

**❖ December 2: National Pollution Control Day 2023**

- National Pollution Control Day is observed annually on December 2<sup>nd</sup> to raise awareness about the importance of controlling and reducing pollution to protect the environment and human health.
- The day commemorates the Bhopal gas tragedy of 1984, a catastrophic industrial accident that caused widespread death and environmental damage.
- The Bhopal Gas Tragedy took place in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 1984.
- This Devastating chemical leak was said to be one of the worst industrial disasters of all time.
- Approximately 45 tons of methyl isocyanate escaped from an insecticide plant from the Union Carbide Corporation's Indian Subsidiary.
- The theme for National Pollution Control Day 2023 is **“Sustainable Development for a Clean and Healthy Planet”**.

**❖ RBI, Bank of England sign agreement to exchange information on CCIL**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank of England (BoE) signed an initial pact for cooperation and exchange of information related to Clearing Corporation of India Ltd (CCIL).
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishes a framework for the Bank of England (BoE) to place reliance on the RBI's regulatory and supervisory activities while safeguarding the UK's financial stability.

- The MoU also demonstrates the importance of cross-border cooperation to facilitate international clearing activities and the BoE's commitment to deference to other regulators' regimes.
- The MoU confirms the interests of both authorities in enhancing cooperation in line with their respective laws and regulations.
- The MoU was signed by RBI Deputy Governor **T Rabi Sankar** and BoE Deputy Governor for Financial Stability **Sarah Breeden** in London.

#### ➤ **About BoE:**

- The Bank of England (BoE) is the **central bank of the United Kingdom.**
- The BoE oversees the nation's monetary policy and issues its currency.
- **Founded:** 27 July 1694, Walbrook
- **Governor:** Andrew Bailey
- **Founder:** Charles Montagu, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Halifax
- **Currency:** Pound sterling

#### ❖ **SEBI extends timeline of implementation for SCORES platform**

- Market Regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) announced the extension of timeline of linking of SEBI Complaint Redressal (SCORES) platform with online dispute resolution platform.
- Earlier, the deadline was on **December 4** and the market regulator has now pushed it to **April 1, 2024.**
- The market entities need to keep submitting the Action Taken Report (ATR) on SCORES within 21 calendar days from the date of receipt of the complaint.

➤ SCORES platform was launched in 2011 to provide a facilitative platform for investors to file their grievances against listed companies, registered intermediaries market entities which are unresolved.

➤ To strengthen the investor grievance handling mechanism through SCORES, SEBI proposed to reduce the timelines and introduce auto routing and auto escalation of complaints.

➤ **About SEBI:**

➤ **Founded:** 12 April 1988

➤ **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra

➤ **Agency executive:** Madhabi Puri Buch, Chairperson

➤ **Founder:** Government of India

❖ **GST revenues rise to ₹1.68 lakh crore in November**

➤ India's gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues grew 15.1% in November to hit nearly ₹1.68 lakh crore, the third highest monthly tally so far from the indirect tax.

➤ This is the fastest uptick in tax collections so far in 2023-24, surpassing the 10-month high growth of 13.4% recorded in October.

➤ Taxes from domestic transactions and services imports rose over 20%.

➤ This is the sixth time in this fiscal year that revenues have crossed ₹1.6 lakh crore.

➤ November's revenues included Central GST of ₹30,420 crore, State GST of ₹38,226 crore and Integrated IGST of ₹87,009 crore, which included ₹39,198 crore collected on import of goods.

➤ GST Compensation Cess inflows stood at ₹12,274 crore, including ₹1,036 crore collected on import of goods.

➤ Between April and November 2023, GST revenues are now up 11.9% compared to the same period of 2022-23.

### ❖ **PM Modi offers to host UN climate meet in India in 2028**

➤ Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed to host the 33<sup>rd</sup> session of the UN climate conference (COP33) in India in 2028.

➤ India hosted the eighth session of the climate conference in New Delhi in 2002.

