

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

3rd November 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ **GST collection in October rises 13% to Rs 1.72 lakh crore**

➤ Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections for the month of October increased by **13 per cent Year-On-Year to Rs 1.72 lakh crore** as per the data published by the Ministry of Finance.

➤ The collection for the month of October has emerged as the second highest ever after April 2023, which stood at Rs 1.87 lakh crore.

➤ India's GST collections stood at Rs 1.63 lakh crore in September.

➤ This is the eighth month in a row that the monthly GST mop-up has come in above the Rs 1.5 lakh crore mark.

➤ Out of the total collection of Rs.1,72,003 crore, Central GST collection is Rs.30,062 crore, State GST collection is Rs.38,171 crore, Integrated GST collection is Rs.91,315 crore and Cess is Rs.12,456 crore.

❖ **SCR's Rail Nilayam bags 'IGBC Green Existing Building Gold Rating'**

➤ The South Central Railway (SCR)'s Rail Nilayam has been awarded the prestigious IGBC Green Existing Building Gold Rating by Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).

➤ The building has earlier achieved Gold Rating and has been recertified with Gold Rating as it met all the stipulated requirements for Gold Rating.

- This certification is valid for **three years** from July 2023.
- The IGBC, with the support of the Environment Directorate of Indian Railways has developed the Green Railway Stations Rating system to facilitate adoption of Green Concepts.
- Reducing the adverse environmental impacts due to station operation and maintenance and enhance the overall commuter experience.

❖ **RBI appoints Manoranjan Mishra as new Executive Director**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Manoranjan Mishra as Executive Director (ED).
- Prior to being promoted as ED, Mishra was serving as Chief General Manager in the Department of Regulation.
- As Executive Director, Mishra will look after Enforcement Department, Risk Monitoring Department and Department of External Investments & Operations.
- Mishra has experience of over three decades in the RBI, having worked in the areas of regulation of banks and NBFCs, supervision of banks and currency management.
- He has served as a member in several working groups at the national and international levels.

❖ Lao People's Democratic Republic Achieves Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination

- Lao People's Democratic Republic has eliminated Lymphatic Filariasis (LF), according to the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Lao PDR is now the second country after Bangladesh to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) in 2023. Nineteen countries have been able to eliminate LF.
- WHO recommends the triple therapy combination of ivermectin (I), diethylcarbamazine (D) and albendazole (A), for mass drug administration (MDA) against LF.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared that the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) has successfully eliminated lymphatic filariasis (LF), marking its second neglected tropical disease (NTD) elimination in just six years.
- In 2017, Lao PDR achieved the elimination of trachoma as a public health hazard.
- This achievement demonstrates the country's dedication and collaborative efforts in public health.

❖ **Army Skill Training Centre inaugurated at 1 EME Centre**

- An Army Skill Training Centre (ASTC) was inaugurated at the 1 EME Centre, Bolarum.
- The centre aims to provide skill training to the families and veer naris associated with the Secunderabad Military Station.
- The centre offers courses in self-employed tailoring, beauty therapy, and computer training.
- Each batch can accommodate up to 30 individuals, and the courses have a duration of 300 hours, after the completion of which they receive a certificate from National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- The ASTC's skill development programmes are a collaborative effort between the 1 EME Centre.
- This initiative will empower families and veer naris towards self-reliance, financial independence, jobs in all sectors, soft loan by banks to start their own firm or go for self employment, shared Brigadier Suresh G, Commandant of 1 EME Centre.

❖ **Blinken, Austin to visit India next week for 2+2 dialogue**

- US Secretary of State Antony J Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd J Austin will be visiting India next week for the India-US 2+2 ministerial dialogue.
- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will host the two visiting US Cabinet ministers on November 9-10.

- Blinken will travel to Tel Aviv, Amman, Tokyo, Seoul and New Delhi from November 2-10.
- The Secretary will then travel to New Delhi to participate in the 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue, joined by Secretary of Defence Lloyd J Austin III.
- Blinken last visited India in March this year for the G20 foreign ministers' meeting in New Delhi.
- The 2+2 ministerial dialogue is the highest level of stock taking, encompassing a wide range of issues from defence to nuclear, space to cyber security, visas to health.
- ❖ **Fifth edition BusinessLine Changemakers Awards to be held in New Delhi**
- The fifth edition of Businessline Changemaker Awards, which celebrates individuals and organisations that have brought change in society, will be held in New Delhi.
- Union Minister for Power, New and Renewable Energy R.K. Singh will give away the awards to the winners.
- The awards will be given across six categories - social transformation, digital transformation, financial transformation, young changemaker, iconic changemaker and Changemaker of the year.
- As many as 745 nominations were received from the public and readers.
- They were evaluated by businessline, along with knowledge partners Deloitte and Ashoka.

❖ NCERT to introduce electoral literacy content in textbooks

- The Election Commission and the Ministry of Education recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the aim of combating voter apathy among young Indians.
- The agreement aims to introduce electoral literacy into classrooms throughout the country.
- The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) will integrate electoral literacy content into textbooks and recommend that State Education Boards and other educational bodies.
- The goal of the MoU is to incorporate voter education and electoral literacy into the school curriculum, starting from classes 6 to 12 in all schools.
- This collaboration also extends the Election Commission of India's Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program to schools and colleges.
- The MoU marks the establishment of an institutional framework for the formal inclusion of electoral literacy in the education system.
- It also aims to develop a robust mechanism to provide voter ID cards to every student immediately upon turning 18, in line with the aspirational goal of the Election Commission.

❖ **SBI Card partners with Reliance Retail to introduce 'Reliance SBI Card'**

- SBI Card and Reliance Retail came together to launch the co-branded Reliance SBI Card.
- The lifestyle-focused credit card will offer a holistic and rewarding shopping experience to customers.
- Aim: To leverage the extensive network of SBI Card with the vast consumer reach and unique retail proposition of Reliance Retail to bring a spectrum of exclusive rewards.
- To unlock rewards and benefits while transacting at Reliance Retail's extensive and many more.
- The card will be launched in two variants - Reliance SBI Card and Reliance SBI Card PRIME, each designed to bring varied rewards and lifestyle perks for distinct consumer needs. The card will be launched on the RuPay platform.
- The annual renewal fee of Reliance SBI Card PRIME is ₹ 2,999 and that of Reliance SBI Card is ₹ 499 plus applicable taxes.

❖ **Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur to Chair International Jury Panel at IFFI**

- Renowned filmmaker Shekhar Kapur will be the jury head for the international competition of the International Film Festival of India 2023 in Goa.
- The five-member jury also includes cinematographer Jose Luis Alcaine, producers Jerome Paillard, Catherine Dussart and Helen Leake

➤ The International Jury will select the winner of the coveted best film award which includes the Golden Peacock, Rs 40 lakh monetary component and certificates for the director and producer.

❖ **Aligarh Muslim University To Launch Its Own Satellite**

➤ The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre has approved Aligarh Muslim University's proposal for development of the varsity's first satellite, to be named after its founder Sir Syed Ahmad Khan.

➤ The SS AMU SAT is a nano satellite project which began in November 2021 under AMU Robo Club.

➤ It is a 3U CubeSat with multiple objectives, including the study of economic growth in India's poorest districts using satellite imagery.

➤ A 3U CubeSat is a standardised and relatively small satellite used for various purposes, including research, technology demonstration, and earth observation.

➤ The '3U' designation refers to the size and configuration of the CubeSat.