

**IACE**

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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**DESCRIPTIVE**

## ❖ **Airtel acquires 23,000 MWh of energy for Nxtra data centers**

- Bharti Airtel has announced to purchase 23,000 MWh of renewable energy by Q4 FY 23–24 to power its data centre subsidiary, Nxtra.
- Airtel will acquire stakes in renewable energy project companies Continuum Green India Pvt. Ltd. and Vibrant Energy Holdings Pte. Ltd. to facilitate this endeavor.
- This initiative is aligned with Airtel’s goal to reduce its carbon footprint and promote sustainability.
- Through an open access route, Airtel will acquire stakes in Continuum Green’s project company, which will supply green power from solar and wind projects to six Nxtra Edge data centres located in Madhya Pradesh.
- This move is expected to reduce carbon emissions by 16,370 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent annually.

## ❖ **Bajaj Auto’s wing gets RBI nod to commence NBFC operation**

- Bajaj Auto Consumer Finance, the wholly-owned subsidiary of Bajaj Auto, has received the Certificate of Registration from the RBI to commence the business of non-banking financial services.
- Bajaj Auto, in October 2021, announced setting up of a wholly-owned captive finance subsidiary, Bajaj Auto Consumer Finance, to offer financing solutions for vehicles manufactured or endorsed by Bajaj Auto and associate entities.
- The NBFC will not be allowed to accept public deposits.
- The NBFC is likely to impact the Group company Bajaj Finance, which depends on the distribution network of Bajaj Auto to source two-wheeler, and new and used car loans.

## ❖ Indian Bank partners with OneCard to launch mobile-first, premium credit card

- Indian Bank, a public sector bank in India, has announced its partnership with OneCard, aimed at introducing state-of-the-art, mobile-first, contactless, metal co-branded credit cards.
- This partnership will empower users with full digital control over their credit card interactions ranging from real-time transactions tracking, spends management, EMI conversion, reward redemption, repayments, monthly budget planning to credit limit adjustments and seamless payments, all in one app.
- This international metal credit card is curated to offer a host of tailored benefits, including lifetime validity with zero joining and annual fees
- OneCard is a mobile-first metal credit card launched and managed by FPL Technologies in partnership with issuer banks.
- FPL Technologies was founded by Anurag Sinha, Rupesh Kumar, and Vibhav Hathi, who come from banking backgrounds with deep expertise in payments, credit and building and scaling digital businesses.

## ❖ IDFC First Bank makes digital rupee app interoperable with UPI QR codes

- Private banking company IDFC First Bank, has integrated Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) app with UPI QR codes.
- The move is aimed at encouraging the use of the digital rupee and make it more accessible.
- The new feature simplifies the process for merchants to accept payments made with the digital rupee.
- This development allows individuals to easily use digital rupees for payments through existing UPI QR codes at various merchant outlets.
- Being a part of RBI's CBDC initiative for retail users, this new feature will simplify payment acceptance for merchants, enabling them to seamlessly accept payments made with digital rupees.

## ❖ Visakhapatnam Port's International Cruise Terminal inaugurated

- Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the Vizag International Cruise Terminal (VICT) along with several other projects valued at Rs 333 crore at Visakhapatnam Port.
- These projects include a covered storage shed, a world-class truck parking terminal and additional amenities.
- The cruise terminal, is capable of serving 2,000 passengers simultaneously and marks a significant step towards developing Visakhapatnam as a future cruise hub.
- Minister Sonowal set a goal to handle over nine lakh passengers by 2030, including both local and international tourists.
- He emphasized the substantial potential of India's cruise tourism market and the continuous enhancement of Indian ports with modern infrastructure.

## ❖ Hyderabad Firm Unveils India's First AI-Powered Anti-Drone System

- A Hyderabad-based robotics company Grene Robotics, has introduced a cutting-edge autonomous anti-drone system, utilizing artificial intelligence.
- This system offers protection not only for critical facilities such as nuclear sites and oil rigs but also extends its coverage to include entire cities, effectively countering various types of drones.
- This groundbreaking technology named Indrajaal, is acclaimed as the world's sole wide-area Counter-Unmanned Aircraft System (C-UAS).
- It boasts the ability to deliver a comprehensive and integrated security solution against dynamic threats, a feat that static defence systems cannot achieve.
- The system provides 360-degree protection, with the ability to detect, identify, classify, track, and neutralise threats in real-time. The threat lifetime can be as short as 30 seconds to a few minutes.

