about a tri-partite agreement between the National Stock Exchange (NSE), the Higher and

Technical Education Department (HTED) of the Maharashtra government, and the Moneybee Institute.

#### KEY FACTS

- The agreement aims to enhance financial literacy and protect investors by providing them with relevant and practical knowledge about capital market investments.
- **The agreement was signed by Devendra Fadnavis, the deputy chief minister of Maharashtra, Ashishkumar Chauhan, the MD & CEO of NSE, and Shivani Dani Wakhare, the director of Moneybee Institute.**

#### MP CM INAUGURATED MUKHYAMANTRI LADLI BEHNA YOJNA'S FUND TRANSFER

**Current Context:** Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojna. This is a welfare scheme launched by the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on March 15, 2023. Under this scheme, eligible women will get 1,000 monthly assistance.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The scheme aims to reach out to one crore women in the state for which a provision of ₹ 8,000 crore has been made in the annual Budget of 2023.**
- The process of accepting applications for the scheme began on March 5, 2023 and the final list of beneficiaries was published on May 31, 2023.
- The scheme's benefits started from June 10, 2023 and the amount is credited to the accounts on the 10th of every month.
- **On June 12, 2023, Chouhan inaugurated the fund transfer of the scheme with a single click in Jabalpur and called it a milestone towards women's empowerment.**

#### FINO PAYMENTS BANK JOINS HUBBLE MONEY TO INTRODUCE SPENDING ACCOUNT

**Current Context:** A partnership between Fino Payments Bank and Hubble, a fintech startup backed by Sequoia Capital.

#### ABOUT

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest June 2023

- **They have launched India's first spending account, which allows customers to save money in the account, earn up to 10% cashback on all purchases they make from the account, and track their expenses across categories of over 50 brands that Hubble has partnered with.**
- The spending account is integrated with Fino Bank's digital savings account, accessible through its mobile app FinoPay.
- **Users also earn an interest rate of 2.75% per annum on their parked funds.**

#### SEBI INTRODUCES FRAMEWORK FOR DIRECT MUTUAL FUND INVESTMENT PLATFORMS

**Current Context:** SEBI has introduced a regulatory framework for Execution Only Platforms (EOPs) for facilitating transactions in direct plans of schemes of mutual funds. The core idea is to protect the interest of investors dealing in units of direct plans of mutual fund schemes.

#### DETAILS

- The EOPs allow transactions in direct plans of mutual funds without the help of distributors.
- **SEBI has issued various guidelines and eligibility criteria for EOPs, such as registration, disclosure, grievance redressal, etc.**
- The framework was introduced on December 20, 2022 and will be effective from April 1, 2023.

#### IFS LAUNCHES THE REVAMPED WEBSITE OF PPPININDIA & ONLINE PORTALS

**Current Context:** IFS stands for Infrastructure Finance Secretariat, which is a division under the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, Government of India. PPPININDIA is the website of Public Private Partnerships in India, which provides key information related to PPP initiatives in India and shares PPP best practices.

#### KEY POINTS

- **IIPDF stands for India Infrastructure Project Development Fund Scheme, which is a scheme for providing financial support for project development expenses of PPP projects.**
- The web search results also indicate that the IFS has launched the revamped website of

PPPININDIA and online portals for IIPDF on 14th June 2023.

- **The IIPDF Portal allows submitting applications for consideration under IIPDF Scheme online.**

## TATA STEEL SIGNS MOU WITH GERMANY'S SMS GROUP TO CUT CARBON EMISSIONS

**Current Context:** Tata Steel Limited and Germany's SMS group have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on decarbonisation of steel making process.

### KEY FACTS

- **The companies will conduct a joint industrial demonstration of the EASyMelt technology, developed by SMS group, at a blast furnace in Tata Steel's Jamshedpur plant with an objective to reduce CO2 emission by more than 50% from blast furnace's baseline operation.**
- Tata Steel has set a goal of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2045

## HIMACHAL CM COMMENCED ONLINE PORTAL OF NURSES COUNCIL

**Current Context:** The online portal of the Himachal Pradesh Nurses Registration Council (HPNRC) was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on June 14, 2023.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The portal is a revolutionary initiative that aims to provide online services to the nurses and nursing institutions in the state.**
- The portal will enable online registration, renewal, verification and transfer of nurses and nursing institutions.
- **The portal will also facilitate online examination, result declaration and issuance of certificates.**
- The portal is expected to improve the quality and efficiency of nursing education and practice in Himachal Pradesh.

## MAX LIFE INSURANCE LAUNCHED NON-LINKED LIFE INSURANCE SAVINGS PLAN

**Current Context:** Max Life Insurance Smart Wealth Advantage Growth Par Plan is a new product launched by Max Life Insurance Company on June 8, 2023. It is a non-linked participating individual life insurance savings plan that offers financial protection and savings accumulation for individuals.

### DETAILS

- **Some of the features of this plan are:**
  - It offers early liquidity from the first policy year.
  - It provides increased protection benefits, extra benefits on maturity to women, and discounts on premiums to transgender customers.
  - It allows customers to choose from four fund options - Equity Advantage Fund, Balanced Advantage Fund, Debt Advantage Fund and Secure Advantage Fund.
  - It gives customers the flexibility to switch between funds, redirect future premiums and withdraw partially.
  - It also provides bonuses based on the performance of the participating fund.

## INDIA-BANGLADESH BORDER TO UNDERTAKE 5 DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS

**Current Context:** Border Security Force (BSF) and its Bangladeshi counterpart Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) have agreed to undertake five developmental projects each on their side of the border.

### ABOUT

- **The projects include building infrastructure like roads, bridges, schools, retaining walls and power supply works.**
- The decision was taken during the border coordination conference that concluded on Wednesday.
- **The two border forces described the decision as a "momentous" one, saying that it will positively impact the lives of the border residents and further bolster India-Bangladesh relations, including trade ties.**

## TAMIL NADU CHIEF MINISTER LAUNCHES FINTECH CITY AND TOWER PROJECTS

**Current Context:** Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin launched the Fintech City and Tower projects in Chennai on June 17, 2023. These projects aim to establish the state as a global FinTech hub by attracting investments and creating jobs in the financial technology sector.

