

**IACE**

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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**DESCRIPTIVE**

## ❖ Mrunal Thakur honored Diversity Cinema award at Indian Film Festival 2023

- Actor Mrunal Thakur is set to receive the Diversity in Cinema Award at the upcoming Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM).
- The "Sita Ramam" star will be honoured with the award in recognition of "her outstanding performances across diverse roles and languages in the world of Indian cinema".
- The actor, who made her film with "Love Sonia", and then featured in movies such "Super 30", "Toofan", "Jersey", will receive the award during the annual gala night on August 11 in the Australian city.
- The 14th edition of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne will run from August 11 to 20.

## ❖ India hands over 450 million for Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity project

- India has handed over 450 million in advance to Sri Lanka to fund its unique digital identity project, the most crucial step in the island nation's digitalisation programme being implemented through the Indian grant assistance.
- The fund from the government of India was given.
- "Signifying the Indian government's commitment to the initiative, the Indian High Commissioner handed over a significant contribution of Indian Rs 450 million to Minister Kanaka Herath (State Minister of Technology), constituting 15 per cent of the total funds required for the successful implementation of the project as an advance payment,".
- Ratnayaka emphasised the paramount importance of adhering to a well-defined timeline to ensure the project's seamless execution

➤ Acknowledging the project's profound significance in Sri Lanka's economic recovery process, Ratnayaka expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Indian government for its unwavering support in this endeavour.

### ❖ **Tamil Nadu won best State award for organ and tissue transplantation**

➤ Tamil Nadu has won the best-performing state award for organ donations at the national level, after collecting the award from union minister Mansukh Mandaviya at an event organised by National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO).

➤ The state has registered 26 medical colleges that are not doing transplants yet as organ retrieval centers.

➤ Doctors in these hospitals register brain deaths, and grief counsellors will speak to family members about organ donation.

➤ If the families agree, the organs are harvested and sent to a transplant hospital.

➤ The state now has 13 transplant hospitals and 26 organ retrieval centres.

➤ Transplants worth about 20 lakh are performed free of cost under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme in both government and empanelled hospitals.

➤ TN-based NGO, MOHAN foundation, also received the award for best NGO working in the organ donation sector.

### ❖ **Nirmala Sitharaman laid foundation stone for Adichanallur museum**

➤ Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman visited Adichanallur, an ancient and historical Iron-age burial site located in Thoothukudi District Tamil Nadu, set along the banks of the Tamirabarani (Porunai) river.

➤ This archaeological site was one of five declared to be developed as 'Iconic Sites' in the Union Budget 2020-21.

- The Union Finance Minister also laid the foundation stone for the 'Iconic Site Museum' at the Adichanallur site.
- Smt Sitharaman, in her remarks during the ceremony, noted the unique and rich history encapsulated by the Adichanallur site.
- Various objects dating back to 467 BCE and food grains such as millets and paddy dated 665 BCE have been unearthed here.
- The upcoming ASI Museum will showcase all these artefacts 'in-situ', providing a world-class experience to visitors and researchers alike.
- The Finance Minister reminded the public that the Central Government, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, has committed funds to develop this museum, fulfilling an initiative outlined in the Budget 2021.
- The government envisions this site as a stop for pilgrims travelling to Tiruchendur, contributing to the cultural heritage and tourism of the region.
- This museum serves as a narrative record of their contributions to the nation's development over the past 75 years.

#### ❖ **Tata Play set to expand bandwidth with exclusive capacity on GSAT-24**

- Tata play's GSAT-24, a 4-tonne class communication satellite built by ISRO and launched in June 2022 for providing DTH services, is now in its orbital position.
- Tata Play formerly known as Tata Sky, has joined hands with a public sector enterprise New Space India Limited for the launch of the satellite.
- Tata Play will now be able to make use of this satellite.
- The increased bandwidth will enable Tata Play to provide its users with an even sharper picture and sound quality, and an ability to carry 50 percent more channels thus making it the largest satellite bandwidth provider among all DTH platform in the country.
- The number of Tata Play channels will now increase from 600 to an increased capacity of about 900 channels.
- This momentous achievement signifies a revolution in India's telecommunication space, driven by cutting edge indigenous technology.

➤ New Space India Limited (NSIL), incorporated in March 2019, is a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Department of Space (DOS).