### ❖ **AG-365S of Marut Drones becomes first DGCA-certified drone for dual usage**

- India's leading drone manufacturer "Marut Drones" has become the first player to have DGCA type certification in both small and medium category battery operated drones.
- Marut Drones received the Type Certification approvals from the Director General of Civil Aviation for their extensively tested and robustly designed multi-utility agricultural drone in small category (less than 25kg) AG-365S.
- As per UAS Rules-2021, Drones with UIN numbers are only allowed to fly in Indian Airspace.
- AG-365S has highest endurance of 22 minutes, equipped with high end sensors for smooth operations and tested extensively for best quality.
- DGCA certification is provided based on quality checks and is issued after a rigorous testing process of unmanned aerial vehicles in various NABL accredited testing labs.
- This makes UAV go through a series of material, environmental, operational tests for safe, secured and reliable operations. The certification enables the Hyderabad-based firm to bring the users their agricultural drone technology which can revolutionize Indian Agriculture.

### ❖ **Meghalaya uses AI-enabled tech to clean up tourist hotspot Umiam lake**

- Meghalaya has adopted Artificial Intelligence enabled robotic technology to keep its beautiful tourist hotspot Umiam lake clean, as the lake is at an altitude of about 4,900 feet is also a major hub for water sports and boating in hill town Shillong.
- This initiative is deployed in collaboration with a global non-profit organisation called Smart Village Movement (SVM), and Hong Kong-based technology firm Clearbot.
- The AI-integrated robotic boat is able to collect huge quantities of garbage in reasonable time from Umiam Lake.

### ❖ **Koraput Kalajeera Rice Gets GI Tag**

- Odisha's 'Koraput Kalajeera Rice', which is famous for its unique aroma and nutritional value, was granted the Geographical Indications (GI) status. . It is also called the 'Prince of Rice'.
- This highly aromatic rice looks like coriander seeds.
- With the support of the NABARD and the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment of the Government of Odisha, the farmers' organisation received the GI tag for 'Koraput Kalajeera Rice'.
- It is believed that the medicinal quality of this rice enhances memory, controls diabetes, increases hemoglobin levels and the body's metabolism.
- Recently, 'Nayagarh Kanteimundi Brinjal' also received the GI tag from the state of Odisha.

### ❖ **Union Education Minister launched a 3-year partnership with Meta**

- Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan launched a 3-year partnership of his Ministry with Meta to provide Digital and marketing skills to students, educators, and entrepreneurs.
- Three Letters of Intent (LoI) were exchanged between Meta and NIESBUD, AICTE and CBSE.
- The initiative is in furtherance to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of making India a skilled capital of the world.
- 'Education to Entrepreneurship' partnership is a game-changer, which will take Digital Skilling to the grassroots.

## ❖ Amul to be the official sponsor of Indian Contingent for Asian Games 2022

- Amul is named as the official sponsor of the Indian Contingent for the 19th Asian Games 2022 to be held in Hangzhou, China from September 23 to October 8, 2023.
- The XIX Asian Games 2022 will feature 482 events across 40 sports. It was originally slated to be held last year but was postponed due to Covid-19.
- The Asian Games, also known as Asiad, is a continental multi-sport event held every fourth year among athletes from all over Asia.
- The India contingent will field 634 athletes at the Asian Games across 38 different sports with the largest contingent of 65 in athletics.
- As part of this association, Amul will use the integrated logo in its communication to celebrate the efforts of the sportsperson

## ❖ Durand Cup 2023

- Mohun Bagan won the Durand Cup 2023 title after beating arch-rivals East Bengal in the final.
- The Durand Cup 2023 football tournament was held from August 3 to September 3.
- A total of 24 teams, four more than last year, took part in the month-long competition.
- The Durand Cup is the oldest football competition in India and Asia, which was started in 1888.
- The 2023 edition was the 132nd edition of the tournament, run by India's Armed Forces.

### ❖ Centre signs MoU with Adobe to enhance education with AI

- The Union Ministry of Education has partnered with software giant Adobe to promote creative expression and digital literacy among students and educators.
- This collaboration will leverage Adobe Express, an innovative application developed by Adobe, to empower students and teachers with essential skills and tools.
- As part of this program, Adobe will provide free access to Adobe Express Premium for schools across the country. This will enable students to unleash their creativity while offering a user-friendly platform for educators to foster digital literacy and creative skills in the classroom.
- Additionally, Adobe will conduct professional development training programs for 500,000 educators which will equip teachers with the necessary skills to effectively utilize Adobe Express for creating digital learning content.

### ❖ National Awards for Telangana Apex Bank

- The National Federation of State Co-operative Banks (NAFSCAB) announced merit awards to best performing cooperative banks, training institutes, district central banks and primary agricultural cooperatives every year in the cooperative sector.
- Telangana State Cooperative Apex Bank has won the first prize for the year 2020-21 and the second prize for the year 2021-22.
- Among 351 district cooperative banks across the country, DCCB of Karimnagar got the best award and Choppadandi PACS got the first prize in the quota of primary agricultural cooperative societies.
- The award ceremony will be held on 26th of this month in Jaipur, Rajasthan.