### KEY FACTS

- **The Fintech City will span 56 acres and have an investment potential of 12,000 crore, while the Fintech Tower will have a built-up area of 5.6 lakh sq ft and cost 254 crore.**
- The projects are expected to create about 90,000 job opportunities jointly.

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TO HOST G20 4TH EDUCATION WORKING GROUP MEETING

**Current Context:** The G-20 4th Education Working Group Meeting that will be held in Pune, India. According to the official website of G-201, the Ministry of Education of India is hosting the event from June 20th to 21st, 2023.

### KEY POINTS

- **The meeting will be attended by 85 delegates from G-20 member countries, guest countries and organizations such as OECD, UNESCO and UNICEF.**
- The meeting will focus on topics such as foundational literacy and numeracy, accessible science, and research collaborations.
- **The meeting will be followed by a gathering of Education Ministers from 15 countries on June 22, 2023.**

## TRSL-BHEL INKS CONTRACT WITH INDIAN RAILWAYS

**Current Context:** TRSL-BHEL consortium that has won the contract with Indian Railways to manufacture 80 Vande Bharat sleeper train sets by 2029. The estimated value of the contract is Rs 24,000 crore.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **This is the first time Indian Railways has awarded a contract of this value to an Indian consortium for design and manufacturing of complete train sets and maintenance for 35 years.**
- The TRSL-BHEL consortium was the only AatmaNirbhar consortium that participated in the tender process.
- **The Vande Bharat trains are designed to achieve speeds of 160 kilometres per hour.**

## GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES SOVEREIGN GOLD BOND SCHEME 2023-24

**Current Context:** Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2023-24. This is a scheme launched by the Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, to issue bonds that are linked to the price of gold.

### DETAILS

- **The scheme aims to provide an alternative to buying physical gold and to reduce the demand for imported gold.**

**The scheme also offers some benefits to investors, such as:**

- The bonds are issued in denominations of one gram of gold and multiples thereof.
- The bonds have a tenor of eight years with an option of premature redemption after fifth year.
- The bonds carry an interest rate of 2.5% per annum payable half-yearly.
- The bonds are exempt from capital gains tax if held till maturity.
- The bonds can be traded on stock exchanges or transferred to other eligible investors.
- The bonds can be used as collateral for loans.
- The first tranche of the scheme is open for subscription from June 19 to 23, 2023, at Rs. 5,926 per gram.

- Online subscribers are also eligible for a discount of Rs. 50 per gram. The second tranche will run from September 11 to 15, 2023

## MOTILAL OSWAL AMC LAUNCHES INDIA'S FIRST-EVER NIFTY MICROCAP 250 INDEX FUND

**Current Context:** Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company (MOAMC) has launched Motilal Oswal Nifty Microcap 250 Index Fund, which is India's only passive fund offering exposure to microcap stocks.

### ABOUT

- The fund will replicate the performance of the Nifty Microcap 250 Index, which measures the performance of the top 250 companies excluding those already present in the Nifty 500 constituents.
- The fund aims to provide investors with an opportunity to participate in the growth potential of microcap stocks, which have historically offered higher returns than large, mid and small-caps, albeit with much higher risk.
- The new fund offer period for the fund commenced on June 15 and will close on June 29. The minimum application amount for lump sum and systematic investment plan (SIP) will be Rs 500

## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (MOD) & ICOMM TELE SIGNED CONTRACT

**Current Context:** Contract signed by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and ICOMM Tele for the procurement of Radio Relay Communication equipment containers, this contract is worth nearly Rs 500 crore and it will help to strengthen the Indian Army's communication system.

### KEY FACTS

- The Radio Relay Containers will provide a protected environment for communication equipment to function in a failsafe and reliable manner.
- The containers will be mounted on authorized specialist vehicles and moved as per operational requirements.
- The contract is under the Buy (Indian) Category and it will boost the indigenous manufacturing of defence equipment and exports to friendly countries.

## ASSAM LAUNCH WEBPORTAL TO CHECK ILLEGAL CATTLE TRANSPORTATION

**Current Context:** The Assam Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department has launched a web portal for cattle transportation to prevent the illegal transportation of cattle.

### KEY POINTS

- The web portal was launched on June 16, 2023 by Assam Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Minister Atul Bora.
- Livestock farmers and cattle traders can obtain permits required for inter-state transportation of cattle through the website [ahvd-cattletrans.assam.gov.in](http://ahvd-cattletrans.assam.gov.in).
- This system is prepared under the Assam Cattle Preservation Act, 2021.

## PRIME MINISTER MODI PROPOSES G-20 MEMBERSHIP FOR AFRICAN UNION

**Current Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has written to the leaders of the G20 nations proposing that the African Union be given full membership of the grouping at its upcoming summit in India, official sources said on Saturday.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The prime minister has taken a "bold step" to enhance Africa's voice on the international stage and in shaping the future of "our shared world", they said.
- The African Union (AU) is a continental body consisting of 55 member states.
- India is hosting the G20 summit in Delhi in September in its capacity as the current chair of the grouping.

## ARUNACHAL PRADESH CM LAUNCHES APP CALLED 'ARUNPOL APP'

**Current Context:** Arunpol App, is a mobile application launched by the Arunachal Pradesh Police for the safety and security of its citizens and tourists.

### DETAILS

- The app provides online services like lodging of lost reports, police clearance certificates, missing



reports, servant verification, tenant verification, complaints of women and children, complaints against the police, vital contact numbers, helpline numbers, vehicle towing details, etc.

- **The app also has an emergency feature that allows users to reach out to the police in case of any distress situation.** The app was launched by Chief Minister Pema Khandu on June 15, 2023.