➤ India had launched the country's Green Credit Programme (GCP) to encourage environmentally friendly practices.

➤ It is an innovative market-based mechanism designed to incentivise voluntary environmental actions.

➤ In the initial phase, the programme focuses on two key activities - water conservation and afforestation, which will generate credits and can be traded on the green credit platform.

➤ India being part of the problem of global warming to being a prominent part of the effort for a solution to deal with the climate crisis.

### ❖ **YES Securities elevates Anshul Arzare as MD and CEO, Amar Ambani as ED**

➤ YES Securities India Ltd (YSIL), a wholly owned subsidiary of YES BANK which is into Broking & Institutional Equities, announced the elevation of Mr. Anshul Arzare as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD&CEO) and Mr. Amar Ambani as Executive Director of YSIL.

- YSIL is bolstering its leadership and underscores its determination to reach the objective of becoming the foremost partner for investment and broking solutions.
- Arzare has been associated with YSIL since its inception in 2013.
- He is an experienced business leader with a strong background and brings over two decades of experience.
- He has worked extensively in financial services, including setting up new businesses, delivering profitability, managing large business units involving extensive branch networks etc.,
- Ambani, with close to two decades of industry experience, has played an integral role in building the institutional equities franchise at YSIL.
- He also plays a key part in boosting the group's market access and procurement capabilities.
- **About YES Bank:**
- **CEO:** Prashant Kumar
- **Founders:** Rana Kapoor, Ashok Kapur
- **Founded:** 2004
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra

## ❖ **Amazon Pay launches sign language video KYC service**

- Amazon Pay has launched a **virtual sign language Know Your Customer (KYC) service**.
- It is tailored specifically for individuals with hearing and speech impairments and is aimed at breaking down communication barriers and enabling them to virtually interact seamlessly with Amazon Pay representatives.
- The new feature facilitates two-way communication via video between Amazon Pay representatives trained in Indian sign language and customers with special needs.
- The initiative aligns with Amazon's commitment to Digital Bharat, ensuring that its services are inclusive and accessible to all, in line with the broader vision for a digitally empowered India.
- Amazon Pay has provided Indian sign language training to over 120 employees to provide video-based KYC services to customers across India.
- Amazon has also launched '**Listen-Ins for Accessibility**' where customer service teams listen to recordings of calls made by anonymous customers with disabilities to learn about issues faced by them and their unique needs.

## ❖ **At Interpol meet in Vienna, India seeks action in transnational crimes**

- At the 91<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of the Interpol in Vienna, India has stressed the need to deny any safe havens for crime, criminals and proceeds of crimes and sought "concerted action" through Interpol channels to combat and prevent, on a real-time basis, transnational crimes such as terrorism, online radicalisation and cyber-enabled financial fraud.

- The Indian team also held detailed discussions on matters of police cooperation with delegations from US, UK, Austria, UAE, Nepal, Brazil, Australia, Mauritius, New Zealand, Japan, Switzerland, Bangladesh, Singapore and Zambia.
- India also supported the adoption of Interpol's 'Vision 2030'.
- Increased leveraging of Interpol channels and relationships with law enforcement agencies globally to combat crime and criminals saw 24 criminals and fugitives wanted by India brought back this year, the highest ever in a year.
- India has also geolocated more than 184 criminals in various countries and initiated formal proceedings for their return.
- ❖ **Former US Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor dead at 93**
- Former Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who blazed trails as the first woman to sit on the Supreme Court, has died.
- O'Connor, 93, died due to "complications related to advanced dementia."
- O'Connor inspired generations of female lawyers – including the five women who served after her nomination on the high court.
- They admired her path marking success in a field that had been dominated by men.
- She became known as a moderate conservative and often the swing vote on hot-button social issues.
- Growing up on the Lazy B Ranch in Arizona, O'Connor was known for her self-reliance and independence, traits she acquired as a young woman branding cattle, driving tractors, and firing rifles.