❖ **Prarthana bagged doubles title at women's tennis hardcourt event 2023**

➤ Prarthana Thombare has clinched the doubles title at the women's tennis hardcourt event in Barcelona, Spain.

➤ The Asian Games bronze medallist, combined with Russian Anastasia Tikhonova, edged out France's Estelle Cascino and Latvia's Diana Marcinkevica 3-6, 6-1, 10-7 in the final.

➤ Siddhant Banthia and Sai Karteek Reddy won their second title this season in ITF men's event in Astana, Kazakhstan.

➤ They defeated Estonia's Daniil Glinka and Karl Kiur Saar 7-5, 6-7, 10-4 to lift the trophy in the hard-court event.

➤ It is the first crown for both the players who had triumphed in their first appearance as a team in an event in Jakarta in June.

➤ In the ITF women's event in Foxhills, Britain, Rutuja Bhosale in partnership with Destanee Aiava of Australia beat the top seeds Talia Gibson and Petra Hule of Australia in the doubles final. It was the 22nd career doubles title for the 27-year-old Rutuja.

➤ It is the second title of the year and 26th overall for Prarthana, who bagged bronze with Sania Mirza in 2014 at Incheon.

## ❖ Keki Mistry appointed as strategic advisor for Cyrus Poonawalla Group's

- Cyrus Poonawalla Group has appointed Keki Mistry as an advisor for its financial services ventures spearheaded by Adar Poonawalla.
- Mistry was the vice chairman and CEO of HDFC since 2010.
- Post the merger of HDFC with HDFC Bank, Mistry joined as an additional & non-executive director at HDFC Bank apart from being the non-executive vice chairman of group company HDFC Ergo General Insurance Company.
- Cyrus Poonawalla Group is a diversified group of businesses across Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology, Finance, Clean Energy, Hospitality, Realty and Aviation.
- Mistry's unparalleled operating and boardroom experience in the financial services sector will act as a sounding board for all financial services business management teams of the group to scale their profitability through prudent risk management while managing business volatility.

## ❖ Prime Minister launched Amrit Bharat Station Scheme in 13 railway stations

- The PM launched work on the rejuvenation of 13 railway stations in Karnataka under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS).
- The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) Launched in February 2023 by the Ministry of Railways, the ABSS envisages the development of stations on a continuous basis with a long-term approach.
- The scheme was launched to redevelop 1,309 stations across the country and is based on Master Planning for long term and implementation of the same as per needs and demand of the station to station.
- India Railways is an integral part of the nation's transportation infrastructure.

- In a bid to keep it safe for passengers as well as freight transportation, it is essential to modernise its infrastructure with latest technologies, amenities and others from time to time.
- The ABSS aims at enhancing the facilities beyond the Minimum Essential Amenities.
- It also aimed at construction of Roof Plazas and City Centres at the station.
- The 13 railway stations include Ballari, Ghatprabha, Gokak Road, Alnavar, Gadag, Koppal, Harihar, Arsikere, Mangaluru Jn., Wadi, Kalaburagi Jn. (Gulbarga) and Shahabad.
- These railway stations in the State are all set to emerge as city centre and urban icons giving a new identity to the town/city in which they are located.
- The launch of these 13 stations was part of the all-India launch of laying the foundation stone for work on 508 stations in various States.

#### ❖ **ISRO transfers satellite bus technology to private firm**

- ISRO has transferred the IMS-1 Satellite Bus Technology to Alpha Design Technologies Pvt. Ltd in a step towards enhancing private industry participation in the country's space sector.
- New Space India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of ISRO, facilitated the technology transfer through an agreement signed during an event held at the NSIL headquarters on August 2.
- The technology transfer documents were formally handed over by D Radhakrishnan, Chairman and Managing Director of NSIL to Col. H S Shankar (Retd.), Chairman and Managing Director of ADTL.
- ADTL is one of the two private players identified to receive the transfer of this technology through Interest Exploratory Note (IEN) published by NSIL.
- This transfer marks the beginning of satellite bus technologies developed by ISRO being transferred to private industries.

- Further, the PSLV is under productionisation by a consortium of industries.
- ISRO has been enabling private players to develop space technologies by facilitating and extending the expertise thus ensuring both out-bound and in-bound approaches.