## NITI AAYOG, UN SIGN THE GOI-UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK 2023-2027

**Current Context:** NITI Aayog and the United Nations in India signed the Government of India - United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027 on June 16, 2023.

### ABOUT

- **The GoI-UNSCDF is the collective commitment of the UN Development System in India, in support of the India's achievement of Agenda 2030, and the principle of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas.**
- The GoI-UNSCDF is built on four strategic pillars derived from the 2030 Agenda – People, Prosperity, Planet and Participation.
- **The framework will also focus on SDG localisation and South-South cooperation, showcasing Indian models of development globally.**

## BIHAR TO HOST TWO DAYS G-20 LABOUR ENGAGEMENT SUMMIT

**Current Context:** G-20 Labour Engagement summit is a two-day event that will be held in Patna, the capital city of Bihar, on 22nd and 23rd June.

### KEY FACTS

- **The summit will witness the participation of around 250 delegates from G-20 member countries and guest countries.**
- The summit will focus on the issues of labour and skill in various sectors such as agriculture, energy, employment, environment and others.
- **The summit will also showcase Bihar's initiatives and reforms in different sectors as well as its rich arts, culture and heritage.**

## GOOGLE LAUNCHES INDIAN LANGUAGES PROGRAM TO SUPPORT LOCAL NEWS PUBLISHERS

**Current Context:** Google has launched the Indian Languages Program under the Google News Initiative (GNI) to provide training, technical support, and funding to small and medium-sized news organisations that produce original news in nine languages, including English, Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Bengali, Malayalam, Gujarati, and Marathi.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The program aims to empower publishers with various tools and best practices to enhance their user experience and revenue generation on the web.**
- The program offers a range of support including training, technical help, and funding to local news publishers in India
- **The application window for the program is open until June 30, 2023.**

## SPACEX DEPLOYED INDONESIAN COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE 'SATRIA-1' IN ORBIT

**Current Context:** SpaceX has successfully deployed Indonesia's new communications satellite SATRIA-1 into orbit on Sunday, June 18.

### KEY POINTS

- **The satellite will provide free internet connection to 150,000 public facilities in Indonesia, including schools, regional government offices and health facilities.**
- It will also have a throughput capacity of 150 billion bits per second, which is three times the capacity of the nine telecommunication satellites that Indonesia currently uses
- **It will improve public services, especially in terms of digital transformation through digital public service malls.**

## INDIAN ARMY CONTINGENT PARTICIPATES IN MULTINATIONAL PEACEKEEPING JOINT EXERCISE

**Current Context:** Indian Army Contingent participating in the multinational peacekeeping Joint Exercise Ex Khaan Quest

2023 in Mongolia, the exercise is co-sponsored by Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF) and United States Army Pacific Command (USARPAC) and features participation from military contingents and observers from over 20 countries.

#### DETAILS

- **The exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability of the participating nations, sharing experience, and training uniformed personnel for the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKO).**
- The exercise will prepare participants for future UN Peacekeeping missions, develop peace operations capabilities and enhance military readiness
- **The exercise includes Command Post Exercise (CPX), Field Training Exercises (FTX), combat discussions, lectures and demonstration.**
- The Indian Army is represented by a contingent from the Garhwal Rifles. The 14-day exercise commenced on June 19 and will conclude on July 2

#### NHPC & KSEB SIGNED MOU TO SET UP DESIGN CLINIC

**Current Context:** NHPC Limited and KSEB Limited signed an MoU on 16th June 2023 for setting up a Design Clinic that will provide consultancy services to KSEB Ltd. as its Owner's Engineer for vetting of design of ongoing and future projects of KSEB Ltd.

#### ABOUT

- **The MoU was signed by Sh. Rajat Gupta, Executive Director (SBD&C), NHPC and Sh. Radhakrishnan G, Director (Generation- Civil), KSEB Limited.**
- The MoU aims to accelerate the development of the hydroelectric potential of the state in a cost-effective and environmentally friendly manner.
- **NHPC has agreed to share its technical prowess and expertise with KSEB for reviewing and vetting the design of hydel projects.**

#### ITI LTD SIGNS MOU WITH TCIL AND C-DOT TO DEVELOP PRODUCTS

**Current Context:** ITI Limited, a state-owned telecommunications firm, has signed a tripartite MoU with C-DOT and TCIL to synergize R&D initiatives in the field of telecommunications aimed at establishing a framework for cooperation in creation and delivery of innovative

telecommunication products and related services for Smart Cities.

#### DETAILS

- **The MoU was exchanged on June 19, 2023 in the presence of Mr. Uma Shanker Pandey, Member(S), DOT, Mr. Mukesh Mangal, DDG (SA-II), DOT, Mr. B. K. Nath, DDG (SU), DOT, Dr. Pankaj Dalela, Director, C-DOT, and other senior officers.**
- The nature of work under the cooperative program shall include ensuring smooth conceptualization, procuring, supply, installation, commissioning and maintenance of C-DOT designed products and any third party product if required for the projects to be identified jointly by the parties.
- **The nature of work also includes marketing and pursuing Smart Cities related opportunities in India and abroad, ensuring technical compliance of the products to meet customer requirements, manufacturing and delivery of identified products and extending repair support as required by the customer.**
- **The collaboration would create an ecosystem capable of delivering end-to-end indigenous telecom networks/solutions.**

#### JHARKHAND CM HEMANT SOREN LAUNCHES PANCHAYAT LEVEL MEDICINE SHOP SCHEME

**Current Context:** Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren launched the state government's ambitious panchayat-level drugs shop scheme, aimed at making essential medicines available in remote areas.

#### KEY POINTS

- **He inaugurated the scheme in Chatra district by handing over licences to three persons for operating the medicine shops in panchayats.**
- A total of 15 people have been selected for licences in the district so far. The CM also laid foundation of 177 projects worth around Rs 364 crore for Chatra district. He inaugurated 42 projects to the tune of nearly Rs 14.6 crore on the occasion.

