

**IACE**

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**1<sup>st</sup> August 2023**

**DESCRIPTIVE**

## ❖ Ratan Tata bagged 'Udyog Ratna' award by the Maharashtra Government

- The first prestigious Maharashtra Udyog Ratna Award this year will be conferred on Tata group Chairman Ratan Tata.
- Ratan Tata is being awarded for his contributions to the growth and development of the Tata Group, which is one of the largest amalgamation in India.
- The 'Udyog Ratna' award is a state-level award given to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the industrial sector of Maharashtra.
- On the lines of Maharashtra Bhushan award, which is the state's highest award, that is conferred to eminent people, the government has decided to initiate the prestigious Udyog Ratna Award from this year onwards.
- The award to Ratan Tata is a recognition of his outstanding achievements in the industrial sector and also a tribute to his dedication to corporate social responsibility and his commitment to the development of India.

## ❖ Shivendra Nath appointed as the chairman of EPIL

- Shivendra Nath has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Engineering Projects (India) Ltd., a public sector undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.
- He has been recommended for the CMD position by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) panel.
- Nath is serving as the senior general manager in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) at present.

## ❖ ULLAS mobile application launched

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam 2023 at the Bharat Mandapam on the third anniversary of the National Education Policy, 2020.
- On the sidelines, the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the logo, slogan 'Jan Jan Sakshar' and the mobile application of ULLAS: Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram at the Bharat Mandapam.
- ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) mobile application was launched to facilitate widespread access to basic literacy.
- This user-friendly and interactive app is available both on Android and IOS and will serve as a digital gateway for learners to engage in diverse learning resources through the DIKSHA portal of NCERT.
- The ULLAS app can be used for registration of learners and volunteers either through self-registration or by surveyors.
- It will focus on promoting functional literacy, vocational skills and many important life skills like financial literacy, legal literacy, digital literacy and empowerment of citizens to involve in nation-building of the country.
- It imparts basic education and critical life skills to citizens aged 15 years and above who lost on the opportunity to go to school.

## ❖ Deputy Chief Executive Officer of US finance agency – Nisha Biswal

- Nisha Biswal has been confirmed by the United States Senate as the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC).
- In January 2017, Nisha Biswal was honored with the prestigious Samman Award by the President of India.
- Biswal has had a high profile career of over 30 years of experience in US foreign policy and international development programmes within the White House.
- She currently holds the position of Senior Vice President for International Strategy and Global Initiatives at the US Chamber of Commerce, overseeing the US-India Business Council and US-Bangladesh Business Council.

➤ The United States International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) functions as a development finance institution and agency under the United States federal government.

➤ Its main focus is investing in development projects, with a primary emphasis on lower and middle-income countries.

### ❖ **India's victory at Srilankan Athletics National Championship**

➤ The Indian contingent finished their Sri Lanka Athletics National Championships 2023 stint with 14 medals including nine gold, four silver and a bronze.

➤ Indian athletes bagged six medals on the final day of the event at the Sugathadasa Stadium in Colombo.

➤ The Indian 4\*400m mixed relay team of Amoj Jacob, Aishwarya Mishra, Muhammed Anas and Himanshi Malik won the first gold medal.

➤ The event also featured a second Indian relay team comprising Nihal Joel William, Subha Venkatesan, Mijo Chacko Kurian and Vithya Ramraj, who bagged the silver medal.

➤ India's javelin thrower Kishore Kumar Jena, won the Gold medal.

➤ Apart from Indians, athletes from the Maldives also participated in the Colombo athletics meet.

### ❖ **Urea Gold was launched in Rajasthan**

➤ Urea Gold is a new variety of urea coated with sulphur, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Rajasthan's Sikar.

➤ It is designed to address sulphur deficiencies in the soil, benefiting farmers by enhancing agricultural productivity.

➤ Sulphur-coated urea facilitates a gradual release of nitrogen, thereby enhancing its availability and uptake by crops.

➤ This new fertiliser is more cost-effective and efficient than Neem coated urea, resulting in increased nitrogen use efficiency, lower consumption and improved crop quality.

➤ The inclusion of humic acid in Urea Gold further extends its lifespan as a fertilizer.

➤ According to the report, 15 kg of Urea Gold provides comparable benefits to 20 kg of conventional urea, making it a more efficient and effective choice for farmers.

### ❖ **Shooter Aishwary's Gold medal at FISU Games 2023**

➤ Rifle shooter Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, compound archers Avneet Kaur, Sangampreet Singh Bisla and men's 10m air rifle team clinched gold medals at the FISU World University Games 2023 in Chengdu, the People's Republic of China.