## ❖ UAE commits \$30 billion to climate change action vehicle ALTÉRRRA at COP28

- The United Arab Emirates has announced a substantial commitment of US \$30 billion to the newly established climate finance vehicle, ALTÉRRRA, during the COP28 summit.
- This move positions ALTÉRRRA as the world's largest private investment initiative aimed at climate change action, with a target to mobilize US \$250 billion globally by 2030.
- Focused on rectifying the current challenges in climate finance, particularly in the Global South, ALTÉRRRA intends to guide private investments towards climate change projects in emerging markets and developing economies.
- The COP28 summit has identified the reformation of climate finance as a crucial component of its Action Agenda.
- ALTÉRRRA is a direct response to this agenda, aiming to improve the "availability, accessibility, and affordability" of climate finance.

## ❖ Hindustan Unilever to partner Brookfield for 45 MW solar energy park

- Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) announced it would set up a 45 MW solar energy park in Rajasthan in partnership with Brookfield, a leading global alternative asset manager.
- The project, which will help HUL move towards its net-zero target, will come up at the site of Brookfield's solar park.
- HUL's board of directors approved equity investment of up to 27.73 per cent (and up to 32.24 per cent including HUL's wholly-owned subsidiaries) in Transition Sustainable Energy Services One Pvt. Ltd, a special purpose vehicle

(SPV) incorporated by Brookfield, which has among the world's largest renewable power platforms.

- The SPV has been formed under the government's Group Captive Open Access Renewable Energy Scheme.
- HUL is committed to net-zero emissions for all its products, from sourcing to the point of sale, by 2039.

➤ **About Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL):**

➤ **Founders:** Hindustan Vanaspati Mfg. Co. Ltd., United Traders Ltd., Lever Brothers

➤ **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra

➤ **Founded:** 17 October 1933

❖ **UPI transaction value hits new high at 17.40 lakh crore in November**

➤ Transactions worth **₹17.40 lakh crore** were processed on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform, setting a new record from the previous high of **₹17.16 lakh crore** in October.

➤ In percentage terms, the value of transactions was 1.4 per cent higher on month and 46 per cent on year, as per data by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

➤ Transactions on the UPI network, however, fell slightly by 1.5 per cent to 1,124 crore from 1,141 crore in the previous month.

➤ The number of transactions were 54 per cent higher on year.

- In October, the value of transactions rose 8.6 per cent and the number of transactions by 8.1 per cent on the back of a surge in consumer spending.
- On-year growth in UPI transactions has consistently remained over 40 per cent for the value of transactions and above 50 per cent for volume of UPI trades in FY24 so far.
- In FY23, the UPI platform processed 8,376 crore transactions aggregating ₹139 lakh crore, compared with 4,597 crore transactions worth ₹84 lakh crore in FY22.
- ❖ **97.26% of ₹2,000 notes returned**
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said 97.26 percent of the Rs 2,000 banknotes which were withdrawn in May this year are back in the banking system.
- The total value of Rs 2,000 banknotes in circulation, which amounted to Rs 3.56 lakh crore as at the close of business on May 19, 2023 when the withdrawal of these banknotes was announced, has declined to Rs 9,760 crore at the close of business on November 30, 2023.
- 97.26 per cent of the Rs 2,000 banknotes in circulation as on May 19, 2023, has since been returned.
- The facility for exchange of the Rs 2,000 banknotes was available at the 19 Issue Offices of the Reserve Bank (RBI Issue Offices) from May 19.
- These offices are in major cities including Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Mumbai, and New Delhi.
- From October 9, RBI Issue Offices, in addition to exchanging Rs 2,000 denomination banknotes across the counters, are also accepting Rs 2,000 banknotes from individuals or entities for deposit to their bank accounts.