#### AIRBNB & MINISTRY OF TOURISM SIGNED MOU

**Current Context:** Airbnb signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, to promote India as a most sought-after high potential tourism destination and shine a spotlight on its rich cultural heritage.

#### KEY FACTS

- **The MoU was signed on June 19, 2023** in the presence of **Shri G. Kishan Reddy**, Union Tourism Minister, Government of India, Ms. V. Vidyavathi, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Shri Rakesh Kumar Verma, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, and Amanpreet Bajaj, General Manager, Airbnb India, Southeast Asia, Hong Kong and Taiwan.
- **The MoU aims to underscore the cultural significance of India's heritage properties and encourage travellers to embark on immersive journeys through the country's diverse heritage.**
- One of the key elements of the MoU is the launch of the exclusive 'Soul of India' microsite that showcases an array of heritage stays across the country.

#### UNION BANK OF INDIA LAUNCHED FOUR BANK ACCOUNT SCHEMES

**Current Context:** Union Bank of India, the bank has introduced four niche bank account schemes targeting women, women entrepreneurs and professionals, pensioners and cooperative housing societies.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The schemes are:

- **Union Shakti:** A savings account for women with benefits such as free debit card, free personal accident insurance cover, free RTGS/NEFT transactions and preferential interest rates on loans.
- **Union Professional:** A current account for professionals such as doctors, lawyers, chartered accountants, architects etc. with benefits such as free cheque book, free demand drafts, free SMS alerts and overdraft facility.
- **Union Pensioner:** A savings account for pensioners with benefits such as free debit card, free personal accident insurance cover, free locker facility for one year and doorstep banking services.

- **Union CHS:** A current account for cooperative housing societies with benefits such as free cheque book, free RTGS/NEFT transactions, free SMS alerts and cash management services.
- **These schemes are aimed at providing customized banking solutions to different segments of customers and enhancing their convenience and satisfaction**

#### INDIA, PHILIPPINES SIGN MOU ON FINTECH COOPERATION

**Current Context:** India and Philippines have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Financial Technology (fintech) cooperation on June 19, 2023. The MOU was signed by Shambhu S. Kumaran, Ambassador of India to the Philippines and Benjamin E Diokno, Secretary, Department of Finance (DOF).

#### ABOUT

- **The MOU aims to establish a Joint Working Group (JWG) co-chaired by the undersecretaries of the Ministries of Finance, and comprising senior representatives from Foreign and IT Ministries, Central Banks, financial sector regulatory institutions and other related agencies as members.**
- The JWG would identify concrete measures for partnership in innovative technologies; fintech industry, digital governance; payment linkages; creation of interoperable APIs; financial inclusion and other related areas.
- **The MOU would enable the Philippines to adopt the best practices from India in digital payments, direct benefit transfer using national ID and financial inclusion.**

#### GLOBAL GENDER GAP INDEX 2023

**Current Context:** According to the Global Gender Gap Report 2023 published by the World Economic Forum, India ranks 127th out of 146 countries in terms of gender equality, with a score of 60.8%.

#### DETAILS

- **India still lags behind its neighbors such as Bangladesh (65th), Nepal (95th), Sri Lanka (99th) and Pakistan (124th).**

- The report measures gender parity across four areas: economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival and political empowerment.
- India performs poorly in all four areas, especially in economic participation and opportunity, where it ranks 146th.
- **Iceland tops the list for the 14th consecutive year, with a score of 91.2%. Iceland has closed almost all of its gender gaps in political empowerment, educational attainment and health and survival.**

## UNDP PARTNERED WITH DAY-NULM TO EMPOWER WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

**Current Context:** Collaborative partnership between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) aimed at empowering women to make well-informed career choices in the field of entrepreneurship.

### KEY POINTS

- **The partnership will provide support for women looking to start and expanding their own enterprises, particularly in sectors such as care economy, digital economy, electric mobility, waste management, food packaging and more.**
- The project will cover eight cities in the initial phase and will run for three years with the possibility of extension beyond 2025.
- **It is a great initiative to foster entrepreneurship development and accelerate enterprise growth among women.**

## NORTH INDIA'S FIRST SKIN BANK INAUGURATED AT NEW DELHI'S

**Current Context:** It is a great achievement for the medical field and a boon for the patients who need skin grafting, this is the first skin bank in North India and the 17th in the country. The skin bank was inaugurated on June 20, 2023 by the medical superintendent of Safdarjung Hospital, Dr BL Sherwal.

### KEY FACTS

- The skin bank will allow deceased donors to donate their skin within six hours of death, which will be

processed and stored for three to five years and then provided to needy patients.

- **The donated skin will help in treating burns, skin infections, skin cancer, skin ulcers and other wounds.**
- It will also reduce the mortality rate, increase the survival rate, **improve the healing outcomes, lessen the hospital stay and the overall cost of treatment for the patients.**
- The head of the department of burns and plastic surgery of Safdarjung Hospital, Dr Shalabh Kumar, said that **till now they had to transport skin from Southern India to treat serious patients but with a skin bank in Delhi, this will no longer be required.**

## UP GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES 'POLYTECHNIC CHALO ABHIYAN'

**Current Context:** 'Polytechnic Chalo Abhiyan'. It is a campaign launched by the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh on June 16, 2023 to promote technical education among youth and create employment opportunities for them.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The campaign aims to enroll lakhs of youth in government, aided, and private polytechnic institutes every year.**
- The state government has also increased the number of seats and granted funds for the campaign

## INDIAN ARMY CONDUCTED EXERCISE AGNEYASTRA 1 IN EASTERN LADAKH

**Current Context:** The Indian Army has conducted a massive military exercise called Agneyastra 1 in eastern Ladakh on June 19, 2023. The exercise showcased the prowess of the Indian Army with participation from all arms and services.

