

**IACE**

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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**DESCRIPTIVE**

## ❖ **Hardline Cambodian PM Hun Sen to step down after four decades**

- Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, one of the world's longest-serving leaders, will resign and hand power to his eldest son after almost four decades of hardline rule.
- The former Khmer Rouge cadre has run the kingdom since 1985, eliminating all opposition to his power, with opposition parties banned, challengers forced to flee and freedom of expression stifled.
- His Cambodian People's Party (CPP) won a landslide victory in an election with no meaningful opposition, taking 82 percent of the vote, paving the way for a dynastic succession to his eldest son that some critics have compared to North Korea.
- Hun Sen, who has ruled the Southeast Asian country for nearly 40 years, was speaking just days after his ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) swept a general election after running virtually unopposed, CNN reported.
- Cambodia ranks 150th out of 180 in Transparency International corruption perception index.

## ❖ Union Bank of India joins forces with IBM to spearhead comprehensive digital transformation

- Union Bank of India, a prominent public sector bank, is taking bold strides towards a future-ready and customer-centric approach through its ambitious Digital Transformation initiative.
- In a strategic move to revolutionize the banking landscape, the bank has forged a partnership with IBM India Pvt Ltd, a renowned technology system integrator, to co-create a cutting-edge Digital Business Platform.
- Union Bank of India, is dedicated to empower customers with innovative products and unparalleled banking experiences.
- Partnership with IBM India Pvt Ltd marks a significant milestone in the journey towards a comprehensive Digital Transformation.
- This strategic alliance between Union Bank of India and IBM India Pvt Ltd holds the promise of elevating banking services to new heights of digital excellence, ushering in a new era of cutting-edge banking solutions for customers across the nation.

## ❖ Digital payments rise 13% y-o-y at March-end 2023 - RBI data

- Digital payments across the country registered a growth of 13.24 per cent in a year through March 2023, as per RBI's index that measures the adoption of online transactions.
- RBI's Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) stood at 395.57 at end-March 2023 compared to 377.46 in September 2022 and 349.30 in March 2022.
- The RBI-DPI index has increased across all parameters driven by significant growth in payment infrastructure and payment performance across the country over the period.

➤ The central bank had announced the construction of a composite RBI-DPI in March 2018 as a base to capture the extent of digitisation of payments across the country.

➤ The index comprises five broad parameters that enable the measurement of the deepening and penetration of digital payments in the country over different periods.

### ❖ **Veteran journalist Prem Prakash receives Lifetime Achievement Award**

➤ Renowned veteran journalist and Asian News International (ANI) founder Prem Prakash was honoured with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award in the national capital, recognizing his outstanding contributions to the field of journalism.

➤ The Global Education Mentor Awards program was organized at Ambedkar International Center in Delhi.

➤ The award aims to foster collaboration and partnership among education stakeholders.

➤ Asian News International chairman Prem Prakash has dedicated over 70 years in the world of journalism.

➤ Throughout his illustrious career , he has established new dimensions to journalism from time to time and emerged as a great inspiration to society.

### ❖ **Bengaluru becomes first Indian city to join World Cities Culture Forum**

➤ World Cities Culture Forum is a global network of nearly 40 cities, which provides a way for policy makers in these cities to share research and intelligence, and explore the vital role of culture for their future prosperity.

➤ Bengaluru has joined the World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF), and becomes the first Indian city to achieve the feat.

➤ The Bengaluru city leaders will work alongside counterparts from other places, including Buenos Aires, London, New York and Tokyo for the city's growth and investment.

➤ WCCF will also work closely with unboxing BLR Foundation, a not-for-profit initiative which aspires to make Bengaluru a vibrant, inclusive and global city.

### ❖ **Murmu lays foundation of 'Divine Light House' of PBKIVV**

➤ President Droupadi Murmu laid the foundation stone for 'Divine Light House' of Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya (PBKIVV).

➤ Its theme of the year is 'The Year of Positive Change' for conducting seminars and conferences.

➤ The President, who is on a three-day visit to her native state, attended the PBKIVV programme at Dasabatia, near Tamando in the state capital where she had lunch with Brahma Kumaris before leaving for the national capital.

➤ According to the President, PBKIVV is paving the way for spirituality through a disciplined lifestyle.

➤ She appreciated Brahma Kumaris organization's efforts for making humanity aware and helping people move forward in a positive direction.

### ❖ **Razorpay launches account for Indian exporters, offers savings on overseas bank transfers**

➤ Fintech company Razorpay announced the launch of its Money Saver Export Account to offer up to 50 per cent savings on international bank transfers for Indian exporters.

➤ The company will help small and mid-size exporters open an account in a country of their choice and receive payments locally via Razorpay's platform, hence avoiding chargebacks and transfer costs.

➤ The initiative allows exporters to receive international bank transfers from 160 countries.

➤ The account enables Indian exporters to open a smart account in their preferred foreign country, facilitating local receipt of payments through bank transfers on the Razorpay platform.

### ❖ **Noor Shekhawat first in Rajasthan to have 'transgender' on birth certificate**

➤ Noor Shekhawat, a transgender person, received the first transgender birth certificate in Rajasthan.

➤ His previous birth certificate listed his gender as male.

➤ The birth certificate was presented to Noor Shekhawat by the municipal and state government officials.

➤ The certificate reflects her gender identity as transgender, which is an important milestone.

➤ Director of the Economics and Statistics Department and Chief Registrar (Birth and Death) Bhanwarlal Bairwa released the historic transgender birth certificate in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

➤ Going forward, the records of males and females as well as birth records of transgender persons will be included in the corporation's portal.