### ❖ Women judicial panel to study Manipur atrocities

- The Supreme Court has constituted a three-member women judicial committee, comprising three former high court judges, to examine "relief, remedial measures, compensation, restoration of houses" and other humanitarian issues of Manipur's violence victims.
- The committee will be headed by former Jammu and Kashmir High Court Chief Justice Gita Mittal and include Justices (retd) Shalini P Joshi and Asha Menon.
- The committee has been constituted to look into aspects other than investigation including rehabilitation and compensation.
- The order was passed as an effort to restore confidence, and faith in the rule of law and build trust.
- The apex court also decided to appoint former IPS officer Datta Padsalgikar to oversee the investigation and report back to the court.
- The court has proposed to get five officers, not below the rank of DySP, from other states to oversee the CBI investigation.
- It has further been proposed to direct 42 Special Investigation Teams (SITs) which are constituted by the government, to be supervised by 6 DIG rank officers from outside Manipur.
- These SITs should have one inspector from outside Manipur.

### ❖ **Bhagat-Kadam pair wins gold in Four-Nation Para-badminton**

- World No. 1 men's doubles pairing of Pramod Bhagat and Sukant Kadam won a gold medal in the SL3-SL4 category at the Four Nations Para-Badminton International in Sheffield, England.
- Bhagat also secured a silver in the singles SL3 category as well as a silver in mixed doubles SL3- SU5 category with Manisha Ramdass.
- Kadam won a bronze in the singles SL4 category.
- Bhagat and Kadam defeated the Indian pair of Deep Ranjan Bisoyee and Manoj Sarkar 21-17 to secure gold in the men's doubles.
- In singles, Bhagat went down to England's Daniel Bethell 8-21 10-21.
- In the mixed doubles, Bhagat and Ramdass went down against Indonesia's Hikmat Ramdani and Leani Ratri Oktilla 17-21 17-21.

### ❖ **PCB reappoints Inzamam-ul-Haq as chief selector ahead of CWC23**

- The Pakistan Cricket Board has reappointed former captain and prolific batter as the men's national team's new chief selector.
- Inzamam-ul-Haq, who was Pakistan men's chief selector between 2016 and 2019, has once again been brought on board ahead of the Asia Cup and the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023.
- The former Pakistan captain has represented his side in 120 Tests, 378 ODIs, and one T20I between 1992 and 2007.
- He is Pakistan's leading run-scorer in international cricket, having amassed 20,541 runs across formats.
- In his previous tenure as the chief selector, Pakistan won the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy by beating arch-rivals India by 180 runs at The Oval.
- He also picked the squad that won five out of the nine league games at the 2019 Cricket World Cup in England and Wales but failed to make it to the knock-out stage.

## ❖ **Historic low round hands Bryson DeChambeau LIV Greenbrier title**

- Bryson DeChambeau nailed a 40-foot putt on the 18th hole in pouring rain to not only seal his LIV Golf Greenbrier title, but also bring in a rare sub-60 round.
- As the ball dropped, he would achieve not only that, but also become only the second golfer in history to complete a round of 58.
- The Crushers captain left nothing to chance on the mammoth birdie putt that gave him a 12 under par round and a comfortable victory that he would celebrate with a huge leap into the air, arms spread wide to mark the moment.
- The putt set off celebrations at The Old White course with the lowest round in LIV Golf history and just the second in elite professional men's golf after Furyk did so almost exactly seven years ago at the Travellers Championship in nearby Connecticut.
- There was one small difference in the two cards though.
- Furyk needed 24 putts in his 58 at TPC River Highlands, while DeChambeau took 23 at the historic Greenbrier course.

## ❖ **India wrestlers win 11 medals at world u-17 championships**

- India ended their 2023 World Cadet Wrestling Championships, meant for under-17 grapplers, with a total of 11 medals, including a gold, at Istanbul, Turkey.
- Savita, who entered the event as the defending champion, won the only gold medal for India at Istanbul in the women's 61kg weight division.
- The 17-year-old defeated Japan's Konami Ono 9-6 in the final to be crowned the world cadet champion.
- Savita had registered three consecutive victories by technical superiority in the round of 16, quarter-finals, and the semi-finals to force her way into the title clash.
- India also bagged seven silver and three bronze medals in the tournament to finish sixth overall in the overall medal tally.