### DETAILS

- **It involved various artillery platforms, such as the K-9 Vajra-T self-propelled howitzer, the FH-77 Bofors towed howitzer and mortars.** It also used anti-tank missiles and Carl Gustav rocket launchers to demonstrate firepower supremacy.
- The exercise also featured the use of IdeaForge's Switch UAV, which is a made-in-India drone that can provide real-time imagery of the battlefield.
- **The exercise was aimed at enhancing the operational readiness and deterrence capability of**

the Indian Army in the eastern Ladakh sector, where it is facing a standoff with China for the third year.

**Current Context:** Brand Bengaluru is a portal launched by the Karnataka government to seek public suggestions on Bengaluru development.

## DIRECTORATE GENERAL RESETTLEMENT (DGR) SIGNS MOU WITH ADECCO LTD

**Current Context:** Directorate General Resettlement (DGR) under Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, Ministry of Defence signed an MoU with Adecco India Private Limited on June 21, 2023.

### ABOUT

- The aim of this MoU is to bring the corporate companies and the Ex-Servicemen on a common platform to generate employment opportunities for Ex-Servicemen in various sectors such as IT, E-Commerce, Logistics, Telecom, Aerospace & Defence, etc.
- This is a commendable initiative to provide a dignified second career to the Ex-Servicemen of the Defence Services.

## BEL & HFCL SIGNED MOU TO LEVERAGE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

**Current Context:** Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a multi-Unit, multi-technology, multi-product Navratna Defence PSU, and HFCL Limited (HFCL), a leading technology enterprise and provider of next-generation communication products, have signed a two-year, non-exclusive Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

### KEY POINTS

- This MoU aims to leverage the strengths and capabilities of both the organisations and partner to indigenously develop and deploy emerging technologies and technical solutions to address the requirements of Defence, Telecom and Railway sectors.
- This strategic MoU is envisaged to give a boost to the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative and go a long way in realising the Government's vision of a digital India.

## KARNATAKA GOVT LAUNCHED "BRAND BENGALURU" PORTAL

### KEY FACTS

- Citizens can share their feedback on seven core categories: urban mobility, environment and ecology, solid waste management, public place utilisation, connecting citizens, public health and animal health, and water security.
- The portal is open till June 30, 2023. The portal aims to create a vision for the city that is inclusive, innovative, and sustainable.

## L&T, DRDO SIGN ACT TO BUILD TWO AIR INDEPENDENT PROPULSION (AIP)

**Current Context:** DRDO and L&T have signed a contract for the realisation of two Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system modules for Kalvari class submarines of the Indian Navy. An AIP system extends the endurance of conventional submarines and is a niche technology with just a few countries.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The AIP system is indigenously developed by Naval Materials Research Laboratory (NMRL) of DRDO with L&T as prime industry partner.
- The AIP system is based on fuel cells that produce power along with on-board hydrogen generation.
- The technology is also green as the by-product of the reaction is non-polluted water. The AIP modules will be retrofitted into the submarines during their first refit in the end of 2024 or early 2025.

## PETTERI ORPO, NCP PARTY LEADER ELECTED AS NEW PRIME MINISTER OF FINLAND

**Current Context:** Petteri Orpo, the leader of the conservative National Coalition Party (NCP), has been elected as the new prime minister of Finland by the parliament on June 20, 2023.

### DETAILS

- He replaced Sanna Marin, who led a center-left coalition since 2019. Orpo will lead a right-wing

coalition with the Finns Party, the Swedish People's Party and the Christian Democrats.

- **He has promised to cut spending, reduce taxes, boost private sector jobs and make a "paradigm shift" on immigration policy.**

## IOB INKS MOU WITH TNSRLM TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT

**Current Context:** Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission (TNSRLM) to provide financial support to the self-help groups (SHGs).

### ABOUT

- **Under the terms of the MoU, TNSRLM will facilitate eligible SHGs for credit linkage with Indian Overseas Bank.**
- **This strategic collaboration aims to streamline access to financial resources for SHGs, enabling them to undertake entrepreneurial activities, expand their ventures and contribute to the economic development of the state.**

## INDIAN RAILWAYS SIGNED MOU WITH USAID TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

**Current Context:** Indian Railways and USAID signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on June 14, 2023 to collaborate on renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions.

### KEY FACTS

- **The MOU aims to help Indian Railways achieve its net-zero carbon emission goal by 2030 by deploying clean energy technologies, reducing carbon footprints, and enhancing energy efficiency.**
- **This is part of the robust climate change and clean energy partnership between the United States and India.**

## GLOBAL LIVEABILITY INDEX 2023

**Current Context:** The Global Liveability Index 2023 is a report by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) that ranks 173 cities around the world on a number of factors, such as stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education, and infrastructure.

### KEY POINTS

- **According to the report, Vienna, the capital of Austria, has been ranked as the world's most liveable city for the second consecutive year.**
- **Vienna scored highly on its reliable infrastructure, standout culture and entertainment and exemplary education and health services.**
- **The report also noted that this year's average score has risen to a 15-year high, with a return to order after the covid-19 pandemic and better healthcare and education in developing countries.**

## RAJASTHAN GOVT BRINGS PCTS MOBILE APP

**Current Context:** PCTS app launched by the Rajasthan government, this app is designed to ensure better healthcare for mothers and infants by enabling online tracking, reporting and monitoring of their health status.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The app also provides helpful videos and information to the ASHA Sahyoginis, who are community health workers, to deliver critical services and counseling to the beneficiaries.**
- **The app also facilitates data management, supervision, and evaluation of the health institutions and programs in the state.**
- **This app is aligned with the vision of Nirogi Rajasthan and the Right to Health Act, which emphasize the duty of the state to ensure that every citizen has access to good healthcare services.**

## MOAFW MINISTER NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR LAUNCHES PM KISAN MOBILE APP

**Current Context:** PM Kisan Mobile App with Face Authentication Feature, this app was launched by Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar under the central government's scheme for income support to farmers Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi.