## ❖ **Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and Citi raise yearly GDP growth forecasts : Q2 GDP Show**

- India's impressive Q2 GDP growth of 7.6 per cent has prompted several analysts and international brokerage houses to revise their yearly forecasts upwards.
- Goldman Sachs has increased India's calendar year 2023 growth forecast by 20 basis points to 6.7 per cent year-on-year.
- It has, however, kept its 2024 forecast unchanged at 6.2 per cent.
- Morgan Stanley has raised the financial year 2024 growth forecast to 6.9 per cent from 6.4 per cent earlier.
- For the financial year 2025, the international brokerage has, however, maintained its estimates at 6.5%.
- Citing a pickup in investment activity, Citi has hiked the financial year 2024 GDP forecast by 50 basis points to 6.7 per cent.
- Axis Capital has raised estimates to 6.7 per cent with upside risks.
- However, Nuvama Institutional Equities has retained the GDP growth forecast at 6.5 per cent.
- State Bank of India (SBI) Research has also upped the GDP forecast for fiscal 2023-24 to about 7 per cent from 6.7 per cent earlier.

### ❖ **Twinkle Khanna launches her fourth book 'Welcome to Paradise'**

- The renowned actress & author Twinkle Khanna celebrated the launch of her fourth book, “Welcome to Paradise,” in Mumbai
- The book is a collection of short stories, delves into the complex lives of women navigating love, marriage and loneliness, all presented with Twinkle’s signature wit and humour.
- These stories in ‘Welcome to Paradise’ in some way pay homage to Twinkle's Ismaili nani and the world she inhabited.

### ❖ **Minho & Lee Dong Wook chosen as Global Ambassadors for the Olympics**

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has chosen Minho from SHINee and renowned K-drama star Lee Dong Wook to serve as the first Global Ambassadors for ‘Olympic™ Friends.’
- The Republic of Korea's Gangwon province will host the 4<sup>th</sup> Winter Youth Olympic Games.
- Gangwon 2024 seeks to give young people a stage on which to celebrate peace and unity via sports, building a common goal for a brighter future.

### ❖ **French government honours translator and writer Arshia Sattar**

- Renowned translator Dr Arshia Sattar has been conferred with ‘Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters’ at a special ceremony held at the Consulate General of France in Bengaluru.
- This award honors her continued commitment to cultural relationship and cooperation between diverse literary worlds.
- The French government also honored ISRO scientist Dr V R Lalithambika for her engagement in space cooperation between France and India.

### ❖ **Angkor Wat temple in Cambodia becomes 8<sup>th</sup> wonder of the world**

- Angkor Wat temple, located in northern province of Siem Reap in Cambodia has become the eighth Wonder of the World.

- The unofficial title Eighth Wonder of the World is sometimes given to buildings, structures, projects, designs, or even people who are thought to be comparable to the seven Wonders of the World.
- Angkor Wat is an expansive temple complex that spans approximately 500 acres and serves as the largest religious monument in the world.
- Originally constructed in the 12<sup>th</sup> century by King Suryavarman II, the temple was dedicated to the Hindu deity Vishnu.
- Over time, it transformed into a major Buddhist temple, reflecting the transition from Hinduism to Buddhism.
- The site is renowned for its statue of eight-armed Vishnu, revered as a protecting deity by the locals.

### ❖ **Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar to inaugurate 5<sup>th</sup> Global Ayurveda Festival at Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala**

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar will inaugurate the 5th edition of Global Ayurveda Festival in Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala.
- The Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF) 2023 would be held in the state capital of Kerala from December 1-5.
- The theme '**Emerging Challenges in Healthcare and a Resurgent Ayurveda**'.
- The largest ever conclave on Ayurveda, GAF 2023 will witness the gathering of international practitioners of this alternative medicine, researchers, policymakers, and industry leaders to explore its impact in healthcare.
- The highlights of the festival include experts-led scientific sessions focusing on the latest scientific advancements in Ayurveda, high level industry and institutional participation showcasing innovative Ayurveda-based products, services and research initiatives as well as presentations of posters and papers