- India finished sixth in the men's freestyle and fourth in men's Greco-Roman team rankings as well.
- However, it was the women's freestyle where India shone best by finishing third, only behind Japan and USA, with 118 points in the team rankings.
- ❖ **Mohun Bagan beat Minerva to take top spot**
- Sony Norde produced a late winner as Mohun Bagan beat Minerva Punjab FC 1-0 to climb to the top spot in the I-League football tournament.
- Norde picked up the ball near the centre line six minutes from the end during a counter-attack and produced a speedy run down the left before coming up with an excellent finish.
- The goal came as a relief for Mohun Bagan fans after they witnessed their team struggle in front of goal for an agonising 84 minutes.
- The result saw Mohun Bagan notch up 33 points from 16 matches, the same as second-placed Aizawl FC.
- Mohun Bagan took the top spot thanks to a better goal difference and head to head record.
- Kamo Stephane Bayi scored once in each half as Aizawl FC beat Churchill Brothers 3-1 in Goa.
- Bayi scored in the seventh and 46th minutes while Robert Laldanmawia (84th minute) got Aizawl's third goal right in the closing stages as Aizawl temporarily climbed to the top of the standings with 33 points from 16 matches.

### ❖ IIT Hyderabad, Kathmandu University to offer joint doctoral programme

- The Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad will be collaborating with Kathmandu University to offer Joint Doctoral Programme (JDP) at PhD level in all areas of research.
- A delegation from IIT Hyderabad recently visited Kathmandu University and decisions were taken to strengthen ties between the institutes.
- Students enrolled under this programme at Kathmandu University will have an opportunity to spend one year at IIT Hyderabad and they will be supported by a scholarship during their stay and vice versa.
- The two institutes aim to develop academic and research collaborations in areas of common interest and complementary capabilities.
- The students will have the opportunity to work in areas of science, technology and design and medical innovations.

### ❖ Singareni aims to become net-zero by October-end next year

- Singareni Collieries Company LTD (SCCL) has decided to invite tenders for the second phase of solar power generation with 240 megawatt capacity in its mining areas next month.
- The solar plants are proposed to be erected in eight areas.
- At a recent meeting, the management of the company decided to speed up the process for development of the second solar power generation by completing the installation of the remaining 76 MW capacity plants of the 300 MW first phase generation.
- A total of 224 MW capacity solar plants are already into generation as part of the first phase.
- The meeting chaired by Chairman and Managing Director N. Sridhar has decided to complete the first phase by October-end and commence installation of the second phase plants immediately.

➤ The company has plans to complete the second phase of solar power generation by October 2024 to have a total solar power generation capacity of 540 MW and also become the first net-zero coal company in the country to meet all its energy needs with solar green energy.

### ❖ **Cambodian king appoints Hun Sen's son as new PM**

➤ Cambodia's king appointed Hun Sen's son the country's new leader, beginning a handover of power that ends nearly four decades of rule, but the outgoing premier promised this was "not the end" of his political career.

➤ This article was published in thejakartapost.com with the title "Cambodian king appoints Hun Sen's son as new PM".

➤ The polls were widely decried as a sham after the main opposition challenger, the Candlelight Party, was barred from running over a technicality, with the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) winning all but five seats in the 125-member lower house.

### ❖ **Banks wrote off in 9 years 14.56 lakh crore of bad loans**

➤ Banks have written off bad loans worth Rs 14.56 lakh crore in the last nine financial years starting 2014-15.

➤ According to PTI, out of the total Rs 14,56,226 crore, written off loans of large industries and services stood at Rs 7,40,968 crore.

➤ Scheduled Commercial Banks have recovered an aggregate amount of Rs 2,04,668 crore in written-off loans, including corporate loans, since April 2014 and up to March, 2023.

➤ According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), banks wrote off non-performing assets (NPAs), or bad loans, worth over Rs 2.09 lakh crore (around \$ 25.50 billion) during the year ended March 2023.

➤ In the last five years, the total loan write-offs by the banking sector stood at Rs 10.57 lakh crore, the Indian Express reported, citing an RTI response from the central bank.

➤ A loan is classified as an NPA when the repayment of the principal amount or the interest remains outstanding for a period of 90 days