### DETAILS

- **The app allows farmers to do e-KYC by scanning their face without OTP or fingerprint and receive the scheme benefits.**
- The app also enables officers of state governments to complete the e-KYC process for 500 farmers each. The app aims to improve the data management, supervision and evaluation of the health institutions and programs in the state.
- **This app is part of the government's efforts to reach saturation and provide benefits to all eligible farmers without any middlemen.**

- The policyholders can also defer the vesting benefit by up to 10 years. **The plan also provides life insurance coverage throughout the policy term.**

## ONDC & KERALA GOVT SIGNED MOU FOR BETTER MARKET ACCESS

**Current Context:** The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) signed an agreement with the Kerala government on Friday, June 23, 2023, to improve access and business opportunities in various sectors in the State.

### KEY FACTS

- **The agreement was attended by two senior State ministers and most senior members of the State bureaucracy.**
- Nine public sector units (PSUs) have already onboarded around 200 products on ONDC.
- **The officials also announced that ONDC is going to be a priority initiative to extend market access to PSU and private industries, especially small and micro enterprises.**

## GOOGLE ANNOUNCED THE OPENING OF A GLOBAL FINTECH OPERATIONS CENTER

**Current Context:** Google has announced its plan to set up its global fintech operation centre at GIFT City in Gujarat. Google CEO Sundar Pichai made the announcement after meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to the US.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Google will also invest \$10 billion in India's digitisation fund and bring more Indian languages on its platform.**
- This is a big boost for India's fintech sector and GIFT City, which is the country's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) and a global fintech hub.

## HARISH BHAT RANKED 10TH ON FORBES WORLD'S MOST INFLUENTIAL CMOS LIST 2023

**Current Context:** Harish Bhat, brand custodian of the Tata Group, is ranked 10th on the Forbes World's Most Influential CMOS List for 2023.

## GLOBAL STARTUP ECOSYSTEM REPORT 2023

**Current Context:** Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2023 (GSER 2023). This report is a comprehensive analysis of the current state of startup ecosystems worldwide, based on extensive research and data from 3.5 million startups across 290 global ecosystems.

### ABOUT

- According to the report, **Bengaluru ranked 20th in the global list of startup ecosystems, with a score of 7.6 out of 10.**
- Bengaluru is the only Indian city to feature in the top 20, and has improved its position from 23rd in 2022.
- **The report also revealed that Silicon Valley topped the global list with a score of 10 out of 10.** The report highlighted Silicon Valley's dominance in software, AI, and biotech sectors, as well as its unparalleled access to capital, market, and networks.

## ADITYA BIRLA SUN LIFE INSURANCE LAUNCHES 'NISHCHIT PENSION PLAN'

**Current Context:** Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance has launched Nishchit Pension Plan, a non-linked, non-participating individual pension plan that enables the policyholders to plan for their retirement.

### KEY POINTS

- **It offers guaranteed additions on premiums invested through the policy term and loyalty addition at the end of the policy term.**

## DETAILS

- **He is one of the three Indian CMOs who figure in the list, along with Ashimita Dubey of L'Oreal and Sumit Virmani of Infosys.**
- The list recognizes the 50 chief-marketers whose influence on their brands, businesses, culture, people, and the global marketing community, stand apart.
- **The top spot is taken by William White, chief marketing officer of Walmart.**

## NHPC AND GRID CORPORATION OF ODISHA (GRIDCO) SIGNED A MOU

**Current Context:** NHPC Limited, India's largest hydropower development company, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Grid Corporation of Odisha (GRIDCO), a state-owned power utility, for the development of pumped storage projects and renewable energy in the state of Odisha.

## ABOUT

- **The MoU envisages setting up self-identified pumped storage projects of at least 2,000 MW and renewable energy projects (on-ground and floating solar projects) of at least 1,000 MW in the state.**
- The MoU was signed on June 23, 2023 by the executive directors of both organizations in the presence of the additional chief secretary of the Department of Energy, Government of Odisha.
- **This is a significant step towards achieving India's ambitious climate goals, as announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the COP summit in Glasgow in 2021.**

## UNION MINISTER PARSHOTTAM RUPALA LAUNCHES NOC APPROVALS

**Current Context:** NANDI (NOC Approvals for New Drugs & Inoculation System) is a portal launched by the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala on 26th June 2023.

## KEY FACTS

- **The portal aims to streamline and digitize the regulatory approval process for veterinary drugs and vaccines in India.**

- The portal will also be integrated with the SUGAM portal of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) to make the approval process more transparent and efficient.
- **The portal is part of the Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative (APPI) of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) which seeks to create resilient, farmer-centric animal health systems in India.**
- The portal is expected to benefit the researchers and industries involved in developing and manufacturing veterinary products as well as the livestock rearers and consumers.

## PM NARENDRA MODI FLAGS OFF FIVE VANDE BHARAT TRAINS

**Current Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Madhya Pradesh on June 27 to flag off five Vande Bharat trains from the Rani Kamalapati Railway Station in Bhopal.

## KEY POINTS

- **The Vande Bharat trains are semi-high speed trains that will connect important cities in different parts of the country.**

**Here are some details about the trains and their routes:**

- **Rani Kamalapati-Jabalpur Vande Bharat Express:** This train will connect Mahakaushal region (Jabalpur) to the Central region (Bhopal) of Madhya Pradesh.
- **Khajuraho-Bhopal-Indore Vande Bharat Express:** This train will improve the connectivity of the Malwa region (Indore) and Bundelkhand region (Khajuraho) to the Central region (Bhopal).
- **Madgaon (Goa)-Mumbai Vande Bharat Express:** This train will be Goa's first Vande Bharat Express.
- **Dharwad-Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express:** This train will connect important cities in Karnataka - Dharwad, Hubballi, and Davangere - with the state capital, Bengaluru.
- **Hatia-Patna Vande Bharat Express:** This train will be the first Vande Bharat for Jharkhand and Bihar.