➤ An awareness program will also be launched to encourage other transgender persons to apply for their birth certificates.

## ❖ World's largest private satellite Jupiter-3 set to launch

- Elon Musk-led SpaceX will launch the world's largest private satellite to space. The satellite will lift-off aboard the company's Falcon Heavy rocket from Launch Complex 39A in Florida.
- This marks the seventh launch for SpaceX's triple-booster rocket, Falcon Heavy, which first made headlines with its debut in 2018.
- In a departure from usual practice, SpaceX will expend its core booster in the Atlantic Ocean following the first-stage separation, rather than attempting a drone-ship landing at sea.
- Jupiter 3 size would be comparable to the wingspan of a commercial airliner, measuring between 130 and 160 feet (40 to 50 m). Its larger size will enable it to double current internet capacity to 500 Gbps, significantly improving connectivity in areas with limited cable and fibre options.
- One of its essential applications is providing community Wi-Fi solutions, which help bridge the digital divide and extend Internet access to disadvantaged areas in North and South America.

## ❖ Junior Asian Judo Championships: Tripura's Asmita Dey wins gold in women's 48 kg category

- 20-year-old Asmita Dey from Tripura clinched a gold medal at the prestigious Junior Asia Cup Judo Championship, which took place in Macau, China.
- Asmita displayed exceptional prowess from the onset, dominating Group D in the preliminary round and securing a resounding victory over Hong Kong's Suet Yiu Tang.
- Her remarkable performance earned her a bye in the main opening round, setting the stage for further triumphs.

➤ In the gripping semi-final, the talented Indian judoka, who had previously won silver in the Asian Open 2023 in Kuwait City and a bronze in the Asian Junior Championships 2022, showcased her determination and skill by defeating Australia's Ashlyn Do.

➤ Asmita carried her winning momentum into the final showdown, where she outperformed another Australian, Anneliese Fielder, to secure the gold medal in the fiercely contested 48 kg category.

➤ Adding to India's glory, Unnati Sharma (63kg) and Arun Kumar (73kg) also stood atop the podium, clinching gold medals in their respective categories.

### ❖ India's first online gaming academy launched in Madhya Pradesh

➤ Madhya Pradesh is launching its first online gaming industry "MP State Esports Academy".

➤ As per the reports the Madhya Pradesh sports department is expected to launch its first online gaming industry to provide the young esports player an opportunity and platform to advance to a professional level.

➤ In recent years the Esports industry has boomed in India with the government taking different steps to safeguard the privacy and security of the industry.

➤ Online games like BGMI, Dota 2, COD, Valorant, CS GO are witnessing a drastic surge of Indian players around the globe, with various esports companies venturing into the country as well.

➤ The sports minister, Yashodhara Raje Scindia, announced that youngsters between the ages of 12 and 17 will participate in this ten-day tournament, further highlighting Madhya Pradesh's emergence as a sports hub.

➤ The Academy aims to provide a platform for aspiring gaming and esports professionals to advance their skills and reach a professional level.

## ❖ International Tiger Day - July 29

- International Tiger Day has been observed annually on July 29th since its inception in 2010 during the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit.
- The main purpose of this day is to bring attention to the drastic decline in wild tiger populations, which has pushed them to the edge of extinction.
- The day was founded in 2010, when the 13 tiger range countries came together to create Tx2 – the global goal to double the number of wild tigers by the year 2022.
- 2016 marks the halfway point of this ambitious goal and this year has been one of the most united and exciting Global Tiger Days yet.
- WWF offices, organisations, celebrities, government officials, families, friends and individuals around the world came together in support of the #ThumbsUpForTigers campaign showing the tiger range countries that there is worldwide support for tiger conservation efforts and the Tx2 goal.

## ❖ Judges appointed to Himachal Pradesh, Telangana High Courts

- The Law Ministry notified the fresh appointment of judges to the Himachal Pradesh and Telangana High Courts and elevations of 15 additional judges as permanent judges across five High Courts.
- While Himachal Pradesh High Court had three fresh appointments as judges, in and Telangana High Court, three additional judges were appointed.
- Additional judges were made permanent judges in Bombay High Court, Gauhati High Court, Calcutta High Court, Kerala High Court, Chhattisgarh High court.
- According to the Centre's notifications, the president is pleased to appoint Ranjan Sharma, Bipin Chander Negi, Advocates and Rakesh Kainthla, Judicial Officer as the Judges of Himachal Pradesh High Court.

➤ The centre through the Ministry of Law and Justice also notified the appointment of L.N. Alishetty, A.K. Jukanti. Advocates and Sujana Kalasikam, Judicial Officer as Judges of Telangana High Court.

➤ Justices A.L. Pansare and S.C. more, Additional Judges of the Bombay High Court have been elevated as permanent High Court Judges of Bombay High Courts stated the notification.

### ❖ Two key health Bills passed without debate in Lok Sabha

➤ Two key health Bills they are ' the National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill (NNMC), and the National Dental Commission Bill ' were passed by Lok Sabha during the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament without debate and amid opposition uproar.

➤ The Bills are aimed at repealing the Dentists Act, 1948, and the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947, and will enhance transparency and quality in the fields of nursing, midwifery, and dentistry.

➤ The national Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill seeks to repeal the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947 and set up the National Nursing and Midwifery Commission (NNMC).

➤ According to the Indian Nursing Council records, till 2022, there were around 33.41 lakh nursing personnel registered in the country.

➤ The Bill seeks to provide for regulation and maintenance of standards of education and services by nursing and midwifery professionals, assessment of institutions, maintenance of national and state registers and creation of a system to improve access, research and development along with the adoption of the latest scientific advancement in the nursing and midwifery profession.