➤ India won a total of six medals including four gold medals and a silver in men's individual 10m air rifle through Divyansh Singh Panwar and a bronze in men's Individual compound archery through Aman Saini.

➤ Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, who also won a gold medal in the men's 50m rifle scored a total of 252.6 in the men's 10m air rifle final to beat compatriot and fellow Tokyo Olympian Divyansh Singh Panwar.

### ❖ **Telangana Cabinet agrees for RTC merger with government**

➤ The State Cabinet of Telangana approved the merger of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) with the government.

➤ After the merger 43,372 TSRTC employees will get all the benefits of state government staff.

➤ The merger was a long-pending demand of the TSRTC employees. It was one of their main demands during their 52-day strike in 2019.

➤ A sub-committee has been appointed headed by the special chief secretary (finance) and other secretaries from transport, roads and buildings, labour departments and general administration department and to come up with detailed modalities and submit a report.

➤ The bill merging the TSRTC will be tabled in the upcoming assembly session from August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## ❖ The authority of online advertising is given to the Ministry of I&B

- The Union Cabinet has assigned the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting as the administrative authority for the regulation of online advertisements.
- The amendment to the Allocation of Business (AoB) Rules, 1961, places “online advertisements” under the purview of the I&B Ministry.
- The I&B Ministry was already looking at online advertising, most notably through circulars in 2022 warning TV channels as well as OTT streaming services to stay clear of ads from “betting and gambling” firms.
- This step ensures that the issue explicitly comes under the administrative purview of the I&B Ministry.
- The I&B Ministry already has administrative authority over ‘Films and Audio-Visual programmes’ made available by online content providers.
- It exercises this power through the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, and engages frequently with representatives of streaming services.

## ❖ China & Pak sign 6 agreements

- Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese vice Premier He Lifeng observed the signing ceremony held to mark 10 years of the CPEC, a collection of infrastructure and other projects under construction throughout Pakistan since 2013.
- They inked 6 key documents to help undertake the second phase of the \$60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects under a new model.
- The CPEC, which connects Gwadar Port in Pakistan's Balochistan with China's Xinjiang province, is opposed by India as it is being laid through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

## ❖ US is the biggest importer of Indian smartphones

- India exported \$2.43 billion worth of smartphones in April-May in this fiscal year, driven by a multifold jump in shipments to the U.S. which emerged as the biggest destination for India-made devices, according to government data.
- Overall, India's export of smartphones in 2022-23 was worth \$10.95 billion. During April-May 2023-24, smartphone exports soared by 157.82% over April-May 2022-23.
- The US accounted for one-third of the shipments in value terms.
- The US was followed by the UAE (\$484.52 million), the Netherlands (\$205 million), the U.K. (\$151.33 million), Italy (\$136.57 million), and the Czech Republic (\$115.5 million).
- After the announcement of the Product Linked Incentives (PLI) scheme and the entry of US-based iPhone maker Apple into domestic manufacturing, India is emerging as a major production hub for smartphones.

## ❖ Lok Sabha passes Cinematograph Bill

- The Lok Sabha passed the Cinematograph Amendment Bill 2023 to curb film piracy, revamp age-based certification given by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) and to bring uniformity in the categorisation of films and content across platforms.
- The new law would make piracy a criminal violation punishable by up to three years in prison, a fine of up to five per cent of the production cost of the film, or both.
- The Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha with a voice vote despite protests by the Opposition MPs over the Manipur violence. Earlier, it was passed by the Rajya Sabha on July 27.
- This is the first substantial amendment to the Cinematograph Act 1953 since 1984 when the minimum punishment for an offence relating to a video film was introduced.

➤ The Bill also seeks to give CBFC the authority to grant films with a separate certificate for their display on television or other media as only Unrestricted Public Exhibition (UA) category films can be shown on television, as per officials.

### ❖ **The first US nuclear reactor built from scratch becomes operational in Georgia**

➤ A new reactor at a nuclear power plant in Georgia has entered commercial operation, becoming the first new American reactor built from scratch in decades.

➤ Georgia Power Co. announced that Unit 3 at Plant Vogtle , Southeast of Augusta, has completed testing and is now sending power to the grid reliably.

➤ At its full output of 1,100 megawatts of electricity, Unit 3 can power 500,000 homes and businesses. Utilities in Georgia, Florida and Alabama are receiving the electricity.

➤ Vogtle is important because government officials and some utilities are again looking to nuclear power to alleviate climate change by generating electricity without burning natural gas, coal and oil.