## MDBS, WHO LAUNCH HEALTH INVESTMENT PLATFORM

**Current Context:** Health Impact Investment Platform, this is a new initiative launched by three multilateral development banks (the African Development Bank, the European Investment Bank, and the Islamic Development Bank) and the WHO to invest in and strengthen primary health care services in low- and low-and-middle income countries.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The Platform will make an initial €1.5 billion available to these countries in concessional loans and grants to expand the reach and scope of their primary health care services, especially for the most vulnerable and underserved populations and communities.
- **The Platform was launched during the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact held in Paris on 23 June 2023.**
- The WHO will act as the Platform's policy coordinator, responsible for ensuring alignment of financing decisions with national health priorities and strategies.
- **The Platform aims to improve health and well-being, promote universal health coverage, and protect against the impacts of future health emergencies.**

## IAF CONDUCTED EXERCISE "RANVIJAY" WITH FOCUS ON INTEGRATED OPERATIONS

**Current Context:** Air Force's Exercise Ranvijay, was a wargame conducted by the IAF from June 16-23, 2023 in the UB Hills and Central Air Command Area of Responsibility.

### DETAILS

- The exercise involved day and night operations by all combat assets, including the Sukhoi Su-30MKI aircraft.
- **The exercise aimed to demonstrate the integration, jointness and electronic warfare capabilities of the IAF.**
- It also showcased the coordination between man and machine as well as the **IAF's capability to carry out operations under any circumstances.**

## WEST BENGAL GOVT TIES UP WITH DUN & BRADSTREET FOR MSMES

**Current Context:** The West Bengal government has entered into an arrangement with leading business research and analytics firm Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) for the MSME sector and exporters of the state.

### ABOUT

- **Under the arrangement, D&B will assign a unique nine-digit (D-U-N-S) number to a specific MSME firm or an exporter which will encompass various financial health indicators of the business entity.**
- The official said that the D-U-N-S number will empower the MSME sector of the state for building credibility, increase visibility, expand access to global markets and identify growth opportunities.
- **According to D&B, there has been an increased business interest in the MSMEs of West Bengal with the volume of enquiries from global and domestic companies going up.**

## UNION MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & DAIRYING, LAUNCHED NANDI PORTAL

**Current Context:** Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, launched NANDI Portal on June 26, 2023. NANDI stands for NOC Approval for New Drug and Inoculation System.

### KEY FACTS

- **It is an online platform that aims to facilitate the process of granting No Objection Certificates (NOC) for veterinary drugs and vaccines in India.**
- It was developed by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) through CDAC in coordination with Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) in pursuance of the spirit of Digital India vision.

## CHINA AND NEW ZEALAND SIGNED AGREEMENTS TO BOOST TRADE

**Current Context:** China and New Zealand have signed a range of cooperative agreements to boost trade and economic ties between the two countries, in Beijing on June 28, 2023.

### KEY POINTS

- **The agreements cover areas such as food security, agriculture, customs facilitation, e-commerce, trade in services, green economy, new energy vehicles, science and innovation, forestry and education.**
- New Zealand also backed China's participation in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA) during Prime Minister Chris Hipkins' visit.
- **China and New Zealand already have a free trade agreement (FTA) that was signed in April 2008 and entered into force in October 2008.** The FTA was upgraded in January 2020 to include new provisions on e-commerce, environment, government procurement and trade facilitation.

**Current Context:** Canara Bank has become the first public sector bank in India to introduce the facility of UPI payments to merchants through RuPay Credit Card.

#### DETAILS

- **This facility is available in the bank's Canara ai1 Banking Super App in association with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).**
- Customers can link their Canara Bank RuPay Credit Cards to their UPI IDs and make payments from their credit cards in addition to their bank accounts.
- **This facility is expected to benefit customers by providing them more options and convenience for making payments.**

#### UNION MINISTER LAUNCHES NEW CSR GUIDELINES 'SAGAR SAMAJIK SAHAYOG'

**Current Context:** Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush Sarbananda Sonowal launched the new CSR guidelines 'Sagar Samajik Sahayog' on June 27, 2023.

#### ABOUT

- **The new guidelines aim to empower ports to undertake CSR activities directly and address the issues of local communities in a more cooperative and swift manner.**
- The guidelines also specify the percentage of net profit that ports should spend on CSR activities, depending on their annual turnover.
- **The guidelines also mandate that 20% of CSR expenses must be earmarked to Sainik Kalyan Board at district level, National Maritime Heritage Complex and National Youth Development Fund.**

#### L&T AND BSNL PARTNER FOR PRIVATE 5G NETWORK SOLUTIONS

**Current Context:** L&T Technology Services (LTTS) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) have entered into a strategic partnership to provide private 5G network solutions for global enterprises.

#### KEY POINTS

- According to the agreement, **BSNL will provide spectrum using both PLMN (public land mobile network) and isolated allotment**, while LTTS will

#### MOA & FW SIGNED AN MOU WITH PIXXEL SPACE INDIA PVT. LTD.

**Current Context:** MoU signed by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA & FW) with Pixxel Space India Pvt. Ltd. to develop geospatial solutions for the Indian agriculture ecosystem.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The project aims to leverage sample hyperspectral data from Pixxel's pathfinder satellites to develop analytics models focused on crop mapping, crop stage discrimination, crop health monitoring, and soil organic carbon assessments.**
- This will enable the government to develop use cases with hyperspectral data provided by Pixxel, which is an emerging technology with unique capabilities for monitoring agriculture.
- The MoU was signed on 26th June 2023 in New Delhi in the presence of Shri Manoj Ahuja, Secretary, DA&FW, Shri Pramod Kumar Meherda, Additional Secretary, DA&FW and other senior officers of the ministry.
- **The MoU is expected to benefit millions of farmers by providing them with early detection of crop stress, accurate diagnostics of crop stress due to pest/disease or water, and crop risk management solutions using hyperspectral data.**

#### CANARA BANK BECOMES 1ST PSB TO LAUNCH UPI PAYMENTS TO MERCHANTS

deploy equipment, applications, servers, technology and software, and core for the integration of devices/sensors within the customer ecosystem.

