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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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DESCRIPTIVE

❖ **Loans worth Rs 9,790 crore disbursed to street vendors under PM SVANidhi scheme**

- A total of **Rs 9,790 crore** worth of loans have been disbursed so far to beneficiaries of the PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme.
- The scheme was launched during the COVID-19 outbreak as a micro-credit scheme for urban street vendors.
- Aims to provide collateral-free **working capital loans up to Rs 50,000**.
- This scheme is available pan-India in all urban local bodies.
- All street vendors in urban areas are eligible for benefits under the PM SVANidhi Scheme, irrespective of the date on which they started vending.
- Loans disbursed to PM SVANidhi beneficiaries stood at Rs 2,039 crore in the 2020-21 fiscal, Rs 1,248 crore in 2021-22, Rs 1,866 crore in 2022-23 and Rs 4,637 crore up to December 5 of the current 2023-24 fiscal, taking the total to Rs 9,790 crore.
- As of December 5, 2023, **56,58,744 street vendor** beneficiaries have been disbursed loans under this scheme.
- Under the PM SVANidhi Scheme, a working capital loan of up to Rs 10,000 was introduced initially.
- Considering the requirement for an enhanced loan, a second loan amount of up to Rs 20,000 with effect from April 09, 2021, and a third loan of up to Rs 50,000 with effect from June 1, 2022, were introduced,

❖ **PM Modi launches 'Viksit Bharat@2047- Voice of Youth'**

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched '**Viksit Bharat @2047: Voice of Youth**' via video conferencing.
- Prime Minister Modi addressed the Vice Chancellors of Universities, Heads of Institutes and faculty members in workshops organized at Raj Bhawans across the country to mark the beginning of this initiative.
- Assam Governor hosted the programme at IIT Guwahati, Vice Chancellors and the Heads of Institutions from about 61 Higher Educational Institutions of Assam attended physically.
- About 45 Higher Educational Institutions and about 600 colleges also participated in the virtual mode.
- Prime Minister Modi underlined the need to channel the energy of the students and the youth of every university towards achieving the common goal of 'Viksit Bharat'.
- The Prime Minister mentioned the launch of Ideas Portal related to Viksit Bharat.
- Idea starts with an 'I' just like India begins with an 'I', the Prime Minister remarked as he underlined that the idea of development can only begin with the 'I' of the self.

❖ **Mohan Yadav has been named the next Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh**

- The Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) announced Dr Mohan Yadav as the next Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.
- The two-time sitting MLA from South Ujjain defeated Congress candidate Chetan Yadav by 13,000 votes.
- He also served as the Minister for Higher Education in Madhya Pradesh under the leadership of former CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan, further strengthening his position in the state's political scene.

- A businessman and politician, Yadav started his political stint with the BJP in 2013 and has been elected as a MLA from this seat ever since.
- He hails from the OBC class and the state has nearly 48 per cent of OBC voters.
- The 19th Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh was born on March 25, 1965 in Ujjain.
- He has also been a student activist as he has served as the city head of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, Ujjain.
- Yadav was elected co-secretary of students union in 1982.

➤ **About Madhya Pradesh:**

➤ **Chief Minister:** Dr Mohan Yadav

➤ **Capital:** Bhopal

➤ **Governor:** Mangubhai C. Patel

❖ **BoI has launched an exclusive savings bank product for women - Nari Shakti Savings Account**

- Bank of India (BoI) has launched an exclusive savings bank product for women (**Nari Shakti Savings Account**) with an independent source of income.
- The savings account, which was launched by MD and CEO, Rajneesh Karnatak, has features such as personal accident insurance cover of up to ₹1 crore, discounted health insurance and wellness products, rebates on locker facilities for gold and diamond SB A/C holders, among others, per the public sector bank's statement.
- The account offers a concessional rate of interest on retail loans and waiver of processing charges on these loans, free issuance of credit cards and a higher usage limit of up to ₹5 lakh on POS.
- The Nari Shakti savings account is conceptualised as a financial savings tool to support working women (18 years and above), with an independent source of income, enabling them to become self-reliant and enjoy a higher degree of financial freedom.