- **This partnership will enable faster connection speeds and lower latency for businesses, supporting the growth of smart cities, healthcare, education, and manufacturing.**

## KOTAK GENERAL INSURANCE PARTNERS WITH ACTYV.AI

**Current Context:** Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Co. Ltd (Kotak General Insurance) has partnered with actyv.ai, an AI-powered platform that helps enterprises manage their supply chain and business operations.

### KEY FACTS

- **The partnership aims to offer bite-sized insurance products to new-age Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) companies.**
- Through actyv.ai's technology stack and Kotak General Insurance's customized insurance products, this partnership will offer innovative insurance products to the enterprise and close to one lakh supply chain partner ecosystem to focus on driving growth without worrying about business risks.
- **This partnership will also offer basic insurance to the last mile of the industrial value chain like never before.**

## UTTARAKHAND'S NAINI SAINI AIRPORT RECEIVES AERODROME LICENSE

**Current Context:** The Naini Saini Airport in Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand has received the aerodrome license from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on June 13, 2023.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- This means that the airport can be used as a regular place of landing and departure for aircrafts.
- **The Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia for this development, saying that it is a big step towards strengthening the air connectivity of the state.**

- The airport is located close to the India-China border and was operated by the state civil aviation department till now. Fly Big Airline has been asked to start fixed-wing aircraft services from Pithoragarh from January 31, 2024.

## TAMIL NADU LAUNCHES SCHEME TO PROVIDE CARDIAC DRUGS

**Current Context:** Tamil Nadu on Tuesday launched a scheme which aims to provide life-saving emergency "loading dose" for persons who experience symptoms of myocardial infarction or heart attack through over 10,000 primary level health facilities.

### DETAILS

- **Health Minister Ma. Subramanian launched the scheme at Malumichampatti village in Coimbatore district.**
- Under the scheme, the government will make life-saving cardiac drugs available in 8,713 health sub-centres (HSC) and 2,200 primary health centres (PHC) and urban primary health centres (UPHC) across the State at a cost of ₹3.37 crore.
- **The scheme is aimed at saving lives of people who live in remote areas and do not have access to advanced medical care.**

## WEF'S ENERGY TRANSITION INDEX 2023

**Current Context:** According to the World Economic Forum (WEF) report titled "Fostering Effective Energy Transition 2023", published in collaboration with Accenture, India is ranked 67th on the Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2023.

### ABOUT

- **The ETI benchmarks 120 countries on their current energy system performance and on the readiness of their enabling environment for energy transition.**
- The report said that India is the only major economy with energy transition momentum accelerating across all dimensions.
- **Sweden tops the list, followed by Norway and Denmark.** The report also highlighted the challenges and opportunities for the global energy transition amid the ongoing energy crisis and geopolitical volatilities.

## MOU SIGNED BETWEEN MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND CANARA BANK

**Current Context:** According to the Ministry of Culture, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between them and Canara Bank on 28.06.2023 for disbursement of financial assistance to veteran artists under the “Scheme for Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists”.

### KEY FACTS

- **Under this scheme, a monthly pension of ₹6,000 is provided to artists and scholars above the age of 60 years who have contributed significantly in their specialised fields of performing arts and culture, but are facing financial difficulties due to old age.**
- The MoU aims to ensure smooth and continuous disbursement of financial assistance to the veteran artists on a monthly basis, instead of a lump sum amount.
- **This initiative is reflective of the Culture Ministry’s commitment to constantly improve the interface with the artists’ community and the services provided to them.**

## ANDHRA PRADESH CM LAUNCHES ‘JAGANANNA AMMA VODI’ SCHEME

**Current Context:** Jagananna Amma Vodi scheme. It is a welfare scheme launched by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to encourage parents to send their children to school by depositing 15,000 of financial assistance in the bank account of student’s mother.

### KEY POINTS

- **The scheme is managed by the School Education Department of the state and covers students from Class 1st to Class 12th who are studying in recognized Government, Private Aided, and Private Unaided School/Jr. College or Residential School/Jr.College in the state.**
- The scheme was launched on 9th January 2020 by Hon’ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Shri YSR Jagan Mohan Reddy<sup>23</sup> and has benefited around 45 lakh households so far.
- The scheme has some eligibility criteria and exclusions based on family income, occupation, electricity consumption, land ownership, attendance, etc.

- **The scheme was a part of YS Jagan’s election manifesto for the 2014 and 2019 Legislative Assembly elections.**

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GREEN HYDROGEN TO BE HELD IN NEW DELHI

**Current Context:** It is being organized by the Government of India in partnership with various ministries and scientific organizations to discuss recent advances and emerging technologies in the entire green hydrogen value chain.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The conference will be held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi from July 5 to 7, 2023. The conference aims to establish a green hydrogen ecosystem and foster a systemic approach for meeting the global goals for decarbonization through green hydrogen.**
- The conference will also explore topics such as green financing, human resource upskilling and startup initiatives in the sector.
- **The conference is aligned with the objectives of the National Green Hydrogen Mission, which was launched by the Government of India to help achieve India’s target of Net Zero by the year 2070.**

## BANK OF INDIA LAUNCHES CENTRALISED POOL BUY-OUT AND CO-LENDING CELL IN MUMBAI

**Current Context:** Bank of India’s ‘Centralized Pool Buy-Out and Co-Lending Cell’. According to the web search results, this is a new platform that the bank has launched to boost its priority sector lending by partnering with NBFCs (non-banking finance companies) .

### DETAILS

- **The Cell was inaugurated by Shri Rajneesh Karnatak – MD & CEO on 26 June 2023 in Mumbai.** The Cell will provide seamless integration between the bank and multiple NBFCs, focusing on retail, MSME, and agriculture loans .
- The Cell will also have an end-to-end digital underwriting system to onboard pool buy-out and co-lending of loans in partnership with NBFCs .
- **The bank hopes to build a sizeable business book through this platform while complying fully with all the regulatory guidelines.**