➤ For each New Nari Shakti account opened, the bank said it will make a contribution of ₹10 towards the CSR fund, which will be utilised for the socio-economic development of underprivileged women and the girl child.

➤ This account can be opened at all 5132 domestic branches and also through digital platforms.

➤ **About BoI:**

➤ **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra

➤ **Founder:** Ramnarain Ruia

➤ **Founded:** 7 September 1906, Mumbai

➤ **MD & CEO:** Shri Rajneesh Karnatak

❖ **Poland's parliament elects centrist party leader Donald Tusk as Prime Minister**

➤ Members of the Polish Parliament backed Donald Tusk to become Poland's Prime Minister after current leader Mateusz Morawiecki lost a confidence vote in the country's Parliament.

➤ Tusk was elected Prime Minister nearly two months after a national election that was won by a coalition of parties ranging from left-wing to moderate conservative.

➤ Tusk who had previously served as the Prime Minister from 2007 to 2014 - won 248 votes in favor of his candidacy for the position in the Sejm, the lower house of Parliament.

➤ He was supported by the country's three biggest opposition groupings: the Civic Coalition, the Third Way and the New Left.

➤ 460-seat lower house of parliament.

➤ **About Poland:**

➤ **Capital:** Warsaw

➤ **Prime minister:** Donald Tusk

➤ **Currency:** Polish Zloty

❖ **Pakistan cricketer Asad Shafiq announces retirement from all forms of cricket**

➤ Pakistan Test batter Asad Shafiq has declared his retirement from all forms of cricket.

➤ The 37-year-old made the announcement after leading Karachi Whites to victory in the National T20 Championship.

➤ Asad Shafiq was a crucial part of Pakistan's Test set up until 2020 before he was dropped. He formed the core of Pakistan's middle-order playing a massive 77 Test matches amassing 4660 runs at an average of 38.2 with 12 tons and 27 fifties to his name.

➤ He also featured in 60 ODIs and 10 T20Is scoring 1336 and 192 runs respectively.

➤ He couldn't score a ton in white-ball cricket but was always known for his excellent skills in red-ball format.

➤ **About Pakistan:**

➤ **Capital:** Islamabad

➤ **Currency:** Pakistani Rupee

➤ **President:** Arif Alvi

❖ **Veteran actor Kabir Bedi awarded Italy's civilian honour 'Order of Merit'**

- **Kabir Bedi** was awarded the “**Order of Merit of the Italian Republic**” , the country's highest honour awarded to civilians, at a private ceremony held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Kabir keeps on playing, decade after decade, an extraordinary role in promoting better relations between India and Italy.
- His popularity is widespread across all generations in Italy.
- The “Order of Merit of the Italian Republic,” known as “**Merito della Repubblica Italiana**” in Italian, is one of Italy's highest honors.
- Established on March 3, 1951, the order is bestowed to individuals who have made significant contributions to various fields, including arts, literature, economy, public service, and social, philanthropic, and humanitarian activities.
- **About Italy:**
- **Capital:** Rome
- **Currency:** Euro
- **President:** Sergio Mattarella

❖ **Former President Ram Nath Kovind launches book “ Naye Bharat ka Samveda”**

- Former President of India, Ram Nath Kovind launched a book “ **Naye Bharat ka Samveda**” in New Delhi.
- The book is a compilation of speeches of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the Indian Constitution.
- Mr. Kovind said that, if every citizen of the nation has adequate knowledge about the Constitution then everything will be easy.

- He further added that the citizens will be able to understand that makers of the constitution were concerned about the last person of the society.
- PM Modi repeatedly recalls the Constitution and urges people to know as much as possible about it.
- He added, Prime Minister refers to the Constitution of India as the only book for code of conduct and guidance for the government.

❖ **Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates 'Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam' in Vijayawada**

- Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated 'Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam' at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram, Vijayawada.
- The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs recalled the glorious legacy of Telugu culture and notable contributions of Telugu language to classical traditions in creating a remarkable repertoire of timeless compositions.
- This three-day classical music extravaganza will host a variety of activities, including classical music performances by renowned musicians of the country and an exhibition and sale of regional cuisine, local handicrafts and handlooms.
- The event provides an enchanting glimpse into the glorious Indian classical music heritage and featured a diverse array of performances by accomplished musicians.

❖ **Anurag Singh Thakur formally inaugurates Khelo India Para games in New Delhi**

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur formally declared the Khelo India Para Games 2023 open in a dazzling ceremony at the KD Jadhav Indoor Hall in New Delhi.
- Over 1450 participants from 32 states and Union Territories and Services Sports Board are participating in the Games till the 17th of this month.

- This is a historic moment for Indian sports as the first-ever Khelo India Para Games is being held in the national Capital setting the ball rolling for a new movement in the sports ecosystem of the country.
- He added that the Khelo India Para Games signifies the New India.
- The central government's aim behind organizing the Khelo India Para Games is to empower all para-athletes and it has initiated several key projects for the welfare of the differently-abled.
- The Khelo India Para Games is being organised at three venues - Indira Gandhi Stadium, Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium and Karni Singh Shooting Range in the national capital.
- The Competition will be held in seven para-sports which include athletics, shooting, archery, football, badminton, table tennis and weightlifting.
- Some of India's top international para stars like Sheetal Devi, Bhavina Patel, Ashok and others will also participate.

❖ **Intellect signs ₹80-crore deal with Indian Bank to deploy cash management system**

- Intellect Design Arena Ltd, the Chennai-based FinTech company for financial and insurance clients, has signed a ₹80 crore, five-year deal with Indian Bank to deploy Intellect's eMACH.AI powered Cash Management System.
- This will bolster the bank's corporate banking modernisation.
- The partnership is a pivotal moment adding another feather to Intellect's growing footprint in the Indian BFSI industry, rendering the capabilities of a cognitive enterprise for revolutionising transaction banking.

➤ **About Indian Bank:**

➤ **Headquarters:** Chennai, Tamil Nadu

➤ **CEO:** Shanti Lal Jain

➤ **Founded:** 15 August 1907

➤ **Founders:** S. Rm. M. Annamalai Chettiar, V. Krishnaswamy Iyer, S. Rm. M. Ramaswami Chettiar

❖ **Indian army reaches Hanoi for joint military exercise 'VINBAX-2023'**

➤ The Indian Armed Forces contingent, comprising 45 personnel, reached Hanoi, Vietnam, to take part in the fourth edition of Joint Military Exercise VINBAX-2023.

➤ The exercise will be conducted in Hanoi till December 21, 2023.

➤ Exercise VINBAX was instituted in 2018 and the first edition was conducted in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.

➤ It is an annual training event conducted alternatively in India and Vietnam.

➤ The last edition was conducted at Chandimandir Military Station in August 2022.

➤ The joint exercise will help in promoting understanding and interoperability between the two contingents and further strengthen the defence cooperation between the friendly armies.

❖ **33rd Vyas Samman will be conferred to notable Hindi-Writer Pushpa Bharati 2023**

➤ The 33rd Vyas Samman will be conferred to notable Hindi-Writer Pushpa Bharati this year. The award was instituted by the KK Birla Foundation in 1991.

➤ It is given annually to an outstanding work of Hindi literature by an Indian citizen published in the last 10 years.

➤ The Foundation said that Ms Bharati has been selected for her memoirs- Yaadein, Yaadein aur Yaadein.

➤ The foundation added that she would be felicitated with an amount of four lakh rupees, a citation, and a plaque.

❖ **RattanIndia arm introduces compact delivery drone for health care, e-commerce**

- RattanIndia Enterprises Ltd. announced the introduction of L07, a compact delivery drone, for e-commerce and health care industries, through its company Throttle Aerospace Systems.
- L07 is designed, developed, and manufactured in India, specifically for use cases where the payloads are small.
- The drone is a VTOL (vertical take-off and landing) with a carrying capacity of up to 7 kg, and can be deployed single-handedly in less than 5 minutes.
- It can operate at a mean sea level (MSL) of up to 2,000 metres above MSL, comes with a high wind tolerance of 43 km/hr (12 metres/sec) and endurance of up to 30 minutes.
- The drone also comes with many fail-safe features supported by AI and is IP52 resistant.
- The L07 Compact is commercially available for deployment within the cargo drone operations as prescribed by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).